

**SHORT TAKES**

**Odia IPS officer now J&K top cop**

**New Delhi:** Senior IPS officer RR Swain, presently working as Special DG in Jammu and Kashmir Police, was Friday given additional charge as the Director General of the state's police force with effect from November 1. He will replace incumbent Dilbag Singh, who will retire October 31, according to an official order. Swain, who hails from Rourkela, had earlier served as the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Srinagar, Jammu, Ramban, Poonch and Leh when terrorism was at its peak in the valley.

**Mahua seeks date change**

**Kolkata:** Senior TMC leader and MP Mahua Moitra said Friday she won't appear October 31 before the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee in relation to the cash-for-query allegations levelled against her by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey. She said she would appear before it after November 5. "Chairman, Ethics Comm announced my 31/10 summons on live TV way before official letter emailed to me. I look forward to deposing after my pre-scheduled programmes end," she said on 'X'.



**VOICING CONCERN:** Animal activists wearing masks demonstrate Friday in front of Jantar Mantar in New Delhi demanding the protection of Rhesus Macaque monkeys that are facing extinction

**Many hurt in group clash**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 27:** Several people were injured when two groups clashed at a village in this city in the early hours of Friday, police informed. They informed that the total number of injured persons is over 20 and the conditions of a couple of them are stated to be critical. One of the critically injured has been admitted to the Capital Hospital.

Two platoons of police force (comprising 60 personnel) have been deployed at the village under the jurisdiction of Mancheswar police station to ensure the return of normalcy, a police officer said. However, till the time of filing this report, police are yet to inform whether any arrests have been made.

Singh said, "The conflict started between people of two wards at Padamkeshari village in the wee hours of Friday. On being informed, Macheswar police rushed to the spot to prevent any further untoward incident. Police are trying to ascertain the exact reason as to why the clash broke out."

Sources informed that a political rivalry between the two groups had been brewing since the last panchayat elections. The two groups started pelting stones and bottles at each other early Friday. Bombs were also hurled and some houses were also damaged, police said.

"Two platoons of police force have been deployed in the village to maintain law and order in the area. Now the situation is under control," said Goutam Kisan, ACP Zone 5, Bhubaneswar.

**STATE FUNERAL FOR SWARUP: PATNAIK**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 27:** Noted Odia film music director, lyricist and actor Swarup Nayak breathed his last after a prolonged illness at a private hospital here, Friday. He was 76. Swarup is survived by his wife Niharika and two daughters.

Family sources said he was undergoing treatment for throat cancer for over six months. He will be accorded a State funeral. Swarup is considered as the creator of modern Odia music. He started his career in 1984 with the Odia film *Hira Nila*. Among his other works are films like *Lal Pan Bibi*, *Pua Mora*, *Bhola Shankar* and *I Love You*.

**Adultery may be crime again**

THE LAW WAS STRUCK DOWN IN SEPT 2018 WITH A 5-MEMBER SC BENCH RULING IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** A Parliamentary committee is likely to recommend the re-introduction of laws to criminalise adultery and criminalisation of non-consensual sex between men, women and/or trans members, sources said here Friday. It is the same panel which is studying three bills to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act respectively. The bills, tabled by Home Minister Amit Shah were sent to

the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, which is headed by BJP MP Brij Lal, for further scrutiny in August. The time span provided to the panel was three months. The committee met Friday but did not adopt a draft report on the Bills as opposition members sought a three-month extension. The next meeting will be held November 6.

The draft report is expected to recommend that adultery be made a criminal offence again—either by restoring the law struck down by the Supreme Court in 2018 or passing a new law. In September 2018 a five-member

Supreme Court bench ruled 'adultery cannot and should not be a crime'. "It can be a ground for a civil offense... for divorce..." then Chief Justice, Dipak Misra, had said, reasoning that a 163-year-old, colonial-era law followed the invalidated concept of 'husband is master of the wife'.

The then CJI had also observed, "Mere adultery cannot be a crime. But if any aggrieved spouse commits suicide because of a life partner's adulterous relation and evidence is produced, it could be treated as abetment to suicide."

In the earlier law, a man who had sex with a married woman—and without her husband's consent—could face a five-year sentence if convicted. The woman would not be punished. However, the present report is likely to recommend that the struck-down provision on adultery, when brought back, be made gender-neutral, meaning the man and the woman could face punishment.

The unpublished draft report states: "For the sake of protecting the institution of marriage, this Section (497 of the IPC) should be retained in the 'Sanhita' by making it gender-neutral."

**Pramod's unique feat**

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 27:** Odia para-shuttler Pramod Bhagat created history Friday by winning the gold medal at the Para-Asian Games in Hangzhou. In the final of the SL3 category, Pramod defeated compatriot Nitesh Kumar 22-20, 18-21, 21-19 in a hard-fought match that lasted over 70 minutes.

With the victory, Pramod became the first Indian para-athlete to win the Olympics, World Championships and Asian Games gold medals. Only one other Indian, he first to have achieved the feat, is javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Pramod on his



gold-winning feat and announced a cash award of ₹2 crore.

"Pramod is one of the finest competitors and an example of sheer determination, and I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to him. I am certain he will continue to make us proud at the Paris 2024 Paralympics Games," Patnaik said on 'X'. Pramod said that despite trailing 16-19 in the decider he never gave up hope. He also won two bronze medals in doubles.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



He has been lecturing on the importance of Sanskrit. But, why isn't he speaking in Sanskrit?

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# leisure



## TAYLOR SWIFT ENTERS BILLIONAIRES' CLUB

Riding on the waves of success, country-pop singer Taylor Swift is making some historic achievements with her recent ventures. The singer's annual income has crossed over \$1 billion, putting her into the billionaires' club.

## CHER IS HER OWN BIGGEST CRITIC

Iconic pop singer and actress Cher has made a startling revelation regarding her music, as the 'Believe' hitmaker admitted to not being a fan of her voice. She bluntly stated that she feels ashamed of many of her early pop songs.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today is a bright day with favourable circumstances; all you need to do is focus in the correct place. Ganesh says if you have been waiting for a chance to cement a relationship, today is the proper time to propose. Be cautious when driving and profound while making suggestions.

**TAURUS**  
Today, you will probably achieve your short term goals, says Ganesh. There will be no dip in the amount of work pressure you will be facing but you will find yourself ready for every challenge. It is time to shift gears and set your eyes on your long-term goals now.

**GEMINI**  
You will keep others under the spell of your magnetic personality, predicts Ganesh. Your long-term goals will start taking shape by the end of the day. You may also expect some good news, generally related to a wedding. You will succeed in all your romantic endeavours.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will accomplish most of your short-term goals and may shift your focus to long-term plans, foretells Ganesh. Now that you have achieved some of your goals, you may spare some time for leisure activities. Family will get its due place in your scheme of things in the evening.

**LEO**  
Being by oneself is perhaps the best company one can ever keep. So, indulge in your own companionship today, says Ganesh. After all, you know yourself the best. Take forward this introspective experience into the evening, and sit back and listen to your inner voice. Silence speaks volumes if only one would listen.

**VIRGO**  
Your gallantry will serve to impress the gallery; but chances are certain things could well spoil the show, says Ganesh. On reflecting within, find a great deal of improvement in your inner self. Children will broaden that smile with their antics.

**LIBRA**  
All achievements are scripted. So, share the blueprint of your success with others today. Ganesh expects you to be obedient and cooperative at work in the afternoon; as a result, your social connections will grow miraculously in the evening. The key is in splitting time perfectly between the two.

**SCORPIO**  
Today, Ganesh anticipates you to be a media mogul in your own unique way. Your flock will laud your skills and talents. But you may shell out an extra buck to get what you want today. Ganesh sees an extraordinary bond soldering you and your spouse closer than before.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Today, you will probably emerge as the victorious gladiator in the arena of sports and games, says Ganesh. But later in the day, some hurdles may come across your path. At your desk, your bosses might just lend you a helping hand to assist you to finish off pending jobs.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your spouse would have complained innumerable times, accusing you of being unconcerned and giving priority to work. Today, he/she will be all smiles, for Ganesh says there are chances you will take your sweetheart out on a pleasure trip. At work, you will be a winner, outdoing your competitors and bagging plaudits from your boss, but don't let this sudden success get to your head. You still have a long way to go.

**AQUARIUS**  
Your family will dote on you today and God knows you deserve it. Just go along with their plans for once, and you'll be surprised by how blessed and cheerful you feel. In business dealings, your forthrightness and charm will win people over, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
While a day filled with a lot of stress awaits you at the workplace, you will still be able to come out ahead of the competition on account of your sheer brilliance and your powers of persuasion. You will receive many accolades for the way you tackle your projects today, says Ganesh.

## 'Temptation is a forever concept'

**Mumbai:** Actress Mouni Roy, who has turned into the queen of hearts in the upcoming youth-based reality show *Temptation Island India*, believes that 'temptation is a forever concept.'

In the teaser that was released Friday, Mouni is heard saying: "Love becomes the casualty when one falls prey to temptation." Talking further about the concept of the show, Mouni said: "Temptation is a forever concept. From Adam and Eve's forbidden fruit to the captivating Mohini avatar of Lord Vishnu, even the gods couldn't escape it, we are still humans!"

*Temptation Island India*, a Banijay Asia production, offers audiences a special chance to see the ultimate romance test. The alluring Mouni Roy will open doors for the participants to discover new connections and their own paths to self-discovery in the ultimate *Pyaar Ki Pariksha*.

The show starts November 3 on JioCinema. On the professional front, Mouni garnered rave reviews for her performance in first part of *Brahmastra* trilogy even though she was pitted against stalwarts like Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Ranbir Kapoor. She was also recently appeared in Milan Luthria's web series *Sultan Of Delhi* in the character of Nayanthara. IANS



## Jitendra's *Baghuni* gets NFDC nod

**Goa:** The National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC) has selected 20 feature film projects from 11 countries, including Odia film *Baghuni (Dance Like a Tiger)*, for the 17th edition of its Film Bazaar, to be held here during the International Film Festival of India, 2023.

This year, Film Bazaar has selected films from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the US, the UK, Singapore, Germany, France, Poland, Luxembourg, and Israel. Internationally acclaimed filmmaker Jitendra Mishra is directing the movie to be produced by London-based and Odisha-born entrepreneur Partha Sarathi Panda.

*Baghuni*, the first ever multinational coproduction for any film from Odisha of its kind, will be shot entirely in Odisha next year and will involve a cast and technicians from the state, along with several international crews with multiple languages. "We intend to promote and



Producer Partha Sarathi Panda (L) and director Jitendra Mishra

showcase the rich art, culture, tradition, and heritage values of our incredible state on the world stage through this film. Besides, it's an effort to create global opportunities for local stories and professionals from related fields," stated the makers.

For the uninitiated, Mishra has already been associated

with the production, distribution, and promotion of more than 50 national and international films in different categories and various capacities, while Panda has been promoting art, culture, and cinema from India through various socio-cultural initiatives in the UK. PNM

## Rhea recounts her incarceration days



**Mumbai:** Actress Rhea Chakraborty who was arrested after the death of her boyfriend, actor Sushant Singh Rajput recently talked about her jail time.

"You are basically removed from society and put as a number in prison because you are deemed unfit for society," said the actress.

Talking about other women in the jail, she added, "Seeing and interacting with them, I experienced a unique kind of love and resilience within those women. They found happiness in small things. They grabbed happiness when they got it. They know how to enjoy a moment, and they are some of the happiest people I have met." "It's frustrating; they're languishing, but they know when and how to catch that happiness. And it can be as small as a samosa on a Sunday. It can be as small as somebody dancing for them. So it's just perspective; it's how you look at it," recalled the *Chehre* actress.

Rhea wrapped up, "At that point, yes, my life was in the worst hell it could have been. But heaven or hell is a choice in your head that you can make. It's difficult to choose heaven each time. But the battle is of the mind, and if you have the strength and desire in your heart, you'll most definitely battle the mind and win." AGENCIES



## Disha wanted to be a scientist

**Mumbai:** Disha Patani has made a name for herself with

her stunning looks and captivating performances. But not many are aware that she wanted to be a scientist.

In an interview with *Cosmopolitan India*, Patani revealed that she was always fascinated by science and the natural world. She loved watching Discovery and Nat Geo channels and learning about how the universe worked. Patani credited her mother for encouraging her to become an actor.

Disha asserted, "My mom really encouraged me. She wanted to be an actress and is very beautiful. When she was younger, she was even more so...and I think she always wanted me to be something. This drive didn't come from me—I wanted to be a scientist or something along those lines."

As the conversation progressed further, Patani added, "While I was at Lucknow in university, a friend decided to suggest my name for a modelling competition and told me if you win, you will get to go to Mumbai. I lucked out and ended up winning, which brought me to Mumbai."

She went on to say, "It was funny but interesting for me to realise that while I was very shy and a bit of an introvert in front of the lens, I didn't feel shy at all...the camera made me feel comfortable. I couldn't see a human being; I could just see a lens." AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



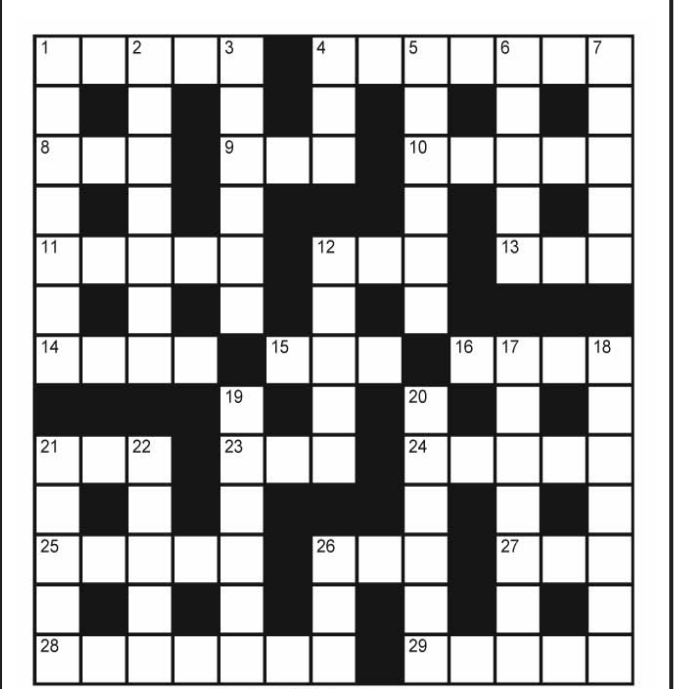
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



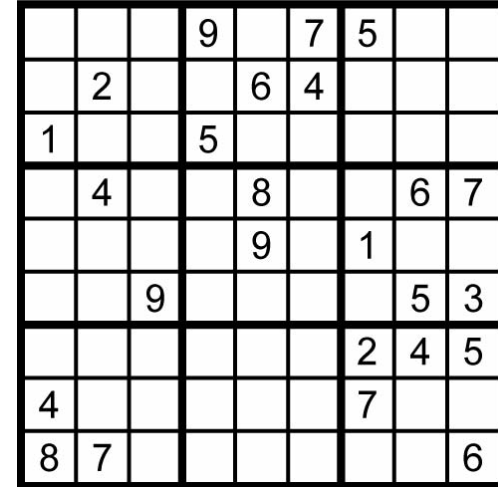
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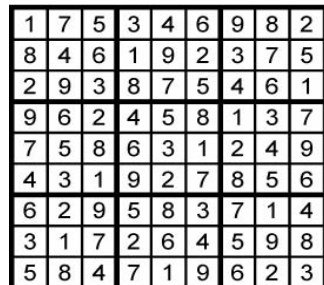
- Across**
- 1 Secret supply
  - 4 Pocketbook
  - 8 Eastern newt
  - 9 Wimple wearer
  - 10 Chain of hills
  - 11 Divided land
  - 12 Chapter in history
  - 13 Hanking
  - 14 Impolite
  - 15 Blubber
  - 16 Karate blow
  - 21 Vast amount
  - 23 Merino mother
  - 24 Bonus
  - 25 Terminate
  - 26 Salon supply
  - 27 Aardvark's morsel
  - 28 Apparent
  - 29 Motif
  - Down**
  - 1 Orator
  - 2 Modified
  - 3 Airport feature
  - 4 Female lobster
  - 5 Routine
  - 6 Sidekick
  - 7 Gather
  - 12 Related
  - 17 Blini
  - 18 Babble
  - 19 Storm or call follower
  - 20 Common grape vine
  - 21 Fissile rock
  - 22 Garlicky sauce
  - 26 Kind of instinct

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## ₹270 crore boost to cancer care

**Bhubaneswar:** The state government Friday approved financial support for establishment of a Dharmasala-cum-guest house and paediatric cancer care centre at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (HBCHRC) in Jatni. Secretary Health and Family Welfare Shalini Pandit said the state govt would extend financial support of around ₹120cr for construction of 2 blocks of Dharmasala-cum-guest house of about 2 lakh sqft on the premises of HBCHRC, Jatni. In addition to that, the state would also fund around ₹150cr for establishment of a state-of-the-art paediatric cancer facility including the building and instruments costs in the hospital. The amount for paediatric cancer facility would be placed with TMC, Mumbai for completion of the construction, and delivery of services.

