



## CUPID STRIKES AGAIN

Shradha Kapoor has reportedly found love again after calling it quits on her seven-year-old relationship with Rohan Shrestha

LEISURE P2



## OVER 50 PALESTINIANS KILLED

A hospital director says more than 50 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli air strike on a refugee camp

INTERNATIONAL P10



## SHRIYANKA GETS OLY QUOTA

Odisha's Shriyanka Sadangi secures Paris Olympics quota finishing 4th in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at Asian C'ship

SPORTS P12

## J&K policeman killed by terrorists

**Srinagar:** Terrorists shot dead a policeman outside his house in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, officials said. Head Constable Ghulam Mohammad Dar, a resident of Kralpora in Pattan area, was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to injuries, they said. "Injured Police Personnel #succumbed to his injuries & attained #martyrdom. We pay our rich tributes to the #martyr & stand by his family at this critical juncture. Area has been cordoned off. Search operation going on." Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X. This is the third such terrorist attack in as many days in Kashmir Valley.

## Manipur cop shot dead in sniper attack

**Imphal:** A senior police officer of Manipur was shot dead by suspected tribal militants in Tengnoupal district Tuesday prompting the state government to recommend declaring World Kuki-Zo Intellectual Council (WKZIC) as a banned group under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Chingtham Anand, a resident of Imphal's Haobam Marak locality, was killed in a sniper attack while he was on duty overseeing the cleaning of the grounds of Eastern Shine School for construction of a helipad jointly by the police and BSF, officials said. He was taken to a primary health centre in Moreh where he succumbed to injuries, they said. Within minutes, the state cabinet met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Biren Singh and announced a relief of ₹50 lakh to the kin of Anand. P9

## IPS reshuffle in state

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha government Tuesday appointed AM Prasad as DG (prisons) and director (correctional services). According to a notification by the state home department, Arun Kumar Ray has been posted as director (printing, stationery and publication) while Lalit Das has been appointed as additional DGP of Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC). The government also appointed 2008-batch IPS officer Umashankar Dash as new DIG (special intelligence wing). Brijesh Kumar Rai has been transferred and posted as additional CP (Commissionerate of Police), it said.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I stopped greeting with a 'hello'. Instead, I say 'Our PM is great'. You see, I don't have an iPhone



**NEW BEGINNING:** Orissa High Court Chief Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi administers oath to the newly-appointed Governor Raghubar Das in presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and other dignitaries at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## Nod to 12 projects worth ₹2,794 crore

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 31:** The 123rd State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), chaired by Chief Secretary PK Jena, Tuesday approved 12 industrial projects spanning across diverse sectors worth ₹2,794.47 crore which would generate employment opportunities for 4,715 people of Odisha. The proposal of Hindalco Industries Ltd to set up an aluminium battery foil manufacturing facility in Sambalpur district with an investment of ₹834 crore was approved by the government. In the semiconductor and ESDM sector, RIR Power Electronics Ltd's proposal to invest ₹510 crore for establishment of a manufacturing facility at Info Valley in Khurda district was approved. The SLSWCA approved the proposal of Nuvo Aeon Diamond and Jewellery Manufacturing LLP to set up a lab-grown diamond and jewellery manufacturing facility in Khurda. The company has committed to invest ₹256 crore in the project. In the steel sector, four companies — Khedaria Ispat Ltd, Fourstar Metaliks Pvt Ltd, New Laxmi Steel & Power Pvt Ltd and Abhirav Industries Pvt Ltd — collectively proposed to invest nearly ₹900 crore to establish their units in Jajpur and Sundargarh districts, it said.

# iPhone hack alert 19 died every hr on Indian roads in '22

OPPN LEADERS RECEIVE POTENTIAL HACKING ALERT FROM APPLE; IPHONE-MAKER SAYS THREAT NOTIFICATIONS MAY BE FALSE ALARMS; GOVT PROMISES PROBE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** Several Opposition leaders Tuesday claimed they received an alert from Apple warning them of 'state-sponsored attackers trying to remotely compromise' their iPhones and alleged hacking by the government, a charge IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw rejected but assured a thorough probe.

Those who received such notifications included Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, party leaders Shashi Tharoor, Pawan Khera, KC Venugopal, Supriya Shrinete, TS Singhdeo and Bhupinder S Hooda; Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, Aam Aadmi Party's Raghav Chadha, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi and some aides of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi also received the notification. Yechury and Chaturvedi wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while Moitra shot off a

**“Glad to keep underemployed officials busy at the expenses of taxpayers like me! Nothing more important to do?”**  
SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS MP

**“The government will investigate to get to the bottom of these notifications”**  
ASHWINI VAISHNAW | IT MINISTER

missive to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, raising concerns over the issue and demanding action. iPhone-maker Apple Inc reacted to the claims of Opposition leaders, saying it is possible that some threat notifications may be false alarms and some attacks may not be detected. It, however, refused to say what triggered warnings received by Opposition leaders. Raising the issue at a press conference here, Rahul Gandhi attacked the Modi government. "We are not scared. You can do as much (phone) tapping as you want, I don't care. If you want to take my phone, I will give it to you..." he said. Moitra said on X she is writing officially to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla requesting that he follows 'Raj Dharma' to protect Opposition MPs and urged him to summon Home

