



MOUNI'S EVOLUTION

Actor Mouni Roy's life changed after her successful role as the villain in *Brahmastra*

LEISURE P2



WAR ESCALATES

Israel expands ground operations in the Gaza Strip and its fighter jets strike hundreds more Hamas targets

INTERNATIONAL P10



CM FELICITATES PRANATI

CM Naveen Patnaik honours gymnast Pranati Nayak for winning 5 medals at the National Games

SPORTS P12

9 dead, 29 hurt as trains collide

India beat England, seal semifinal spot

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Oct 29: India defeated England by 100 runs in their ODI World Cup match here Sunday. It was the sixth victory on the trot for the hosts and assured the Men in Blue of a semifinal spot.

After skipper Rohit Sharma's brilliant innings of 87 took India to 229 for nine in 50 overs on a challenging pitch, the pacers took over: Mohammed Shami (4/22) and Jasprit Bumrah (3/32) did most of the damage while Kuldeep Yadav (2/24) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/16) did the mopping up to help India register yet another win in the competition.

Virat Kohli fell for a rare duck, but Suryakumar Yadav who scored 49 and KL Rahul with 39 helped India go past the 200-run mark.

With three batters dismissed for 40, the onus was on Rohit to take the innings forward and he did with a lot of class.

After stepping out the fast bowlers, Rohit displayed his artistry against the spin trio of Rashid, Liam Livingstone and Moeen Ali.

On this pitch it was always going to be difficult for the England batters and they perished against the accurate and probing Indian bowling.

A strong 46000 crowd was in attendance to support the home team. **More P12**



The Palasa Passenger hit the Rayagada Passenger from rear at Kankatapalli, causing three coaches to derail in Vizianagaram district on the Howrah-Chennai line, Sunday

Overshooting of signal by Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger train reason behind mishap

AGENCIES

Visakhapatnam/Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: At least nine persons died and 29 were injured after two trains collided in Vizianagaram district on the Howrah-Chennai line Sunday evening, a police official said.

A senior official of the East Coast Railway said the Palasa Passenger hit the Rayagada Passenger from rear at Kankatapalli, which caused three coaches to derail. A senior Railway official meanwhile said 29 people were injured, adding that the injured are being shifted to hospitals in Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram.

The accident took place between Alamanda and Kankatapalli in Vizianagaram-Kottavalasa Railway Section of Waltair Division of East Coast Railway at about 1900hrs. The officials said that train number 08532 Visakhapatnam-Palasa Passenger train and 08504 Visakhapatnam-Rayagada Passenger Special were involved in the accident and said that the Rayagada passenger had overshoot

the signal. Two Coaches of 08532 Visakhapatnam-Palasa Passenger train from the rear and the loco of 08504 Visakhapatnam-Rayagada Passenger got derailed, the official added.

"Likely reason: Human error. Overshooting of the signal by Visakhapatnam-Rayagada passenger train," ECoR CPRO Biswajit Sahoo told reporters in Bhubaneswar.

While explaining the term overshooting, the CPRO said that it occurs when a train, instead of stopping at a red signal, moves on.

PM Narendra Modi's Office posted on X, saying the PM was in touch with Railway Minister and that all assistance was being provided to those affected.

The PM has announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from the PMNRF for the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw posted on X saying all passengers have been shifted from the accident spot.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed deep grief over the deaths in the train accident.

The CM has directed the Special Relief Commissioner and the District Collectors of Rayagada and Koraput to extend immediate help in rescue and relief operations.

Serial blasts rock Kerala

2 WOMEN DEAD, 51 HURT IN EXPLOSIONS AT CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS MEET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Oct 29: Two women died and 51 persons were injured, some seriously, in multiple blasts at a Christian religious gathering in a convention centre near this port city Sunday morning, sending shockwaves across Kerala.

The blasts took place at an international convention centre in Kalamassery where hundreds of followers of the minority Christian group Jehovah's Witnesses had assembled on the concluding day of a three-day-long prayer meeting.

A few hours after the incident, a man claiming to be a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, surrendered before police in Thrissur district of the state, saying that he carried out the multiple blasts.

Later in the day, state Health Minister Veena George said that of the 51 injured, 30 were admitted

in various hospitals in the state and of them 18 were in ICUs. Of the 18, six - including a 12-year-old child - were in critical condition with three of them having suffered over 90 per cent burns, the minister said. She said teams of plastic surgeons and general surgeons arrived at Kalamassery Medical College from Thrissur and Kottayam medical colleges.

Besides that a 14-member medical board was also constituted to supervise the treatment being provided to the injured.

ADGP Law and Order M R Ajith Kumar told reporters here that a man named Dominic Martin had surrendered at Kodakara police station in the morning, claiming he was the one who set off the blasts. The officer said the man gave evidence supporting his claim and the police were examining that as well as his claims and the reasons he gave for carrying out the act.

Prior to surrendering before the police, the man also put out a video message on a social media platform claiming responsibility for the blasts and stating his reasons. In the video, which was aired on various TV channels, the man claimed that he took the decision as the teachings of the organisation were 'seditious.'

Earlier, State Police Chief Shaik Darvesh Saheb told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram that according to the preliminary probe, an improvised explosive device (IED) was used to carry out the blasts.

Jehovah's Witnesses is a Christian religious group that originated in the United States of America in the 19th century.

Followers of the group see Jesus Christ as son of God, and not God himself. They learn from the teachings and examples set by Christ; hence they consider themselves Christians.

J&K cop playing cricket shot at by terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 29: A Jammu and Kashmir Police officer was shot and critically wounded by terrorists in downtown Srinagar Sunday, officials said.

Inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani was playing cricket with local boys at the Eidgah ground when he was shot by terrorists, the officials said. The injured officer was rushed to a hospital. Doctors were attending to him and his condition was stated to be critical, they said.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, the Kashmir Zone Police stated, "Terrorists fired upon & injured Inspector Masroor Ahmad near Eidgah, Srinagar. He was immediately shifted to hospital for treatment. Preliminary investigation reveals that a pistol was used in this terror crime. Area cordoned off, case registered."

₹2,000cr for disaster-resilient infra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday said his government has decided to spend more than ₹2,000 crore to create disaster-resilient infrastructure in various parts of the state.

Addressing a gathering virtually at a function at Rabindra Mandap here on the occasion of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day 2023, he said that the government was giving priority to resilient infrastructure and state-wide risk mapping would be undertaken for various disasters.

"Today we assemble here to deliberate on our disaster preparedness. We remember the valuable human lives lost during the super cyclone 1999. Since then, we have made significant strides in making Odisha safer during disasters. Today, we are a model for other states and countries to follow," Patnaik said.

Noting that the state's efforts for effective disaster manage-



ment have received wide acclaim, the CM said Odisha has been bestowed with the prestigious 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Apadaa Prabandhan Puraskar' for 2023 by the Centre.

Recalling the train accident at Bahanaga in Balasore that took place June 2 this year, he said, "Altogether 288 people died on the spot, and hundreds of passengers were injured. The state responded quickly: All emergency services were made ready almost instantly. We could save many lives despite serious injuries."

The CM said the state was

able to save so many lives due to the immediate intervention of local communities, volunteers, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and specialised responders like Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), fire services and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and of course, the tireless efforts of doctors. "The government has now decided to create four regional disaster response hubs at Cuttack, Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rayagada to reduce the response time to any disaster," he said. **More P3**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Please add a surcharge as the govt has reduced our retirement age by 10 years

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 32.2°C	31.0°C
MIN 19.7°C	20.2°C
Humidity 70%	72%
Rainfall Nil	Nil
Forecast CLEAR SKY MAINLY	

Pandian makes pre-dawn inspection of metro project



PNN/AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Senior Odisha government official VK Pandian visited Trishulia in Cuttack around 4.30 am Sunday, and inspected the construction site of the metro rail project.

Pandian, the chairman of '5T' - technology-led transformative initiatives undertaken by the state government, was accompanied by Development Commissioner Anu Garg and IT Secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra, besides senior officials of the Cuttack district admin-

istration and Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Corporation.

Trishulia has been planned as a major traffic hub as part of the metro corridor that will connect Bhubaneswar to Cuttack.

According to a statement issued by the CMO, Pandian reviewed the work of the proposed metro rail project as directed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The first phase of the project will connect Bhubaneswar airport with Trishulia Square, via Chandrasekharpur, Jaydev Vihar, Vani Vihar, Master Canteen and Rajmahal Square.

The 'friend' we loved gone too soon

THE EMMY-NOMINATED ACTOR WAS FOUND DEAD OF AN APPARENT DROWNING AT HIS LOS ANGELES HOME

AGENCIES

Los Angeles, Oct 29: Matthew Perry, who starred as sarcastic-but-sweet Chandler Bing in the hit cult series "Friends," has died. He was 54.

The Emmy-nominated actor was found dead of an apparent drowning at his Los Angeles home Saturday, according to the Los Angeles Times and celebrity website TMZ, which was the first to report the news. Both outlets cited unnamed sources confirming Perry's death.

Perry's 10 seasons on 'Friends' made him one of Hollywood's most recognisable actors, starring opposite Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Matt LeBlanc, Lisa Kudrow and David



Schwimmer as a friend group in New York.

As Chandler, he played the quick-witted, insecure and neurotic roommate of LeBlanc's Joey and a close friend of Schwimmer's Ross. During the show's hijinks, he could be counted on to chime in with a line like "Could this

BE any more awkward?" or another well-timed quip.

By the series' end, Chandler is married to Cox's Monica and they have a family, reflecting the journey of the core cast from single New Yorkers trying to figure their lives out to several of them married

and starting families.

The series was one of television's biggest hits and has taken on a new life - and found surprising popularity with younger fans - in recent years on streaming services.

'Friends' ran from 1994 until 2004, winning one best comedy series Emmy Award in 2002. The cast notably banded together for later seasons to obtain a salary of \$1 million per episode for each.

Perry received one Emmy nomination for his 'Friends' role and two more for appearances as an associate White House counsel on 'The West Wing.'

Perry also had several notable film roles, starring opposite Salma Hayek in the rom-com 'Fools Rush In' and Bruce Willis in the crime comedy 'The Whole Nine Yards.'

He worked consistently after 'Friends,' though never in a role that brought him as much attention or acclaim.

Perry was born Aug. 19, 1969, in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

leisure



50 CENT ATTACKS MADONNA AGAIN

Rapper 50 Cent has declared that he wants the name of the plastic surgeon he thinks did Madonna's bottom. The 48-year-old rapper, who has a years-long feud with the Queen of Pop, 65, hit out at her just after she kick-started her delayed Celebration world tour, reports *Female First UK*.

TAYLOR SWIFT BREAKS RECORD FOR MOST SINGLE-DAY STREAMS

Pop star Taylor Swift is on a record-breaking spree this year. After entering the billionaire list, the singer-songwriter has now shattered her own record with her latest remade LP *1989 (Taylor's Version)* becoming the most-streamed record on Spotify just a day after its release, reports *Variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will be resolute and unwavering in your work today. By afternoon, you'll see results. Love will lighten your workload in the evening, when you meet your beloved. If single, you may come across someone very interesting, muses Ganesh.

TAURUS
Today you are likely to reach out for things that are beyond your reach and capabilities. Ganesh, nevertheless, assures that you will succeed in attaining your objectives through sheer force of your self-confidence and self conviction. The first half of the day will provide you lots of love and affection of elders and superiors.

GEMINI
You need to be cautious and yet at the same time committed in any work that you do today. You believe in doing everything at a steady pace. Hence, make sure that every work that you take up is performed in a scheduled manner. Y

CANCER
A longing to spend a day with your loved ones may keep you preoccupied. Maybe, lately you have been neglecting your personal life, and today you will like to more than make-up for it, indicates Ganesh.

LEO
Some small conflicts could emerge in your marital life. However, a small gift for your spouse can work miracles. You ought to spend time in pleasurable company to get rid of mental stress. Ego clashes are a distinct possibility, hence avoid arguments and confrontations, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Despite all the adversity that you face, you will stay firmly down to earth. Ganesh says there is a strong likelihood of the afternoon bringing some good tidings and good results that you have been looking forward to. Love and peace will prevail in your domestic life.

LIBRA
Time is money. Today, this statement will have greater significance as you identify the upshot of time in your line of work. Every second counts for you, and you may fall back on the good old personal planner to sort things out. Also, early in the day, you may take up some burning issues and elaborate your views on them in a taking-the-bull-by-its-horns manner.

SCORPIO
The planets indicate you won't look before you leap, and commit to a hasty decision at work, says Ganesh. In the afternoon, all those efforts you put in will go down the drain. Expect to catch a seat all alone on a business trip, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Calm and quite, you are in a mood of introspection today, foresees Ganesh. You will express your feelings and come out as a sentimental person in front of your family members. Afternoon is packed with appointments, either for business or fun and entertainment activities.

CAPRICORN
Striving hard to meet deadlines and taking time out to pursue your passion will be the major highlights of the day, says Ganesh. You may also wonder why your boss suddenly appears so pleased with you, but don't get carried away by the outward show. When everything seems right is exactly when you need to watch out for trouble.

AQUARIUS
Good news about a loved one will bring on a festive mood. You only need an itchy-bitsy excuse to party, and that's what you'll do today! You will make new friends, and they will prove helpful in times of need. Ganesh suggests a candlelit dinner to round up a perfect day.

PISCES
Today will find you resolute and unwavering in everything that you pursue, and it is a good thing to be, for you will find yourself making substantial progress come afternoon. New relationships could be in the offing today as well, says Ganesh.

Showbiz mourns Perry's early exit

Not just Hollywood, several of his fans in the Hindi film industry have also extended condolences on the death of Matthew Perry.

Mumbai: Actor Matthew Perry, who played Chandler Bing on the popular sitcom *Friends*, was found dead in the hot tub at his Los Angeles home. He was 54 and his fans across the globe are yet to come to terms with his untimely death.



Not just Hollywood, several of his fans in the Hindi film industry have also extended condolences on the death of Matthew Perry. All from Sidharth Malhotra, Kiara Advani to Ranveer Singh and Samantha Ruth Prabhu took to Instagram Stories to share their pain on learning about his passing. Ranveer Singh shared

a picture of Matthew on his Instagram Stories with a white bird, folded hands and a nazar amulet emoji. Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani also shared his picture on their respective Instagram Stories with broken heart emojis.

Nimrat Kaur took to X (formerly Twitter) to share a picture of Matthew Perry and wrote, "Rest in glory #MatthewPerry. Chandler Bing for life," along with a broken heart emoji. Samantha Ruth Prabhu also shared a picture of the later actor and wrote, "Heartbroken. RIP Matthew Perry."

Sophie Choudry took to X to share her grief. She wrote along with a picture of Matthew, "As if the news we wake up to everyday right now isn't bad enough... now this (broken heart emojis). Thank you for all the laughs & your incredible talent #matthewperry... May you finally rest in peace though the world has lost a gem."

AGENCIES

Shabana: OTT has fallen into a pattern now

Mumbai: Actress Shabana Azmi who was last seen in *Rocky aur Rani kii Prem Kahaani* opens up about the star system and stereotyping which is slowly seeping in on the web platforms and fears the OTT has fallen into a pattern too.

During an interview with media, she voiced her concern, "As far as changing sensibility is concerned, in films, if something works, the producers just want to repeat it. Koi cheez successful hui hai toh usko chodhdo. I was hopeful that OTT will bring in a change, but it has fallen into a pattern, too."

She ends, "Most OTT content allows explicit scenes, gaaliyan, and

overdose of violence. I feel the director can make a choice. Look at



Zoya's (Akhtar) film. Given its setting, Gully Boy could have resorted to gaalis too, but as a director-writer she decided to create a world where things are conveyed without spelling them out. It can be effective and not graphic. Violence for me is much more threatening if it gives you the impression that it's from the corner. If you are not actually seeing it, it can be more tense and thrilling. Martin Scorsese does this so well. Why do we overdo it?"