## BUFFER ONION SALE AT ₹25/KG IN RETAIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** As all-India average retail onion price shoots up by 57 per cent to Rs 47 per kg, the Centre Friday decided to step up the sale of buffer onion at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg in retail markets in order to provide relief to consumers.

The all-India average retail price of onion rose to Rs 47 per kg Friday, from Rs 30 per kg in the year-ago period, as per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry.

In the national capital, retail price of onion was at Rs 40/kg Friday as against Rs 30/kg in the year-ago period, the data showed. "We have been of-

floating buffer onions since mid-August and we are stepping up the retail sale in order to check further rise in prices and provide relief to the consumers," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said.

According to the ministry, onion is being offloaded from the buffer stock in both wholesale and retail markets in states where there is a sharp rise in prices. Since mid-August, about 1.7 lakh tonne of buffer onion has been offloaded in 22 states at different locations.

In retail markets, buffer onion is being offloaded through two co-operative bodies NCCF and NAFED outlets and vehicles at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 per kg. In Delhi too, buffer onion is being sold at this subsidised rate.

A senior ministry official said the delay in kharif onion sowing due to weather reasons has resulted in less coverage and late arrival of the crop.

The fresh kharif onion should have started arriving by now but it has not. With stored rabi onion getting exhausted and delay in arrival of kharif onion, there is a tight supply situation, resulting in price increase in both wholesale and retail markets, the official added.

He also mentioned that the government has doubled the buffer onion stock for the current year and this should improve domestic availability and check prices in the coming days.

For 2023-24 fiscal year, the consumer affairs ministry through NCCF and NAFED has maintained a buffer onion stock of 5 lakh tonne and plans to procure additional 2 lakh tonne onion in the coming days.



**NOTE-UNWORTHY:** People queue up to exchange ₹2000 notes at RBI in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PIC: MANORANJAN MISHRA

## Parl panel to examine review of personal laws

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** As the Law Commission holds consultations on a uniform civil code, the Standing Committee on Law and Justice has chosen the 'review of personal laws' among the subjects for its examination.

In June, the Law Commission had initiated a fresh deliberation on the UCC by seeking views from stakeholders, including the public and recognised religious organisations.

In short, the UCC would translate into having a common law for all citizens of the country that is not based on religion. Personal laws and laws related to inheritance, adoption and succession are likely to be covered by a common code.

The parliamentary panel, headed by BJP's Sushil Kumar Modi, has also decided to examine remote voting and e-postal ballots for Indians residing abroad.

In November 2020, the Election Commission had proposed to the government to extend the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS) facility, so far available to service voters, to eligible overseas Indian voters.

As of now, the issue is pending between the EC and the Ministry of External Affairs. Currently, overseas Indians are free to cast their votes in constituencies they are registered in. Review of the Right to Information Act, 2005, and working of the Central Information Commission have also been chosen among the subjects for review.

## 3 lakh new voters in state: CEO

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 27:** The number of voters in Odisha has increased by around 3 lakh, taking the total to 3.26 crore, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Nikunja Bihari Dhal said Friday.

Launching the special summary revision of the voters' list, Dhal said Odisha added 3,03,094 voters to the draft list till January 5. This increased the total number of voters from 3,23,52,119 to 3,26,55,213, a rise of 0.94 per cent.

While 6,22,429 new voters have been added to the draft list, names of 3,19,345 voters have been deleted for various reasons, including death, he said.

The gender ratio of the voters has also improved in the state,

**During the special summary revision, voters can apply for correction or enrolment till December 9, both online and offline, and call 1950 for assistance**

NIKUNJA BIHARI DHAL | CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

Dhal said, adding that it was 1000:961 earlier and now, it stands at 1000:963. The number of voters belonging to the third gender has also increased from 3,224 to 3,406, he said. The number of booths has increased to 37,809 from 37,606 with the increase in the number of voters, Dhal said.

"During the special summary revision, voters can apply for

correction or enrolment till December 9, both online and offline, and call 1950 for assistance," he said. As scheduled, the errors in the list would be rectified by December 26, and the final list will be released January 5, 2024, he said.

The EC has directed for 100 per cent enrolment of eligible people belonging to primitive tribes, Dhal said, maintaining that the focus is on to add women and youth. For the 2024 elections, the EVMs and VVPATs have already reached Odisha and their verification has been completed in 10 districts in the first phase, he said.

The verification process in the remaining 20 districts will start from November 1, and end by November 15, he said.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	63782.80 ↑ 634.65
NIFTY	19047.30 ↑ 190.00
DOLLAR	83.25 ↓ ₹0.01
EURO	87.90 ↑ ₹0.15
GOLD	₹60,866 ↓ ₹86
SILVER	₹71,608 ↑ ₹28

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	32.6°C	30.2°C
MIN	21.1°C	22.5°C
Humidity	80%	62%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky	

DSPL-310

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# 3K Habisyalis to observe Kartika Brata in Holy City

AGENCIES

**Puri, Oct 27:** A total of 3,024 Habisyalis have registered themselves for observing the month-long Kartika Brata here at the state government's expenses, an official said Friday.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for their hassle-free stay at Brundabati Niwas, Bagaria Dharmashala, Mochi Sahi Municipal Kalyan Mandap and five other places in the Holy City, said the official.

A maximum of 954 applicants have been enlisted from Khurda, followed by Puri (885), Ganjam (385) and Nayagarh (310).

The month-long Brata begins from October and will conclude November 28. The district administration will manage the Habisyalis' healthcare, food, transport - from their places of stay to temple and back, and organise daily evening religious discourses.

The district Collector has asked all stakeholders to ensure the Habisyalis take back pleasant memories with them.

"Doctors and paramedical staff will be engaged to attend



## MONTH OF AUSTERITY

A maximum of 954 applicants have been enlisted from Khurda, followed by Puri (885), Ganjam (385) and Nayagarh (310)

The month-long Brata begins from October and will conclude November 28

The district administration will manage the Habisyalis' healthcare, food, transport - from their places of stay to temple and back, and organise daily evening religious discourses

their health needs. A nodal officer has been appointed to guide the devotees to their boarding places. Two helpdesks will operate at railway station and at bus stand before the Brata begins," the of-

icial pointed out. The district administration has roped in a number of volunteers and activists to serve the devotees during the month-long Kartika Brata.

# Lal bids adieu, leaves for Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 27:** Odisha's outgoing Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal Friday bid adieu to the state and left for his native state Haryana.

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and other dignitaries were present at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here when Lal left the state after serving the highest constitutional post for five years and five months.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

accompanied by new chairman of 5T and Nabin Odisha VK Pandian had met Lal at Raj Bhawan Thursday night. "Glad to meet the Governor of Odisha Prof. Ganeshi Lal Ji who is leaving Odisha after serving the state for more than five years. Thank him for his service to the state and convey my good wishes," Patnaik wrote on X.

On the eve of Lal's departure from the state, a farewell ceremony was organised in his honour at the Raj Bhawan here. He was also accorded the guard of honour.

"Odia people are fortunate to stay near Lord Jagannath all the time and I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to

serve Odisha. The state has enriched my knowledge. And I can say this with conviction that in the times to come, this conflicting world will vanish and there will be an erection of elegant edifice, a city of mankind (Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam). If there is any place which can act as the foundation of this 'city', then it will be Odisha state," he told reporters. "A unique elevation of my consciousness has taken place on this land. I pay my obeisance to the holy soil and its virtuous people," he said.

On May 25, 2018, Lal was appointed as the 25th Governor of Odisha. His wife Sushila Devi passed away during the Covid pandemic.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 27:** Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) was conferred an 'Award of Excellence' Friday at the 16th Urban Mobility India Awards, 2023 for implementing the 'Best Urban Transport Project.'

Given by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, the award recognizes remarkable efforts in elevating the quality of urban transportation and promoting sustainable mobility.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated CRUT for winning the award appreciating its work in making the urban transport system of the state more sustainable.

# CRUT bags national 'Award of Excellence'



This is the fifth consecutive year that CRUT, a special purpose vehicle, has received an award at the Urban Mobility India Awards

The 'Award of Excellence' was presented to CRUT in the 'Running Trophy for the State/UT' category, which acknowledges the state or union territory that has executed the best urban transport project in the previous year.

"This award recognises the strategic initiatives undertaken towards reducing sub-

sidies and boosting the ridership growth, thereby contributing to a more efficient and effective urban transportation system in its area of operation," said an official.

The citation accompanying the award recognized CRUT's role in transforming the urban transport landscape. "By adopting a comprehensive approach

to revenue assurance, the organisation has substantially reduced its reliance on government subsidies, resulting in more efficient operations and the seamless daily transportation of over 2.5 lakh commuters.

Through meticulous operational planning and scientific revenue assurance techniques, CRUT successfully has decreased per-ridership subsidies from ₹11.65 in FY 2019-20 to ₹5.57 in FY 2022-23," it said.

Notably, this is the fifth consecutive year that CRUT, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) under the state Housing and Urban Development department, has received an award at the Urban Mobility India Awards.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Arati Tripathy spouse of Bhubani Sankar Tripathy, Resident of At- Gundicha Bihar, Sarbodaya Nagar, Saw Mill Lane, Puri-2, Dist.- Puri, Odisha, PIN-752002 have changed my name from Arati Tripathy to Arati Mishra vide Affidavit / Self declaration dated 26.10.2023.

I, Rabindra Nath Routaray, S/o - Late Jagannath Routaray, aged about 62 years, residing At- Nanapada, Post- Nirakarapur, P.S.- Nirakarapur, Dist. - Khordha, State - Odisha. By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Executive Magistrate, Cuttack on dt. 09.10.2023 my Ex Army Service No.-14342011H. Havildar working in the Office of the Army Air Defence record declare that in my service record my name and wife name has been mentioned as Rabindra Nath Routaray, wife name Jhili Routaray instead of Rabindra Nath Routaray, wife Jhili Routaray, which is recorded in my Aadhaar Card, HSC Certificate. That I swear this affidavit it to be produced before the concerned authority to mention my name Rabindra Nath Routaray and wife name Jhili Routaray. That the facts stated above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

# PM awards '5G Lab' tag to KIIT & SOA

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 27:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi digitally awarded '5G Lab' tag to 100 institutions, including KIIT Deemed to be University (DU) and Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA) DU enabling students and faculties to exploit opportunities and develop solutions in the labs for various sectors using 5G technology.

The 5G Labs are meant for students and start-up communities and empower the higher education institutions to meet India's unique needs and make the Indian academia and start-up ecosystem 6G ready.

Awarding the labs during the inauguration of the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress 2023 in Delhi, Modi



5G Labs are meant for students and startup communities to empower the higher education institutions to meet India's unique needs

exuded confidence that the 5G use labs will have a similar impact as the 10,000 Atal tinkering labs exposing about 75 lakh children to cutting-edge technology. "These labs prompt the youth to dream big and give them the confidence to achieve them," he added.

According to a government statement, the labs are an endeavour to realise the opportunities associated with 5G tech-

nology by encouraging the development of 5G applications that cater, both to India's unique needs as well as the global demands.

The unique initiative will foster innovation across various socioeconomic sectors like education, agriculture, health, power, transportation, among others, and propel the country into the forefront of usage of 5G technology.

# Kalahandi MP's missive to Union minister Puri

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Basanta Panda has written to Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri requesting him for setting up of sanitary napkin vending machines at the petrol pumps across the country for women traveler.

The Kalahandi MP cited the menstrual hygiene scheme of the Union government to make aware the girls in the age group of 10-19 about the issue and said that the setting up of sanitary pad vending machines at the petrol filling stations will be a major step towards women health. He said that oil companies have a humongous network of filling stations across the country and they have also been provided services like air filling and drinking water to travelers.

# Pradhan to flag off Amrit Kalash Special train today

The train is for volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra carrying Amrit Kalash containers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 27:** Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan will flag off the New Delhi-bound Amrit Kalash Special train from Bhubaneswar railway station Saturday. This train will facilitate the transportation of participants involved in 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign to the national capital.

This train will facilitate travelling for the volunteers and participants of Nehru Yuva Kendra carrying Amrit Kalash containers to travel to New Delhi. The Amrit Kalash Special train will leave Bhubaneswar at 10am

October 28 and reach the Ananda Vihar Terminal, New Delhi at 2:30pm the next day.

'Amrit Kalash Yatra' serves as a tribute to the national heroes who devoted their lives to the nation. 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' (MIMMD) campaign was meant to pay tribute to the Army Bravehearts who sacrificed their lives for the nation. As part of this initiative, sacred soil and rice were collected from households and carefully placed in Amrit Kalash containers. These materials will play a vital role in the creation of 'Amrit Vatika' and 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' memories at Kartavyapath, near India Gate in New Delhi.

# Excess fluoride in water linked to cognitive impairment: Study

Long-term consumption of water with fluoride levels far above established standards may be associated with cognitive impairments in children, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Neurotoxicology and Teratology, was conducted in rural Ethiopia where farming communities use wells with varying levels of naturally occurring fluoride ranging from 0.4 to 15.5 milligrams per litre (mg/L).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends fluoride levels below 1.5 mg/L.

Researchers from Tulane University in the US recruited 74 school-aged children and rated their ability to draw familiar

Over 200 million people worldwide are estimated to be exposed to high fluoride levels in their drinking water, according to the researchers

objects such as a donkey or a house, with scores reflecting any missing details.

They used a standard computerised memory test which is language and culture neutral as another tool to measure cognitive ability.

The study found that higher exposure to fluoride in drinking water was linked to more errors on the drawing and memory tests.



"The causal relationship between fluoride exposure and neurotoxicity remains unclear," said lead author Tewodros Godebo, assistant professor at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

However, Godebo hopes these

preliminary findings will spur more research into the potential cognitive impacts of fluoride exposure.

"Though further epidemiological studies are needed to validate the findings, these results add to the growing concern about the potential neurotoxic effects

of fluoride, especially during early brain development and childhood," Godebo said.

"These tests affirmed a clear association between high fluoride and cognitive impairment," he added.

Fluoride is essential for preventing tooth decay. However, its excess intake has been linked to lower IQs in past epidemiological studies in rural communities in China and India, the researchers said.

Past animal research has shown that fluoride can cross the placenta and blood-brain barriers.

In regions with no alternative water sources, this means excess fluoride exposure could be a chronic issue that begins at conception, they said.

Over 200 million people worldwide are estimated to be exposed to high fluoride levels in their drinking water, according to the researchers.

The Ethiopian Rift Valley, where this study was conducted, is an ideal research area for investigations of potential impacts because those raised in the area have consistent exposure to stable, naturally occurring fluoride levels and share similar lifestyles with surrounding villages, limiting the risk of confounding factors.

Godebo hopes to replicate the results in Ethiopia with a larger group of children and study the cognition of children in low-fluoride Ethiopian communities for potential signs of cognitive impact.

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# Irregularities alleged in Jajpur CoE project



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Oct 27:** Rampant irregularities have been alleged in the construction of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for mango and vegetables at Panikoili in Jajpur district.

Notably, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare earlier this year had decided to establish a CoE for mango and vegetables at Panikoili in Jajpur district to conduct extensive training and research on horticultural products.

An official statement issued by the ministry March 10 this year said the centre will be established under the Indo-Israel Action Plan, as envisioned under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

However, funds to the tune of over ₹14 crore sanctioned by the District Mineral Fund (DMF) for establishment of the centre are allegedly being embezzled instead of being put to use. The

contractor engaged is doing a shoddy job in the construction of roads, boundary, and houses including ground levelling without using proper equipment. Chatters are abuzz in the area that the district administration, departmental officials and the contractor are in close collusion in the scam.