Ministry officials on the phones and emails being hacked. She also said the issue should be taken up by Privileges Committee. In his letter to PM Modi, Yechury expressed apprehension that remote access to his mobile phone maybe used for 'planting' information on his device which could be used to 'incriminate' him. Chaturvedi in her letter to PM sought prompt action into the matter. IT Minister Vaishnaw rejected the Opposition's attack on the government, saying the 'compulsive critics' were indulging in the politics of 'distraction' as they could not tolerate the country's progress under the PM's leadership. He, however, assured the government 'will investigate to get to the bottom of these notifications'. "In light of such information

and widespread speculation, we have also asked Apple to join the investigation with real, accurate information on the alleged state-sponsored attacks," the minister said in a post on X. Speaking to media in Bhopal, he said it will be a very 'technical kind of investigation', and will be taken up by Cert-In, the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents. MoS IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said similar 'threat notifications' were sent to people in over 150 countries by Apple. "Our government is committed and duty bound to protect privacy of our citizens and we take this responsibility very seriously. Government will investigate these threat notifications and also Apples claims of being secure and privacy compliant devices," he posted on X. Opposition leaders accused the government of attacking democracy. "Glad to keep underemployed officials busy at the expenses of taxpayers like me! Nothing more important to do?" Tharoor said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** The number of road accidents in India went up by an alarming 12 per cent to over 4.6 lakh in 2022, resulting in death of 19 persons every hour, according to a report by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). The report showed that 53 road accidents take place every hour in the country. "A total of 4,61,312 road accidents have been reported by states and Union Territories (UTs) during the calendar year 2022, which claimed 1,68,491 lives and caused injuries to 4,43,366 persons. "This marks an increase of 11.9 per cent in accidents, 9.4 per cent in fatalities, and 15.3 per cent in injuries compared to the previous year," the report titled 'Road accidents in India - 2022' said. "Young adults in the age group of 18-45 years accounted for 66.5 per cent of victims during 2022," the report said, adding that people in working age group of 18-60 years constitute 83.4 per cent of total road accident fatalities. In 2022, total 1,68,491 road accident fatalities were reported by states/UTs which is higher than 2021 reported figure of 1,53,972.

## DEATH TRAPS

- 1,68L road deaths in 2022
- 11.9% rise in road accidents
- 9.4% increase in fatalities
- 2-wheelers have the share in total mishaps and fatalities
- Highest 64,105 mishaps in TN
- Maximum 22,595 deaths in UP
- 18-45 age group accounted for 66.5% of victims

During 2022, a total of 4,61,312 accidents were recorded in the country, of which, 1,51,997 (32.9 per cent) took place on NHs, including expressways, 1,06,682 (23.1 per cent) on state highways and the remaining 2,02,633 (43.9 per cent) on other roads. Among vehicle categories involved in road accidents, two-wheelers for the second consecutive year, accounted for the highest share in total accidents and fatalities during 2022. Tamil Nadu recorded the maximum road accidents (64,105) on National Highways in 2022, whereas, the number of persons killed in road accidents was the highest (22,595) in Uttar Pradesh.

Overspeeding biggest killer | P3

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	63874.93 ↓ 237.72
NIFTY	19079.60 ↓ 61.30
DOLLAR	83.25 ↑ ₹0.00
EURO	88.10 ↓ ₹0.24
GOLD	₹61,075 ↓ ₹205
SILVER	₹71,799 ↓ ₹956

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.0°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	20.2°C	20.0°C
Humidity	72%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	

## 71 FIREARMS SEIZED FROM NEAR SIMILIPAL

AGENCIES

**Baripada, Oct 31:** Odisha police has seized 71 illegal arms from an area adjoining Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha during an ongoing special operation against poaching in the area, a senior police official said Tuesday. Police patrolling is being conducted every day with an aim to make Similipal an arms free zone. A total of three platoons of police force (100 personnel) are engaged in the work, Mayurbhanj superintendent of police (SP) B Gangadhar said. "During August to October we seized a total of 71 illegal arms - 70 single barrel muzzle loader (SBML) guns and one pistol besides a pair of deer

horns. We have registered 32 cognisable cases in different police stations under the Arms Act and Wildlife Protection Act," he said. The special operation was launched in June this year in all 14 police stations adjoining the tiger reserve. It was launched with the help of forest personnel after the killing of two forest department officers in the tiger reserve while patrolling in May and June 2023. During June and July 165 illegal arms were seized, 48 cases registered and 45 people were arrested. With the present seizure the total illegal arms seizure number increased to 236 and the total number of cases to 80, the SP said.