AGENCIES



MOUNI ON LIFE'S TURNING POINT

Mumbai: Actress Mouni Roy delivered an acclaimed performance as the villain Junoon in Ayan Mukerji's hit film

Brahmastra. Recently, the actress revealed how her life changed after being a part of Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt starrer film *Brahmastra*. During a recent interaction with media, the *Gold* actress shared how her life has been different since the success of *Brahmastra Part One: Shiva*. She mentioned that her personal life remains unchanged with her husband, family, and friends. However, professionally, *Brahmastra* has earned her respect as an actor, both from the industry and her audience. She said, "Professionally, I think what *Brahmastra* has done for me has given me respect, as an actor, from the (film) industry, from my audience."

She further expressed her gratitude and thanks to her audience and fans for their unconditional love and support. "Right from the beginning of my career, I'll always be grateful for their love. But this (*Brahmastra*) has given me a lot of respect," Mouni ends.

AGENCIES

KJo fires back at trolls

Mumbai: Filmmaker Karan Johar addressed the trolls and gave them a befitting reply on his Instagram live after a section of people were seen trolling Ranveer and Deepika over their conversation about their

relationship on *Koffee with Karan 8*.

During his live session, KJo addressed his fans and urged them for their feedback and constructive criticism. He said, "Keep your criticism constructive". He further addressed trolls and continued by saying, "If you want to troll us...Do what you need to do because no one's looking."

He also added, "Trolling gets you nowhere. You are landing nowhere. You're filling and brimming your heart with negativity but landing nowhere because what's gonna happen will happen to the people you're trolling. If they're gonna meet the success, they will. If they're gonna fail, they will. It has nothing to do with you."

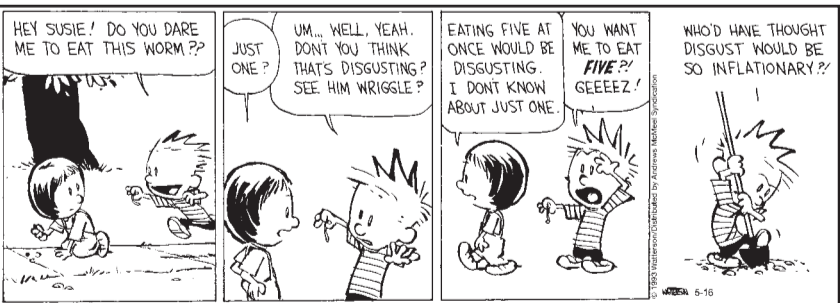
He concluded by saying, "For all those who are consistently being positive, more power to you because positivity is the key to your own success."

AGENCIES

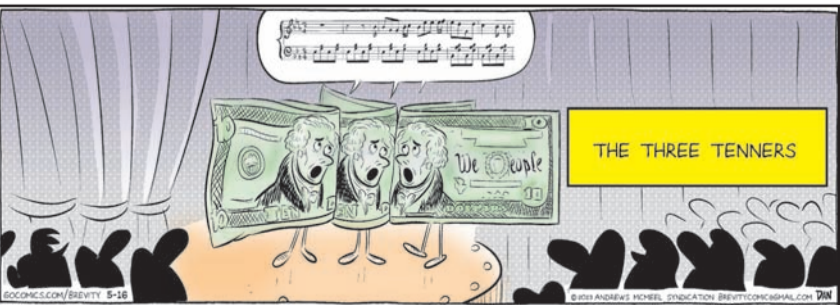
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

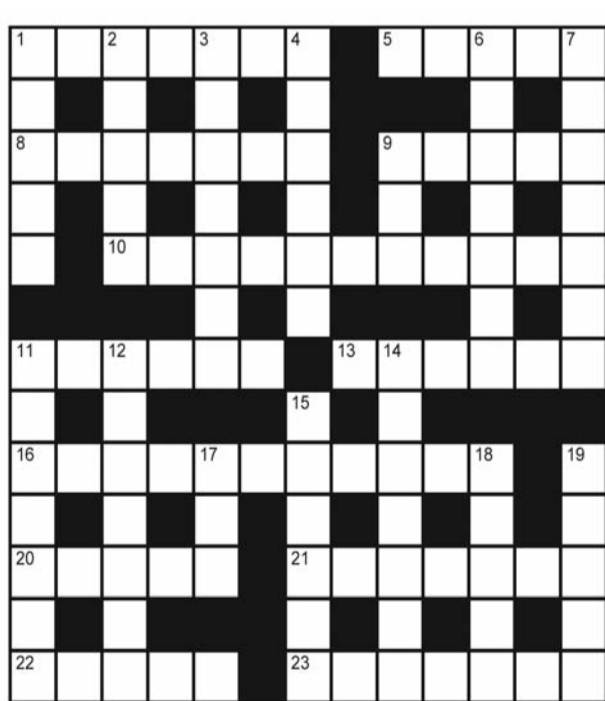


BREVITY



FUN post

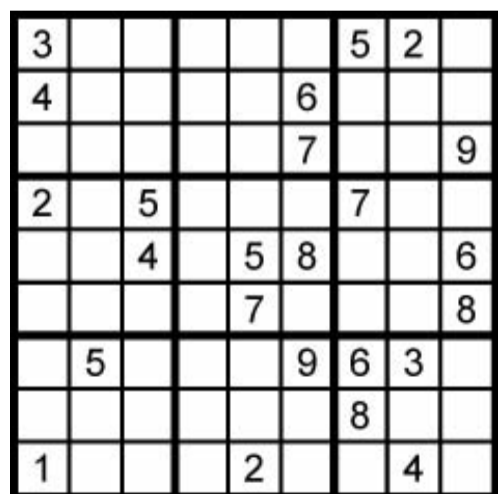
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Ben Hur's carriage
 - 5 Scent
 - 8 Theatre section
 - 9 Clan emblem
 - 10 Cut away in small pieces (7,4)
 - 11 London attraction (3,3)
 - 13 Photographer's word
 - 16 Fireworks item (5,6)
 - 20 Cake topper
 - 21 Big cat
 - 22 Desert sight
 - 23 Wine critics
 - 6 Final result
 - 7 Writing genre
 - 9 Truss
 - 11 Mexican dish
 - 12 Chess moves
 - 14 Repulsive
 - 15 Xylophone striker
 - 17 Shrew
 - 18 Expunge
 - 19 Mythical king with a golden touch
- Down
- 1 Deadly snake
 - 2 Luminous
 - 3 Worship
 - 4 Japanese industrial city

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

downtown

IN SYNC

Artistes perform during 8th Guru Deba Prasad Das Utsav at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



DISASTER MGMT PLANS SOON IN 10K VULNERABLE VILLAGES

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: In a bid to make the communities resilient, disaster management plans will be prepared in more than 10,000 vulnerable villages, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the occasion of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day 2023 here, Sunday.

Addressing a gathering virtually at a function at Rabindra Mandap here on the occasion, Patnaik said as communities are the first responders to any disaster situation, amendments to Panchayat Acts have been made to ensure disaster management planning at the level of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

"To make the communities resilient, disaster management plans will be prepared in more than 10,000 vulnerable villages," he said.

The state government has decided to deploy an ODRAF team in every district. Automated weather forecasting and rain gauge stations will be set up in all panchayats of the state.

Patnaik called upon all stakeholders and citizens to join hands to strengthen the state's disaster risk reduction initiatives and make Odisha disaster-resilient.

This year's theme for the 'Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day' is 'Empowering Community for Resilient Odisha.'

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi said Odisha became the number one state in the country in disaster management.

Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena said automated weather forecasting and rain gauge stations will be set up in all panchayats of the state.

About 3,000 such stations will be set up with funding from the World Bank, and the remaining will be done by the office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC).

SRC Satyabrata Sahu said, "We are prepared for natural disasters like cyclones, floods etc. However, many people have lost lives in other disasters like lightning, drowning, snake bites, etc. So, we will create awareness among people to tackle such incidents. We will create one man in every household, who can tackle all kinds of disasters."

Disaster management has been included in school and college curriculums and the government has decided to train all persons working at the grassroots level, Sahu said. Further, the state government has decided to deploy an ODRAF team in every district. Now, 20 ODRAF units are there in Odisha, he said.



SAFETY FIRST: Fire Services personnel conduct a mock drill at Cuttack Netaji Bus Terminal in the Silver City, Sunday

OP PHOTO

CM to administer integrity pledge today State for stern action against onion hoarders

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will Monday administer integrity pledge to public servants during an event organised by the Odisha Vigilance to mark the Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 from October 30 to November 5, official sources said Sunday.

Patnaik will attend the state-level event being organised at Lok Seva Bhawan here on the theme 'Say no to corruption, commit to the nation' as chief guest and administer integrity pledge (circulated by Central Vigilance Commission) to public servants working in government offices and people of the state at 11am Monday.

The programme will be aired live by the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department so that lakhs of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), self-help group (SHG) members and students throughout the state can also take the pledge, according

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK 2023

Banners and posters on anti-corruption theme will be displayed at prominent public places. Public rallies, walkathons and marathons involving students and people from different sections of society will also be organised at different places to raise awareness among the people against corruption.

to the Odisha Vigilance.

"The Electronics and IT (E&IT) department will also connect all collectorates and block offices of the state through video conferencing for functionaries to take the integrity pledge administered by the Chief Minister. The Chief Secretary will be the guest of honour on the occasion. The best Vigilance Division, Vigilance Unit, Investigating Officer, Woman Investigating Officer and Public Prosecutor will also be awarded in the function," it said.

On the occasion, debate, quiz, cartoon, slogan, painting and rangoli competitions on anti-corruption theme will be organised among school and college students in each district. Winners will be awarded at the district

level functions being organised by the respective divisions or units of state Vigilance.

In course of observance of Vigilance Awareness Week, public meetings will be held in each district headquarters involving people from various walks of life like students, academics, serving and retired government officials, SHGs, NGOs and the civil society in order to raise public awareness against the perils of corruption and to enlist the support of all the stakeholders in the anti-corruption campaign, the Odisha Vigilance said.

Banners and posters on the anti-corruption theme will be displayed at prominent public places. Public rallies, walkathons and marathons involving stu-

dents and people from different sections of society will also be organised at different places to raise awareness among the people against corruption.

Besides, 'Awareness Gram Sabhas' will be organised in rural areas involving SHGs and members of Gram Panchayats in order to raise the awareness among the people to fight corruption.

During the Vigilance Awareness Week, Odisha Vigilance has planned extensive use of social media platforms for generating anti-corruption awareness among the public. During the campaign, bulk SMS featuring the Vigilance toll free number 1064 will be circulated among crores of mobile users in the state with a view to enhance the use of the toll free number by the general public.

The drive for online registration of complaints relating to corruption on the Vigilance website <http://odishavigilance.gov.in> has further been energised, it said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: With onion prices soaring suddenly across Odisha, the state government Sunday warned stern action against those indulging in hoarding and black-marketing of the essential cooking ingredient.

District officials have been directed to initiate action against traders involved in black marketing of onion, informed Food Supply and Consumer Welfare Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak. Following the sharp rise in onion prices to over Rs 60 to 70 per kg in several parts of the state, the government has decided to toughen its stand, he added.

Noting that fresh onions are set to hit the market after a month, the Minister said there is a gap in production and supply that needs to be managed well to avail onions to the consumers at a reasonable price.



Apart from Odisha, onion prices have also seen sudden increase in other states of the country. The price of onion in the central pool has increased, Nayak said, adding that as a result, the prices of onions in markets across the state.

"To take unfair advantage from the trend, some unscrupulous traders have been

found to be hoarding onions in bulk causing an artificial price rise," Nayak said. District authorities have been asked to take strong action against the traders involved in hoarding and black marketing of onions, he added. Notably, the price of onion has almost doubled in a month, leading to concerns about food inflation.

New Governor to take oath Oct 31

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

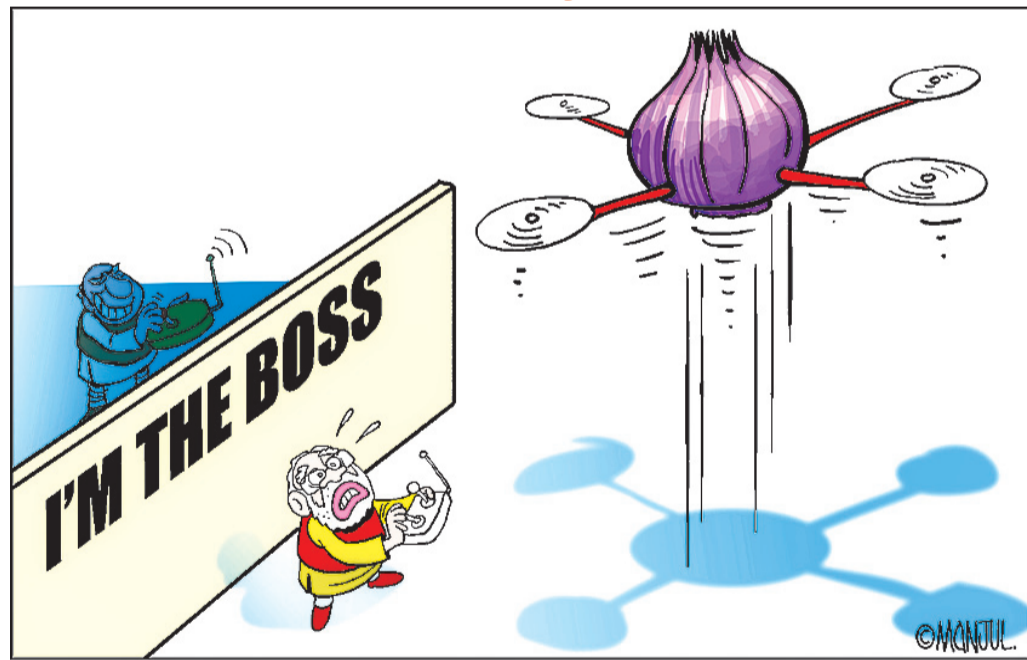
Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Veteran BJP leader and Jharkhand's former Chief Minister Raghubar Das is scheduled to take oath as the 26th Governor of Odisha October 31, an official said Sunday.

The swearing-in ceremony is scheduled to be held at 11.45am October 31 at Raj Bhawan here. The Governor-designate will reach Puri by train Monday morning and offer prayers at Shree Jagannath Temple.

He is also likely to offer prayers at Lord Lingaraj Temple in the Capital City here seeking blessings of the Lord before taking the oath October 31.

Das was appointed as the new Governor of Odisha by President Droupadi Murmu October 18.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



RTI activist held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Odisha Police Sunday arrested Right to Information (RTI) activist-turned-politician Pradip Pradhan in connection with a mental harassment case filed by sprinter Dutee Chand in 2021.

The Mahila police here arrested Pradhan, who is also the secretary of the new political outfit 'Mo Dala'. Dutee had lodged a complaint against Pradhan and some persons alleging that she was mentally harassed for her poor performance in Olympics two years ago.

Alleging inaction, Dutee had moved Orissa High Court seeking action against Pradhan and others. Hearing the matter, the HC had directed police to initiate legal action against Pradhan.

Refusing the allegations, Pradhan said a 'false case' had been registered against him.

Congress plans 'Sankirtan Satyagrahas' November 9

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: The Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Sunday said it will organise 'Sankirtan Satyagrahas' near all the Jagannath temples in state November 9 to press for the reopening of the four gates of Puri Srimandir.

OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak announced this during a press conference at the Congress Bhawan here.

On October 16, the party had organised a rally on Puri's Grand Road demanding reopening of all the four gates of the 12th century shrine for devotees and even submitted a memorandum to the Governor through the chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Pattanayak said.

"We had requested the BJD government to reopen all the four gates for devotees by October 28 (before the beginning of Odia holy month Kartika). But the state government did not take any steps," he said.

Due to the state government's attitude, devotees from across the country and outside are forced to stand in long queues while visiting the temple, he said.

Similarly, the Ratna Bhandar (the temple's treasury) hasn't been reopened for repairs and inventory of ornaments and valuables for several years now, he said. "So we have decided to hold the 'Sankirtan Satyagrahas' in front of all Jagannath temples in Odisha from 9am to noon November 9," he said.

Earlier, the SJTA had informed the Orissa High Court through an affidavit that one-and-a-half quintals (149.46 kg) of gold and 184 kg of silver ornaments are in the Ratna Bhandar.