Notably, Jajpur district has made a name for itself in vegetable farming with veggies being cultivated on around 18,000 hectare land in the district. Dharماسala, Rasulpur, Dasarathpur and Binjharpur blocks of this district are at the forefront in this regard.

However, lack of adequate cold storage facilities in comparison to the vegetable harvest in the area has hit the farmers hard. They have to bear losses often if they fail to sell their perishable vegetables in time.

Farmers in the area had high hopes that the establishment of the CoE at Panikoili will come as a boon for them. The centre aims to generate knowledge in

nursery management, cultivation practices, and production of high-quality and large quantities of planting material for mango and vegetable crops.

It will also focus on the demonstration of new varieties, Israeli Agro technology in irrigation, fertigation and plant protection technologies along with precision agriculture and post-harvest management technology. The centre will prepare a training model based on the focused areas such as irrigation, fertigation, nursery, canopy and value chain for the benefit of farmers.

This apart, there are also proposals to train the farmers about management, utilisation of DMF and Indo-Israel Action Plan funds, agreement signed with the Indo-Israel Action Plan, usage of other projects and provide technical assistance.

The project had received approval in November, 2020. Subsequently, project works were started at Sathipur near Panikoili. According to sources, almost 90 per cent of the sanctioned amount has been spent already on the project. However, the project is still far from completion casting a shadow on the hopes of the district's farmers.

When contacted, assistant director of Jajpur Horticulture department, Radheshyam Behera, said the project work is being carried out through the DMF Cell. However, he admitted his ignorance about the progress of the project and the related expenditure.



**SCINTILLATING SHOW:** Girls performing a Sambalpuri dance at Mahak-2023 organised by district child protection unit (DCPU) at Tapaswini Auditorium in Sambalpur, Friday

# Andhra infiltrates again, holds mega health camp

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Pottangi, Oct 27:** The neighbouring Andhra Pradesh government has yet again infiltrated into the border villages within Odisha in another desperate bid to assert its position.

However, the state government and the district administration seem to be in deep slumber as Andhra officials have been frequenting the Odisha villages time and again with impunity. It almost seems as if the state government is favouring the neighbouring state.

Some scenes that came to the fore from Dhulipadar village of Kotia panchayat under Pottangi block in Koraput district suggest the same. As per reports, the Parbatipuram Manyam district administration with the help of Salur block administration in Andhra Friday organised a mega health camp named 'Jagananna Arogya Suraksha' at Dhulipadar village bordering Andhra Pradesh. More than 500 residents of the village were registered and examined in the health camp. The health camp was organised by the Salur block administration under the direct supervision of BDO G Parvati and ST commission chairman D Sankar Rao was invited as the chief



guest. He advised the doctors and the staff to give proper healthcare services to the villagers of the border village present in the health camp.

On the other hand, District Health Officer, D Srinibash Rao, MP Reddy Suresh Kumar, Sevadal district president S Ramakrushna, Deputy DMHO Shiv Kumar, YSRCP block president S Bharusenu along with other senior officials were present there. They assisted in smoothly conducting the programme and creating awareness among the villagers about the various Andhra government projects available for them. After being informed, the Pottangi block administration and BDO Sukanta Kumar Pattanayak along with tehsildar Debendra Bahadur Singh Dharua reached the spot and opposed the move. The Andhra officials and health team had to leave the place.

## Walkathon today

**Rourkela:** The Sundargarh district administration will organise a walkathon and 'patha utsav' Saturday to create public awareness on the special summary revision drive of the voters' list which began Friday. The 'patha utsav' will be held between DRDA chowk and Tehasil Office chowk. This will begin at 7.30am and will continue till 10.00am. School students of the town will hold a 'masal' procession from the temple inside RRT Colony up to Government College.

# JUMBO TRAMPLES FARMER TO DEATH

PNN & AGENCIES

**Berhampur, Oct 27:** A 50-year-old man was allegedly trampled to death by a herd of wild elephants in Ganjam district Friday, officials said.

The incident happened near Gunduribadi village in Muzagarh forest range in the early hours, they said. The deceased was identified as Tuma Gouda of Gurundibadi village, they added.

Gouda along with two other farmers was guarding their crops

in the field when they saw a herd of around 17 elephants approaching. On seeing the elephants, they started running but Gouda fell on the ground and the elephants trampled him to death, officials said.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Ghumusar North division Sudarshan Behera along with other forest personnel and police visited the spot to take stock of the situation and sent the body to a nearby hospital for post-mortem. The family of the

deceased would be provided ₹6 lakh after the joint inquiry report of the Forest department and the police is received, Behera said.

The herd has been near the village over the last few days unleashing terror in the area, officials said. Forest personnel along with some villagers were tracking the movement of the herd. Despite being alerted about the movement, the farmers went to their paddy field leading to the mishap, they said.

## MCL provides jobs to 91 unemployed youth



**Sambalpur:** As many as 91 students of CIPET CSTS, Bhubaneswar have been offered employment in various fields of India's leading industries. It is worth noting that while the problem of unemployment is a hindrance to the country's progress, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Sambalpur went to remove it to some extent and signed an MOU with CIPET to provide employment to 1,000 unemployed youth of the state. Three batches on skill development programme implemented by the MCL under Project Nipun have been successfully completed in CIPET CSTS, Bhubaneswar. In this on-going project 682 unemployed youths have already been trained in about 20 batches at CIPET. Now, with the completion of training for the three batches, the students have been offered placement in Pune-based company Tata Auto comp and many others like Moisto, Secure Industries in Hyderabad, Hitachi in Chennai, and Magrito Solutions in Howrah.

## 147TH IPU ASSEMBLY

# Inclusive approach needed to fight terrorism: Sasmit

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra has expressed concerns over the failures in combating terrorism around the world and called upon young representatives and Parliaments for an inclusive approach to mitigate the enemies of humanity. The BJD MP was speaking at the 147th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly at Luanda, Angola.

Patra asserted that the youth of the world are not untouched by what is happening around the world and cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the P-20 forum in New Delhi that a divided world cannot provide solutions to the major challenges faced by humanity.

"This is a time for growth and well-being of all. We have to overcome the global trust deficit and move forward on human-centric thinking. We have to look at the world in the spirit of One Earth, One Family, One Future," Patra said, adding that in this spirit, Bharat

proposed to make the African Union a permanent member of the G20.

He spoke on the menace of terrorism at the IPU and asserted that, "Bharat has been adversely affected by terrorism for decades." He said terrorists have killed thousands of innocent people in Bharat and they even targeted the Parliament, when it was in session, around 20 years ago.

"It is very sad that there is no consensus on the definition of terrorism. Even today, the International Convention on Combating Terrorism is waiting for consensus in the United Nations. The enemies of humanity are taking advantage of this attitude of the world. Parliaments and young representatives around the world will have to think about how we can work together in this fight against terrorism," Patra said.

The IPU is the global organisation of national parliaments. The IPU facilitates parliamentary diplomacy and empowers Parliaments and Parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development around the world.

# Minor girl pedals trolley for 35 km to carry dad to hosp

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhadrak, Oct 27:** A 14-year-old girl pedalled a trolley rickshaw 35 km to take her injured father to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Bhadrak.

The incident happened October 23 but came to light Thursday when some local people and journalists spotted the girl near Mohatab Chhak in Bhadrak town while she was taking her father back home on the trolley.

The girl Sujata Sethi (14) of Nadigan village took her injured father to Dhamnagar hospital, about 14 km away from her village, pedalling her father's trolley.

However, doctors asked her to shift her father to the Bhadrak DHH. She pedalled the trolley 35 km to bring her



father to the district headquarters hospital October 23. Her father Sambhunath was injured in a group clash October 22, sources said.

According to Sujata, doctors at Bhadrak DHH advised her to go back and come after a week for

an operation. "I neither have money to hire a private vehicle nor a mobile phone to call the ambulance. So, I used my father's trolley to bring him (Sambhunath) to the hospital," she said.

After getting information about the incident, Bhadrak MLA Sanjib Mallick and former Dhamnagar MLA Rajendra Das reached the girl and extended necessary help.

Bhadrak Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Santanu Patra said the patient was admitted October 23 for treatment. He was advised for an operation after a week.

"We have no provision for ambulance service to return the patients home... He will remain in the hospital till the end of the treatment," Patra said.

<b>इंडियन बैंक</b> ALLAHABAD	<b>Indian Bank</b> ALLAHABAD	<b>ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR</b> At: Shyam Arcade, Khetrapur, Sambalpur - 768003	<b>APPENDIX - IV [Rule-8(1)]</b> <b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b> (for Immovable property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the following Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken <b>Symbolic Possession</b> of the property described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Sonepur Branch for an amount mentioned herein below with interest & other expenses thereon. <b>The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.</b>			
<b>SONEPUR BRANCH/</b> Name & Address of Borrower	<b>Amount Payable</b> as on specified date	<b>Date of Demand</b> / Possession Notice	<b>Description of the Immovable Property</b>
<b>Borrower:</b> Mrs. Sasmita Bhue, W/o.: Sri Shiba Bhue, At: Mayurudan, P.O/GP.: Mayurudan, Dist: Sonepur - 767017	₹21,23,608/- as on 26.07.2023 + interest and cost thereon	28.07.2023 / 21.10.2023	All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Smt.Sasmita Bhue, W/o.: Shiba Bhue, under Khata No.: 290/44, Plot No.: 885, Area: Ac.0.45 Dec., Mouza: Mayurudan, P.O/GP.: Mayurudan, Tahasil: Sonepur, Dist: Sonepur, Bounded by North: Govt Land, South: Harisankar Dani, East: Govt Land, West: Road
Sonepur, Bounded by North: Govt Land, South: Harisankar Dani, East: Govt Land, West: Road Place: Sambalpur, Date: 27.10.2023			Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

<b>बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा</b> <b>Bank of Baroda</b>	<b>REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH : SAMBALPUR</b> Ground Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001	<b>E-AUCTION</b> <b>SALE NOTICE</b>		
<b>E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 6(2) &amp; 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to be held on 30.11.2023 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM</b>				
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described Immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to the Secured Creditor, will be sold on the basis of "CONSTRUCTIVE/ PHYSICAL POSSESSION" of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrowers/Guarantors/ Secured Assets/Dues/Reverse Price/E-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-				
<b>PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE AND TIME : 23.11.2023 time 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM.</b>				
<b>Status of Possession of Properties: Constructive / Physical, Encumbrance Known to Bank - NIL</b>				
<b>Last Date of Submission of online payment of EMD :29.11.2023 latest by 2.00 PM.</b>				
<b>The linking of interested property started after 5.00 P.M. on 29.11.2023 till 2.00 P.M. on 30.11.2023</b>				
<b>The scheduled date of Auction to be held on 30.11.2023 from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M.</b>				
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Address of Borrowers / Guarantors</b>	<b>Description of the Property &amp; the Owner</b>	<b>Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount</b>	<b>Total Dues as on 09.10.2023 (Type of Possession)</b>
1.	<b>KARATAPETA BRANCH</b> <b>Borrowers:</b> 1) Mr Khirod Kumar Sahu, 2) Mr. Pramod Kumar Sahu, Both are S/o: Late Ainthu Sahu, Partner of M/s Kalia Traders, At/PO: Sankhapur, PS: Bantala, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759129 / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Raj Kumar Sahu, S/o: Late Ainthu Sahu, 2) Mrs. Sita Sahu, W/o: Late Ainthu Sahu, Both are At/PO: Sankhapur, PS: Bantala, Dist.: Angul, Odisha, PIN-759129	Equitable Mortgage of Land and Building Located at Mouza: Sankhapur, PO: Sankhapur, PS.: Bantala, Dist.: Angul, Bearing Khata No.: 1, Plot No.: 634, Area: Ac.0.16Dec. in the name of Mrs. Sita Sahu, Mr. Pramod Kumar Sahu, Mr. Khirod Kumar Sahoo & Mr. Raj Kumar Sahu, Bounded by East: Road, West: Pramod Sahu, North: Gobinda Dehury, South: Gobinda Sahoo.	₹48,69,000/- ₹4,86,900/- ₹20,000/-	₹ 52,90,507/- plus further interest and charges, legal expenses thereon as on 09.10.2023 till full payment (Physical)
<b>For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm and https://ibapi.in</b>				
<b>Also prospective bidders may contact the Authorized Officer on Mob:7278141330</b>				
<b>STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS FOR SUBSEQUENT SALE UNDER RULE 6(2) &amp; 8(6) AS PER AMENDED SARFAESI ACT 2002</b>				
<b>This may also be treated as notice under rule 6(2) &amp; 8(6) of security interest (Enforcements)Rules, 2002 to the Borrowers / Guarantors of the said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the above mentioned date</b>				
Place: Sambalpur, Date: 27.10.2023				Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



Always do what you know to be the best even if it is the most difficult thing to do.  
THE MOTHER



# Babus For Roadshows

Commencing next month, officials from a dozen allied central government services, including income tax, customs, central excise, audit and accounts, forests, postal, telecom and other sectors, are set to take on a unique role as "rath prabharis," or special officers. They will embark on a nationwide tour lasting into January next year, covering approximately 2.69 lakh gram panchayats in specially equipped "raths" with the express objective of showcasing the achievements of the Modi sarkar over the past nine years.

It's not a coincidence that this campaign will be run in the midst of the upcoming Assembly elections in five states and the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks a third term in office.

While the Modi government has previously enlisted bureaucrats to promote and educate the public about its welfare programmes since 2014, this marks the first instance in which such a significant number of officers from allied services are being mobilised to highlight the government's accomplishments, in a blatant blurring of the lines between politics and administration. Sources have informed DKB that a total of 170 babus from various allied services will participate in this initiative, dubbed the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Expectedly, Opposition parties regard this decision with suspicion, questioning the deployment of civil servants for political propaganda. Critics contend that utilising bureaucrats as "Rath Prabharis" blurs the line between government administration and political campaigning, potentially swaying voters. The INDIA bloc leaders have demanded a retraction of the order, a weak long shot unless there is a public push-back, which appears unlikely.

Experts, including some former babus, point out the dire implications of this decision on transparency, ethical governance, and public perception. The issue will remain a subject of ongoing scrutiny and debate.

Not to be left behind, the Indian Army too has advised soldiers, when they go on leave, to spread awareness among local communities about Swachh Bharat and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and other schemes. Unlike babus, however, soldiers can't protest about being used as "pracharakas."



## BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

### Govt streamlines induction of officers in CBI, IB

Finally, the government is attempting to address the longstanding issue of understaffing in India's premier intelligence and investigation agencies. Now officers with a minimum of five years of service are eligible for induction into R&AW, the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Previously, this criterion applied to all agencies except the CBI. This policy is poised to open the door for SP rank officers to enter the CBI.

The chronic shortfall of officers in the CBI has considerably hampered the efficiency of the agency's work. As of this month, there were 42 vacant SP-level positions out of the 73 sanctioned posts. This is the highest vacancy rate among all 17 organisations, closely followed by the IB, with 32 vacancies at the same rank.

SP-level officers are of paramount importance in investigations, as they oversee and directly engage with cases. Given that the CBI handles high-profile cases, the vacancies at the SP level have long impeded the agency's anti-corruption work.

Similarly, the IB has expanded its cadre by including IG, ADG, and DG ranks, previously limited to SP and DIG. To ensure a balanced workforce, the number of 'hardcore' IB officers, spanning ranks from SP to DG, should not exceed 50 per cent of the total posts, all of which are to be filled by IPS officers.

This updated policy also reflects changes in the empanelment of senior IPS officers. Each state care designates a central deputation quota, requiring additional recruitment to provide trained and experienced officers for central government roles.

### Moving beyond G20 rhetoric?

As the razzmatazz of G20 fades into memory, there is still work to be done. Dr PK Mishra, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, recently headed a high-level meeting to review the progress made in translating the G20 Leaders' Declaration in Delhi into tangible action.

The meeting included the Vice-Chairman of the Niti Aayog, the G20 Sherpa, the G20 Chief Coordinator and senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), among others.