## Movies inspire 94% Indians' destinations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** The top travelling trend in India for 2024 is going to be 'set-jetting', the latest rage of going to filming locations of movies and famous TV series, a new survey has revealed. The findings of "Travel Trends: Redefining value through experience in 2024", released Tuesday, claimed that a whopping 94 per cent of Indian travellers are inclined to take a trip to a destination that they've seen on the big or small screen - be it Paris, inspired by hit sitcom "Emily in Paris", or Manali, shown in superhit film "Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani". The research was conducted by global traveltech platform Skyscanner with 1,000 Indian



respondents as its sample size. "Ninety four per cent of Indian travellers are inspired by movie and TV show destinations. Set-jetting took the lead in India, as travellers sought to immerse themselves into the iconic location of their favourite shows, embodying 'Main Character Energy'," read the report. So, seizing the spotlight as the top destination that Indians

are inspired to visit in 2024 is Manali in Himachal Pradesh with travellers influenced by "Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani", followed by Ladakh, which inspires 47 per cent of the travellers to visit the mesmerising city as seen in "3 Idiots". Claiming the next spot is London in the United Kingdom, with 43 per cent of Indian travellers seeking to add a royal flair to their life as seen

in "The Crown", and the enchanting city of Paris in France, with 42 per cent of Indian travellers wanting to experience the city like the character of Emily Cooper, as seen in "Emily in Paris". In fact, as per the report, Skyscanner saw a 23 per cent increase in searches from India to Paris in January following the launch of season 3 of the famous Netflix sitcom last year in December. According to the report, as many as 86 per cent of Indian travellers plan to take the same number, if not more, trips abroad in 2024 compared to 2023. The most buzzing destinations for Indian travellers in 2024: Da Nang in Vietnam, Almaty in Kazakhstan and Baku in Azerbaijan.

# leisure



## TIMBERLAKE 'FLEES' TO MEXICO AS TROLLS BRAND HIM 'CHEAT'

American singer Justin Timberlake has reportedly 'fled' to Mexico as trolls continue to brand him a 'cheat'. He been attacked online since his ex Britney Spears accused him of pushing her to abort his baby and having flings behind her back with two famous women when they dated.

## SELENA GOMEZ TAKES SOCIAL MEDIA BREAK

Actress-singer Selena Gomez has announced she is taking a step back from social. Selena shared that she has been horrified in recent weeks by news headlines from across the globe and that she would be removing herself from social media for a while.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
You may stomp your feet all you like, but you're not going to get your way today. The days of 'me-myself' are over. Also, today you may invite unwanted trouble. It may do you some good, suggests Ganesh, if you change the hub of your activities.

**TAURUS**  
You may come across as headstrong to your co-workers and friends today, feels Ganesh. You are known to be stubborn at times and today will be no exception. You may find it unnecessary to meet the other person halfway, regardless of the truth in it. You will remain busy with work all afternoon.

**GEMINI**  
Your quest for spiritual enlightenment continues. You may not want to go to the Himalayas to acquire what you seek, but take a trip to a nearby yoga centre or surf the internet for Kama Sutra by Deepak Chopra, provided they are for free! It may help you to connect spiritually to your partner, at least.

**CANCER**  
Though the day will bring a lot of challenges, you will be up to it every single time. Your mind will be sharp, and will run like an athlete taking part in a marathon. All you need is a little self-belief. And there will be no stopping you once you set your mind free. You may experiment with the interiors of your house.

**LEO**  
A comedy of errors is only funny in hindsight. Anyway, too much practicality is what ruined the world, says Ganesh. So for a change, gear up for an easy and relaxed day. Anything goes today, and having your hair groomed seems to be the best idea you have had in a long time.

**VIRGO**  
You are likely to be the goose mother today - violently protective and intensely exclusive. Intense affairs of the heart will materialise amazingly faster than transporter beams from Star Trek do. Procrastination will finally be slain as Ganesh sees an eventful day in store.

**LIBRA**  
Today promises to be an action-packed day for you at work. So, get ready to take the bull by its horns, says Ganesh. Expect to handle a lot of unknown people and unfamiliar situations at work. Evening might find you making a few trips to the market to buy some provisions.

**SCORPIO**  
Business will keep you on your toes and make you dance around, says Ganesh. Success is likely to intoxicate you. Ganesh advises you not to let emotions influence your plans and strategies in any way.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
High-octane action might be in the offing at work today. The day will be highlighted by your workaholic and tireless nature. Your bosses may be lenient with you today on certain issues. Love, affection and devotion of your loved ones will keep you preoccupied otherwise.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will try finding the logic and reason behind everything you do and observe today, says Ganesh. Work may leave you a little stressed and worried, but the hope of having something better in the future will keep you going in your endeavours, come hell or high water.

**AQUARIUS**  
Positive thinking and intellectual dexterity will get you going today. A jive session, with pizza and punch, will get your afternoon rolling. Ganesh suggests arranging an evening with your loved ones, where you bask in the warmth of their affection.