On October 16, the party had organised a rally on Grand Road demanding reopening of all the four gates of the 12th century shrine for devotees and even submitted a memorandum to the Governor through SJTA chief administrator

The inventory was made when the treasury was last opened in 1978.

The entry of devotees to the temple through the four gates was closed March 20, 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Later, when the situation improved, the Lion's Gate was reopened for devotees.

In July this year, the government reopened the Paschim Dwar (west gate) only for Puri residents.

"The pandemic has gone. Why is the government so reluctant to reopen the temple gates?" asked Congress leader Ganeswar Behera.

Former OPCC president Prasad Harichandan said the state government has claimed that all the three gates (excluding the Lion's Gate) of the temple have remained closed for devotees because of the Srimandir Parikrama Project around the temple.

"The Parikrama Project started in December 2019. No one knows when it will be completed. So, without making further delay, the gates should be reopened so that devotees can have a hassle-free darshan of Lord Jagannath," Harichandan said.

In a first, scientists grow mouse embryos in space

STUDY SHOWS MAMMALS MAY BE ABLE TO THRIVE IN SPACE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tokyo, Oct 29: Mouse embryos have been grown on the International Space Station (ISS) and developed normally in the first study indicating it could be possible for humans to reproduce in space, a group of Japanese scientists said.

The researchers, including Teruhiko Wakayama, professor of University of Yamanashi's Advanced Biotechnology Centre, and a team from the Japan Aerospace Space Agency (JAXA), sent frozen mouse embryos on board a rocket to the ISS in



August 2021.

Astronauts thawed the early-stage embryos using a special device designed for this purpose and grew them on the station for four days.

The embryos cultured under

microgravity conditions developed normally into blastocysts, cells that develop into the foetus and placenta, the scientists said.

"The experiment clearly demonstrated that gravity had

no significant effect," the researchers said in a study that was published online in the scientific journal iScience Saturday.

They also said there were no significant changes in condition of the DNA and genes, after they analysed the blastocysts that were sent back to their laboratories on Earth.

"This is the first-ever study that shows mammals may be able to thrive in space," University of Yamanashi and national research institute Riken said in a joint statement Saturday.

IT IS THE WORLD'S FIRST EXPERIMENT THAT CULTURED EARLY-STAGE MAMMALIAN EMBRYOS UNDER COMPLETE MICROGRAVITY OF INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Night temperature drops across state



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Temperature went down several notches across Odisha as several parts of the state experienced early morning chill.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Phulbani and G Udayagiri in Kandhamal district recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 13 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

For the first time this October in Bhubaneswar, the mercury dipped to below 20 degrees, while Cuttack recorded a minimum temperature of 20.2 degree Celsius.

Moderate to dense fog has occurred at one or two places over the districts of Kalahandi, Koraput, and Bhadrak.

The India Meteorological

Department (IMD) informed that the maximum temperature observed a fall at one or two places over the districts of North Coastal Odisha.

While there will be no overall change in the weather conditions in the next couple of days, some parts of Odisha are likely to experience light rain for three days from November 1.

Several areas are likely to experience light rain from November 1-3 under the influence of the eastward movement of waves on Bay of Bengal.

The weather agency has forecast light to moderate rain/thunderstorm at one or two places in Puri, Gajapati, Ganjam, Malkangiri, Koraput, Khurda, Kandhamal, Rayagada November 1 with little change in the weather during the subsequent two days.

ILS scientist named for NASI fellowship

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Narottam Acharya, senior scientist at Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) biotechnology department has been recommended for the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), Allahabad fellowship in recognition of his research contributions.

Acharya, who leads the genomic instability and diseases group at ILS, has been working to develop novel treatments and vaccines against fungal diseases as fungal pathogens are a serious concern to human health and around 1.5 million people succumb every year to fungal infections.

Currently, drugs such as azoles, polyenes, echinocandins, and 5-Fluorocytosine (5FC) are used to treat fungal infections. Widespread and frequent use of these drugs has led to the rapid evolution of drug resistance in fungal species.

Non-availability of effective vaccines against these fungal pathogens will in future result in enhanced threat to public health worldwide. DNA replication is an essential biological process and by targeting replication machinery, scientists could generate poorly replicating attenuated strains having vaccine potential.

The Laboratory of Genomic Instability of Diseases, led by Acharya, has generated an array of knockout strains of *Candida albicans* that with potential for vaccine development.



DEFT HANDS: A woman potter shapes earthen pots at Basantapur area of Dhauli in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

OES OBSERVES 42ND FOUNDATION DAY IN CITY

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: The Orissa Environmental Society (OES) observed the 42nd Foundation Day under the chairmanship of its president Sundara Narayana Patro here, Sunday.

Joining the programme as the chief guest, eminent science writer Pramod Kumar Mohapatra appreciated the initiatives undertaken by OES through awareness campaigns and action programmes.

“The governments as well the civil society organisations and concerned individuals should make efforts together for bringing down the ill-effects of climate change,” he said.

Sandeep Pattnaik, associate professor of earth sciences, IIT Bhubaneswar joined the programme as the chief speaker and delivered the 12th Prasanna Kumar Dash memorial lecture, instituted after the former speaker of Odisha Assembly and the founder president of the

OES. Pattnaik scientifically analysed the mechanisms behind natural disasters such as heatwaves, cloudbursts, cyclones, droughts and landslides. He presented the research developments relating to different geographical regions of India and Odisha in relation to such events through weather models.

Persons who made significant contribution in the field of environment were felicitated in an award function held on this oc-

casional. Noted veterinary scientist Bipra Charan Pattnayak was presented with the lifetime achievement award while Pramod Kumar Mohapatra was conferred with BC Panda Environment and Science Communication Award.

Environment expert and educationist Jaya Krushna Panigrahi received Prof BS Patro Excellence in Environment Award and Manoranjan Mishra with Prof. SN Patro Best Organizer in Environment Conservation Award.

Bloggers meet held to promote state tourism

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar Oct 29: With a bid to foster state tourism by making videos and reels that showcase the beauty of Odisha, a Lifestyle and Travel Bloggers meet was held in City, Sunday. The event was organised in partnership between Bhonsor Carnival, Panda Travel Mart and storylabindia.

The program marked a digital reels contest in which bloggers were required to submit videos on a particular subject within a stipulated time. Ending which, top 10 participants were selected as winners for making well engaged content. Meanwhile, the remaining participants were promised brand collaborations by the organisers.

The program was conducted with intent of promoting the title song: Ae Akasha Tale (Under the Sky), a musical feature promoting the tourism of Odisha. The musical initiative is curated and produced by storylabindia.

A panel discussion was also held under the subject “Empowering Content Creators: Fostering Domestic Tourism Promotion within the State”.

Around 90 travel bloggers from Ganjam, Gajapati and Jamshedpur in Jharkhand participated in the event.

The guests and sponsors included Aditya Panda (owner of Panda travel mart), Sagar Hota (marketing and branding partner of Hindustan Jewellers), Sourav Khandelwal (Founder of Dahibara Express), Homevery and 3S dental care among others. The digital media partner was Dharti Live while Mycitylinks and Khabar Odisha were coverage partners.

CARE Hospitals holds walkathon



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: CARE Hospitals organised a walkathon in City on World Stroke Day, Sunday. The event was aimed at raising awareness on brain health.

CARE Hospitals COO Kishay Anand, Police Commissioner SK Priyadarshi, Sr. Consultant (Neurology) SS Jena, Sr. Consultant (Neurosurgery) Susant Das, Sr. Consultant (Neurosurgery) Deepak Parida Das, Sr. Consultant (Neurosurgery) Atma Ranjan Dash, and AVP – BD Lokanath Dash flagged off the walkathon from CARE Hospitals Bhubaneswar.

Speaking on this occasion, Anand said this is a big initiative, and we at CARE Hospitals have come forward to walk to-

gether for good health. I am happy to see that our hospital is contributing to spread awareness among the people and their loved ones to stay healthy and keep fighting against many lifestyle diseases.

Priyadarshi, in his address, said this is yet another patient-centric step taken by CARE Hospital for this purpose. CARE Hospitals is an advanced stroke center, fully geared to handle both ischemic (blood clot) and haemorrhagic strokes (brain haemorrhage bleeding).

Dash said, “CARE Hospitals has always been at the forefront to provide first-hand knowledge and care to the people of Odisha through various super-specialty clinics, health camps, health talks and BLS training at various locations.”

BJP seeks lifting of ban from actor

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Following Congress' support for actor Manoj Mishra, BJP also expressed its solidarity with the actor demanding immediate lifting of ban by producers from Odia film industry.

Notably, Mishra was banned for two years over the allegation that his supporters attempted to stop actor Arindam Roy's new movie RAM.

“The ban on actor Manoj Mishra clearly shows the attitude of coastal people towards western Odisha. The whole controversy started after Mishra's film ‘Mind Game’ did well both in Odisha and became critically acclaimed both in the state and national level. So, I condemn the ban put on him and request the producers to immediately revoke it,” BJP MLA Nauri Nayak said.

“Most importantly, Kuna Tripathy who is also from western Odisha, has remained silent all this while. The matter would not have escalated this far if he had intervened and solved it at the earliest. So, I want to send a message to Kuna Tripathy if he really is from western Odisha and loves the people, then he should immediately resolve the issue,” he added.

3rd LK Mahapatra Memorial lecture held at Bakul Library

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: The 3rd LK Mahapatra memorial lecture was organised at Bakul Library here Sunday in memory of anthropologist Lakshman Kumar Mahapatra by the LK Mahapatra Memorial Trust and Utkal University's PG department of Anthropology.

Bhaskar Chakrabarti, academic and professor of public policy at IIM Calcutta delivered a special lecture on “Good Memories and Bad Memories: How Political Organisations Remember and Forget.” Chakrabarti highlighted the dynamics of Panchayat politics in villages underscoring the manner in which memories are recollected and forgotten. Giving further context, he elaborated the role of local politics in influencing organizational memory, as well as the critical aspect of memory loss in organisations.

Further, he cited the instances such as ‘memory decay’ and ‘failure to recollect memories’ in Panchayat politics. He stressed that such phenomena make the organisations lose linkage with



past and critical sources of expertise. Earlier, the session began with Bakul Foundation founder Sujit Mahapatra reflecting on the invaluable role of LK Mahapatra in pioneering research studies in anthropology.

“My father had a key role in

setting up the department of Anthropology at Utkal University,” he added.

KC Tripathy, Prasanna Patra of the department of Anthropology joined the event along with academics from different disciplines as well as students and research scholars.

Online games use dark designs to collect players' data

The privacy policies and practices of online games contain dark design patterns which could be deceptive, misleading, or coercive to users, says a study, revealing potentially questionable data collection practices of online games providers.

Gaming is a \$193 billion industry – nearly double the size of the film and music industries combined – and there are around three billion gamers worldwide.

The new study, by scientists at Finland-based Aalto University reveals misconceptions and concerns about privacy among players.

“We had two supporting lines of inquiry in this study: what players think about games, and what games are really up to with respect to privacy,” said Janne

Lindqvist, associate professor of computer science at Aalto.

It was really surprising for study authors how nuanced the considerations of gamers were.

“For example, participants said that, to protect their privacy, they would avoid using voice chat in games unless it was absolutely necessary. Our game analysis revealed that some games try to nudge people to reveal their online identities by offering things like virtual rewards,” said Lindqvist in a paper published in the journal Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction.

The authors identified instances of games using dark design - interface decisions that manipulate users into doing something they otherwise wouldn't. These could facilitate the



THE AUTHORS IDENTIFIED INSTANCES OF GAMES USING DARK DESIGN - INTERFACE DECISIONS THAT MANIPULATE USERS INTO DOING SOMETHING THEY OTHERWISE WOULDN'T

collection of player data and encourage players to integrate their social media accounts or allow data sharing with third

parties.

“When social media accounts are linked to games, players generally can't know what access the games have to these accounts or what information they receive,” said Amel Bourdoucen, doctoral researcher in usable security at Aalto.

For example, in some popular games, users can log in with (or link to) their social media accounts, but these games may not specify what data is collected through such integration. “Data handling practices of games are often hidden behind legal jargon in privacy policies,” said Bourdoucen.

When users' data are collected, games should make sure the players understand and consent to what is being collected.

“This can increase the player's

awareness and sense of control in games. Gaming companies should also protect players' privacy and keep them safe while playing online,” the authors wrote.

According to the study, participants were often unaware that their chat-based conversations might be disclosed to third parties. Games also didn't notify players of data sharing during the game.

The study showed that players are aware of the risks, and it highlights several mitigation tactics used by players.

“Games really should be fun and safe for everybody, and they should support the player's autonomy. One way of supporting autonomy would be able to let players opt out from invasive data collection,” said Lindqvist.

Jawan dies by suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Oct 29: In a shocking incident, a sub-inspector of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) allegedly committed suicide over denial of leave at Khadupani CRPF camp under Boden police limit in Nuapada district, Sunday.

The deceased was identified as D Gunnasekharan, 58, of Gudipalli village under Vellore district in Tamil Nadu. He was born June 3, 1965 and joined CRPF June 2, 1988. He committed suicide just ahead of retirement from his 35-year job in CRPF. As per reports, he shot himself with his service AK 47 rifle inside the barrack of 19th Battalion Sunday morning. It has been alleged that he took the extreme step over denial of leave for a long period.

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Father murders 5 months pregnant woman, arrested



between them. In a fit of anger, suspecting his daughter's character, the accused kicked her abdomen and also hit the victim with a wooden plank several times.

The victim sustained grievous injuries in the incident. Saturday morning, when Jithu came to know that Sakara died, he tried to suppress the matter. However, police got information from a reliable source and reached the spot along with the scientific team Sunday morning. Police seized the body and arrested Jithu on charge of murder. During the investigation, police found signs of assault on the deceased's body.

Police registered a case (No-231/23) and handed over the body to her family members after conducting the post-mortem. The news has become the talk of the town as it has sent shock waves in the area.

lage. As per reports, the accused had married off his daughter some years ago. However, Sakara along with her three-year-old daughter returned to her native place after the death of her husband around a year ago, villagers said.

However, she was reportedly found five months pregnant Friday. When Jithu questioned on the matter to his daughter, a heated argument broke out



FOLK CHARM: Artistes performing a folk dance at a 'Loka Mahotsav' organised at Kadamtola village under Bisra block by RSP's CSR department, Sunday

RAIL ROKO BY BPAC TODAY

Rourkela, Oct 29: The Bisra Public Action Committee (BPAC) led by former Biramitrapur MLA George Tirky has given a call for 'rail roko' on one of the busiest railway links from 6am Monday for twelve hours.

Bisra is situated on the important Howrah-Mumbai rail route. It is a small station but sits on a very important junction. From here, the routes also lead to Ranchi and the mining areas of the district. The bandh will not only affect passenger trains' movement but also major goods trains.

Speaking about the rail roko, Tirky said, "Our talks with the Railways have failed. We had earlier asked for the stoppage of trains at Bisra and they did not say anything on it. We discussed it with them for the third time Saturday but nothing came out of it. Besides, on the land issue, they again asked for six weeks time to answer our query. Trains stop at Badgaon where the Railways sells just a couple of tickets. But Bisra, which is much more lucrative, is still devoid of train stoppages and I don't understand why no action has been taken in this regard."

Notably, BPAC is resisting the land acquisition of Railways which it says is a unilateral decision. During the second meeting, Tirky interestingly had asked the Railways officials what document they could produce to lay claim on the land they were acquiring for the purpose, which so far the railways failed to produce.

The railways authorities and BAPC have already held three rounds of talks with no result. Tirky who is eyeing a political revival is giving support and leadership to the entire movement.

The main point of discussion was the land issue and the stoppage of trains at Bisra. Railways is constructing the third railway link on Howrah-Mumbai route. This link is nothing but the dedicated freight corridor being constructed on this route starting from Jareikela to Jharsuguda.

Indravati bridge in a limbo

Gullible villagers of these cut-off areas, who had pinned high hopes that a bridge will be constructed on the reservoir and end their years of sufferings, are an unhappy lot

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Oct 29: Construction of a bridge on Indravati reservoir to facilitate communication between Nabarangpur and Rayagada districts is yet to be realised with the villagers continuing to boat across the waterbody endangering their lives.