According to sources, a series of seven webinars have been proposed to be organised on themes ranging from nurturing strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth to combating terrorism and money laundering. The webinars will be spearheaded by the respective ministries. The aim is to draw insights from area experts for the effective implementation of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and set up a high-level monitoring mechanism to ensure that the implementation remains an ongoing process.

Apparently, Dr Mishra also discussed the upcoming G20 Virtual Summit, an initiative initially proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, with the government now increasingly focused on the upcoming elections, the question is how much time will be devoted to matters of governance.

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## WISDOM CORNER

There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.  
ERNEST HEMINGWAY

Rules for Happiness: something to do, someone to love, something to hope for.  
IMMANUEL KANT

When you love someone, you love the person as they are, and not as you'd like them to be.  
LEO TOLSTOY

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1636: Harvard University, the oldest institute of higher learning in the United States, was founded by the Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

1726: Anglo-Irish author Jonathan Swift anonymously published Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World (later called Gulliver's Travels), a keystone of English literature that helped give birth to the novel form.

1886: US President Grover Cleveland officially dedicated the Statue of Liberty—a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States—on Bedloe's (later Liberty) Island in Upper New York Bay.

1918: Czechoslovakia gained independence. The Central European country had been a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire since the late 1700s. At the end of the First World War, with the end of the Empire on the horizon, nationalists under the leadership of Thomas Masaryk pushed for independence. Masaryk became the country's first president in November 1918. On January 1, 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully broke up into two countries—the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.



Mateo Estrada

## THE CORPORATE APPETITE FOR FOREST-BASED CARBON CREDITS CONTINUES TO GROW

The recent Climate Week NYC, which convened corporate leaders, policymakers, scientists, and others to discuss climate solutions and drive progress toward decarbonisation, underscored how forests have become big business. The fast-growing voluntary carbon market, where companies purchase nature-based offsets to compensate for their emissions, was worth \$2 billion in 2021 and could reach \$10-40 billion by 2030. Some even see forest preservation and restoration as a silver bullet for climate change.

But for indigenous communities, including my tribe in the Colombian Amazon, the arrival of carbon traders marked the start of a troubled history: dubious deals, land grabs, and violent evictions in contested territories. Our collective experience raises serious questions about the integrity of a market that is poised to expand across Latin America and Africa, as the world's largest companies increasingly rely on forest-based offsets to reach net-zero emissions. To be sure, carbon offsets (also known as credits) were a good idea. Companies, using market mechanisms, could cancel out their carbon dioxide emissions by recognising indigenous communities' superior conservation practices and paying them to prevent deforestation. The mechanism also reflects the importance of forests as natural carbon sinks that can contribute more than one-third of the mitigation required to meet the Paris climate agreement's goals by 2030.

The unregulated and opaque market that emerged, however, has major design flaws. Recent research by the Berkeley Carbon Trading Project shows that Verra, the world's leading carbon-crediting programme, has given project developers the freedom to cherry-pick methodological approaches to maximise the quantity of credits they can receive. This has resulted in offset schemes that absorb far less carbon than promised—or none at all.

## FOCUS CARBON CREDITS

# BROKEN PROMISES



The voluntary carbon market is riddled with shortcomings, resulting in forest-protection schemes that inflate their climate impact and exploit local communities.

Even projects that represent genuine carbon reductions are not without controversy. The Alto Mayo in the Peruvian Amazon, which accounted for 40% of Disney's offsets between 2012 and 2020, has successfully stopped some deforestation, but not without generating ill will by violently evicting forest communities. How did a good idea go so wrong? Weak regulation is largely to blame. Carbon-credit dealers—often called "carbon cowboys"—target indigenous communities across Latin America and Africa, sweet-talking them into signing away their rights to the carbon in their forests. The contracts are almost always exploitative, ranging from 100-year irrevocable commitments to terms that award the dealers half of the income earned from carbon credits.

Some dealers have embraced a more aggressive approach. When TotalEnergies seized land from farmers in Congo for a reforestation scheme, it paid some around \$1 per hectare and others nothing; women farmers reported being chased away from their fields by men in trucks. The document that the farmers signed described any payment as "symbolic" and made "with a view to clearing their rights of use" to the land. Carbon-offsetting projects are often carried out in jurisdictions with complex land-rights issues that require diligence, precision, and

knowledge of indigenous people's customary land rights. But in the "Wild West" carbon market, where speed is of essence, deals are made with little concern for history, culture, or rights. That puts indigenous communities in a precarious position.

Meanwhile, the corporate appetite for forest-based carbon credits continues to grow. As businesses come under intense pressure to meet net-zero targets, buying offsets is far easier and more expedient than reducing their own emissions. And when this voracious demand collides with a disorganised and loosely regulated market, brokers are willing and able to create credits by any means necessary, regardless of the climate impact.

The voluntary carbon market's widespread greenwashing is particularly galling. While many offset schemes overstate the amount of carbon that they capture, an investigation by The Guardian, Die Zeit, and SourceMaterial, a nonprofit investigative journalism organisation, concluded that a whopping 94% of Verra's rainforest offset credits yielded no benefit to the climate. Guyana's unprecedented carbon scheme has faced similar scrutiny. Earlier this year, the Hess Corporation, which was granted a concession for oil exploration off the coast of Guyana, purchased \$750 million worth of forest-based carbon credits from the country. But indigenous peo-

ples have watched over these forests for centuries, and the threat of deforestation is very low. In fact, the project permits a level of deforestation that is higher than the country's historic levels. Activists point to the climate damage caused by greatly exaggerated emissions-reduction claims, especially in South America's newest oil-producing country, while some indigenous communities say the authorities have sold off what is not theirs to sell.

Indigenous peoples should be fairly compensated for the important work that we do to safeguard forests. Instead, the current system has forced us to contend with volatile offset prices, extractive brokers, and markets that disregard human rights. Even the regulatory framework for carbon markets being developed by the United Nations—which could set a dangerous precedent for all other standards—does not yet account properly for human rights.

An incremental approach to reform will not be enough to restore the voluntary carbon market's credibility. Funding for forest-protection schemes must be strictly regulated, based on credible science, and impervious to companies' demand for easy offsets. Forest communities like mine must be provided with long-term financial security and a seat at the decision-making table, not in the observers' gallery.

Nature-based carbon-offset schemes get some things right: we must look to forests as a tool for mitigating global warming and pay the people who protect them. As it stands, however, the voluntary carbon market is riddled with shortcomings, resulting in forest-protection schemes that inflate their climate impact and exploit local communities. The time is right for a radical overhaul.

The writer is Lead Advocacy Strategist at the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon.  
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM ECONOMY

# Dismal job creation scenario

It was indeed encouraging to hear that India's impetus in the tech and digit manufacturing sector will create as many as 50 lakh jobs in the next three years. This was pointed out recently by Minister of State for IT and Electronics Rajeev Chandrasekhar: "We are one of the fastest growing digital economies in the world and are encouraging companies to move supply chains to India," he said and added that the target is to hit \$300 billion turnover in electronics by 2025. However, while it can't be denied that the country has an edge in the tech sector, it is a fact that huge, automated plants cannot solve the problem of unemployment.

With state elections being announced and political parties announcing list of candidates, the Congress and members of INDIA bloc are focussing on unemployment in a big way. In fact, joblessness is a critical issue that continues to challenge the economic landscape of India. The question arises what is the current unemployment rate in India? Will the 'jobless growth' continue and for how long? When will women become a signifi-

cant part of the workforce?

The latest data indicate a glimmer of hope, as India's unemployment rate has recently declined. According to the National Sample Survey (NSSO), the unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 years and above in urban areas decreased to 6.8% during January-March 2023 from 8.2% a year ago. According to the recent Bloomberg report that references data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy for July, the overall unemployment rate was 7.95% as of July and has been calculated at 8.44% in August. Thus, all the talk of the economy strengthening has not reflected in creation of jobs.

This apart, the recent weather patterns across the country have brought about significant changes in economic conditions. Given that rainfall has covered large parts of India, impacting nearly half of the agricultural land, expectations of higher farm production have risen. It is expected that this development has the potential to contribute to the overall economic growth. However, despite the boost in the agricultural sector due to

improved rains, there has been a notable drop in demand for labour from the non-agricultural sector in rural areas during July.

As a result, the number of rural labourers seeking employment has decreased, leading to a decline in the rural employment rate. The labour force in rural India experienced a reduction of approximately five million individuals. This decline was also witnessed in urban areas, indicating a broader economic weakness that demands attention.

Though the thrust on manufacturing may yield dividends for the economy, job creation may be a far cry. There has to be some special effort to identify labour-intensive sectors and give special benefits considering the number of labour/employees they recruit. In fact, there needs to be a comprehensive plan with incentives, and this must be formulated by the Centre and sent to all states for implementation.

The other important thing is the need to fill up vacancies of teachers in schools and colleges spread across the country. Most states are financially distressed and as such do not want to fill up

the vacant posts. Not just in education and health, in other areas as well like municipalities and even panchayats, there are huge vacancies in most states.

Another important area is with regard to MGNREGS where funds provided are hardly capable of providing employment for 35 days or so with the current wage prevailing in the states. Most state governments pay less than the minimum wage rate and try to provide employment for 40-45 days whereas the scheme is envisaged to generate employment for 100 days a year. When governments can beautify cities, build huge convention centres, modernise airports, should not allocation for this programme be enhanced on a priority basis?

Providing employment to our increasing workforce is crucial for socio-economic and political stability. With Opposition parties harping on joblessness and hollow promises of the BJP at Centre during the upcoming Assembly polls, it would be worthwhile to see what priority is given to it by those who come to power. Enough of talk and little action.  
INFIA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

## THE TALK OF THE ECONOMY STRENGTHENING HAS NOT REFLECTED IN CREATION OF JOBS

### Ties to get hit

Sir, The sentencing of eight former Indian Navy personnel to death by a Qatari court for alleged espionage in Qatar's submarine programme has the potential to have profound and multifaceted repercussions. This situation not only stands to impact bilateral relationship between India and Qatar, which has traditionally been characterised by friendship and cooperation in various domains, but it also has the potential to ripple across India's ties with other Middle Eastern nations and raise broader questions about international diplomacy and human rights. In terms of India-Qatar relations, the sentencing may place a significant strain on the historically cordial ties. These two nations have engaged in robust trade, energy partnerships, and defence collaborations, and the Indian diaspora in Qatar plays a substantial role in its economy and society. The implications could be far-reaching, especially considering their mutual membership in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and shared interests in regional stability and security. On the domestic front, this episode could provoke a wave of public indignation within India. The death penalty is a highly contentious issue in the country, where it is rarely executed, and the families and friends of the convicted individuals are clamouring for justice and clemency. The Indian public may raise questions about the transparency and fairness of Qatar's judicial system, pressuring the Indian government to adopt a more assertive and diplomatic stance to safeguard the lives of these eight men.  
Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

### Questions galore

Sir, This refers to "Moitra Summoned" (Orissa Post, October 27). I would like to comment that it is very difficult to prove that the MP Moitra did actually receive bribes from a businessman to ask questions in Parliament. What is the proof that the questions asked by Moitra in Parliament were set by the businessman Hirschandani. Was he heard at length by the Ethics Committee prior to calling Moitra? The pertinent question may also arise whether the Ethics Committee can at all hear a private lawyer for taking action against a Parliamentarian? What is the neutrality of the Ethics Committee when it is headed by Vinod Sonkar, who belongs to the BJP?  
Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# Students take class in bunker amid cross-border shelling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Arnia, Oct 27: In the aftermath of major ceasefire violation by Pakistan, a group of students from a government middle school near the border town of Arnia Friday attended classes in an underground bunker built in its complex.

According to the school management, the decision to hold temporary classes inside the bunker in Suhagpura, one of the last villages two km from Arnia town, was taken this morning to address the concern of the parents following heavy shelling by Pakistan last night. The cross-border shelling and firing by Pakistan Rangers, the first major ceasefire violation since 2021, started around 8 pm Thursday in the Arnia area of RS Pura sector and lasted for around seven hours, leaving a BSF personnel and a woman injured.

"The school falls within the range of Pakistani shelling and most of the 50-odd students did not turn up in view of the tense situation. However, those who did were accommodated inside the underground bunker within the school premises," Anju Seth, a



The school falls within the range of Pakistani shelling and most of the 50-odd students did not turn up in view of the tense situation. However, those who did were accommodated inside the underground bunker within the school premises

ANJU SETH | TEACHER

teacher from the school, said. In all, 15 students took classes in bunker. She said the school got numerous phone calls from the panic-stricken parents since morning. "We told them that it was their call whether they wanted to

send their wards to the school, and that the management had decided to hold the classes in the bunker for the safety of the students for the time being." Sethi said the government has built underground bunkers for the border residents for a purpose and "we are using the facility for the benefit of the children."

Himankshi Devi, a class 8 student, said her family decided to move to a safer place after the heavy shelling by Pakistan.

"We were frightened by the shelling but I motivated them to stay back. I want to attend my school otherwise my studies will get impacted," she said, adding, "my fear was gone when I reached the school and our classes shifted to an underground bunker." Her classmate Shravan Kumar, who wants to be a soldier, said he will continue to go to school, come what may.

"Ceasefire or no ceasefire, life on the border will continue, so we have to adjust with the situation and ensure that we do not miss our classes," he said.

Nidhi, also a class 8 student, said she wants to join the police force and staying home serves no purpose.

# Pak firing disrupts weddings in villages along IB

MANY FORCED TO MAKE LAST-MINUTE CHANGES TO RITUALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Arnia, Oct 27: Unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers has marred dozens of weddings in villages along the International Border in Jammu with many forced to make last-minute changes to some rituals as well.

In the case of Ishant Saini and Sangeeta's wedding, a majority of the guests left the feast amid heavy shelling by Pakistan in the RS Pura sector.

The cross-border shelling and firing by Pakistan Rangers, the first major ceasefire violation since 2021, started around 8 pm Thursday in the Arnia area and lasted for around seven hours.

It revived memories of frequent and intense cross-border firing prior to the renewed ceasefire between India and Pakistan February 25, 2021. According to the Border Security Force (BSF), the unprovoked firing by Pakistan continued till 3 am on Friday and was 'bitterly responded'.

A BSF jawan and a woman were injured in the Pakistani firing, while several houses were damaged by the shelling, officials said.

Ishant Saini's brother Deepak told PTI, "We are feeling sorry for the guests who left in panic without enjoying the feast after being informed about Pakistani shelling in our village."

He said that they had to make last-minute changes to some of the marriage rituals as well.

"As per our tradition, the 'phere' was supposed to be performed at the bride's house. But since it is located near the zero line, we decided to perform this important ritual at this venue as well," Deepak told PTI at the marriage hall.

"This is the time for harvesting paddy. But the Pakistani firing forced the labourers to



People during a marriage ceremony at a community centre, even as Pakistan Rangers fired without provocation along the international border in Arnia sector of Jammu & Kashmir, Friday

PTI PHOTO

flee. It is after a gap of four to five years that our village came under (mortar) shelling from Pakistan," said Deepak Choudhary a local of Nai Basti village.

He said that at least half a dozen shells landed in the village, leaving her relative Rajni Bala injured. She is now undergoing treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu.

October 17, two BSF personnel were injured when Pakistani rangers opened fire on their post in Arnia but the exchange of fire between the two sides was brief and restricted to small-arms firing only. The BSF subsequently lodged a strong protest with Pakistan in the larger interest of peace along the borders.

The house of Pawan Kumar of Buley Chek village near the zero line also suffered damage due to the explosion of a mortar shell.

"We had forgotten about the cross-border shelling... Now we are in panic as the underground bunkers are not in proper condition," he said.

Vijay Kumar, a soldier who had come to his village on leave said, "We had to leave our village as we cannot take shelter in underground bunkers which have not been used for a long time. How long will we tolerate shelling from Pakistan?"

He said since this is the season of weddings, people initially took the sound of firing as bursting of firecrackers but

as the intensity grew, they fled for safety.

Highlighting the need for upkeep of the underground bunkers, Vijay Kumar said these have turned into dens of snakes and poisonous insects.

These shelters must be cleaned immediately and must have an electricity supply, he said.

Rupali Devi, who along with her husband also left their village, said all the people residing in the border areas do not have access to underground bunkers.

"We have not thought of a situation where we have to leave our homes again. While I am outside the village, many of my family members are there. Thankfully they are safe," another local Sohan said.