**PISCES**  
You will find yourself embroiled in tough situations at the work-place today. However, do not let it make you pessimistic. Even if things do not work out as and when they are meant to be, you will find that as the day progresses, things begin to fall in place of their own accord. Come evening, you should see yourself in a much more relaxed state of mind, after a hard day's work, says Ganesh.

## 'Lucky to be a nomadic'

**Mumbai:** The very beautiful Nargis Fakhri could never quite find a footing in the Hindi film industry the last time she was here. But she is back now.

"I am very excited to be back," the American actress, who mostly works in Hindi movies, recently told a news portal.

It's been difficult for her to stay in one country, says the actress. "I will always be a gypsy and a global citizen. But that doesn't mean I have to leave Bollywood to be that. On my time off I will still travel the world. And since I'm so global I do work in other countries as well which gives me that opportunity to keep traveling," she adds.

To those who want to sign her for Hindi films, Nargis is very much a Mumbaikar now. "I am also based in Mumbai, even though I'm always traveling I am also there. Many people think I'm abroad, but I do have a space in Mumbai to call home as well," quips the *Rockstar* actress.

Stating about her career, she concludes, "I am very happy with the choices I made in life and in my career so I do not feel that anything has harmed it. I feel blessed that I was lucky to be able to be a nomadic human. It's a great learning experience and keeps one resilient and flexible in life."

AGENCIES

## Hrithik locks *Krrish 4* script

**Mumbai:** After much deliberation, actor Hrithik Roshan has locked the script for the fourth part of his hit superhero franchise, *Krrish*, and will begin shooting in the first half of next year.

According to a source, the script has been written by Rakesh Roshan, following which Hrithik went through it.

"He wants to be super sure about the script for the instalment, as they are revving the story after a long time and don't want to get it wrong. That's why he went through the script and introduced some changes. The script is now locked," says the source.

The insider adds, "In fact, he is ready to start shooting for the project in February or March next year."

When it comes to the location, as per the source, the makers are scouting for an international destination. "They have many places in mind, but will decide the location based on where they get the best subsidy. They might also revisit Singapore for some important sequences," adds the source.

The film franchise kicked off with *Koi... Mil Gaya* with Preity Zinta and Rekha also in the lead, which clocked 20 years August 8 this year. The film won over audiences starring Hrithik's portrayal of a specially-abled man in a story about how his life changes when an extra-terrestrial creature is left behind on earth.

AGENCIES



## Shraddha finds love again!

**Mumbai:** After calling it quits on her seven-year-old relationship with photographer Rohan Shrestha, Shraddha Kapoor seems to have found love again. She is rumoured to be dating *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar* writer Rahul Mody, and it's learnt that the two are in a happy place.

Earlier this year, Shraddha was spotted in Mumbai with Mody when they met for a dinner date. They were papped post a dinner rendezvous in Mumbai July 3, making the fans go in frenzy about her new relationship.

"They got close to each other while working on *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar*, and have been going strong. But they don't want to go public with the relationship. They were shocked when they were photographed together out on a dinner date, which is why they are being more cautious about their outings together," says a source.

The source adds that they pick discreet locations, and odd times to meet "so that they can avoid the paps in Mumbai".

Opening up about the reason behind keeping the affair hush-hush, the insider shares, "They both are very private, and Shraddha has always kept her personal life out of the limelight. She didn't confirm her relationship with Rohan Shrestha as well. That's how she wants it to be with Mody as well. They want to have a private affair, and not fret about going public with the relationship".

AGENCIES

## Ankita spills beans on split with SSR

**Mumbai:** Actor Ankita Lokhande has addressed her break up with late ex-boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR) for the first time on *Bigg Boss 17*. The Pavitra Rishta actress said Sushant never gave her any reason on why he was breaking up with her.

Ankita was having a chat with Munawar Faruqui in the garden area of the *Bigg Boss* home when the comedian asked her about Sushant. He asked if there was 'no major reason' behind the split, Ankita said, "No, there was no reason. I was blank. Things changed in my life overnight."

Ankita said that people might have tried to get Sushant to break up with her. "When you are climbing the ladder of success, 10 people try to influence you. I don't know what was happening that time. It's okay. I never even tried to stop him," she said.



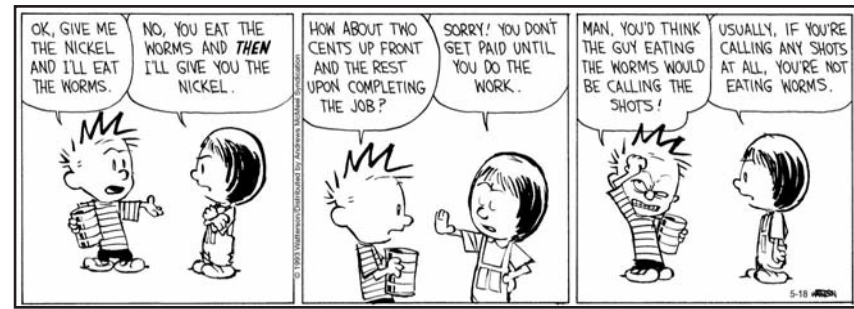
Fans of the actor felt sympathy for her and how she was all alone at the time. Ankita and Sushant starred together in ZeeTV's hit daily soap *Pavitra Rishta*. They began dating and spent many years together before breaking up in 2016. Sushant was found dead in his apartment in 2020.