The state government had announced for construction of a bridge on Indravati reservoir three years back. But the project is yet to see the light of the day as it is still stuck in survey, a report said.

On the other hand, villagers are forced to put their lives at risk to travel in the reservoir using rickety country boats. The bridge when constructed will reduce the distance between Nabarangpur and Rayagada districts by 70 km and from Khatiguda to Rayagada by 105 km. The distance from Nabarangpur town to Rayagada is 175 km via Jeypore and Koraput. The construction of the bridge will also usher in commercial growth in the peripheral areas.

Reports said that residents of six villages under Manchagaon panchayat and several under Dasmantpur block in Koraput district continue to commute in



■ Tentulikhunti and Nandahandi blocks in Nabarangpur were socially and culturally connected with Rayagada and Koraput districts before the construction of Indravati reservoir

■ However, all communications of the residents of Nabarangpur with Rayagada and Koraput districts came to a halt after the reservoir came up

country boats from Kenduguda ghat to attend to their various works in Tentulikhunti and Khatiguda.

No one knows when a mishap will occur and snap the lives off the villagers. This has disappointed the gullible villagers of these cut-off areas who had pinned high hopes that a bridge will be constructed on the reservoir and end their years of sufferings.

Sources said the residents of Tentulikhunti and Nandahandi blocks in Nabarangpur district were socially and culturally connected with the residents of Rayagada and Koraput districts before the construction of Indravati reservoir. However, all

communications of the residents of Nabarangpur with Rayagada and Koraput districts came to a halt after the construction of the reservoir.

The state government realised the plight of the residents and announced for construction of a high-level bridge at Kenduguda boat ghat in Manchagaon panchayat to facilitate communication between Nabarangpur and Rayagada districts, September 2020.

The bridge proposed to be over 500 metre in length was decided to be constructed under the state-sponsored 'Biju Setu Yojana' at a plan outlay of ₹165 crore in the initial phase. Moreover, the

state government also announced to construct five km of pucca roads from the boat ghat which will connect with Giriguma.

The Public Works department was given the charge of construction. The water-level in reservoir is over 43 metre where the bridge will be constructed. However, the survey is yet to get completed and the final plan outlay has not been prepared yet.

Efforts were made to contact the superintending engineer but he was not available for comment on the issue. The bridge when constructed will bring an end to the sufferings of people residing in the cut-off areas of the reservoir.

NHRC seeks ATR on cops' sexual assault on 2 minors

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 29: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought for an Action Taken Reports (ATR) from the SP of Mayurbhanj on two alleged incidents of sexual assault of two minor girls by police personnel.

The NHRC passed the order October 23 while acting on a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy.

The petitioner had brought the attention of the commission on shameful incidents of involvement of two police personnel of Jamda in Mayurbhanj district in rape cases.

The accused police personnel were one assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police and another home guard.

The ASI, Tripathy alleged, was involved in sexually assault of a minor girl, who worked as a domestic helper in his house.

The minor girl's aunt recently filed a complaint with the Jamda police station alleging that the ASI had developed sexual relations with the girl promising her to marry.

In another incident, a home guard, who pretended as a witch doctor, raped a minor girl from West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand on the pretext of curing the ailing family member.

Tripathy pointed out that the BMI parameters and mental



The NHRC has asked to submit an Action Taken Report within four weeks

health of the accused police personnel were neither checked nor any entry made in their service books.

These are very much required for each and every police personnel working in the state. The heinous crimes committed by these two police personnel are threatening the basic human rights of the victims, he alleged.

The petitioner further stated that the acts of two khaki clad personnel from one police station posed serious violation of human rights and sought for an independent and impartial investigation into these incidents along with legal action against the culprits, psycho-social counseling, rehabilitation and payment of compensation to the two victims.

The NHRC has asked to submit an Action Taken Report within four weeks.



Ailing elephant calf succumbs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Soro, Oct 29: A female jumbo was found dead in Digibhanra forest at the foothill of Debagiri range under Soro division of Kuladiha forest range in Balasore district Sunday.

The forest officials reached the spot and started investigating the matter after conducting a post-mortem. As per reports, employees of Danturu forest beat house had spotted the female elephant calf in sick condition

October 26 and informed senior officials.

Forest officials then kept a vigil on the activity of the pachyderm and took necessary steps for her treatment. The jumbo was sick and had stopped taking adequate food. Unfortunately, the jumbo was found dead inside Digibhanra forest under Bagha Ampuda beat Sunday morning.

A post-mortem report would help ascertain the actual cause behind the elephant's death, said Soro ranger Manoranjan Nayak.

26th Vedvyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav from Nov 1



DR PADMAJA REDDY IS ONE OF THE STAR ATTRACTIONS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 29: The 26th Vedyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav, a five-day-long dance and music extravaganza, will begin from November 1. Vedyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav has always stuck to this date of commencement so far.

Speaking to the media, Radhakrushna Mohapatra, general secretary of Bhanja Kala Kendra, an organisation devoted to popularisation of Odia dance and music, informed that the schedule of the five-day-long programme remained unchanged. "The first two days will be dedicated to dance and music. However, the third day will host 'Odissi Brunda Gayana', Hindustani Vocal and Odissi Vocal. Then it will be again a mix of music and dance for the rest two days," informed Mohapatra.

Answering another question about marquee artists of this year, he said, "This year we are fortunate to have the performance of famed Kuchipudi danseuse Padmashree Dr. Padmaja Reddy on stage. Other

artists are Ustad Waseem Ahmed Khan, Keshav Yadav and above all Ileana Citaristi." Mohapatra added that the presence of Reddy "is a great morale booster for us".

About promoting the hidden local art forms and artistes, he said there was one performer from Bargarh. "We are getting Rajesh Kumar Guria and his group from Bargarh on stage and they will perform a vanishing dance form. We are committed to promoting such artistes and bringing them to the forefront. We pay them and also take care of everything here. In fact, after performing here at the festival many have shot to national and international fame and are doing really well. One of the best examples is the group of Keshav Yadav from Chattisgarh. They performed here 15 years back and today the group is a sought after name and they are performing at major festivals regularly. In a way, this festival has not only helped them gain name and fame but also given a new lease of life to their art forms."

The total budget of the event for this year is over ₹15 lakh. It has got sponsors in "EZCC, SBI, RSP and some private entities who do not want to be named," informed Mohapatra.

Junagarh block awarded for disaster mgmt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Oct 29: Junagarh block in Kalahandi district has bagged the first position in disaster management and planning on the occasion of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day, 2023 organised by Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar.

The award was presented in the presence of Chief Secretary Pradeep Jena, Special Relief Commissioner and Revenue and Disaster Management department Additional Chief Secretary, Satyabrata Sahu, World Bank Country Director for India Auguste Tano Kouame and many renowned personalities at the function presided over by Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management Sudam Marndi after the welcome message of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Junagarh block Chairman Sabita Meher and BDO Debasish Kar, who were present in the ceremony, received the award. Greetings are pouring in from various quarters on the Junagarh block authorities for this achievement.



SERENDIPITY: People pose with a 13-ft-long rock python which was caught at Kainbili village of Baunsapal panchayat under Kamakhyanagar block in Dhenkanal district

OP PHOTO

FOCUS SOCIETY

INEQUALITY & DEMOCRACY



When future generations look back at today's world, they will likely be shocked by the extreme levels of inequality and social injustice we have tolerated, just as we are horrified by our ancestors' acceptance of practices like slavery and feudalism

cent paper that I co-authored with my students Fikri Pitsuwan and Pengfei Zhang, we explore the megaprofits generated by Big Pharma and Big Tech companies. While imposing patent waivers might reduce the incentive to innovate, just as placing profit caps can cause production to fall, it is possible to design mechanisms that limit excess profits without sacrificing efficiency. One such strategy is to use a commodity tax to cap the profit of a group of companies, such as all the Big Tech firms. By heightening competition within the group, this intervention can neutralise the incentive to cut production.

We must also recognise that beyond a certain threshold, what matters most to people, including the wealthiest, is relative rather than absolute inequality. Therefore, we can levy significant taxes on the rich without reducing their incentives, provided that they maintain their relative standing. In other words, as long as billionaires like Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos understand that the taxation will not alter their rankings among the world's wealthiest individuals, they will remain motivated to increase their earnings, and the rest of us will reap the rewards of their efforts.

In short, neoliberals got it wrong: pursuing greater equality without reducing incentives is entirely feasible. By mitigating inequality and curbing the outside influence of a few ultra-wealthy individuals, we can establish a fairer society. If we want to save democracy, we cannot afford to wait.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Kaushik Basu

GIVEN THAT EXTREME WEALTH OFTEN TRANSLATES INTO POLITICAL POWER, THE CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH IN FEW HANDS IS ANATHEMA TO DEMOCRACY

In these tumultuous times, it often feels like one shock quickly eclipses another. Before one problem can be solved, another crisis emerges. Just a few weeks ago, the war in Ukraine dominated headlines, but the recent outbreak of violence between Israel and Hamas has since taken center stage.

To be sure, during times of crisis, our instinct is to focus on extinguishing the fire that is closest to us. But it is equally crucial to understand and address the root causes so that we have fewer fires to fight.

As populist forces have polarised electorates and deepening social divides worldwide, the global political climate has grown increasingly volatile. While determining the causes of this shift will undoubtedly take some time, one could argue that the rapid advance of digital technologies, unchecked globalisation, and rising inequality have transformed our political and economic systems, fueling sociopolitical unrest.

While the debate over whether economic inequality has increased over the past few decades is still ongoing, the question is moot. We know for certain that global economic inequality increased steadily between 1820 and 1910. Since then, it has fluctuated, and any estimate depends on the specific methods and metrics researchers use. But the data clearly show that economic disparities have reached intolerable levels, with the world's richest 1% gaining 38% of the increase in global wealth between 1995 and 2021, compared to just 2% for the bottom 50%.

Moreover, regardless of the overall inequality, it is undeniable that the concentration of wealth continues to increase. Between 1995 and 2021, global wealth grew by 3.2% annually. Over the same period, the richest 0.000001% increased their wealth by 9.3% per year.

When future generations look back at today's world, they will

likely be shocked by the extreme levels of inequality and social injustice we have tolerated, just as we are horrified by our ancestors' acceptance of practices like slavery and feudalism. But, beyond their inherent immorality, the political implications of today's economic disparities often go unnoticed. In this age of digital connectivity and globalised commerce, excessive wealth concentrations undermine democracy in two main ways.

First, the globalisation of finance and supply chains has enabled wealthy and powerful countries to affect the well-being of citizens far beyond their borders. But while the citizens of Burkina Faso, for example, cannot vote in US presidential elections, the decisions made by American presidents affect their daily lives as much as those made by their own leaders, if not more so. Imagine a scenario where only the residents of the District of Columbia were allowed to vote in a US presidential election – such a system could hardly be called a democracy.

This dynamic suggests that globalisation erodes global democracy. Yet, there is not

much that developing countries can do to challenge American hegemony, given that the United States is not going to allow the whole world to participate in its presidential elections.

Second, given that extreme wealth often translates into political power, the concentration of wealth in few hands is anathema to democracy. This is particularly evident in the age of Big Tech, when billionaires can gain an outsized influence on public discourse by taking over critical media platforms or manipulating search results. One can hope that advances in generative artificial intelligence will level the playing field in the tech sector and thus help curb inequality.

As an economist, I recognise the potential damage that poorly designed interventions can cause. History is replete with examples of well-meaning but ill-conceived policies that sought to reduce inequality, only to backfire and inadvertently bolster the right-wing narrative that all government intervention is inherently problematic.

Nevertheless, by combining moral intentions with thoughtful design, such policies can yield significant returns. In a re-

SPECTRUM WORKFORCE

Gender disparity in labour market



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

GENDER PAY GAP IN INDIA IS NOT ONLY AN ECONOMIC ISSUE BUT ALSO A SOCIETAL ONE

Women are vastly underrepresented in the global labour market and, when they work, they earn less than men. Claudia Goldin, who won this year's Nobel Prize in the Economic Sciences has trawled the archives and collected over 200 years of data from the US, allowing her to demonstrate how and why gender differences in earnings and employment exist. Goldin showed that female participation in labour market did not have an upward trend over this entire period, but instead formed a U-shaped curve. The participation of married women decreased with the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society in early 19th century but then started to increase with the growth of the service sector in the early 20th century when one got a chance to work in office.

Historically, much of the gender gap in earnings could be explained by differences in education and occupational choices. During 20th century, women's education levels continuously increased, and in most high-income countries, they are now substantially higher than for men. However, Goldin has shown that bulk of this earnings dif-

ference is now between men and women in the same occupation and that it largely arises with the birth of the first child.

According to ForbesAdvisor, there are two types of gender pay gaps: the controlled and uncontrolled. The controlled gap measures the difference in pay between men and women performing the same job, with the same experience and qualifications. The uncontrolled gap represents the overall difference in pay, considering all the jobs and industries in which men and women work.

Women earned an average of 17% less than men in 2022. For every dollar earned by men, women earned 82 cents. When comparing women and men with the same job title, seniority level, and hours worked, a gender gap of 11% still exists in terms of take-home pay. The controlled gender pay gap, which considers factors such as job title, experience, education, industry, job level, and hours worked, is currently at 99 cents for all dollars men earn.

The EU average gender pay gap was 12.7% in 2021. Across EU, the pay gap differs widely, being the highest in the following countries in 2021: Estonia (20.5%), Austria (18.8%), Germany (17.6%), Hungary (17.3%) and Slovakia

(16.6%). Luxembourg has closed the gender pay gap. Other countries with lower gender pay gaps in 2021 are Romania (3.6%), Slovenia (3.8%), Poland (4.5%), Italy (5%), and Belgium (5%).

The gender pay gap is a tenacious issue in India, with women often earning significantly less than men for performing the same work. According to a report by World Economic Forum, India ranks a low 108th out of 153 countries in terms of gender pay gap, with women earning just 71% of what men earn. According to a report by ILO, the gender pay gap in India stands at 27% as of 2023. This gap is even wider in certain industries.

One of the main reasons for the gender pay gap in India is the lack of women in leadership positions. According to a report by McKinsey, just 14% of senior-level positions in India are held by women. The gender pay gap in India is not only an economic issue but also a societal one, as it is deeply embedded in cultural and societal biases and shaped by patriarchal expectations. For example, women are often expected to prioritise their families over their careers, and they are also often viewed as being less competent or less com-

mitted to work than men. This mentality is not only biased but also limits the potential for economic growth and stability in the country.

To address the problem, it is essential to recognise the cultural and societal biases that exacerbate it. This includes increasing awareness and encouraging fair pay practices in workplace. This can be achieved through initiatives such as pay transparency and mentoring programmes that enhance gender equality. Additionally, policies such as parental leave and flexible work arrangements can support creation of a more level playing field for women in workforce.

The need of the hour is not just gender equality but gender equity. Gender equity removes the obstacles to progress that are inherent in our society and it is the bridge to treating all people fairly, whether they are male, female, transgender, or non-binary. It solves problems with our labour force by providing more opportunities for women to excel in professions currently dominated by men.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

No Peacekeepers

In concentration and silence we must gather strength for the right action.

THE MOTHER



The UN Resolution of 27 October 2023 on humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza is a mirror of the world we live in today. India abstained from voting in this resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly to halt the pounding of Gaza Strip by Israeli forces that has reportedly taken a death toll of over 7,000 Palestinians, including aid workers. By choosing not to back Jordan's resolution, India has taken a stand which contradicts its image of a nation that has always sought peace in all situations and all conditions. Admittedly, the Jordanian resolution is also not aimed at finding a long term peaceful solution for the Jews and Moslems of Israel and Palestine. All Moslem nations favoured the resolution along with others like Russia and China. The motive behind this resolution can easily be maligned by claiming that the seekers of ceasefire are, in reality, seeking breathing time for the Hamas, Hezbollah and other groups interested in war but not really battling for peace.

The group of 14 nations led by the US and followed by Israel has no other country of any military relevance. US support for Israel is historical. President Joe Biden is on the verge of facing election for his second term. Jews have immense media and industrial clout as also a big chunk of vote in the US. Their support is extremely vital for the Democrats at this juncture.