## Friday prayers not allowed at Srinagar's Jamia Masjid

Srinagar: Congregational prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in the city were barred for the third consecutive Friday amid apprehension of protests against the Israeli action in Gaza, officials said. The grand mosque, located in the Nowhatta area of the city, remained locked and security personnel were deployed around it to maintain law and order, they said. Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who also is the chief priest of Kashmir, said the repeated closure of the historic Jamia Masjid and the Mirwaiz's "house detention" are "reminders of the situation in J-K and its fragile normalcy." It said Kashmiris stand with the people of Palestine irrespective of bans and restrictions on them. The Hurriyat said war can never buy peace and only leads to destruction and creates more mistrust, insecurities, and cruelties. "While thousands of children of Gaza have been bombed to death, hospitals and homes are being razed to the ground, the war on Palestinians -- a blot on humanity -- continues uninterrupted and those who claim to be champions of human rights and freedoms are either supporting it or silent," it added. Over 1,400 people were killed in the unprecedented attacks on Israel by Hamas October 7. Hamas has held more than 220 people hostage in Gaza. Israel launched retaliatory strikes which has left a trail of death and destruction in Gaza.

## Kerala unit of JD(S) rejects national leadership's decision to join NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 27: The Kerala unit of the Janata Dal (Secular), an ally of the ruling Left in the state, Friday rejected the national leadership's decision to join the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), saying it was contrary to the political resolution adopted by the party's national plenum.

The JD(S) state unit also claimed that party supremo HD Deve Gowda's decision was not endorsed by its entire national leadership. "The entire party leadership did not endorse the decision to align with the NDA. The decision to join the NDA fold was solely made by National President Deve Gowda and his son former Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy. This decision was taken by deviating from the political resolution adopted by the national plenum of the party," President of the JD(S) Kerala unit and MLA Mathew T Thomas said. He was talking to reporters after the party leadership's meeting here. Thomas said the state unit stands by the resolution adopted by it October 7, opposing the national leadership's decision.

Neither the national executive committee nor the national committee have officially sanctioned such a move, Thomas,

who is also a former Kerala minister, said.

Strongly criticising Deve Gowda, he said that by opposing the approved political resolution, he effectively rendered himself a 'non-national president' of the party. Highlighting the ideological rift, Thomas pointed out that the BJP and its allies remain political adversaries of the JD(S), and reinforced the Kerala unit's commitment to the party's original principles. He also noted that several state units across the country are in dissent against the central leadership's decision, signalling a broader discord within the party. "We are witnessing similar movements in various state units, including Kerala," Thomas added.

He also clarified that the party's state unit is not facing any issues from the ruling Left in Kerala, underscoring that their stance is independent of any external pressures. The CPI(M) had defended retaining Electricity Minister K Krishnankutty of JD(S) in the state. The party had said there was no need to remove Krishnankutty from cabinet as state unit of JD(S) has clarified that they 'stand strong' with Left front. October 7, the Kerala unit of JD(S) had declared that it would continue to remain with the LDF, rejecting the leadership's decision to join the NDA.

## Kerala BJP unit describes IUML rally as 'pro-Hamas'

Tens of thousands of IUML supporters hit the streets of Kozhikode, expressing solidarity with the people of war-ravaged Palestine



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 27: The BJP in Kerala Friday criticised Congress Working Committee (CWC) member and Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor for his participation in the Indian Union Muslim League's rally supporting Palestine, labelling it a 'pro-Hamas' event.

A day after tens of thousands of IUML supporters hit the streets of Kozhikode, expressing solidarity with the people of war-ravaged Palestine, BJP state pres-

ident K Surendran expressed concern that the conflict was being used to fuel communal tensions in the state.

The IUML rally in Kozhikode was 'pro-Hamas,' and anti-national slogans had been raised throughout the programme, he alleged in a press conference here.

The BJP leader alleged that Tharoor's participation in the rally, given his previous role as a UN diplomat, goes against the country's established stance on the issue. Surendran claimed

that Tharoor's attendance at the rally was a move to garner votes from communal groups, calling it an act of treason to support Hamas, which, according to him, backs anti-Indian forces.

He also accused Tharoor of trying to exploit communal polarisation ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

"It has now become clear that what they want is votes, not peace," Surendran said.

The BJP leader also accused senior IUML leader and MLA MK Munner of equating 'Hamas terrorists' with freedom fighters like Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh.

Earlier in the day, a leader of the ruling CPI(M) criticised Tharoor for his speech at the IUML rally, alleging that some of his remarks leaned towards Israel and that he failed to acknowledge it as a 'terrorist' nation.

CPI(M) leader M Swaraj levelled the allegation against the Congress leader, referring to his remarks in his speech in which he, in unequivocal terms, condemned the attack carried out by Palestinian armed group Hamas in Israel October 7.

## Microsites to promote pilgrimage tourism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 27: The Kerala Tourism is all set to come out with a set of microsites to promote the state's rich and diverse heritage, highlighting features of important places of worship. As part of this, a microsite that provides a wide range of information in different languages on Sabarimala will be unveiled, a tourism department statement said Friday.

The revamped microsite on the hill-shrine in Pathanamthitta district will have comprehensive information in five languages-English, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Telugu.

The ₹61.36 lakh project will also feature e-brochures on pilgrimage



information on the temples they can visit after worshipping at Sabarimala, their travel routes and the rituals to be followed.

YouTube videos will further substantiate the details, authorities said, pointing out that the efforts were aimed at boosting Kerala's reputation as a major pilgrim tourism state.

The site will provide information on not just the routes, but the transport and lodging facilities in the vicinity of the temples, thereby wooing a greater number of pilgrims, it said.

The microsite will also show details of the latest information on Sabarimala darshan, the topographical specialities of the hill-shrine, its cultural values and traditions. All these can enable

prospective pilgrims to chart their itinerary. The Tourism Department sanctioned ₹61.36 lakh for the microsite on Sabarimala October 16, after the working group concerned approved the project, the statement further said.

Earlier, the department had sanctioned ₹60 lakh for an Augmented Reality Heritage Tour of the famed Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in the state capital. The Kerala Tourism is also planning to come out with a microsite on state's Islamic traditions, art-forms, festivals and places of worship, as part of a ₹93.81-lakh digital project that was also approved by the working group on October 16, it said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH - II  
E-Mail: rw\_rourkela@yahoo.co.in  
Order No. 6001 Dtd. 25.10.2023

**1st Corrigendum**

No. O-1370: The following changes are made for Bid Identification No. Online - SERKL-13 of 2023-24, Letter No. 4707/Dtd.06.10.2023 (NIT SI. No. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 & 36).  
The details are as below.

1. Date of availability of tender Online for bidding upto Dtd.07.11.2023 at 5:00 P.M. instead of Dtd.27.10.2023 at 5:00 P.M.
2. Date of Technical Bid Opening is on Dtd.08.11.2023 at 11:00 A.M. instead of Dtd.30.10.2023 at 11:00 A.M.

All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.  
Sd./ Superintending Engineer  
RW Division, Rourkela  
OIPR-25067/11/0020/2324

No.O-1363:  
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, CUTTACK  
E Mail ID: rw\_cuttack@yahoo.co.in,  
Ph.No.0671-2440662/Fax No.0671-2440653

**'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.14/2023-24**

1. Name of Work : Building Works
2. Total No. of Work : 6(Six) works
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.36.99 to 37.00 lakhs
4. Period of Completion : 06(Six) Calendar Months
5. Class of Contractors : 'B' & 'C' Class only

Other details as follows :  
a) Procurement officer : Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Cuttack.  
b) Availability of tender online : From 01.11.2023 at 11:00 Hours for bidding 14.11.2023 upto 17:00 Hours.  
c) Last date & time of seeking : 13.11.2023 upto 17:00 Hours. of tender clarification.  
d) Date & Time of Opening : 15.11.2023 at 11:00 A.M  
Technical Bid

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in  
Sd./ Superintending Engineer  
Rural Works Division, Cuttack  
OIPR-25053/11/0028/2324

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P.H. DIVISION, SAMBALPUR  
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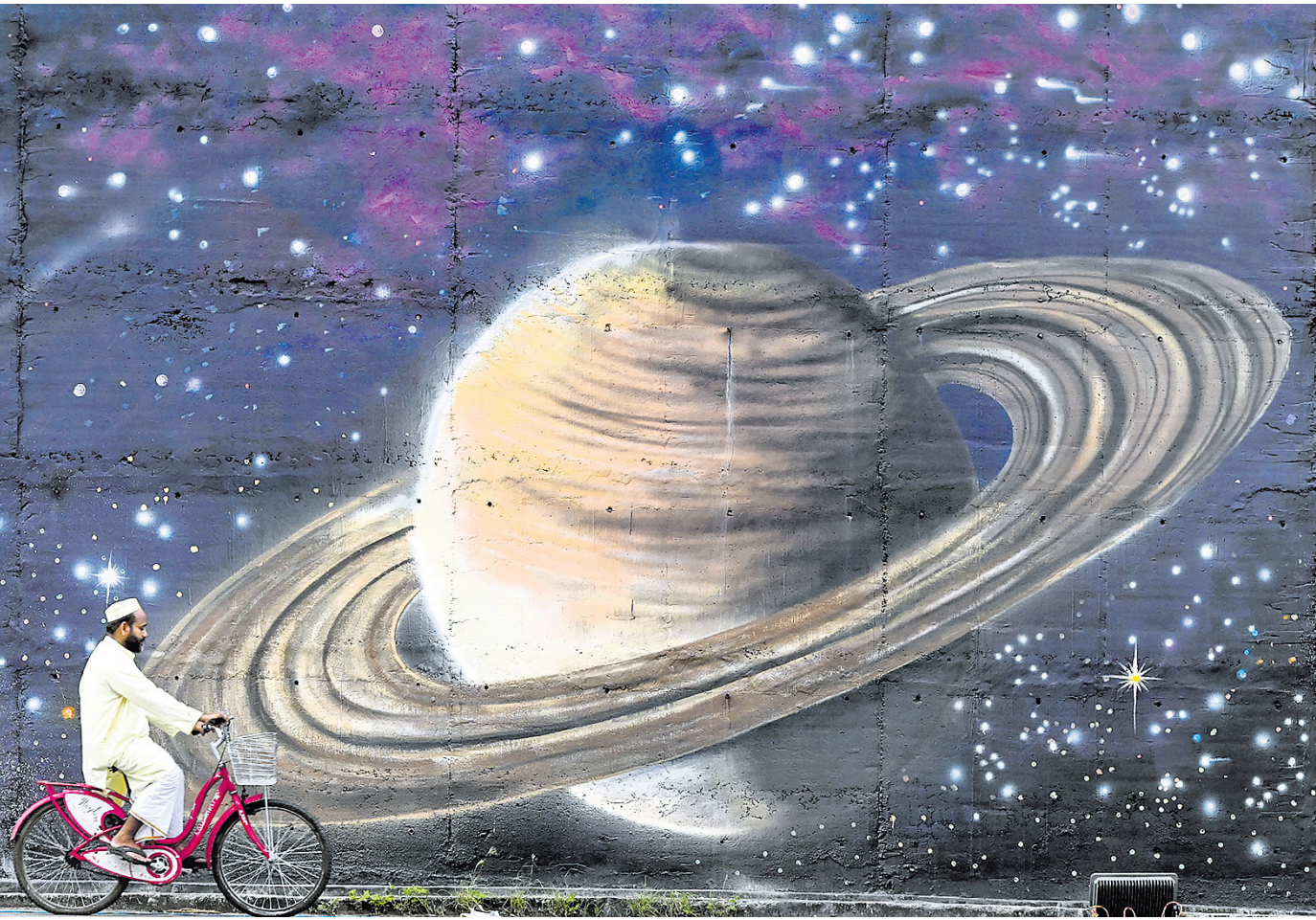
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. SEPHSBP-03/2023-24 Dt.20.10.2023

01. Name of the Work : 03 Nos. Works
02. Type of Bid : Single Bid System
03. Estimated Cost : Rs.38.68 lakhs to Rs.48.95 lakhs
04. Period of Completion : 3 (Three) Months
05. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal to 5:00 P.M. of 09.11.2023
06. Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5:00 P.M. of 09.11.2023
07. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids : At 11.30 A.M. of 10.11.2023
08. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, O/o. Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Sambalpur, Brooks' Hill, Near Stadium, At/P.O.: Motjihar, Dist.- Sambalpur - 768001

Further details can be seen from the website http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersorissa.gov.in.  
Sd./ Executive Engineer  
P.H. Division, Sambalpur  
OIPR-13026/11/0006/2324





A cyclist rides past a mural designed at Kazhakootam- Karode bypass ahead of the upcoming Global Science Festival Kerala, in Thiruvananthapuram



Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the passing-out parade of the 75th batch of Indian Police Service (IPS) probationers at the Sardar Vallabhbai Patel National Police Academy, in Hyderabad



President Droupadi Murmu presents a degree to a student during the 8th convocation of Indian Maritime University, in Chennai



A crowded platform of Andheri railway station after several trains were cancelled due to construction of the sixth line between Khar and Goregaon stations, in Mumbai



A farmer sprays pesticides on the outskirts of Amritsar



Border Security Force personnel perform a drill during Marwar Festival, at Maharaja Umaid Singh Stadium in Jodhpur



Palestinians queue up to collect drinking water from a water treatment station in the central Gaza Strip to distribute it to displaced people at the UN school shelters in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip



# national

## of the day quote

Even after the killing of 7,000 people in Gaza, the cycle of bloodshed and violence has not stopped. Out of these 7,000 people, 3,000 were innocent children

**PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA** | CONGRESS LEADER

One crore passengers are riding metro systems per day in India

**HARDEEP SINGH PURI** | UNION MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Bhupesh Baghel says he respects Lord Ram and is developing 'Ram Van Gaman Path'. But I want to ask him why he is silent when DMK leader and son of Tamil Nadu CM calls Sanatan Dharma a disease like dengue, tuberculosis and AIDS? What kind of joke is this?

**RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD** | BJP LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### Mukhtar gets 10-yr jail for murder

**Ghaziपुर/Lucknow (UP):** An MP-MLA court in Ghaziपुर Friday sentenced jailed mafia-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari to 10 years of imprisonment in a case registered under the Gangsters Act. Additional District and Sessions Judge Arvind Kumar also imposed a fine of Rs 5 lakh on him. The case under the Gangsters Act was registered against Ansari at the Karanda police station in 2010 following the murder of Kapildev Singh, a teacher, and an attempt on the life of Meer Hasan, a trader, both in 2009.

### Sanjay Singh's custody extended

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court Friday extended till November 10 the judicial custody of AAP leader Sanjay Singh, arrested in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise scam. Special Judge M K Nagpal also allowed Singh to sign certain cheques for his family expenses as well as his works as a Member of Parliament. The judge also directed the jail authorities concerned to ensure proper treatment to Singh, including by his private doctor.

### NewsClick HR head seeks bail

**New Delhi:** NewsClick human resources department head Amit Chakravarty has moved a Delhi court seeking bail in a case lodged under the anti-terror law UAPA over allegations that the news portal received money to spread pro-China propaganda, his lawyer said. NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha also moved a court seeking the release of his electronic devices seized by police in the case. Special Judge Hardeep Kaur on Friday granted time to Delhi Police till November 4 to file reply on Chakravarty's bail application and till October 31 to reply on the application filed by Purkayastha. The applications were filed on October 25.

### Rawat seeks fresh date from CBI

**New Delhi:** Former Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat has sought a fresh date from the CBI to give his voice samples in the 2016 'sting operation' case citing health issues, a request that will be considered by the agency, officials said Friday. Earlier in the day, the CBI issued a notice to Rawat seeking his presence on November 6 to give voice samples in the case, they said.



**Congress will abolish welfare schemes like Rythu Bandhu and free power to farmers, if voted to power in the November 30 Assembly polls**  
**K. CHANDRASHEKAR RAO** | TELANGANA CM

## TIGHT SECURITY

An estimated 1,700 companies of central security and state police forces are expected to be deployed for the forthcoming Assembly polls in five states, official sources said Friday



# Moitra writes to LS ethics panel, seeks fresh date

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra Friday wrote to the Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee that is probing 'cash-for-query' allegations against her and expressed her inability to appear before it on October 31, saying she will be available only after November 5.