IAN5

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

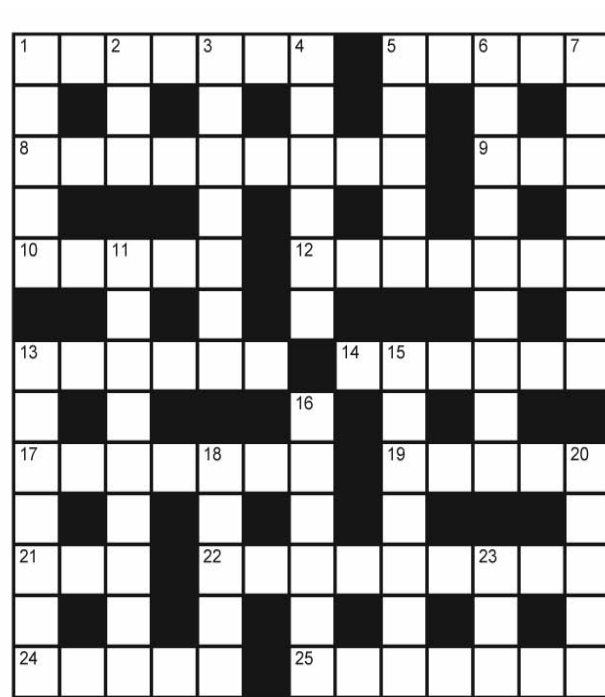


### BREVITY



### FUN post

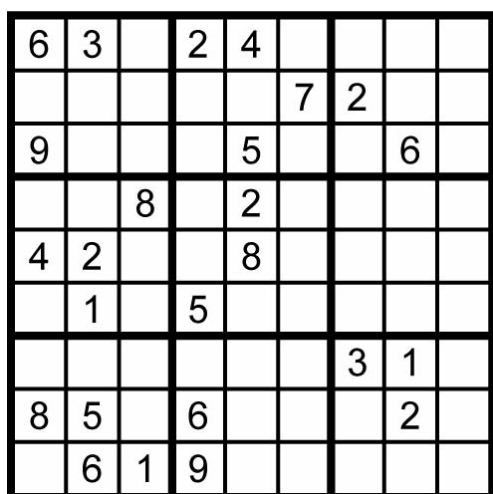
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Overly excited
  - 5 Loathe
  - 8 Plus factor
  - 9 \_\_\_ de guerre
  - 10 Woody plant
  - 12 Alike
  - 13 Fiat
  - 14 Light-footed
  - 17 Crimson
  - 19 Sign of late summer
  - 21 Maid's cloth
  - 22 Place of bliss (5,4)
  - 24 Traffic sign
  - 25 Isis, for one
  - Down**
  - 1 Phobias
  - 2 Back on board
  - 3 Seamstress's need
  - 4 All thumbs
  - 5 Crosswise, on deck
  - 6 Moustache type
  - 7 Compunction
  - 11 Elongated square, maybe
  - 13 Pulverise
  - 15 Encroached upon
  - 16 Undiluted
  - 18 Clear
  - 20 Harbingers
  - 23 Suffix with meteor

### SUDOKU

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

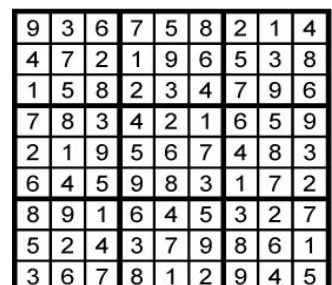


### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## URBAN MARKET

People buying essentials from the newly-opened Urban Haat at Chhatra Bazar in Cuttack, Tuesday



# Overspeeding biggest killer

ODISHA RECORDS 6.2% RISE IN ROAD ACCIDENTS IN 2022 AS COMPARED TO 2021

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Oct 31: At least 5,467 people were killed in Odisha in 11,663 road accidents in 2022, a report released by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said, adding that overspeeding resulted in loss of 3,675 lives in the eastern state. The state witnessed over 5,000 fatal accidents and around 4,000 accidents resulting in grievous injuries in 2022.

Odisha has recorded a 6.2 per cent (680) increase in road accidents in 2022 as compared to 2021. However, Odisha's ranking remained 13th for the fifth consecutive year in terms of road accidents.

Similarly, the state had recorded 7.6 per cent increase in road fatalities in 2022 as compared to the previous year.

The report also revealed that rural areas reported more accidents and deaths in comparison with urban areas in Odisha. While 1,710 people were killed in 4,184 accidents in urban areas of the state, at least 3,757 people were killed in rural areas in



7,479 accidents. The report highlighted that overspeeding claimed 3,675 lives in the state in 7,383 accidents and consumption of alcohol and drug while driving resulted in 301 deaths. At least 432 people were killed due to wrong-side driving while use of mobile phones claimed 120 lives.