The interesting aspect lies in the third group of 45 countries which abstained from voting in favour of the humanitarian ceasefire. Prominent amongst these countries are India and the UK. Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has already visited Israel and met Netanyahu in a show of solidarity. India, on the other hand, seemed dithering as usual in its foreign policy. Initially the government took a clear stand favouring Israel. After the hospital bombing in Gaza, India changed its stance and spoke of its past support for the Palestine cause. Its absence in the 27 October UN Resolution vote once again displayed India's confused but definitely anti-peace stand on the global theatre.

The nations seeking ceasefire got support from both Russia and China. Russia has gotten bogged down in its war against Ukraine since February 2022. It desperately requires the US and NATO forces to move their attention away from Ukraine. What better option than a flare up in the Mid East! China in the meanwhile, wants to strengthen its influence over the South China Sea and, if possible, grab Taiwan with its lucrative industrial base. In this quest, China would be very pleased if the US and other Western powers move their forces and focus to the Middle East. The Moslem countries obviously support the Palestine cause primarily basing on religious solidarity.

Ukraine which is itself facing a terribly debilitating and destructive war at home has abstained from voting in favour of ceasefire at the cost of the US and NATO powers slowing down weapons shipments to Kyiv because Volodymyr Zelenskyy is himself a Jew. His personal religious belief has definitely had an influence over his country's vote. He also needs to be perceived as supportive of the US cause. UK's Rishi Sunak and his Tories seem to be battling a stiff situation at home. Britain's support for Israel would obviously draw the Jewish votes in Sunak's favour. Added to this is the disenchantment of Britishers with the imported Moslems who are creating trouble in the UK.

India taking a stand that does not support ceasefire is quite understandable keeping in mind the domestic anti-Moslem stance of the ruling party. Apart from this, all countries that abstained or opposed the ceasefire resolution have business ties with Israel. None, probably including the 120 nation bloc led by Jordan, seem to have any business interest with the Palestinians.

Underlying all these activities in the UN merely showcased that in the third decade of the 21st Century, every country in the world is formulating its external policies based on support or opposition at home. First consideration is religion and the second obviously is business and money deals. There is no country in the world today which bothers or cares for the collateral human damage. India, too, has lost its mantle of a propagator of peace. It will be very difficult to rise above this stigma for a long time to come.



Piata Tathagata Satpathy

WISDOM CORNER

- Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
- A Stoic is someone who transforms fear into prudence, pain into transformation, mistakes into initiation, and desire into undertaking. NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB
- However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at. STEPHEN HAWKING

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1485:** Henry Tudor, who was crowned Henry VII on this day, founded the Tudor dynasty, ended the Wars of the Roses, used his children's marriages to build alliances, and signed treaties that increased England's power.
- 1905:** Russian Tsar issues the October Manifesto. The manifesto, which was issued by Nicholas II, was a response to the Russian Revolution of 1905 in which there were widespread strikes and protests directed towards the government. The key features of the manifesto included the creation of an elected legislative body called Duma and universal suffrage for men. It also paved the way for a new constitution in 1906.
- 1938:** Orson Welles' radio dramatisation of HG Wells' War of the Worlds was broadcast, causing great alarm—though reports of a nationwide panic were unfounded—as some listeners feared a genuine invasion from Mars.
- 1961:** Biggest bomb in history is detonated. The Soviet Union detonated Tsar Bomba or Big Ivan over the Mityushikha Bay test range on the Novaya Zemlya Island in the Arctic Circle. The 57 Megatons nuclear bomb was one-of-a-kind and the flash of light when it exploded at a height of 13,000 feet was visible over 1000 kilometres away.

LOL

DRUNK AT THE BAR

One night a police officer was staking out a particularly rowdy bar for possible driving under the influence (DUI) violations. At closing time, he saw a fellow stumble out of the bar, trip on the curb and try his keys on five different cars before he found his. The man sat in the front seat fumbling around with his keys for several minutes. Meanwhile, all the other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started his engine and began to pull



away. The police officer was waiting for him. As soon as he pulled onto the street, the officer stopped him, read him his rights and administered the breathalyzer test to determine his blood-alcohol content. The results showed a reading of 0.0. The puzzled officer demanded to know how that could be. The driver replied, "Tonight I'm the designated decoy."

Persistent pollution

Sir, Delhi's ongoing battle with severe air pollution, as highlighted by its fourth-place ranking in the 2022 World Air Quality Report by IQAir, places it among the top 50 cities globally with high PM2.5 pollution levels. This decline in air quality is attributed to factors like decreasing temperatures and diminished wind speeds, enabling pollutant accumulation. The practice of stubble burning in neighbouring states, such as Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana, remains a substantial contributor to Delhi's air quality woes. Effectively addressing these challenges demands resolute commitment from both the authorities and the residents to combat pollution and enhance the overall quality of life in the National Capital Region. Despite past recognitions of the issue, Delhi's air quality problems persist, necessitating continuous and meaningful efforts for change.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

United we stand

Sir, In the country's unity lies the essence of democracy. National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, is slated annually on October 31 from 2014. An eclectic boost to a country's economic fortunes can also be a reality through unity. Unity is power because it brings a host of nation-preserving qualities with it. Togetherness and cooperation are two top offshoots that keep the people attentive and focused. Alone one can do so little; together one can do so much. Cultural, social, religious, linguistic, physical and ideological differences cannot act as obstacles in fostering the unity of a country. It is said that when a country is ravaged by terror, buildings may crush, people may die, but it is the indomitable trust and faith of the people in one another that lift the country from the ravines.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Bail out veterans

Sir, It's appalling that a Qatari court has sentenced eight retired Indian Navy personnel working with local company Al Dahra to death. The officers, detained in August 2022, were accused of spying for Israel. All eight officers have an exemplary service record and have served on frontline warships. Although the MEA said it would take up the verdict with the Qatari authorities, it will be a tall order to bail out the Navy veterans.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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



ONLINE SALE OF OBSCENE IMAGES OF HINDU DEITIES DCW issues notice to Delhi Police

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has issued a notice to Delhi Police after it received a complaint regarding objectionable pictures of Hindu goddesses being sold on the internet...

INDIA ART FESTIVAL TO ENTHRALL DELHI

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: A breathtaking burst of colours and an unmatched celebration of boundless creativity awaits art enthusiasts as the India Art Festival makes its grand return in the national capital...

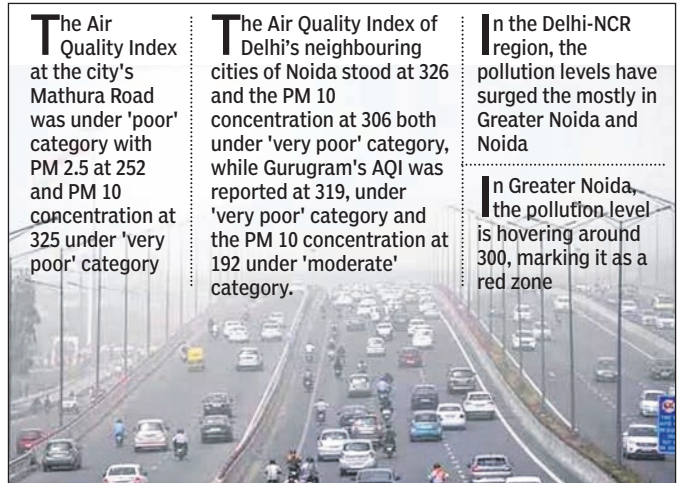
Founded in 2011, the India Art Festival, with its presence in Mumbai and Bangalore as well, has emerged as a premier contemporary art fair in India...

captivating beauty. "Feminine energy and divinity being at the core of this series, I have brought out my interpretations of the modern Indian woman - bejewelled, possessing every luxury..."

Delhi air quality deteriorates

According to the forecast from the SAFAR, the air quality of the city will deteriorate further under the 'very poor' category with PM 2.5 reaching 328 and the PM 10 concentration at 226 under 'poor' category Monday

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: The air quality in the national capital continued to remain in the 'very poor' category as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city reached 322 Sunday morning...



The Air Quality Index at the city's Mathura Road was under 'poor' category with PM 2.5 at 252 and PM 10 concentration at 325 under 'very poor' category. In the Delhi-NCR region, the pollution levels have surged the mostly in Greater Noida and Noida...

mechanical sweeping machines are cleaning around 340 km of roads every day. An anti-smog tower has been installed in Sector 16A of Noida. This tower aims to purify the air within a one sq. km. radius...



GEARING UP: Women shop at a market ahead of the 'Karva Chauth', in Jammu

J&K: Village women working overtime to make cow dung diyas for Diwali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU, Oct 29: A group of rural women in Jammu and Kashmir are toiling hard to make diyas of cow dung to ensure an eco-friendly Diwali. A young social activist-turned-entrepreneur has taken the initiative...



for puja since time immemorial. Our objective is to empower village women and safeguard the environment by producing eco-friendly products like idols and cow dung diyas. Last year, we sold 8,000 pieces of diyas made of cow dung...

them with locally available raw material to make both plain and attractive diyas. "Diyas made of cow dung are different from earthen diyas. It is burnt completely and the ash or the product can be used as insecticide or fertilizer..."

'Yamuna Yatra' kicks off

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, Oct 29: Several organisations in the city Saturday flagged off a nine-day 'Yamuna Yatra' foot march to draw the attention of the authorities and people towards the issue of Yamuna river pollution.

PAK SHELLING Border residents take to cleaning bunkers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ARNIA (J&K), Oct 29: Days after Pakistan Rangers violated ceasefire by targeting forward posts and villages along the International border here, the border residents have taken to cleaning underground bunkers, constructed over the years, to take shelter in.



ernment later sanctioned additional bunkers, in excess of 4,000, for the vulnerable population. The shelling 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 around seven hours...

with both sides highlighting the need to maintain ceasefire in the larger interest of peace and tranquility on the border. "After 2018, our villages were pounded with mortars but we could not use most of the bunkers as we paid no attention to their cleaning..."

ITI toppers felicitated in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, Oct 29: In a first, toppers from 72 trades taught at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Jammu and Kashmir were felicitated at a convocation ceremony held here Sunday.

the national level." The trades have been introduced as per the requirement of the industry, Bhagat said. "We have introduced Surya Mitra, Smart City technician courses, food technology. We are introducing new branches like robotics and artificial intelligence..."



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with farm workers at a paddy field in Chhattisgarh



A farmer burns stubble in a paddy field on the outskirts of Amritsar



Devotees immerse an idol of Goddess Lakshmi in Ganga in Kolkata



A member of the Lebanese Islamic group kicks a burning Israeli flag during a rally organised by the Islamic Group in Lebanon and the Islamic militant group Hamas in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza, in Beirut, Lebanon



Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore speaks after she was conferred with the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) University's highest award 'Imtiaz-e-Jamia' during the 103rd foundation day function of the university in Delhi



Army personnel show their skill at the Ex-Servicemen Rally organised by DAO Division of Army in Dibrugarh



A Taiwanese woman rides a merry-go-round during a Halloween celebration at Taipei Children's Amusement Park in Taipei, Taiwan

of the day quote

The Modi government bulldozed amendments to the Forest Conservation Act during the monsoon session of Parliament that evoked tremendous opposition and outrage across the country, even more so in the northeast. The Congress promises that the first session of the new Mizoram Assembly led by the party will pass a new bill that guarantees to protect the land, forests and rights of the state's tribal people

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

Kashmir has been the land of Sufism and communal harmony where for centuries, the spirit of goodwill and brotherhood has flourished. Kashmir's heritage of co-existence is also centuries old, but in the last few decades, it had become plagued by terrorism. But, now Kashmir is changing

MANOJ SINHA | J&K LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to return for a third term with a clear majority in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

SC to hear Chadha's plea today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday a petition filed by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghu Chadha challenging his indefinite suspension from the Rajya Sabha. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud had on October 16 sought a response from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on Chadha's plea. The apex court had also sought assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani in adjudicating the issue.

Jaishankar to visit Portugal, Italy

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will pay a four-day visit to Portugal and Italy from Tuesday with an aim to further bolster India's bilateral ties with the two key European nations. In the first leg of the trip, Jaishankar will visit Portugal on October 31 and November 1, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The external affairs minister will be in Italy on November 2 and 3.

60-yr-old labourer beaten to death

Chaibasa (Jharkhand): A 60-year-old labourer was allegedly beaten to death by his three neighbours, including a woman, in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, following an altercation over his behaviour in an inebriated state, police said Sunday. The incident occurred in Pongra village under the Karaikele Police Station limits on Saturday night when three villagers beat him with sticks, iron rods and stones, a senior officer said.

Man kills relative

Thane: A man allegedly beat a close relative to death and injured her 14-year-old son following a quarrel in Maharashtra's Thane city, police said Sunday. The police arrested Sanju Vilas Lokhande (30) in the early hours of the day under sections 302 (murder) and 307 (attempted murder) of the Indian Penal Code, an official said. The accused allegedly attacked his relative Durga Anil Kunte (40), a resident of a chawl in the Kokani Pada area, with an iron pipe on Saturday evening and injured her 14-year-old son Yash, he said. The accused, who hails from Talegaon in Pune, had quarrelled with the woman for a petty reason on Friday, the official said.

HAMAS-ISRAEL CONFLICT

Modi, El-Sisi bat for peace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi discussed the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation arising out of the Israel-Hamas conflict and agreed on the need for early restoration of peace and stability in the region.

In a phone conversation on Saturday, the two leaders shared their concern over terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives and emphasised on facilitating humanitarian assistance to those in need. Modi and El-Sisi also deliberated on the implications of the current situation for West Asia and the world, according to an Indian read-out.

"Yesterday, spoke with President @AlsisiOfficial.



Exchanged views on the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in West Asia," Modi posted on 'X' Sunday. "We share concerns regarding terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives. We agree on the need for early restoration of peace

and stability and facilitating humanitarian assistance," he said. Modi had held phone conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas in view of the conflict that was trig-

Kerala blast: Security beefed up in Delhi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: Security was beefed-up around churches and at metro stations in the national capital in the wake of the Kerala convention centre blast on Sunday.

A senior police officer, who requested anonymity, said security has been tightened across main markets, churches, metro stations, bus stands, railway stations, and other public places.

"Teams have been informed to put barricades on the border area from Uttar Pradesh side and Haryana side. Police in civil dress, riders and PCRs have been asked to stay on alert and not to

ignore any information they receive," the officer said.

"We are already keeping strict vigil in overcrowded markets. Extra platoon deployment has already been done considering the festival season," the person said.

On Sunday, a blast ripped through a convention centre in Kerala's Kalamassery, killing a woman and wounding 36 others. The blast occurred during the convention of the Jehovah's Witnesses - a Christian religious group that originated in the United States of America in the 19th century. According to sources, the Special Cell of Delhi Police is in continuous touch with central agencies.

SL navy arrests 37 TN fishermen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 29: As many as 37 Tamil Nadu fishermen were arrested and five of their fishing trawlers were seized by the Sri Lankan navy after they allegedly strayed into Lankan territorial waters, a fisheries official here said Sunday.

The men were apprehended during an operation by the Lankan navy Saturday night. This month alone, 10 fishing boats and 64 fishermen from the state have been apprehended by the Sri Lankan navy.

Taking up the issue with the Centre, Chief Minister M K Stalin urged Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to initiate necessary steps to secure the release all the fishermen and their fishing boats.

Drawing the Central minister's attention to the apprehension of the 37 fishermen along with their five fishing boats by the Sri Lankan navy on October 28, the chief minister said, "As you are aware, our fishermen are solely dependent on their fishing activity for livelihood and these frequent arrests are causing

immense distress and suffering to the fishermen community."

In a letter to Jaishankar on Sunday, a copy of which was made available to the media here, Stalin said such acts of the Sri Lankan navy have put pressure on fishermen communities in the state, and instilled panic into their minds.

"I wish to state that Tamil Nadu fishermen feel that their voices are on the wane; and I feel that the Government of India should stand more vocally for our fishermen's rights and speak for their safety," he said.