In her letter to panel chairperson Vinod Sonkar, Moitra said she "eagerly looks forward to physically attending and presenting her defence against the slanderous charges" and that she should be allowed to exercise her right to cross-examine businessman Darshan Hiranandani. She also said Hiranandani should appear before the committee and provide a "detailed verified list of the alleged gifts & favours he allegedly provided to me".

A day after Sonkar announced that she has been summoned on October 31, Moitra, in a post on X said is busy till November 4 on account of Durga Puja celebrations going on in West Bengal. In her letter, she said she would be available only after November 5.

She was in the Parliament House complex on Friday, apparently to submit the letter. Sharing a copy of her letter on X, Moitra said, "Chairman,



**Ethics Comm announced my 31/10 summons on live TV, way before the official letter emailed to me at 19:20 hrs. All complaints & suo moto affidavits were also released to the media. I look forward to deposing immediately after my pre-scheduled constituency programmes end on Nov 4".**

The panel is probing BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's allegations that Moitra accepted bribes and favours for asking questions in Lok Sabha at the behest of businessman Hiranandani.

On Thursday, Dubey and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai gave "oral evidence" to the panel against the Trinamool Congress MP.

Moitra said she should be given "a fair hearing and an adequate opportunity to defend myself against the false, mali-

## Arrested Bengal minister hospitalised

**Kolkata:** West Bengal minister Jyotipriyo Mallick, who was arrested earlier in the day, has been hospitalised after being diagnosed with high blood sugar and renal issues, officials said Friday. He had earlier fainted when produced in court and complained of dizziness, nausea and weakness of the left arm. Mallick, 66, is currently stable, and has been admitted for close monitoring and further evaluation, the hospital said in a bulletin. Mallick was rushed to hospital Friday evening from a city court, where he fainted, hours after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case linked to an alleged multi-crore ration distribution scam. "He underwent a CT scan, MRI, and relevant blood tests. He was admitted with an initial diagnosis of hyperglycaemia, renal impairment, dyselektrolytemia... And hypertension," the bulletin said.

cious and defamatory accusations levelled against me by Shri Dubey and Shri Dehadrai." "The Committee - against the order of natural justice, if I may humbly add - summoned and heard the complainants Shri Dubai (Dubey) & Shri Dehadrai on 26/10/2023 before allowing me, the alleged accused, a chance to be heard," she said.

She said she represents the state of West Bengal where Durga Puja is the biggest festival.

# NEET Bill row: Stalin writes to President

*The Tamil Nadu Admission to Under Graduate Medical Degree Courses Bill, 2021, originally passed in September that year by the state Assembly, was returned by State Governor RN Ravi later*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Oct 27:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Friday urged President Droupadi Murmu to give assent to the state's anti-NEET Bill at the earliest, taking up the matter with her during her visit here.

The President was here to participate in the convocation of the Indian Maritime University. The CM handed over a letter to the President at the airport in this connection, an official release said.

The Tamil Nadu Admission to Under Graduate Medical Degree Courses Bill, 2021, originally passed in September that year by the state Assembly, was returned by State Governor RN Ravi later. The Bill sought exemption for Tamil Nadu from the ambit of the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test (NEET).

It was reintroduced and adopted by the Assembly in February 2022 and sent again to the Governor for 'reserving' the



same for Presidential assent, Stalin said in the letter to Murmu. The Governor has now forwarded it to the Union Home Ministry. Stalin told Murmu the Bill "has been pending for the Presidential assent for more than a year."

"All the clarifications sought on the Bill by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs based on the comments of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Higher Education, MoE and Ministry of Ayush have been provided expeditiously. Since there had been no progress after our replies, in my letter dated August 14, 2023, I had highlighted the various adverse impacts due to this delay like the lost opportunities for the underprivileged students and many student suicides and had urged you to grant assent without any further delay," Stalin said in his communication to the President.

# Liking obscene post not a crime, sharing is: Allahabad HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Prayagraj (UP), Oct 27:** The Allahabad High Court recently held that liking an "obscene" post on social media does not constitute an offence, however, sharing or reposting such content will attract penal consequences.

The court in its observations on Wednesday said sharing such a post would amount to "transmission" under Section 67 of the Information Technology (IT) Act and will be punishable.

Justice Arun Kumar Singh Deswal made the remarks as he quashed the criminal proceedings pending against Mohd Imran Kazi of Agra filed under section 67 of IT Act and other sections of the Indian Penal Code. Kazi was under trial for liking another person's post for unlawful assembly. "I do not find any material which could connect the applicant with any objectionable post, as there is no offensive post available in the Facebook and WhatsApp accounts of the applicant. Therefore, no case is made out against the applicant," the judge noted.

He said though under the IT Act transmitting obscene material is an offence, in the present case "the applicant has liked the post of one Farhan Usman for unlawful assembly, but liking a post will not amount to publishing or transmitting the post, therefore, merely liking a post will not attract section 67 IT Act." "Even otherwise section 67 of the IT Act is for obscene material and not for provocative material," the court said.

A criminal case was registered against petitioner Mohd Imran Kazi and a charge sheet was filed against him for liking "provocative" messages on social media, which resulted in the assembly of about 600-700 persons belonging to the Muslim community for arranging procession without permission.

The court of CJM, Agra, took cognisance of the charge sheet and issued a non-bailable warrant against him on June 30, 2023.

# Vikram lander raised lot of dust during Moon landing: ISRO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** When the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan-3 mission made a soft landing on the Moon it raised a lot of dust that led to creation of a bright patch, called as the ejecta halo, around the spacecraft, the ISRO said Friday.

According to a research paper published in the Journal of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing, scientists at ISRO used the Orbiter High Resolution Camera onboard the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter to study the lunar surface hours before and after the soft-landing of Vikram lander on the Moon on August 23.

"During the action of descent stage thrusters and the consequent landing, a significant amount of lunar surficial epiregolith material got ejected, resulting in a reflectance anomaly or 'ejecta halo'," scientists at the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) said in the paper. They estimated that the landing event had ejected 2.09 tonnes of lunar regolith over 108.4 square metre area. The scientists examined pre-and post-landing images of the landing site acquired from the OHRC onboard Chandrayaan-2 orbiter. "The Vikram lander's position is seen as a centrally located brightened spot on the image due to reflection from the lander's on-body solar panels. The shadow of the lander is seen as an elongated oval-shaped dark patch towards the left of the lander," they said in the paper.



Congress workers protest outside the ED office after the agency raided Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra premises in Jaipur

# Draft report on new criminal laws not adopted

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** A parliamentary committee scrutinising three bills to replace existing criminal laws did not adopt its draft report as scheduled on Friday, taking into account the submission of some opposition members that they needed more time to study it.

Some opposition members urged the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs, Brij Lal, to seek an extension of three months in its tenure, and "stop bulldozing these

bills for short-term electoral gain". For making a robust legislation that serves the marginalised, the committee should not adopt a final report in the next few days or in November. "We will be mocking the process of legislative scrutiny if we do so," an opposition MP said in a communication, according to opposition sources.

However, BJP sources said the committee has engaged in an extensive consultation process and will meet its deadline of three months. The committee will now meet on November 6 and may adopt

the draft report then despite protests by some of its members from opposition parties.

Rushing the functioning of the committee would be a "gross" legislative disservice, opposition members have told Brij Lal, a BJP MP.

It was also pointed out in the meeting that the bill's Hindi version was circulated among them only a day before.

Seeking a complete overhaul of colonial-era criminal laws, Home Minister Amit Shah had introduced in Lok Sabha during the Monsoon session three

## Three new bills will be passed soon: Shah

**Hyderabad:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday said the three new bills replacing IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act will be passed in Parliament soon, even as he asserted that the country under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi has adopted a zero tolerance policy against terrorism. Speaking at the Passing Out parade of IPS probationers at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy here, Shah said there is now a need to move ahead from zero tolerance policy against terror towards zero tolerance strategy and zero tolerance action. He said India is dispensing with the laws made during the British rule and is entering a new era with new confidence and new hopes.

bills to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 with

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, respectively.

# Punjab, T'gana & Maha top states from where students go abroad

**THE REPORT HAS PROJECTED THAT THE SPENDING BY INDIAN STUDENTS ON OVERSEAS EDUCATION IS EXPECTED TO SKYROCKET TO AN ASTOUNDING USD 70 BILLION BY 2025**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** Punjab, Telangana and Maharashtra are the top states from where students go overseas for higher education while Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Ireland, Singapore,

Russia and France are among the new preferred destinations for Indian students, according to a report.

The "Beyond Beds and Boundaries: Indian Student Mobility Report, 2023" launched at a Global Education Conclave on Friday, offers insights into the dynamics of Indian students pursuing higher education abroad, with a particular focus on the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia.

"In 2019, approximately 10.9 lakh Indian students pursued their education abroad. This figure witnessed a 7 per cent growth in 2022, escalating to around 13.24 lakh students. If the current growth rate of 15 per cent sustains, the number of Indian students studying overseas is projected to soar to approximately 20 lakh by the year 2025," the re-



port said.

"Traditionally, Indian students have preferred countries like the US, Canada, UK and Australia. However, recently other countries have also emerged as preferred destinations, including Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Ireland, Singapore, Russia, Philippines, France and New Zealand," it added.

Top states in India in terms of

students going abroad include Punjab (12.5 per cent), Andhra Pradesh/Telangana (12.5 per cent), Maharashtra (12.5 per cent), Gujarat (8 per cent), Delhi/NCR (8 per cent), Tamil Nadu (8 per cent), Karnataka (6 per cent) and 33 per cent from other states.

The report has projected that the spending by Indian students on overseas education is ex-

pected to skyrocket to an astounding USD 70 billion by 2025.

"In 2019, Indian students spent an estimated USD 37 billion on education abroad. This expenditure experienced a 9 per cent surge in 2022, reaching a substantial USD 47 billion. If the sector continues to grow at the current rate of 14 per cent, the projected spending by Indian students on overseas education is expected to skyrocket to an astounding USD 70 billion by 2025," it added.

The report has been compiled by University Living Accommodations Pvt Ltd, a global student-housing managed marketplace and One Step Global, a specialised market entry firm, helping global academic institutions, academic service providers and government organisations to grow their foot-

print across Asia.

The report addresses the difficulties faced by Indian students in finding suitable accommodation in their destination countries, emphasising the complexities of securing appropriate living conditions and the necessity for streamlined processes and support services to alleviate these challenges.

"Governments across the world need to put in place a national housing strategy, establish a clear, comprehensive, and coordinated approach to addressing the student housing problem through setting national goals for student housing availability and affordability, establishing guidelines for local student housing policies and providing funding and resources for student housing initiatives," it said.



# international

## of the day quote

The US military struck two facilities in eastern Syria used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and affiliated groups in response to a series of recent attacks that targeted American forces in the Middle East

I say frankly to the American statesmen, who are now managing the genocide in Palestine, that we do not welcome (an) expansion of the war in the region. But if the genocide in Gaza continues, they will not be spared from this fire

Malicious use of AI could undermine trust in institutions, weaken social cohesion, and threaten democracy itself

## SHORT TAKES

### Malaysian sultans choose new king

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia's royal families have elected the powerful and wealthy ruler of southern Johor state as the country's new king under a unique rotating monarchy system, the palace said Friday. Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, 64, will ascend to the throne on Jan. 31 for a five-year term. The palace said in a statement. His election had been widely expected, as the ruler of Johor state bordering Singapore was next in line based on a rotation order established among the country's nine state rulers.

### Monkeypox cases: Alert in Indonesia

Jakarta: Indonesia has raised its alert against monkeypox as the number of confirmed cases increased to 14 since the first was detected October 13, according to the Health Ministry. The ministry's Director General for Disease Prevention and Control, Maxi Rein Rondonuwu, said all the patients were men, lived in Jakarta, generally aged 25 to 29 years, and had never received smallpox vaccination, reports Xinhua news agency.

### 23 injured in building fire

Colombo: At least 24 people were injured, including four said to be in critical condition, after a fire ripped through an eight-storey building in Colombo, police in the Sri Lankan capital said. According to the police, the injured have been shifted to the National Hospital, Xinhua news agency reported. The injured persons have received burn wounds or suffered from respiratory issues, a spokesperson for the hospital told the media. He added that four of the injured individuals are in critical condition. The fire broke out at about 9.30 a.m. in the building located in the city's Pettah area, Colombo Fire Chief P.D.K.A. Wilson said.

### Pak to hold general elections on time

Islamabad: The Election Commission of Pakistan said the crucial general elections in the country will be held on time, highlighting that there was no possibility of a delay in the polls scheduled to be held in the last week of January 2024. "All the preparations have been completed for the elections," the ECP said, adding that after the publication of the delimitation of constituencies, the election schedule will be announced soon.

## Release of hostages needs ceasefire, says Hamas official

Israel says it is preparing a ground invasion, but has been urged by the US and Arab countries to delay an operation that would multiply the number of civilian casualties in the densely populated coastal strip and might ignite a wider conflict



Palestinians mourn a child killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip during his funeral at a UN-run school in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip

AGENCIES

Gaza/Moscow, Oct 27: An official of the militant Hamas group conditioned the release of hostages in Gaza to a ceasefire in Israel's bombardment of the Palestinian enclave, launched after a deadly rampage into southern Israel nearly three weeks ago.

Two US fighter jets struck weapons and ammunition facilities in Syria on Friday in retaliation for attacks on US forces by Iranian-backed militias since the Gaza war erupted.

An opinion poll Friday suggested almost half of Israelis now wanted to hold off on a ground invasion out of fears for at least 224 hostages reported to be held there. The Russian newspaper Kommersant quoted a member of a Hamas delegation visiting Moscow as saying time was needed to locate all those abducted by various Palestinian factions in the Hamas attack October 7. Hamas officials in Moscow said they viewed all their hostages as Israelis, whatever additional passports they held, and could not release any of them until Israel agreed to a ceasefire, according to Russian media.

Qatar meanwhile told the US it was open to reconsidering the continued presence of Hamas in Qatar once a hostage release deal has been secured, a senior U.S. official said.

There was no immediate response from Qatar, which, in coordination with the U.S., is leading hostage mediation talks with Hamas and Israel. Palestinian militants clashed with Israeli troops in at least two areas in the Gaza Strip, the latest of several small-scale incursions, Hamas-

MEDICS AND 10 TRUCKS OF WATER, FOOD AND MEDICINE ENTER GAZA  
UN SAYS 57 OF ITS RELIEF WORKERS KILLED SO FAR IN GAZA  
HAMAS SAYS ISRAELI FORCES ATTEMPTED BEACH LANDING  
THREE WOUNDED IN MISSILE STRIKE ON TEL AVIV APARTMENT - MEDIC

affiliated media reported. The Israeli military did not immediately confirm the reports.

Residents of central Gaza said they had heard an apparent exchange of fire as well as heavy shelling and air strikes along the border, with Israeli planes dropping flares and bombs.

Hamas's al-Qassam Brigades said Israeli forces had attempted to land on a beach at the southern end of the Strip.

Israel said its fighter jets had struck three senior Hamas operatives who played significant roles in the October 7 attack, though there was no confirmation by Hamas. In early afternoon, rocket sirens sounded throughout southern Israel and an Israeli medic said three people had been wounded when a missile hit Tel Aviv.

### US STRIKES SYRIAN BASES

Calls for restraint stem not only from concern for Gaza's civilians and Israeli hostages, but also fears that the crisis could spark conflict across the Middle East. US President Joe Biden ordered overnight strikes on two Syrian bases used by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and militias that it backs, the Pentagon said, after issuing a rare direct warning to Iran not to attack US troops.



The history of this conflict didn't begin with the attacks October 7 and won't end with a land war in Gaza

## COURT REJECTS IMRAN'S PLEAS

In a major blow to Imran Khan, a top Pakistani court Friday rejected petitions by the jailed former prime minister seeking post-arrest bail and the quashing of the FIR in the cipher case for allegedly leaking state secrets



## China's top envoy visits Washington

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 27: China's top diplomat is meeting high-level US officials, possibly including President Joe Biden, on a highly watched visit to Washington that could help stabilise US-China ties by facilitating a summit between Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Wang Yi, the Chinese foreign minister, met Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday afternoon, shortly after he landed for the three-day visit and quickly raised hopes that the relationship can be steadied.