The report stated that over 10,000 people were injured, 6,156 grievously, in the road accidents in 2022.

The annual report on 'Road Accidents in India-2022' revealed that 2,043 people were killed in 4,317 road accidents that occurred

on national highways passing the state. Two-wheelers recorded maximum deaths as 2,498 people (2,292 males and 206 females) were killed in over 5,000 accidents involving these vehicles. There were 800 (658 males and 142 females) deaths of pedestrians in 2022 in Odisha, the report said. Potholes on roads claimed 69 lives while under-construction road works claimed 210 lives.

The Union ministry said that this report is based on the data/information received from police departments of states/ Union Territories (UTs) on cal-

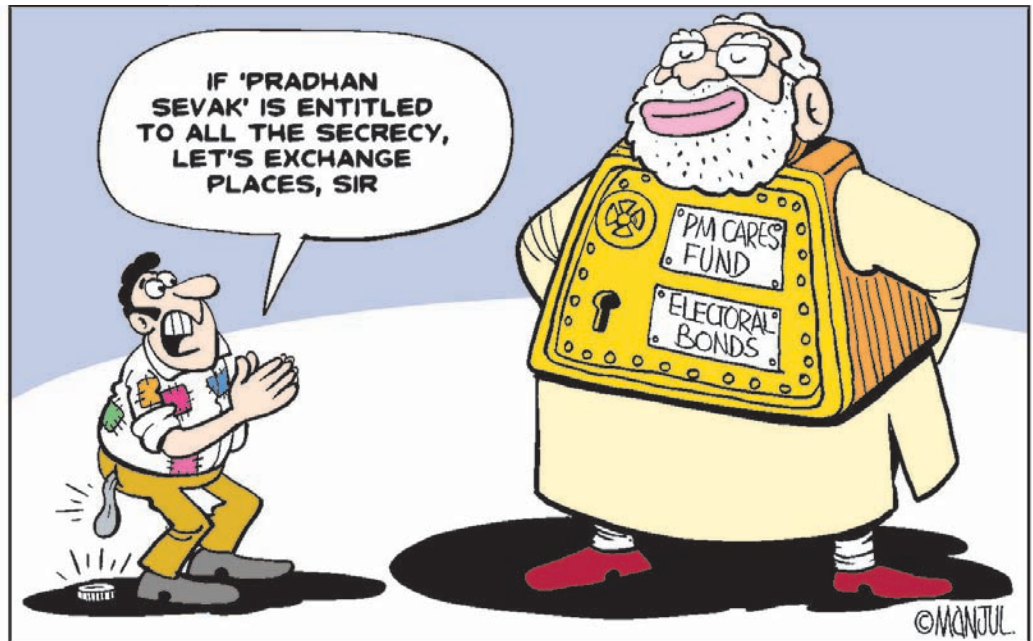
## BLOOD ON STREETS

- Overspeeding claimed 3,675 lives while drunken driving resulted in 301 deaths
- Rural areas in Odisha reported more accidents and deaths as compared to urban areas
- 432 people lost their lives due to wrong-side driving while use of mobile phones claimed 120 lives
- Two-wheelers recorded maximum number of deaths as 2,498 people were killed in over 5,000 accidents

endar year basis in standardized formats as provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) under the Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD) base project.

The report underscores the urgency of adopting a comprehensive approach to address the contributing factors to these accidents, including speeding, reckless driving, drunken driving, and non-compliance with traffic regulations.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# NGO under scanner for receiving 'illicit money'

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31: A childcare voluntary organisation called 'Good News India' situated in Phulnakhara area on the outskirts of Capital city is allegedly receiving illicit foreign funds for religious conversion of children, said chairman of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Priyank Kanungo here, Tuesday.

The outfit is known to have 30 facilities across the country of which around 25 are in Odisha, housing 300 children. The accused Faiz Rehman, who was earlier running a missionary house in Deogarh, is now the Phulnakhara branch head. He



NCPCR chairman Priyank Kanungo

was previously slapped with provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act.

During a search conducted by the NCPCR team, an 18-year-old boy was rescued from the transit floor of Good News India's office along with a bible

with the name of the accused written on it. Briefing the media, Kanungo said, "The NGO has been in operation since 2018. It has offices in Canada and USA from where it used to source funds. The Bhubaneswar-based one is a four-storey building, which has the respective floors such as - transit house, church, staff and office."

He also stated that the NGO's website aims at setting up 100 conversion centres in northeast in near future. The findings of the team will also be submitted to Chief Secretary of Odisha as well as to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the NCPCR chief said, adding that the NGO will be booked under necessary provisions of Juvenile Act.

## MERI MAATI MERA DESH

1,400 from Odisha take part in culmination prog

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 31: At least 1,400 people from Odisha Tuesday took part in a programme marking the culmination of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign's Amrit Kalash Yatra.