The chief minister reiterated the demand to protect the traditional fishing rights of Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay region. Despite the persistent demand to stop the arrests and seizure of boats, the Sri Lankan navy has continued to apprehend Indian fishermen, he said in the letter and called for "solid diplomatic initiatives without further delay to end the arrests."

ged by unprecedented attacks on Israel by Hamas militants on October 7. Israel has launched a massive counter-offensive.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two leaders discussed the current situation in West Asia and its implications for the region and the world. "Both leaders expressed their shared concern at terrorism, violence and loss of civilian lives. The prime minister reiterated India's long-standing and principled position on the Israel-Palestine issue," it said.

The MEA said the prime minister highlighted India's development partnership and humanitarian aid for the people of Palestine. "The two leaders agreed on the need for early restoration of peace and stability and facilitating humanitarian as-

sistance," it said in a statement. There has been mounting global concerns over the plight of civilians in Gaza in view of Israel's retaliatory attacks. India on October 22 sent over 38 tonnes of relief material, including medicines and medical equipment, for the people of Palestine.

A statement issued by the Egyptian side said President El-Sisi received a phone call from Prime Minister Modi and the two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip.

They also discussed the gravity of the continuation of the current escalation, given its formidable impact on the lives of civilians and the threat it poses to the security of the entire region, it said.



■ THE MEN WERE APPREHENDED DURING AN OPERATION BY THE LANKAN NAVY SATURDAY NIGHT

■ THIS MONTH ALONE, 10 FISHING BOATS AND 64 FISHERMEN FROM THE STATE HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED BY THE SRI LANKAN NAVY

Jaishankar has announced that fast-unto-death protests will begin in villages across Maharashtra from Sunday if the state government fails to act on the pending demand of the Maratha community.

The Maharashtra government's stated position is that it is committed to granting the reservation to the Maratha community which stands legal scrutiny.

NCP leaders meet Maha Governor over Maratha quota demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 29: A delegation of the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar faction) Sunday met Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais urging him to direct the state government to intervene in the quota agitation by the Maratha community.



The delegation comprised NCP working president Supriya Sule, state NCP chief Jayant Patil, and party leader Jitendra Awhad. Jayant Patil said leaders of Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will meet the governor again on Monday.

"We demand that the Maratha community be given reservation at the earliest. The Governor must speak to the state and central governments in this regard. We urged the Governor to communicate with the Centre about the situation. There are many committees set up but no firm decision has been taken," Patil posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Maratha community has been staging protests seeking reservation in the government jobs and education under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. The agitation intensified after quota activist Manoj Jarange sat on an indefinite fast from October 25 as part of the second phase of the protest. On his appeal, many villages have banned the entry of political leaders.

Jaishankar has announced that fast-unto-death protests will begin in villages across Maharashtra from Sunday if the state government fails to act on the pending demand of the Maratha community.

The Maharashtra government's stated position is that it is committed to granting the reservation to the Maratha community which stands legal scrutiny.

7 of family killed in accident

The accident took place between Lakhuwali and Shergarh on the Mega Highway Saturday night when the family was returning home from a birthday function

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 29: Seven members of a family, including four women, were killed and two others were injured in a head-on collision between a car and a truck in Rajasthan's Hanumangarh district, police said Sunday.

The accident took place between Lakhuwali and Shergarh on the Mega Highway Saturday night when the family was returning home from a birthday function about four kilometers away in Adarsh Nagar village. All the victims were residents of Naurangdesar village in Hanumangarh.

SHO Ved Pal said those killed were identified as Paramjeet Kaur (60), Khushvinder Singh (25), his wife Paramjeet Kaur

(22), son Manjot Singh (5), Rampal (36), his wife Reena (35) and daughter Reet (12).

The injured, who have been identified as Akashdeep Singh (14) and Manraj Kaur (2), were referred to a hospital in Bikaner. Their condition is stated to be critical, police said. He said that bodies were handed over to the family members after a post-mortem.

The truck driver is being searched for as he fled from the spot after the accident.

Police said the preliminary investigation has revealed the truck was trying to overtake from the wrong direction.

The accident was so severe that the car turned into a metal heap. The front of the car was so badly damaged that it took time to get the bodies out and take the injured to the hospital.

"The death of seven people in a road accident in Hanumangarh is very sad. I pray to god for peace to the souls of the deceased and courage to the families. I appeal to everyone to be extremely careful while driving on the road. One small mistake gives lifelong pain to everyone," Gehlot said on X.



BJP may pitch ex-CMs in LS polls

Even as the BJP is engaged in a bitter battle in five state assembly polls and fielding sitting MPs, its top leadership is toying with the idea of fielding some former Chief Ministers during the May 2024 Lok Sabha polls. If

reports are to be believed, former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jairam Thakur may be fielded from the Mandi Lok Sabha seat. He has high credibility and is a trusted man of the RSS. He is being considered to be brought to national politics. Similarly, former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai may also be brought to the national politics and may be fielded during the Lok Sabha polls. There are reports that former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani may be asked to contest the Lok Sabha polls. The former Tripura CM Biplob Kumar Deb is also being considered for the same though currently he is a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Modi's new milestone

Prime Minister Modi has crossed another milestone when he broke his predecessor Manmohan Singh's record of foreign visits. If Manmohan Singh undertook 73 foreign visits during ten years, Prime Minister Modi did 74 visits in nine years and five months in office. Modi is set to undertake another half a dozen foreign tours during the remaining seven months of his second term. If Manmohan Singh's first trip was to Thailand to attend the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic

Cooperation) Summit on July 29, 2004, Modi began his maiden foreign visit to Bhutan on June 15-16, 2014 after assuming office. If Singh concluded his final visit to Myanmar on March 3, 2014, Modi's last visit was to Indonesia, where he attended the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) in September. It also emerged that Modi has spent fewer days abroad than his predecessor (270 days versus Singh's 306) and has travelled more extensively and actively than any other Indian PM. Singh undertook 35 visits abroad in his first term and 38 in his second. Modi embarked on 49 overseas visits in his first term, which

dropped to 25 foreign visits in his second term which included two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. Interestingly, Modi has visited Nepal five times, while Singh could not visit Kathmandu even once. Modi became the first PM with his visit to Israel in July 2017 and Palestine a year later.

Fissures put Nagpur rally in limbo

With fissures out in the open in INDIA bloc parties over sharing of seats in the on-going Assembly polls, the fate of the first major rally to be held in Nagpur is in limbo. The bitterness

among the Opposition parties escalated with Madhya Pradesh Congress Chief Kamal Nath and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav blasting each other in public and spilled over elsewhere. The Congress high command may be keen to put the rift in a slow lane but it is in no hurry to stitch state alliances. Reason: these smaller parties win a handful of seats and their MLAs switch sides at will without caring for their parties. Therefore, sharing seats with them is like giving it to the BJP which has mastered the art of buying MLAs in any state they like. All this bickering has put the proposed Nagpur rally on the back-burner.

international



I give full backing to all the heads of the security services. I am sending strength to the [IDF] chief of staff and the commanders and soldiers of the IDF who are on the frontlines and fighting for our home
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

MARATHONERS GO MASKLESS

Runners undeterred by thick smog engulfing the Chinese capital ran the Beijing Marathon maskless Sunday, many wearing shorts in one of the warmest Octobers on record. Despite a greyish brown smog settling, some 30,000 marathoners set off at 7:30 a.m. (2330 GMT) from Tiananmen Square on the route through four districts of the Chinese capital over 42.195 km (26.2 miles)



of the day quote

We have law to deal with terrorism, we have law to deal with hate crime, we don't have a body of law to deal with extremism and that is creating a gap

MARK ROWLEY | COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OF THE METROPOLIS

Tunisia doesn't want to be Europe's border guard to slow migration

KAIS SAIED | TUNISIA'S PRESIDENT

New Zealand will contribute to the leadership of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) again in the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt

ANDREW LITTLE | NEW ZEALAND POLITICIAN

SHORT TAKES

12 die in plane crash

Rio De Janeiro: Twelve people aboard a small aircraft died in a crash Sunday morning in Brazil's Amazon region. The plane went down near the main airport in Rio Branco, the capital of Acre state, according to the press office of Gov. Gladson Cameli. Video supposedly of the crash site on social media showed flaming wreckage in the forest.

Thousands rally in Pakistan

Islamabad: Thousands of supporters of Pakistan's main politico-religious party rallied in the capital, Islamabad, Sunday against Israel's bombing of Palestinians in Gaza, chanting anti-American slogans and accusing the US of "backing the aggressor." The extreme right party, Jamaat-e-Islami, had announced a march from Islamabad's famous Abpara intersection to the US embassy in the high-security diplomatic enclave.

Kazakhstan mine fire death toll rises to 42

London: The death toll from a fire at a coal mine in Kazakhstan rose to 42 Sunday, with four people still missing, the press service of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Emergency Situations said. It added that rescue operations were being "hampered by the presence of destroyed mining equipment, as well as rubble in some places." The fire broke out on Saturday at the Kostenko mine, which is owned by Luxembourg-based steel giant ArcelorMittal and located in Kazakhstan's Karaganda region.

UK, France stress need to get aid into Gaza

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and French President Emmanuel Macron expressed their concern about getting aid into Gaza and the risks of the Israel-Hamas war spreading, Downing Street said after the leaders spoke by phone Sunday. Israeli forces have expanded their ground operations in Gaza while their fighter jets have struck hundreds more Hamas targets in what Israel called the second phase of a three-week-old war. Sunak and Macron have both visited Israel and neighbouring countries since the deadly rampage by Hamas gunmen in Israel early this month that triggered the conflict. According to a readout by Macron's office, the leaders also reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself within the limits of international law and the importance of finding a way to release the hostages held by Hamas.

Israel widens ground offensive

Israeli forces are expanding ground operations in Gaza while their fighter jets have struck hundreds more Hamas targets, the Israeli military said Sunday, in what Netanyahu has called the second phase of a three-week-old war

AGENCIES

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Oct 29: Thousands of people broke into aid warehouses in Gaza to take flour and basic hygiene products, a UN agency said Sunday, in a mark of growing desperation and the breakdown of public order three weeks into the war between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

Tanks and infantry pushed into Gaza over the weekend as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a "second stage" in the war, three weeks after Hamas launched a brutal incursion into Israel. The widening ground offensive came as Israel also pounded the territory from air, land and sea.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the death toll among Palestinians has passed 8,000 — mostly women and minors. It's a toll without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence, and one that is expected to climb even more rapidly as Israel presses its ground offensive.

The bombardment over the weekend — described by Gaza residents as the most intense of the war — knocked out most communications in the territory late Friday, largely cutting off the besieged enclave's 2.3 million people from the world. Communications were restored to much of Gaza early Sunday.

The Israeli military said Sunday it had struck over 450 militant targets over the past 24 hours, including Hamas com-



A view of the remains of a mosque and houses destroyed by Israeli strikes in the central Gaza Strip

WHO chief expresses concern over hospital evacuation report

EU aid official appeals for unhindered humanitarian access

Large pro-Palestinian rally takes place in Beirut

mand centres, observation posts and anti-tank missile launching positions. It said more ground forces were sent into Gaza overnight.

Thomas White, a spokesperson for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said the warehouse break-ins were "a worrying sign that civil order is starting to break down after three weeks of war and a tight siege on Gaza. People are scared, frustrated and desperate," he said.

UNRWA provides basic services to hundreds of thousands of

people in Gaza. Its schools across the territory have been transformed into packed shelters housing Palestinians displaced by the conflict. Israel has allowed only a small trickle of aid to enter from Egypt, some of which was stored in one of the warehouses that was broken into, UNRWA said.

Juliette Touma, a spokesperson for the agency, said the crowds broke into four facilities on Saturday. She said the warehouses did not contain any fuel, which has been in critically short supply since Israel cut off all shipments after the start of the war.

Residents living near Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest, meanwhile said Israeli airstrikes

overnight hit near the hospital complex and blocked many roads leading to it. Israel accuses Hamas of having a secret command post beneath the hospital, without providing much evidence. Tens of thousands of civilians are sheltering in Shifa, which is also packed with patients wounded in the strikes. "Reaching the hospital has become increasingly difficult," Mahmoud al-Sawah, who is sheltering in the hospital, said over the phone. "It seems they want to cut off the area." Another Gaza City resident, Abdallah Sayed, said the Israeli bombing over the past two days was "the most violent and intense" since the war started.

The army recently released computer-generated images showing what it said were Hamas installations in and around Shifa Hospital, as well as interrogations of captured Hamas fighters who might have been speaking under duress. Israel has made similar claims before, but has not substantiated them.

Little is known about Hamas' tunnels and other infrastructure, and the claims could not be independently verified. Hamas' government denied the allegations and said they were aimed at justifying future strikes on the facility.

3 killed in political violence in B'desh



Unidentified miscreants set a public bus on fire during the strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 29: Three people were killed Sunday in clashes between supporters of the main opposition BNP and the ruling Awami League during a nationwide general strike, heightening tensions in Bangladesh ahead of the general elections expected in January.

According to police, one activist of the BNP was killed after falling from an under-construction building in Dhaka's Mohammadpur area when he tried to escape after setting a bus on fire.

BNP leaders, however, claimed that the deceased was returning home after the rally when rival Awami League activists whisked him to the building from where he was thrown on the ground while police stood as onlookers.

Police said one Awami League activist was killed in clashes during demonstrations by rival parties in the northwestern Lalmonirhat district.

Fire service and police said a bus driver's assistant was killed

and another injured when unidentified miscreants set on fire a bus in a pre-dawn attack at the Demra area on the outskirts of the city.

A senior journalist, Rafiq Bhuiyan, who suffered injuries during clashes between police and opposition activists in Dhaka's Kakrail area on Saturday, succumbed to his injuries on Sunday.

According to media reports, several passenger buses were damaged or set on fire in the capital and elsewhere in the country throughout the day.

The development came a day after deadly clashes left two people, including a policeman, dead and over 200 wounded. Several ambulances, other vehicles, including motorbikes, entering the frontal part of Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital and a police booth were burnt.

Earlier in the day, police arrested BNP secretary general or de facto party chief Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir from his home in the Gulshan neighbourhood, heightening tensions.

'PATH TOWARDS XI-BIDEN MEETING NOT SMOOTH'



AGENCIES

Beijing, Oct 29: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the "road to the San Francisco summit will not be a smooth one", the foreign ministry said Sunday, in a reference to an expected meeting between President Xi Jinping and US President Joe Biden.

Wang met Biden and his top aides in Washington in recent days, agreeing to work together toward the expected bilateral meeting on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit.

A flurry of bilateral diplomatic engagements in recent months, largely at US request, has aimed at salvaging what were rapidly deteriorating ties early in the year following the US downing of an alleged

Chinese spy balloon. But in remarks Saturday, Wang cautioned the road to the summit would not be a smooth one and travelling there would not be on "autopilot", the ministry said in a statement.

He was speaking after a discussion with members of the U.S. strategic community in Washington, the ministry said.

Last month, China's top security agency suggested any Xi-Biden meeting in San Francisco hinged on the US "showing sufficient sincerity".

Wang said China and the US needed to "return to Bali", referring to the last meeting between Biden and Xi, on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit on the Indonesian resort island last November, where they discussed Taiwan, competition and communication.

Saturday's discussions also included in-depth exchanges on the interaction between China and US militaries, finance, science and technology, China's investment environment and market access, as well as the Middle East and Ukraine crises.



Turkey's army soldiers parade as part of celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the creation of the modern, secular Turkish Republic, in Istanbul, Turkey. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government has opted for a low-key celebration of the centennial, which comes months after a devastating earthquake that killed 50,000 people and coincides with the Israeli-Hamas war that has roiled the Middle East

Sunscreen gives 'false sense of security': Research

ACCORDING TO THE STUDY PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL CANCERS, SUNSCREEN USE IS INCREASING, BUT SO ARE MELANOMA AND SKIN CANCER RATES, WHICH THE RESEARCHERS SAY, IS THE "SUNSCREEN PARADOX"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington/New Delhi, Oct 29: Despite the importance of sunscreen, researchers said that it is also the least effective way to protect your skin when compared to sun-protective clothing and sun avoidance.