Before going into their closed-door meeting, Wang said China would seek consensus and co-operation to "push the relationship as soon as possible back to the track of healthy, stable and sustainable development". Before the meeting, US officials said they would press Wang on the importance of China stepping up its role on the world stage if it wants to be considered a responsible major international player.

The US has been disappointed with China over its support for Russia in the war against Ukraine and its relative silence on the Israel-Hamas war.



"China should use whatever ability it has as an influential power to urge calm" in the Middle East, said State Department spokesman Matthew Miller. "We know China has relationships with a number of countries in the region, and we would urge them to use those relationships, the lines of communication they have, to urge calm and stability." US officials believe the Chinese have considerable leverage with Iran, which is a major backer of Hamas.

In a readout after the meeting, the State Department said the two men addressed "areas of difference" and "areas of cooperation", while Blinken "reiterated that the United States will continue to stand up for our

interests and values and those of our allies and partners".

China's Foreign Ministry said, "The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views on China-US relations and issues of common concern in a constructive atmosphere."

"The Secretary and Director and Foreign Minister Wang discussed a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues, including addressing areas of difference as well as exploring areas of cooperation," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

Wang has come to Washington when the tensions between the two countries remain high over issues including US export controls on advanced technology

and China's more assertive actions in the East and South China Seas.

On Thursday, the US military released a video of a Chinese fighter jet flying within 10 feet of an American B-52 bomber over the South China Sea, nearly causing an accident. Earlier this month, the Pentagon released footage of some of the more than 180 intercepts of US warplanes by Chinese aircraft that occurred in the last two years, part of a trend US military officials called concerning.

The US also has renewed a warning that it would defend the Philippines in case of an armed attack under a security pact, after Chinese ships blocked and collided with two Filipino vessels off a contested shoal in the South China Sea.

Wang is scheduled to meet again Friday with Blinken as well as national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

They are expected to urge China to play a constructive role in both the Israel-Hamas and Russia-Ukraine wars. It's not yet clear if Wang will meet with Biden. The diplomatic practice of reciprocity suggests it is likely, since Blinken met with Xi when he visited China in June.

## Ex-Chinese premier Li Keqiang no more

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, Oct 27: China's former premier Li Keqiang, who was once known as the second most powerful man in the ruling Chinese Communist Party after President Xi Jinping, passed away in Shanghai Friday. He was 68.



Xinhua news agency reported that Li had been "resting" in Shanghai when he suddenly had a heart attack Thursday.

He passed away at 12.10 a.m. Friday after "all rescue measures failed", it added. Li was known as one of the smartest political figures of his generation, being accepted into the prestigious Peking University Law School soon after the universities were reopened following the Cultural Revolution, the BBC reported.

He served as the premier for a decade from 2013 to March this year. During his time in the role, he navigated the Asian giant through a challenging period of rising technology and trade disputes with the US, mounting government debt and unemployment, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic.



Debris and dust fill the air after smokestack at the former B.L. England power plant in Upper Township, N.J., was felled during a control demolition. The site will be redeveloped as a mixed use residential and commercial project, and a nearby electrical substation will be used to connect New Jersey's soon-to-come offshore wind farms with the electrical grid

## Tipu Sultan sword sells for GBP 100,800 at auction

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 27: A gem-set and enamelled sword, believed to be from the personal armoury of 18th century Mysore king Tipu Sultan, has gone under the hammer for GBP 100,800 at a sale at Christie's auction house in London.

The Art of the Islamic and Indian World sale Thursday also had a more intricately designed sword belonging to the legendary ruler up for auction but it failed



to fetch bids within the asking price of GBP 1,500,000-2,000,000 and remained unsold. However, the buyers' names were kept confidential.

## 'Trump Too Small' T-shirt slogan turns into US Supreme Court battle

REUTERS

Washington, Oct 27: "Trump Too Small" - a phrase mocking former President Donald Trump that a California lawyer intended to slap on T-shirts - instead has become the center of another US Supreme Court battle exploring the intersection of trademark law and free speech rights.

The justices are set to hear arguments Wednesday in the US Patent and Trademark Office's appeal of a lower court's decision that reversed the agency's denial of attorney Steve Elster's 2018 trademark application for "Trump Too Small." At issue is whether the US constitution's First Amendment free speech protections for criticism of public figures outweigh the agency's concerns over Trump's rights, as the lower court found.

The agency will try to convince the justices to uphold a 1946 federal law that bars trade-



A person poses for a phot dressed as former US President Donald Trump, during MCM Comic Con at the ExCel London in east London

marks featuring a person's name without consent. President Joe Biden's administration is seeking to protect Trump - the man he defeated in the 2020 US election - from, in its view, having his name misappropriated in commerce. Trump is not personally involved in the case.

Elster has argued that a rul-

ing favoring the government would give politicians improper control over speech about them. The agency, on the other hand, has said that trademarks like Elster's could restrict the free speech of others on political matters by giving legal ownership of certain words to specific people. Trademarks protect identi-

fiers of sources of goods, like brand names, logos and advertising slogans. The Supreme Court in recent years has struck down two trademark laws based on free speech concerns. It ruled in favor of Asian-American rock band The Slants in 2017 against a ban on trademarks that "disparage," and in favor of artist Erik Brunetti against a prohibition on "immoral" or "scandalous" marks in a dispute over his "FUCTION" brand in 2019.

Elster applied for the "Trump Too Small" trademark to use on T-shirts, inspired by an exchange between Trump and US Senator Marco Rubio during a March 2016 Republican presidential candidate debate.

Trump earlier sought to denigrate Rubio by calling him "Little Marco." Rubio responded at a campaign rally in Virginia that his rival had disproportionately small hands. Trump defended the size of his hands at the debate.

## SNIPPETS

### Pope orders Vatican to reopen abuse case

Rome: Pope Francis has ordered the Vatican to reopen the case of a well-known priest-artist accused of sexually, psychologically and spiritually abusing adult women, and removed the statute of limitations on their claims, the Vatican said Friday. The announcement marked a major turnaround for the Holy See and followed an outcry among victims and their advocates over the handling of the case of the Rev. Marko Ivan Rupnik, a former Jesuit whose mosaics grace churches and basilicas around the world. The scandal has been a headache for the Jesuits, the Vatican and Francis himself due to suspicions that Rupnik received favourable treatment from the Holy See, where a Jesuit is pope and other Jesuits head the sex crimes office that investigated Rupnik and declined to prosecute him because the claims against him were deemed too old.

### US fighter jets strike Iran-linked sites in Syria

Washington: US fighter jets launched airstrikes early Friday on two locations in eastern Syria linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Pentagon said, in retaliation for a slew of drone and missile attacks against US bases and personnel in the region that began early last week. The strikes reflect the Biden administration's determination to maintain a delicate balance. The US wants to hit Iranian-backed groups suspected of targeting the US as strongly as possible to deter future aggression, possibly fueled by Israel's war against Hamas, while also working to avoid inflaming the region and provoking a wider conflict. According to a senior US military official, the precision strikes were carried out near Boukamal by two F-16 fighter jets, and they struck weapons and ammunition storage areas that were connected to the IRGC. The official said there had been Iranian-aligned militia and IRGC personnel on the base and no civilians, but the US does not have any information yet on casualties or an assessment of damage.



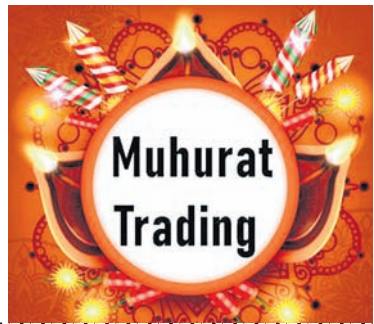


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## 'MUHURAT TRADING' ON DIWALI

Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE will conduct a one-hour special 'muhurat trading' session on the occasion of Diwali November 12. The symbolic trading session will be held between 6 pm and 7.15 pm. This includes a 15-minute pre-market session, the stock exchanges said in separate circulars



## of the day quote

India's digital ecosystem stands on the brink of unprecedented growth

**KUMAR MANGALAM BIRLA**  
CHAIRMAN, ADITYA BIRLA GROUP

With significant experience in conceptualising, building, and developing renewable energy assets, we embark on our wind energy journey and look forward to creating many more landmark projects in the future

**NARESH MANSUKHANI**  
CEO, JUNIPER GREEN ENERGY

As an Indian company, Nayara is in India and for India. We are highly committed and driven to fuel the nation's growing demand for energy

**PRASAD PANICKER** | CHAIRMAN AND HEAD OF REFINERY, NAYARA ENERGY

## Q2 RESULTS

### MSI profit shines

**Mumbai:** Maruti Suzuki India Friday reported a whopping 80.3 per cent increase in net profit at ₹3,716.5 crore in July-September quarter driven by better sales, softening commodity prices, cost reduction efforts and higher non-operating income. The company had posted a net profit of ₹2,061.5 crore in the second quarter of FY23, Maruti Suzuki India said. During the quarter under review, the company registered net sales of ₹35,535.1 crore, against ₹28,543.50 crore recorded in the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

### IOB profit surges

**New Delhi:** Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) Friday reported a 25 per cent growth in net profit to ₹625 crore during the September quarter. The state-owned lender had posted a net profit of ₹501 crore in the year-ago period. IOB's gross NPA ratio improved to 4.74 per cent in the second quarter of this fiscal, from 8.53 per cent in the same period of 2022-23 fiscal.

### Cipla profit rises

**New Delhi:** Pharmaceuticals firm Cipla Ltd Friday reported a 44.9 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax at ₹1,155.37 crore in the second quarter ended September 2023. The company had posted a consolidated profit after tax of ₹797.41 crore in the July-September quarter last fiscal, Cipla Ltd said. Consolidated total revenue from the sale of products in the quarter under review stood at ₹6,589.22 crore, up 14.41 per cent, as against ₹5,759.28 crore in the year-ago period.

### Reliance net jumps

**New Delhi:** Reliance Industries Ltd Friday reported a 27 per cent jump in its September quarter net profit as earnings from the oil and gas business rebounded, and a pick-up in fashion and grocery helped boost retail revenues. The oil-to-retail-to-telecom conglomerate's consolidated net profit of Rs 17,394 crore, or Rs 25.71 per share, in July-September - the second quarter of the current 2023-24 fiscal - was 27.3 per cent higher than Rs 13,656 crore, or Rs 19.92 a share, earning a year back, the company said.

### No rise for SBI Life

**Bangalore:** SBI Life Insurance Friday reported an almost flat net profit of ₹380 crore in the three months ended September. The insurer had registered a net profit of ₹377 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

## FIRST LOCAL MFG

# Tata to make iPhone in India

Wistron's board approves plan for sale of India unit to Tata Group for about \$125mn, a major fillip to the government's 'Make in India' initiative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** Tata Group is all set to become the first Indian iPhone maker as Wistron's board has approved the plan for the sale of its India plant to the salt-to-software conglomerate.

In a statement, Wistron said the transaction price is tentatively estimated at \$125 million.

"Wistron Corp held a Board of Directors meeting today and granted approval for its subsidiaries, SMS InfoComm (Singapore) Pte Ltd and Wistron Hong Kong Ltd to sign the Share Purchase Agreement with Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd (TEPL) for the sale of its 100 per cent indirect stake in Wistron InfoComm Manufacturing (India) Pvt Ltd (WMMI)," Wistron announced in the statement.

On confirmation and signing of relevant agreements by both sides, the deal will proceed to obtain necessary approvals.

"Following the completion of the transaction, Wistron will make the required announcements and filings in accordance with applicable regulation," it noted. The plant of Wistron is located near Bangalore.

The announcement by Wistron was shared by Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in a post on X



India is set to cross ₹1,20,000 crore in mobile phone exports in the current fiscal year, with Apple leading the market with over 50% in FY24

(formerly Twitter).

"@TataCompanies will now start making iPhones from India for domestic and global markets from India," Chandrasekhar said, congratulating the Tata team for taking over Wistron operations.

"Thank you @Wistron for your contributions, and great going for Apple in building a global supply chain from India with Indian companies at its helm," Chandrasekhar said in the post. The IT Ministry, he said, stands

fully in support of the growth of global Indian electronics companies that will, in turn, support global electronic brands who want to make India their trusted manufacturing and talent partner.

Industry experts said that with their ambition on semi-conductors and EVs, it only makes sense for the Tata Group to gain expertise in manufacturing high-end iPhones in the country.

As the iPhone consumption increases in the country, Apple needs more suppliers to ramp up production here, as it reportedly aims to take away a significant chunk of manufacturing from China to countries like India and Vietnam.

Driven by domestic manufacturing, Apple iPhones are set to garner 7 per cent market share in the Android-dominated smart-

phone market in India this year, according to latest data. Apple iPhone shipments grew 68 per cent (year-on-year) in the first half of this year in the country. CMR estimates the iPhone 15 shipments in the launch quarter (October-December period) to hover around 65 per cent, driven by an increased 'Make in India' initiative.

India is now the second-biggest manufacturing hub for mobile phones due to heavy investment from original equipment manufacturers, original design manufacturers and companies dealing in components and parts, according to Counterpoint.

The country saw mobile phone exports worth \$5.5 billion (over ₹45,000 crore) in the April-August period in the current fiscal year (FY24), government and industry data showed.

## 'NEXT-GEN' LEADERS

# Ambani scions get nod for board seat



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 27:** Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's three children won approval of shareholders for being part of the board of Reliance Industries Ltd, setting in motion a succession plan at India's most valuable company.

While twins Akash and Isha, 32, got more than 98 per cent of the votes for a board seat, Anant, 28, whose appointment had been opposed by proxy advisory firms because of his young age, managed to get 92.7 per cent votes, according to a stock exchange filing of the company.

Company chairman Mukesh Ambani, 66, had at the company's annual shareholders' meeting in August announced that his three children Akash, Isha and Anant would be inducted into Reliance's board of directors (BoD).

He had also stated that he would continue to be the chair-

man and CEO of the company for five more years, with a focus on grooming and empowering its 'next-gen' leaders.

Thereafter, Reliance sent out a postal ballot to shareholders seeking a nod for their appointment as board of directors of the company. The results of the shareholder vote were posted by Reliance Friday.

The filing showed Isha got 98.21 per cent votes in favour of her appointment and 1.78 per cent in against. Akash got 98.05 per cent votes in favour and 1.94 per cent in against. Anant got 92.75 per cent favourable votes but 41.58 crore or 7.24 per cent voted against his appointment.

The board appointments are a part of the succession planning by Ambani, who was appointed to the Reliance board in 1977 at the age of 20 and had to tackle a bitter fraternal feud after his father died without a will in 2002.

## VALUE-BUYING

# Stocks rebound 1% after 6 days of loss

Better-than-expected quarterly financial results of corporates also boosted investor sentiments even as uncertainties persisted over the escalating tensions in the Middle East

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 27:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty Friday reversed their six-session losing streak and rebounded more than 1 per cent on value-buying in auto, IT, financial and energy stocks.

In a largely range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 634.65 points or 1.01 per cent to settle at 63,782.80 points. During the session, it swung between a high of 63,913.13 points and a low of 63,393.37 points.

Likewise, the wider gauge Nifty surged 202.45 points or 1.07 per cent to 19,059.70 points.

Axis Bank was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 3.07 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, SBI, NTPC, Tata Motors, Nestle India, and Infosys.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, Ultratech Cement and ITC were the laggards.

In six trading sessions till October 26, Sensex had declined 3,279.94 points.

The rupee paused its three-day downward move and settled flat at 83.25 (provisional) against



the US dollar Friday, as the support from positive domestic equities was negated by surging crude oil prices.

The rupee has dropped 8 paise against the dollar on Thursday, the third consecutive day of fall. It had declined 4 paise Monday, followed by a dip of 1 paise Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude rose 2.50 per cent to \$90.13 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,500.13 crore Friday.

### Investors' wealth rises

Investors became richer by over ₹4.41 lakh crore Friday as the 30-share benchmark Sensex rebounded more than 1 per cent after six straight sessions of losses. Following the rally, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped by ₹4,41,152.35 crore to ₹3,10,45,955.07 crore from ₹3,06,04,802.72 crore Thursday.