At the culmination programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for 'Amrit Vatika' and 'Amrit Mahotsav Memorial' being developed from the soil collected from every part of the country and launched 'Mera Yuva Bharat' - MY Bharat platform for the youth of the country. At least 670 urns of soil brought from around 1,400 villages of Odisha had been poured in Amrit Kalash Monday.

Pointing to the collective strength of Indian youth, the Prime Minister said, "Meri Maati Mera Desh Abhiyan is a live example of how the youth of India can organise and achieve every goal."

Modi highlighted the countless participation of youths from every nook and corner of the country and said that 8,500 'Amrit Kalash' have reached the Kartavya Path from all over the country and crores of Indians have taken Panch Pran pledge and have uploaded selfies on the campaign website. The Prime Minister said that 'Amrit Vatika' which will be established with saplings from all over the country will teach the coming generation about 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

# 40 paperless courts launched in Phase V

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 31: Forty paperless courts were inaugurated in virtual mode by Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi, Acting Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, Tuesday, in the presence of Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra, chairperson of Artificial Intelligence & Information Technology Committee of the HC, Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, mem-

ber of the committee, and other judges of the court. With the inauguration of these courts in Phase V, the number of paperless courts in the district judiciary of the state has reached 199.

Justice Sarangi said 40 paperless courts in the fifth phase is yet another milestone crossed by the Odisha judiciary and this is a work in progress. He also said the efforts of Justice S Muralidhar as the Chief Justice of the HC have led Odisha to be-

come the leading state in the country in adaptation of technology in judiciary which has been time and again recognised by the C.J.

The Acting Chief Justice thanked the state judiciary for coming forward in using technology for speedy and effective justice delivery and announced that more and more courts will be made paperless every month till achieving the goal of making the entire judiciary paperless.



LAST-MINUTE RUSH: People queue up to exchange ₹2,000 notes in front of RBI office in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

# Naveen flags off special pilgrimage train for elderly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Oct 31: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday flagged off a special pilgrimage train for the elderly through videoconferencing from Bhubaneswar.

The train started its journey from Berhampur and will go to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram.

Patnaik wished the elderly pilgrims a happy and safe journey. The pilgrimage train is part of an initiative of the Tourism department under Barisha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana to help elderly people make spiritual journeys to places of religious importance.

As many as 961 elderly pilgrims from five districts including Ganjam, Gajapati,

Boudh, Kandhamal and Nayagarh boarded the train from here. They will return here November 5.

About 30 government officials, doctors and nurses also accompanied the pilgrims as escorting officers, said Binod Behera, in-charge tourist officer, Ganjam.

"It was my long-cherished dream to go on a pilgrimage as I did not go anywhere except Puri. Now, I am happy as the government is sponsoring our pilgrimage to southern states for free," said 70-year-old Gobind Biswal, who was accompanied by his wife Puspajali.

"The government has made all arrangements for their safe train journey," H&UD Minister Usha Devi, who attended the event at the railway station here, said.

## SHORT TAKES

### Slum dwellers get LRCs

Bhubaneswar: Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Tuesday distributed second phase of land rights certificates (LRCs) to slum dwellers under Jaga Mission. Altogether 5,542 families received the ownership certificate in Badagada Brit Colony and Netaji Playground, Community Centre in Unit 8 and Chandrasekharpur Kalyan Mandap respectively. The civic body executed senior officers as nodal officers in each zone. The programme was attended by Minister of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Ashok Chandra Panda, Bhubaneswar-Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena and Bhubaneswar-North MLA Susant Kumar Rout.

### Pradhan leads 'Run for Unity'

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack: Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Tuesday led the 'Run for Unity' from the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at College Square in Cuttack on the occasion of 148th birth anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Around 4,000 people participated with great enthusiasm in the 2-km long run at 6:45am to honour Patel's visionary leadership.

### BJP plans 5-day stir from November 14

Bhubaneswar: The Opposition BJP Tuesday announced that it will launch a five-day statewide agitation from November 14 against "corruption" under the ruling BJD government. BJP Odisha unit president Manmohan Samal said the party will gherao all the 314 block offices in the state as part of the stir. "Nothing can be done in the state without corruption. Poor people seeking house units are asked to pay commission. Percentage commission is so prevalent right from Bhubaneswar to the block and panchayat levels that people are getting suffocated. Their hard-earned money is being misappropriated," Samal told reporters.

# Study links air pollution to Parkinson's disease

Moderate level of fine particle pollution is associated with a 56 per cent higher risk of developing Parkinson's disease, new research in the US has found.

Previous studies have shown that fine particulate matter, or PM2.5, can cause inflammation in the brain, which is "a known mechanism by which Parkinson's disease could develop," according to lead researcher Brittany Krzyzanowski from Barrow Neurological Institute, Arizona. The researchers also found that the relationship between air pollution and Parkinson's disease was not the same in every part of the country and that it varied in strength by region. They have published their findings in the journal Neurology.