According to the study published in the journal Cancers, sunscreen use is increasing, but so are melanoma and skin cancer rates, which the researchers say, is the "sunscreen paradox".

"The problem is that people use sunscreen as a 'permission slip' to tan. People think they are protected from skin cancer because they are using a product marketed to prevent a condition," said Dr Ivan Litvinov, associate Professor at McGill University, Canada.

Most people don't apply enough sunscreen or stay in the sun for hours after applying sun-



screen in the morning, which gives them a "false sense of security", he added.

To understand the factors between varying incidence rates of melanoma, the researchers conducted two studies.

In the first study, they found

that Canadians living in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island — provinces with high melanoma incidence rates — were more likely to report using sun protection, more aware of the health risks of sun exposure, and more apt to follow the UV index.

Despite this, they also received more sun exposure due to warmer temperatures and a tendency to engage in outdoor activities.

Similarly, in the second study of the UK Biobank, the researchers documented that sunscreen use was surprisingly associated with a more than two-fold risk of developing skin cancer.

"These combined findings suggest a sunscreen paradox, whereby individuals with higher levels of sun exposure also tend to use more but not an adequate quantity of sunscreen or other sun-protection measures, providing a false sense of security," Litvinov said.

Interventions to address knowledge and practice gaps in sun protection and skin cancer prevention must consider this sunscreen paradox and the unique norms of communities around the world, he added.

UN chief meets Nepal Prez, PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Oct 29: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Sunday praised Nepal's long tradition of championing peace and multilateralism as he met the country's top leadership, including Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', on his maiden visit to the Himalayan nation.

Guterres, who arrived in Nepal early Sunday on a four-day official visit, also called on President Ramchandra Paudel at the President House and held separate meetings with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Purna Bahadur Khadka and Foreign Minister N P Saund.

The UN chief began his Nepal visit by extending condolences to the families of the 10 Nepalese students killed in the Hamas attacks in Israel, and once again called for the protection of all civilians in Gaza, where, he said, "the situation is growing more desperate by the hour."

business



A vision plan is being prepared for India to become a developed economy of about \$30 trillion by 2047. The whole purpose of the vision document is to avoid the middle-income trap
BVR SUBRAHMANYAM | CEO, NITI AAYOG

DHONI SBI'S NEW BRAND AMBASSADOR

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) Sunday announced its collaboration with cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its official brand ambassador. As the brand ambassador of SBI, Dhoni will play a pivotal role in various marketing and promotional campaigns, the bank said in a statement



X unveils two new premium sub plans

WASHINGTON, Oct 29: Elon Musk's social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, rolled out two new subscription plans, including a Premium+ tier for users willing to pay for an ad-free experience. The Premium+ plan, priced at about \$16 per month, includes all the tools and features offered by the platform, minus the ads, the company said in a post on the platform. It will, however, be available for users accessing the platform through a web browser for now, it added. The basic tier is priced at \$3 per month but is not ad-free. X is also planning to bundle video and audio calling for some users, in a push to turn the platform into an everything app. Musk has been exploring several options to extensively monetize the social media platform, which he acquired for \$44 billion in October 2022.

INSOLVENCY PROCESS Radio Mirchi, Orange in race to buy Big FM

RELIANCE BROADCAST NETWORK LTD OWNED BY BIG FM IS THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST RADIO NETWORK WITH 58 STATIONS AND REACHES OUT TO OVER 1,200 TOWNS AND OVER 50,000 VILLAGES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: Leading FM radio network Radio Mirchi, a part of Entertainment Network India Limited (ENIL) and Radio Orange have bid Rs 251 crore to acquire BIG FM radio network, sources said.

Haryana-based Sapphire FM is the other bidder in the race for BIG FM, which is undergoing an insolvency process.

Incidentally, Sapphire FM has also made a bid of ₹251 crore for Big FM. Both the bidders - Radio Mirchi & Orange FM consortium and Sapphire FM - have offered to pay the bid amount within 30 days.

Sources close to the process also revealed that the lenders are likely to ask both the bidders to revise their bids upward. Also, ₹60 crore cash lying in the company's accounts will also go to the lenders, they said.

After considering the cash at Big FM, the total recovery for lenders could be as high as 55 to 60 per cent against the total admitted claims of ₹578 crore.

Reliance Broadcast Network Ltd (RBNL) owned by BIG FM is



the country's largest radio network with 58 stations and reaches out to over 1,200 towns and over 50,000 villages. In February this year, RBNL, on the plea of IDBI Trusteeship Services Ltd, was admitted to insolvency. According to the insolvency ap-

plication filed by IDBI Trusteeship Services on behalf of L&T Investment Management Limited, RBNL failed to repay a debt of ₹175 crore.

Of the total admitted claims of the lenders of ₹578 crore, IndusInd Bank's claim is ₹172 crore, HSBC Asset Management ₹238 crore, Franklin Templeton MF ₹103 crore and Reliance Commercial Finance's claim ₹64 crore.

According to the insolvency application filed by IDBI Trusteeship Services on behalf of L&T Investment Management

Limited, Reliance Broadcast Network failed to clear financial debt of ₹175 crore. L&T Investment Management Limited had subscribed to NCDs worth ₹200 crore issued by Reliance Broadcast in three tranches in 2015 and 2016.

IDBI Trustee Services acted as the trustee for L&T Investment Management Services, while Reliance Capital acted as the guarantor for Reliance Broadcast Network. At the time of redemption of the NCDs in 2020, Reliance Broadcast failed to make the payment.

FPIs exit equities for 2nd month in a row

FPIs emerge net sellers as they withdraw ₹20,300cr from equities; invests ₹7,080cr in debt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have pulled out over Rs 20,300 crore from Indian equities this month so far, primarily due to a sharp surge in the US treasury yield, and the uncertain environment resulting from the Israel-Hamas conflict.

However, the story takes an intriguing turn on observing FPI activity in Indian debt as they have infused Rs 6,080 crore into the debt market during the period under review, data with the depositories showed.

According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) sold shares to the tune of Rs 20,356 crore this month (till October 27). This outflow figure might get broadened as there are two trading sessions left in this month. This came after Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)

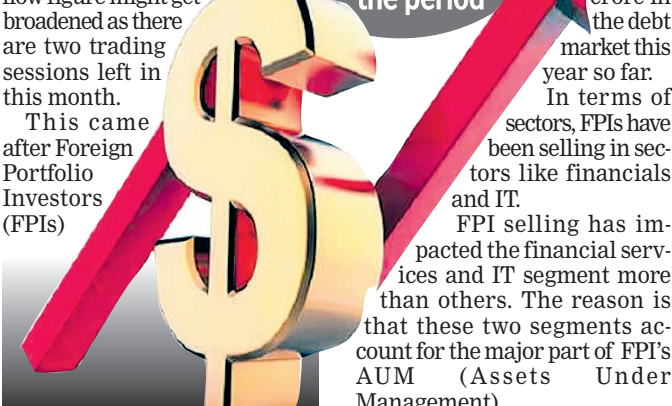
turned net sellers in September and pulled out Rs 14,767 crore. They have emerged as net sellers for the second consecutive month in October.

"Sharp surge in the US treasury yield during the week was the primary reason for FPIs pulling out of the Indian equity markets. The yield on 10-year US treasury bonds crossed the psychological barrier of 5 per cent on Monday for the first time in 16 years," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director-Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Adviser India, said.

In the current scenario, experts believe that there could be an enhanced focus on safe-haven assets such as gold and US dollars.

With this, the total investment by FPIs in equity has reached Rs 1 lakh crore and over Rs 35,200 crore in the debt market this year so far.

In terms of sectors, FPIs have been selling in sectors like financials and IT. FPI selling has impacted the financial services and IT segment more than others. The reason is that these two segments account for the major part of FPI's AUM (Assets Under Management).



of the day quote
 From the government side we are very clear. We would like telecom service to continue to remain the most affordable in the entire world and today among all large economies India's telecom sector is the most affordable telecom sector
ASHWINI VAISHNAV | UNION TELECOM MINISTER

Interest rates will remain high. How long will they remain high, I think only time and the way the world is evolving will tell
AMITABH CHAUDHRY | MD AND CEO, AXIS BANK

Our strategy is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. To achieve that, we have milestones set for 2030-35 and 2040. For Honda, the Indian market is a big market and it is the market where electrification is rapidly progressing for both cars and two-wheelers
TOSHIRO MIBE | PRESIDENT AND CEO, HONDA MOTOR

Q2 RESULTS
TVS Credit net grows
Chennai: Non-banking finance company TVS Credit Services Ltd has posted a profit after tax for the July-September quarter at ₹134 crore up by 40 per cent. The company had registered a net profit of ₹96 crore during the corresponding quarter of last financial year. For the six month period ended September 30, 2023 the net profit stood at ₹252 crore, the company said Sunday. The assets under management as of September 2023 grew to ₹23,516 crore from ₹20,602 crore registered in the same period of last year. Total income during the quarter under review was ₹1,399 crore.

Blue Dart struggles
New Delhi: Indian courier services provider Blue Dart Express posted a drop in profit for the fourth quarter in a row, hurt by increased expenses and muted demand. The company, controlled by Deutsche Post, said consolidated net profit fell nearly 22% to ₹730.6 million in the second quarter. Logistic companies have been buffeted by a decline in freight rates, increased competition and higher prices of jet fuel, which accounts for a large part of their costs.

MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT INTENSIFIES

Investors on edge

US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision and deteriorating global cues are the major triggers that will dictate trends in stock markets this week

REUTERS

New York, Oct 29: Investors are watching for signs that the conflict in the Middle East may escalate over the weekend, potentially ratcheting up volatility as investors await a Federal Reserve meeting and key US data in the week ahead.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday that Israeli forces had unleashed the second phase of the Gaza war as they pressed ground operations against Hamas militants.

Investors have grown more worried about a widening conflict in recent days after the US dispatched more military assets to the Middle East while Israel attacked targets in Gaza and Hamas supporters in Lebanon and Syria.

"The situation in Israel is ... causing a lot of anxiety," said Randy Frederick, managing director of trading and derivatives for Charles Schwab.

On Friday, Brent futures settled up 2.9% at \$90.48 a barrel on concerns the conflict could disrupt crude supplies. Spot gold, a popular safe haven for nervous investors, vaulted over \$2,000 for the first time since mid-May.

In a note Friday, analysts at Capital Economics said the oil market's response to the con-



SPOT GOLD VAULTED OVER \$2K FIRST TIME SINCE MID-MAY

OIL MARKET'S RESPONSE TO THE CONFLICT "MUTED" SO FAR

If an escalation of the conflict causes the US to increase war-related spending that raises the deficit, Treasury yields could rise beyond the 16-year highs they already have hit

Sensex, Nifty Friday reversed their six-session losing streak and rebounded more than 1%

PETER CARDILLO | CHIEF MARKET ECONOMIST, SPARTAN CAPITAL SECURITIES

usual safe-haven function," UBS Global Wealth Management said in a note Friday. "However, an escalation of the conflict would likely shift attention away from monetary policy concerns and boost safe-haven demand for Treasuries."

Both gold and oil can also provide hedges against near-term volatility, they said.

The Choe Volatility index has climbed in the wake of the conflict and rose Friday, approaching seven-month highs.

The Federal Reserve is set to give its latest monetary policy statement Wednesday, while Apple's quarterly results highlights another busy week of corporate reports.

India seeks clarity on e-commerce trade in goods, services in WTO

INDIA WILL AGAIN OPPOSE THE CONTINUATION OF THE MORATORIUM ON CUSTOMS DUTIES ON E-COMMERCE TRADE AT THE 13TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE WTO IN ABU DHABI IN FEB NEXT YEAR, SAYS AN OFFICIAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: India has asked the WTO members to work on a clear definition of e-commerce trade in goods and services as it would help provide developing countries a policy space to make decisions on the fast-growing sector, an official said.

At present, there is a difference of understanding about the subject between developed and developing member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The issue came up for discussion during a recent meeting of senior officials of WTO members in Geneva last week.

"India stated that the definition should be clear about digital goods and services because customs duties are there on goods and not on services. The Western world wants no customs duties, and on the other

hand, developing countries want that policy space to impose the duties," the official said. Customs duties help protect domestic industries and provide a policy space to support the growth of MSMEs.

Though certain WTO members have been discussing the e-commerce issue since 1998, there is no clear-cut definition of the subject. A group of 80 countries are discussing an agreement on the subject, but India is not part of that. The US has also recently opted out of those talks to frame global rules on e-commerce at the WTO.

"Now, goods and services are embedded, then there is a definitional problem. For example, Netflix is showing a film in India. So, the film is a product, but the membership that Netflix is taking to show the film is a service. So, it is very difficult to make that distinction between goods and

services," the official, who did not wish to be named, said.

The WTO members have agreed not to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions since 1998, and the moratorium has been periodically extended at successive ministerial conferences (MC), the highest decision-making body of the 164-member body.

"There is no clarity on e-commerce trade in services. So, because of the lack of clarity, there is an apprehension...To provide a level playing field, you need to impose customs duties," the official said, adding that India will again oppose the continuation of the moratorium on customs duties on e-commerce trade at the 13th ministerial conference of the WTO in Abu Dhabi in February next year.

Allowing the moratorium to lapse is important for developing nations to preserve policy space

for their digital advancement to regulate imports and generate revenue through customs duties.

CRYPTO CHALLENGE

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the rapid rise of cryptocurrencies challenges the existing WTO e-commerce framework, necessitating urgent discussions on their classification as electronic transmissions.

"Members must prioritise discussions on cryptocurrency and its possible linkages with ongoing e-commerce negotiations before members start taking liberties with interpretation leading to disputes," GTRI cofounder Ajay Srivastava said.

Currently, WTO members discuss e-commerce under a joint initiative on e-commerce and a moratorium on countries from applying customs duties on electronic transmissions.

ILLEGAL, UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Govt asks states not to impose tax/duty on power generation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 29: The central government has asked states that they have no power to impose any tax or duty on electricity generated from any source - coal, hydro, wind or solar and any such levy is illegal and unconstitutional.

In a circular, the Union Ministry of Power October 25, said it had come to the notice of the central government that some state governments had imposed additional charges on generation of electricity from various sources under the guise of development free/charges/fund.

"Such additional charges/fees in the form of any tax/duty on generation of electricity, which encompasses all types of generation viz thermal, hydro, wind, solar, nuclear etc is illegal and unconstitutional," it said.

Clarifying on the constitutional position, the ministry said the powers to levy taxes/duties are specifically stated in the VII Schedule.



tries-45 to 63. No taxes/duties which have not been specifically mentioned in this list can be levied by the state governments under any guise whatsoever - as residuary powers are with the central government," it said. Entry-53 of the List-II (State List) authorises the states to levy taxes on consumption or sale of electricity in its jurisdiction.

"This does not include the power to impose any tax or duty on the generation of electricity. This is because electricity generated within the territory of one state may be consumed in other states and no state has the

power to levy taxes/duties on residents of other states," the order said.

The ministry went on to state that Article-286 of the Constitution explicitly prohibits states from imposing any taxes/duties on supply of goods or services or on both, where the supply takes place outside the state.

Also, Articles-287 and 288 prohibit the imposition of taxes on consumption or sale of electricity consumed by the Central government or sold to the Central government for consumption by the government or its agencies.