# Banks offer incentives to lift CBDC trades

THE INCENTIVES RANGE FROM CASH-BACKS TO REWARD POINTS, SIMILAR TO THOSE OFFERED BY THE BANKS ON CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Oct 27:** Indian banks are offering incentives for conducting transactions using the central bank digital currency (CBDC), the e-rupee, nudged by the Reserve Bank of India to boost volumes, three sources said.

The RBI started a pilot program for the e-rupee in December and is targeting a million transactions daily by year-end. But retail transactions are still tracking below the target, averaging around 25,000 a day, prompting the central bank's push, the first of the three sources told Reuters.

The central bank also introduced new features, including linking the digital currency to India's popular real-time payments system, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), to attract users, Reuters reported last month.

HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, has rolled out such offers to expand the scale of such transactions, said Parag Rao, country head for payments, liability products, consumer finance and marketing at the bank. Smaller private lenders Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank are offering reward points that can be cashed for travel bookings, mobile recharges and cashbacks via FastTag, a highway toll col-

lection system, according to the second of the three sources.

Other banks, including ICICI Bank and Union Bank, are also expected to roll out similar incentives, according to two executives at the respective banks.

Such "time-bound promotional incentives," for the CBDC are part of Yes Bank's digital strat-



egy, a spokesperson for the bank said in an emailed response.

The banks are funding the offers themselves, all three of the sources cited earlier said. Globally, countries like Nigeria offer rewards like discounts on auto-rickshaw rides to spur adoption of their digital currency but with limited success.

The incentives are largely "short-term measures," that will help drive volumes up temporarily, a senior banker at a private lender said. Banks, however, won't keep offering such incentives for long unless there is a clear business proposition, this person added.

# Forex kitty drops to \$583.53bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 27:** India's forex reserves declined by \$2.36 billion to \$583.53 billion during the week ended October 20, according to the Reserve Bank of India data.

Reserves have dropped sharply in recent weeks, down by \$14.2 billion in five weeks to October 6, a five-month low. However, they rose by \$1.16 billion in the week to October 13.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the reserves to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.



"We do not have a specific exchange rate in mind with regard to our currency market intervention," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das reiterated in a recent session with Krishna Srinivasan, Director, Asia and Pacific Department at the International Monetary Fund. "Our approach and our focus, our emphasis is to prevent ex-

cessive volatility of the exchange rate," he added.

For the week ended October 20, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$4.15 billion to \$515.2 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by \$1.85 billion to \$45.42 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$70 million to \$17.93 billion, the apex bank said.

# Fast-food dim catches up with McD's franchisee

Prices of essentials in India have shot up in recent months, prompting companies like Coca-Cola to roll out smaller packs and restaurants to launch cheaper pizzas and burgers

REUTERS

**Chennai, Oct 27:** Shares in India's Westlife Foodworld fell as much as 7.7% Friday, a day after the McDonald's operator reported a surprise drop in quar-

terly profit and indicated high inflation was squeezing consumer spending in the current festive quarter.

"All around you are seeing pressure on macro spending," Westlife Executive Director Akshay Jatia said, adding the informal eat out category as well as Western fast food are under pressure in terms of growth.

"Eating out frequency remains low," he said.

This slowdown is not restricted to India. Globally, fast-food chains, including McDonald's and KFC-parent Yum Brands, are contending with inflation-stung consumers preferring to dine at home. To counter this, Westlife in June launched discounted meals at ₹179 (\$2.15).



However, this only led to a 1% growth in same-store sales, slowing from a 7% rise in the first quarter and a 40% jump last year. Westlife's shares are tracking their worst day in two years and seven months, trimming gains to around 5% so far this year. Until the second quarter, the company had shrugged off

the fast-food slowdown on higher demand for fried chicken, burgers and coffee, while pizza chains have been under more pronounced pressure for several quarters.

Earlier this week, Domino's Pizza franchisee Jubilant FoodWorks reported a decline in like-for-like sales - a key same-

store sales metric - for the third straight quarter.

"Although Westlife has been relatively resilient in the past few quarters, the slowdown has started showing its impact finally," Prabhudas Lillardher analyst Amnish Aggarwal said after the company's second-quarter results.

Consumer spending typically picks up in the October-December quarter, dubbed the festive quarter, as it includes Christmas and the Hindu festival of Deepavali, when people engage in more discretionary spending.

However, another Westlife executive said the factors that pressured the franchisee's sales would not "dramatically" change in the third quarter.



Light co-founder and CEO, Rakesh Kumar, expressed his enthusiasm for this new endeavour, stating, "Our fundamental mission is to act as a catalyst for rural aspirations. We have set an ambitious target to serve over 1 lakh households at the earliest. Our mission is to bridge the financial gap for unserved and underserved individuals in remote rural areas, providing them with the financial products and services necessary to nurture their entrepreneurial pursuits."



# SA pip Pak in thriller Sheetal Devi creates history

ARMLESS ARCHER BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WOMAN TO WIN TWO ASIAN PARA GAMES GOLD AS COUNTRY'S MEDAL RUSH CONTINUES IN HANGZHOU



Aiden Markram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Oct 27:** South Africa took the first giant step towards shedding the eternal chokers tag as they pushed Pakistan towards the World Cup exit door winning a humdinger of a contest by solitary wicket here Friday.

This is South Africa's first World Cup win against Pakistan since the 1999 edition while Babar Azam's men's fourth loss on trot is country's first in global event. Pakistan are on four points from six games and even if they win all three games, there is less than five percent chance of them qualifying for the last four stage.

What looked like a straightforward chase of 271, suddenly became the closest game of the tournament as Proteas slumped from 235/5 to 260/9, thanks to an inspired phase of high quality pace bowling by Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/45) and Haris Rauf (2/62).

However Keshav Maharaj (7 n o) and Tabraiz Shamsi (4 n o) added the 11 most precious runs of their career to notch up a special win in 47.2 overs and also take the team to top of points table with 10 points.

Babar Azam's captaincy was also unimaginative as Aiden

Markram (91, 93b, 7x4, 3x6) showed why he is rated so highly with a quality knock. Markram was both accumulator and aggressor in equal measure as he used the pace of Rauf and Mohammed Wasim Junior to score a lot of runs.

The inside out six of Iftikhar's off-break was a treat while Quinton de Kock giving a rollicking start also helped. He hit Shaheen for four boundaries and it did set the tempo.

Save Markram, the other small but useful contributions came from David Miller, who hit 29 off 33 balls and Marco Jansen (20 off 14 balls), who always found a way to hit sixes to close in on the target. Usama Mir (2/45), the concussion substitute did get a couple of wickets but bowled a lot of loose balls for Pakistan's comfort.

Earlier, skipper Babar (50, 65b, 4x4, 1x6) and Saud Shakeel (52, 52b, 7x4) struck fifties but Pakistan batters frittered away good starts to be bowled out for a below-par 270 after the losers decided to make first use of the strip.

Pakistan couldn't build enough partnerships and also faltered in the back end to be dismissed in 46.4 overs after opting to bat.



Tabraiz Shamsi & Keshav Maharaj (front) were pumped up after their win, Friday

The last five wickets fell for 45 runs. Left-arm spinner Shamsi shone with figures of 4/60, while Jansen (3/43) was superb with the new ball, and Gerald Coetzee (2/42) also snapped two.

It all began with a maiden over from Jansen, who accounted for both the openers - Abdullah Shafique (9) and Imam-ul-Haq (12) as Pakistan slipped to 38/2 in the seventh over. Rizwan started on an aggressive note, hitting a six off spinner Keshav Maharaj and constructing a 48-run partnership with Babar.

However, the lease of life that Jansen offered him did not last long, as in the 16th over, speedster Coetzee sent him back to the pavilion after being caught behind, with the score reading 86/3. While Coetzee continued to suppress Pakistan's scoring rate,

they brought up their 100 by the 20th over.

The pair of Babar and Iftikhar Ahmed (21) added 43 for the fourth wicket before the latter became the fourth man to be dismissed, holding out to Heinrich Klaasen off Shamsi in the 26th.

In the meantime, Babar brought up his 31st ODI half century but right after the landmark, he fell prey to Shamsi in the 28th after an attempted sweep saw the ball take the faintest of nicks before being gloved by De Kock.

Although initially given not out by the umpire, the Proteas opted for the review at the last moment and the decision went in their favour as Pakistan slumped to 141/5. Shakeel and Shadab (43) then joined hands and forged a much-needed partnership of 84 runs, bringing their innings back on track. Soon the team 200 was up by the 37th over but Pakistan couldn't make use of the platform.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Pakistan 270 (Saud Shakeel 52, Babar Azam 50, Shadab Khan 43; Tabraiz Shamsi 4/60, Marco Jansen 3/43, Gerald Coetzee 2/42) lost to South Africa 271/9 (Aiden Markram 91, David Miller 29; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3/45, Usama Mir 2/45) by 1 wicket.

**MATCHDAY**  
AUS vs NZ  
BAN vs NED  
Time: 10:30 am  
Time: 2 pm  
Stream: Disney+Hotstar

## MSD GOES BACK IN TIME TO POST 2019 WC PERIOD

**Mumbai, Oct 27:** A distraught MS Dhoni trudging back to the pavilion after being run out in the 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand is one of the most tragic moments in Indian cricket history.

A little over four years since India lost that match by 18 runs and crashed out of the World Cup, Dhoni has revealed it was at this moment that it became clear to him that his time in international cricket was over.

On that Manchester evening when Dhoni walked back to the pavilion being run out by Martin Guptill, not many would have thought that it was his last game for India. "It is difficult to control the emotions in a close game (especially) when you have lost," said 'Captain Cool' at an event in Bangalore recently.

"Inside, I am done with my planning. To me, that was the last day I played cricket for India (even though) I announced my retirement one year later. But the fact was, that day I retired," he said.



"We are given those machines (for monitoring fitness) and every time I went to the trainer I gave it back to him but he would say, 'no, no, you keep it'. Now, how do I tell him that I do not need this anymore and I will not be needing it because I did not want to announce it (retirement) at that point of time," Dhoni continued.

The 42-year-old said retiring from international cricket also took away the rare opportunity of representing the country. India's most successful captain Dhoni announced his international retirement in August 2020.

## Sangita hat-trick scripts dominant India win

**Ranchi, Oct 27:** Promising Sangita Kumari slammed a hat-trick to guide India to a dominating 7-1 win over Thailand in their opening match of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Friday. India will next play Malaysia Saturday.

Asian Games bronze medallist India were by far the better side on display as they scored goals through Sangita (29th, 45th, 45th minutes), Monika (7th), Salima Tete (15th), Deepika (40th) and Lalremisiami (52nd). Thailand's lone goal was scored by Supansa Samanso in the 22nd minute.

India took the lead through Monika who outsmarted the Thai defence to create open space from the outside circle after receiving a pass from the right, and unleashed a strong hit into the board.

Just at the stroke of first quarter, Salima scored from a penalty corner to double India's lead. Thailand, however, pulled a goal back in the 22nd minute from a penalty corner.

India managed to extend their



two-goal cushion two minutes later when Sangita Kumari pushed the ball in from a rebound after the initial effort was saved by Thai goalkeeper. Deepika sounded the board again after receiving a pass from Vandana Katariya as India led 4-1.

The Indian continued their

domination and added a fifth goal when Sangita scored her second of the day. Seconds later, local girl Sangita scored a hat-trick with another field strike. India extended their lead minutes later through Lalremisiami just eight minutes from the final hooter.

**Entertaining draw**  
**JOHOR BAHRU (MALAYSIA):** Defending champions India came from behind twice to hold arch-rivals Pakistan to a 3-3 draw in a thrilling opening match of the Sultan of Johor Cup junior men's hockey tournament here Friday. Goals from Amandeep Lakra (30th minute), Aditya Arjun Lalage (56th) and Uttam Singh (59th) ensured a point for India after Arbab Ahmad (31st, 58th) and Abdul Shahid (49th) scored for Pakistan. India will take on hosts Malaysia, Saturday.

## Shantanu, Harshit help Odisha floor Chandigarh in SMAT

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 27:** Opener Shantanu Mishra (59, 50b, 8x4) and left-arm spinner Harshit Rathod (3/27) helped Odisha to a convincing 17-run victory over Chandigarh in their Group match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 cricket tournament at the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai, Friday.

Odisha started off well after Chandigarh won the toss and opted to field. However, Odisha lost Sandeep Pattnaik (6) in the third over. But Shantanu and Shubhanshu Senapati (31) stitched together 59 runs for the second wicket before the latter got out as the scoreboard reading 80/2 in 10.4 overs.



SHANTANU MISHRA

Odisha, however, lost wickets at regular intervals to be restricted to 154/7. Rakesh Pattanik's 12-ball 27 was crucial for the team as it helped them go past 150 mark. Young all-rounder Raj Bawa (2/25) and experienced Sandeep Sharma (2/30) shared four wickets between them.

In response, Chandigarh failed to build partnerships losing wickets at regular intervals to be eventually bowled out for 137 with two balls to spare. Gourav Puri played well for his half century (55, 41b, 4x4, 2x6) and the only other notable contributor for the losing side was Arjun Azad (30).

Harshit was wonderful with the ball for Odisha, while he got able support from skipper Govind Poddar (2/17) and Abhishek Yadav (2/22). Debabrata Pradhan was a bit expensive but he also got two scalps (2/43).

## Liverpool keep perfect record in EL

**Liverpool, Oct 27:** Liverpool took full control of their Europa League group by routing Toulouse 5-1 Thursday as the Merseyside club remain perfect after three games.

Diogo Jota opened the scoring in the ninth minute when he beat several defenders before netting. Thijs Dallinga equalized seven minutes later through the legs of goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher, but it wouldn't matter.

Wataru Endo headed in a Trent Alexander Arnold cross on the half-hour mark for his first goal in the Liverpool jersey, and Darwin Nunez added another four minutes later. Ryan Gravenberch scored in the 65th before substitute Mohamed Salah finished it off in stoppage time.

The win at Anfield moved Liverpool five points clear of Toulouse and Union Saint-Gilloise in Group E. Union Saint-



Gilloise beat LASK 2-1.

Roma also made it three wins from three with a 2-0 victory over Slavia Prague. The Italian club needed just 45 seconds to score at Stadio Olimpico when Stephan El Shaarawy set up Edoardo Bove to net from outside the area.

El Shaarawy then found Romelu Lukaku, who clinically finished with a left-footed one-timed shot into the roof of the net in the 17th. Roma leads Group G, with Slavia three points behind. Leverkusen remained perfect

## Odisha FC suffer 1-2 defeat against KBFC

**Kochi, Oct 27:** Kerala Blasters FC came from behind to strike twice in the second half and get back to winning ways with a 2-1 victory over Odisha FC Friday at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here in the Indian Super League (ISL).

In the 16th minute, Diego Mauricio slowed slick footwork to make his way through Hormipam Ruivah and Pritam Kotal before slotting the goal past Kerala's onrushing goalkeeper Sachin Suresh.

Naocha Singh handled the ball inside the 18-yard box, leading to a spot-kick for the Juggernauts. Mauricio stepped up to bag his brace, but Suresh dived to his right and stopped the ball from hitting the back of the net.

Greek forward Dimitrios Diamantakos levelled the scores before Adrian Luna finding the winner in the 85th minute.

## REETIKA WINS U-23 WORLD TITLE, JYOTI IN LINE FOR GOLD

**Tirana (Albania), Oct 27:** Reetika Hooda became only the second Indian and first woman wrestler from the country to become the U-23 World Champion with her title triumph in the 76kg event while Jyoti Berwal got herself in contention to join the champions list by reaching the 72kg gold medal bout.

Reetika, who is making a transition from junior to senior circuit, beat American Kennedy Alexis Blades 9-2 in the final. Reetika had last year won U-20 World Championship and senior Asian Championship bronze medals in April this year. Men's free-style wrestler Aman Sehrawat (57kg) had become the first Indian to become U-23 World champion last year.

In the women's 72kg event, 18-year-old Jyoti began with a crush-



ing 9-0 win over Ukraine's Ityna Zablotska in the quarterfinals and followed that up with an impressive 7-0 victory over Turkey's Bukrenaz Sert. In the final, she is up against 19-year American Amit Elor, who is also yet to concede a point in the championship.

Reena won the 57kg bronze with an 8-2 win over Canada's Mia Katherine Friesen while Bhagyashree Hanumant Fand (62kg) will take on Irina Kuznetsova of Kazakhstan in the bronze play-off.