India annihilate England

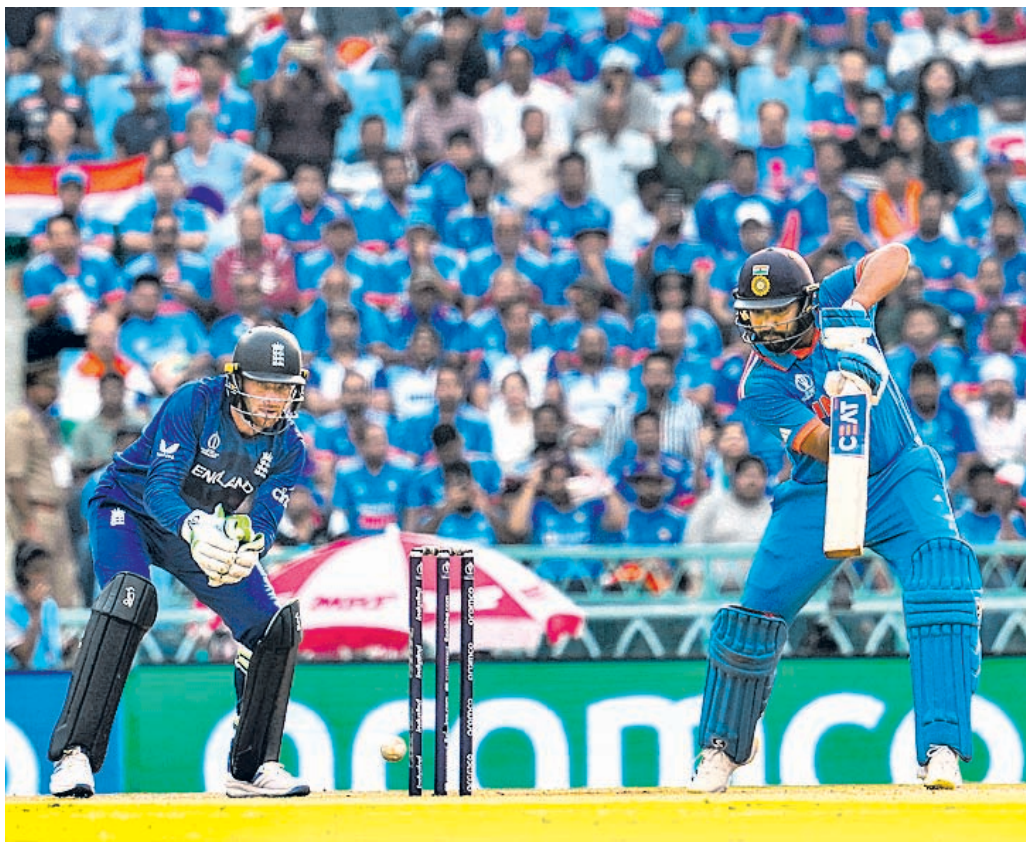
MEN IN BLUE SEAL SEMIFINAL SPOT WITH EMPHATIC 100-RUN WIN OVER ENGLAND, THEIR 6TH ON THE TROT

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Oct 29: Indian bowlers came to the party when the nation needed them Sunday during the ODI World Cup game against England here. Defending a meagre score of 229, on a challenging pitch the Indian pacers and spinners produced a superlative display to dismiss the opposition for only 129 in just 34.5 overs and win the game by 100 runs. It was India's sixth victory on the trot and assured them of a semifinal spot.

The loss for England meant that in spite of having three games in their hands, England are out of the race. Their batters did not show the gumption to fight it out in the middle. Yes, the conditions were tricky to say the least, but one expected better application from the England batters who were only chasing a target of 230.

England's top scorer was Liam Livingstone (27) who came in to bat at No 7. That in itself explains that sorry state of affairs for England. They were uncomfortable against the Indian pacers as well as the spinners. Mohammed Shami (4/22) and Jasprit Bumrah (3/32) dismantled them and then Kuldeep Yadav (2/24) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/16) did the mopping up operations. It should however be said that the bowlers were brilliant on a day when most of the Indian batters failed to come to terms with the



CAPTAIN'S KNOCK: Rohit Sharma drives through the covers during his match-winning innings against England, Sunday. PTI/PHOTO

pitch, save skipper Rohit Sharma. Rohit (87, 101b, 10x4, 3x6) produced a special effort as the hosts were restricted to 229 for nine by England. With India getting to bat first for the first time in the tournament, the batters got a good opportunity to set the target. It was, however, only Rohit and Suryakumar Yadav (49, 47b, 4x4, 1x6) who found a way to bat on a two-paced wicket.

The 91-run partnership between Rohit and KL Rahul (39, 58b, 3x4) stabilised the innings after India found themselves at

40 for three in the 12th over. In his second game of the competition, Suryakumar batted around the tail to get some much needed runs in the death overs. Chris Woakes (2/33) impressed in his seven-over spell with the new ball while leggie Adil Rashid (2/35) and left-arm pacer David Willey (3/45) too were very effective.

Application was going to be the key on the relaid red soil pitch here and Rohit put up a masterclass. After consuming six dot balls in the first over of the

game bowled by Willey, the India skipper released the pressure by smashing the left-arm pacer for a couple of sixes and a four in his following over. Rohit was all praise for the bowlers after the game. "You don't see such performances when you are defending such a small total," Rohit said.

Brief scores: India 229 for 9 (Rohit Sharma 87, Suryakumar Yadav 49, David Willey 3/45) beat England 129 (Mohammed Shami 4/22, Jasprit Bumrah 3/32) by 100 runs.

Must-win game for SL, Afghans

LOSS FOR ANY TEAM WILL RULE THEM OUT OF A SEMIFINAL SPOT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 29: Emboldened by back-to-back wins, a tenacious Sri Lanka will need to guard against complacency when they face a spirited Afghanistan in a battle for survival at the ODI World Cup here Monday. With two wins from five matches, both Sri Lanka and Afghanistan have kept alive their outside hopes of making it to the semifinals, provided they don't suffer any hiccups and also other results go their way.

After three successive defeats, Sri Lanka have revived some hopes with two convincing victories, but they will take Afghanistan lightly at their own peril, knowing well that the latter are capable of punching above their weight.

Afghanistan have sent shock waves across the world with wins over England and Pakistan and will look to knock the wind out of the sails of Sri Lanka to continue their success story.

For the Islanders, it was the result of some tight bowling, led by pacer Lahiru Kumara, and fielding that saw them dismantle defending champions England in their last game.

However, Sri Lanka suffered a big blow as Kumara was Sunday ruled out of the remainder of the World Cup with a left thigh muscle injury. Kumara suffered the niggle during a training session and the ICC technical committee approved pacer Dushmantha Chameera as his replacement. Kumara had bowled very well in the game against England, claiming three wickets. He had brought a fresh lease of life to the Sri Lankan bowling attack.

The return of experienced all-rounder Angelo Matthews has helped the bowling unit to ace the



The Afghanistan team have turned out to be a tough nut to crack

- Out of 11 meetings between the two sides, Afghanistan have won only thrice against Sri Lanka
- Afghanistan have never beaten Sri Lanka in the two World Cup matches they have played in

middle overs and Sri Lanka will hope to continue the trend.

In Kumara's absence Dilshan Madushanka and Kusan Rajitha, who have taken 11 and seven wickets so far will need to produce the goods. Maheesh Theekshana, however, hasn't really set things on fire with his spin.

In batting, Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama have emerged as two of their best ODI batters this year and the duo scripted a superlative

chase to outwit England the other day.

Afghanistan, on the other hand, are coming into the match after recording their highest successful chase in ODIs with a solid top-order display. Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz, with 224 runs, has been their best batter but Ibrahim Zadran, Hashmatullah Shahidi and Rahmat Shah have also come good in the last match and they will look to carry the confidence against the Lankans.

The spin trio of Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and Mujeeb Ur Rahman have proved their worth so far taking wickets at crucial junctures. Going by records, Afghanistan have won just thrice in 11 ODIs against Sri Lanka but never in the two meetings in the World Cup.



Liverpool player's parents kidnapped

Bogota (Colombia): The parents of Colombian and Liverpool striker Luis Diaz were kidnapped Saturday. While his mother was later rescued, his father remained missing, authorities said.

Diaz's mother, Cilenis Marulanda, was rescued by police in the city of Barrancas in the northern department of La Guajira, Colombia's President Gustavo Petro informed. The parents of the 26-year-old Diaz were reportedly kidnapped as they drove to their home. Gunmen on motorbikes stopped them and drove them away in the vehicle, authorities said. Even though Diaz has not commented on the incident, Colombia's soccer federation said in a statement that the kidnapping was regrettable. It has urged the authorities to take immediate action to trace Diaz's father.

Record 4th rugby title for Springboks

Paris: Defending champions South Africa kicked their way to a record fourth Rugby World Cup title by beating New Zealand 12-11 after All Blacks captain Sam Cane was the first player to be red-carded in a final. Flyhalf Handre Pollard Saturday scored all the points Saturday for the Springboks side that repeated their 1995 success over New Zealand and denied the All Blacks their own chance to win a fourth title in their record fifth final.

South Africa captain Siya Kolisi held the Webb Ellis Cup and said, "People who are not from South Africa don't understand what it means for our country. It is not just about the game. Our country goes through such a lot. I want to tell the people of South Africa, 'Thank you so much!'"

City triumph in Manchester derby

Manchester: Manchester City trounced arch rivals Manchester United 3-0 in a match of the Premier League played Sunday at Old Trafford. In the Manchester derby, City were by far the better team with goals coming from Erling Haaland (26th, 49th) and Phil Foden (80th). The first goal scored by Haaland was from the spot. This incidentally was United's seventh loss of the season. It means that they are now 11 points adrift of league leaders Tottenham Hotspur and in eighth place. On the other hand, City are in third position with 24 points, two behind Spurs. Even though United fought in the first half, they were completely outplayed by City in the second. Haaland scored early in the second half and after that United were more concerned about defending rather than attacking.

3rd career title for Haddad Maia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zhuhai (China), Oct 29: Beatriz Haddad Maia claimed her third career tour title by defeating seventh-seeded Zheng Qinwen 7-6 (11-9), 7-6 (7-4) to win the WTA Elite Trophy tennis tournament here Sunday.

The eighth-seeded Brazilian needed 171 minutes to edge past Zheng in a tight battle, which ended the top Chinese player's win streak at eight matches. It was the fourth successive victory for Haddad Maia. It is also Haddad Maia's first title on hard courts and first since Birmingham in 2022.

Haddad Maia's performance here was a welcome return to form for the 2023 French Open semifinalist who had only one win in three previous tournaments as part of the tour's Asia swing.

Zheng, who won the Zhengzhou Open this month and also the gold medal at the Asian Games in September, was just the second Chinese player to make the final of the WTA Elite Trophy after Wang Qiang finished runner-up to former World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty in 2018. The 12-player tournament was the first post-season event on the women's tour. It



Medvedev breaks Alcaraz's record

Vienna: Daniil Medvedev earned a personal-best 64th tour-level win of the season when he defeated long-term rival Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 7-6 (8-6) to reach the final of the Vienna Open tennis tournament for the second consecutive year Saturday. Medvedev committed just 10 unforced errors and saved all three breakpoints he faced to reach his 36th tour-level final and ninth of the season after 104 minutes. The 27-year-old, who improved to 9-4 in his head-to-head record against the Greek, has now recorded the most victories on Tour in 2023, surpassing Carlos Alcaraz (63-9). He will aim to clinch his 65th win and sixth title of the season when he meets Janik Sinner in the summit clash. Sinner defeated Andre Rublev 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) in the other semifinal.

featured the 11 highest-ranked singles players who did not qualify for next month's WTA Finals in Cancun, Mexico.

Oly dreams over for football eves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tashkent, Oct 29: The Indian women's football team's 2024 Paris Olympics dreams went up in smoke after they lost 1-3 to Vietnam in a group C match of the AFC Qualifiers second round tournament here Sunday. This is India's second successive loss. The eves had been successful 0-7 by Japan in their first game.

The three group winners and the best-ranked runners-up team in the second round advance to the third and final round.

Huyn Nhu (fourth minute), Tran Thi Hai Linh (22nd) and Pham Hai Yen (73rd) found the target for Vietnam while Sandhya Ranganathan pulled one back for India in the 80th minute. All the goals incidentally were scored from headers.

Vietnam launched a barrage of attacks in the opening exchanges and they went 2-0 up within the first 25 minutes. From then on it was always going to be hard work for India. They tried their best, but lacked the skills to do so.

Vaishali stuns former world champ Mariya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Isle of Man (UK), Oct 29: R Vaishali crashed through the defences of former world women's champion Mariya Muzychuk of Ukraine to jump to joint lead on 3.5 points after the end of the fourth round of FIDE women's Grand Swiss, a part of the World Chess Championship cycle, here Sunday.

With seven rounds still to come in the strongest Swiss event for women, Vaishali shares the lead with Tan Zhongyi of China, Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine and Assaubayeva Bibisara of Kazakhstan.

After achieving her third and final Grandmaster norm at the just-concluded Qatar Masters, it was clear that Vaishali is ready for the bigger challenges. As it turned out in the match against one of the world's best, the Chennai-based player delivered her best with yet another scintillating performance.



The Sicilian defence by Vaishali was met with the Rossolimo Sicilian but she had some opening ideas that caught Muzychuk off guard.

The resulting position was quite complicated but when it comes to calculating the deepest secret out of any position, Vaishali has shown that she is the one to be relied upon.

Muzychuk did not stand any chance as she first lost a piece and subsequently walked into a check-mate web. Amazingly, it took just 23 moves for Vaishali to seal her third victory in four games.

In the open section, GM Vidit Gujrathi continued his winning ways and recorded his third win in a row.

SHAKIB LAMENTS 'WORST EVER' SHOW

Bangla skipper agrees team were under-prepared

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 29: Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan admitted that a chaotic buildup could have resulted in their 'worst ever' World Cup campaign after they cut a sorry figure with an 87-run defeat to the Netherlands for their fifth loss on the trot at the Eden Gardens here Saturday.

Chasing a small target of 230 runs, Bangladesh folded inside 43 overs, managing a mere 142 to see their World Cup campaign as good as over.

"You can definitely say that it's Bangladesh's worst World Cup performance. I won't disagree," Shakib said after the game. "I don't have an answer as to why we played this way. We were sloppy on the field. We bowled brilliantly, but we haven't batted well throughout the tournament. It is indeed a big concern. It is hard to swallow and difficult to digest," the Bangladeshi skipper added.

Faced with persistent questions from Bangladeshi journalists, Shakib made a candid admission that the team were

Dutch cry for ICC attention

Kolkata: Two upset wins in the ongoing World Cup under their belt, minnows Netherlands have now called for ICC's attention for 'bigger nation' status, batting all-rounder Bas de Leede said Sunday here.

Before defeating Bangladesh here Saturday, the Dutch had defeated South Africa, the biggest upset in the ongoing World Cup. "Every win we get is going to be big for us and for cricket in the Netherlands. We want to try and get the ICC's attention to start looking at us as a potentially bigger nation in the coming years, so definitely every victory helps, De Leede said.

'underprepared' and his fallout with former captain Tamim Iqbal may have 'affected' the side.

"It could be," Shakib said when asked if Tamim's exclusion had affected the team. "It is not unusual. I don't know what's in everyone's heart. I don't disagree with you," he said.

Patnaik felicitates gymnast Pranati

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 29: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik felicitated Sunday gymnast Pranati Nayak for her remarkable accomplishments at the 37th National Games in Goa. Patnaik presented Pranati with a cash award of ₹23 lakhs in recognition of her brilliance at the Games. The Chief Minister also congratulated head coach Ashok Mishra.

Pranati won four gold medals and one silver at the National Games. Her gold medals came in the all-round event, vault, beams and uneven bars. In floor exercises, Nayak narrowly missed the gold but still found herself on the podium with a silver medal.

"Pranati Nayak's achievements are a testament to the talent that we nurture in our state. She has made Odisha proud with her outstanding performance at the National Games," Patnaik said. He also appreciated Mishra for playing a significant role in the performance of the Odisha gymnastics team. The Chief Minister assured all support for Pranati in upcoming competitions.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik presents a cheque of ₹23 lakh to Pranati Nayak as coach Ashok Mishra looks on. OP PHOTO

Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha, VK Pandian was also present on this occasion and congratulated the duo. "The dedication of such coaches and athletes is an inspiration towards transformation of sports in Odisha," Pandian said.

Pranati and Mishra expressed their deepest gratitude to the Chief Minister and thanked Odisha for supporting and promoting gymnastics from grassroots to elite. Both said that they would try their best to bring further laurels to the state.

Silver for Srabani

Sprinter Srabani Nanda won a silver medal in the women's 100 metres while Swadhin Majhi won a bronze Sunday in the men's high jump at the National Games in Goa. Srabani clocked 11.50 seconds to bag the silver medal and open Odisha's account in athletics. Earlier in the day, Shruti Upadhyay won a bronze in the women's 100m butterfly competition to bring home Odisha's first medal in swimming.