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system characterised by tremors and impaired muscular coordination.

In this study, the researchers identified nearly 90,000 people with the neurological disease



THOSE IDENTIFIED WERE THEN GEOCODED TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THEIR RESIDENCE, WHICH ENABLED THE RESEARCHERS TO CALCULATE THE RATES OF THE DISEASE WITHIN EACH REGION

from the US's Medicare dataset of about 22 million people. Those identified were then geocoded to the neighbourhood of their residence, which enabled the researchers to calculate the rates of the disease within each region. The average annual concentrations of fine particulate matter in these specific regions were also calculated.

Thus, the researchers at Barrow were able to identify an association between a person's

previous exposure to fine particulate matter and their later risk of developing Parkinson's disease.

They found that the Mississippi-Ohio River Valley was a Parkinson's disease hotspot, along with other US states including central North Dakota, parts of Texas, Kansas, eastern Michigan, and parts of Florida.

Further, people living in the western half of the US were

The researchers identified nearly 90,000 people with the neurological disease from the US's Medicare dataset of about 22 million people

The researchers found that the relationship between air pollution and Parkinson's disease was not the same in every part of the country, and that it varied in strength by region

found to be at a reduced risk of developing Parkinson's disease compared with the rest of the nation.

"Regional differences in Parkinson's disease might reflect regional differences in the composition of the particulate matter. Some areas may have particulate matter containing more toxic components compared to other areas," said Krzyzanowski. Although the authors had not

explored the different sources of air pollution, Krzyzanowski noted there was relatively high road network density in the Mississippi-Ohio River Valley and the rust belt makes up part of this region as well.

"This means that the pollution in these areas may contain more combustion particles from traffic and heavy metals from manufacturing which have been linked to cell death in the part of the brain involved in Parkinson's disease," said the lead researcher. The researchers said that such population-based geographic studies had the potential to reveal important insight into the role of environmental toxins in the development and progression of Parkinson's.

"These same methods can be applied to explore other neurological health outcomes as well," said Krzyzanowski.

The team hopes that the study findings will help enforce stricter policies aimed at lowering air pollution levels and decreasing the risk for Parkinson's disease, and other associated illnesses. PTI

# 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' for two more districts



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 31:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday launched the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' initiative for Balasore and Bolangir to boost rural infrastructure and promote Jagannath culture. Under the scheme, each Gram Panchayat of both the districts will get Rs 50 lakh for infrastructure development.

Rs 178 crore was sanctioned for eight assembly constituencies of the Balasore district. A total of 4,465 projects will be undertaken in 356 Gram Panchayats of 12 blocks of these assembly constituencies.

Similarly, five assembly constituencies of the Bolangir district have been sanctioned Rs 158.50 crore to build 3,911 projects in the 317 Gram Panchayats.

On the occasion, Chief Minister said, "Promotion of culture and improvement of modern infrastructure will take our villages to the peak of development. Each village will move forward on the path of development with the identity of a new Odisha. Development of all villages is our aim. Everyone in the village will be guaranteed of development, education and health."

Speaking about the importance of preservation of Jagannath culture for future

**'AMA ODISHA NABIN ODISHA' SCHEME WILL PRESERVE THE JAGANNATH CULTURE IN EACH VILLAGE FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION WITH DEVELOPMENT OF ALL RELEVANT PLACES OF WORSHIP**

**THE CM POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES IS DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN VILLAGES, WHICH WILL GET INTERNET CONNECTIVITY, SCIENCE PARKS, SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES, WORK HUBS AND BANKING FACILITIES**

generations, the CM emphasized development of all relevant places of worship. He said, "Odisha is the land of Jagannath. Universal love, peace, harmony, equality and service are the mes-

sage of Jagannath culture. It is based on inclusiveness and embraces everyone irrespective of caste and community. 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme will preserve Jagannath culture in each village."

The Chief Minister pointed out that one of the objectives of this scheme is development of digital infrastructure in villages. He said that villages will get internet connectivity, science parks, skill development centres, work hubs and banking facilities.

"Primary schools are also included in the scheme, which will bring immense opportunities to our youths, women, farmers and students to further brighten the identity of Odisha as a modern, strong, progressive and culturally aware state," he added.

Patnaik sought cooperation from the people of Odisha for successful implementation of the scheme while expressing that it will strengthen the infrastructure for an inspirational Odisha.

"Under this scheme, the cultural base of the state will be strengthened through promotion of Jagannath culture in every Panchayat and development of digital infrastructure," said an official.

## PANDIAN GREETED FOR NEW ASSIGNMENT

**BHUBANESWAR:** As many as 27 service associations of the state government and several private organisations Tuesday met 5T and 'Nabin Odisha' chairman VK Pandian and congratulated him for the new assignment. An official release by the CMO said the service association members expressed happiness over Pandian taking responsibility as chairman of the 5T Initiative and Nabin Odisha. They said Pandian has been driving the transformation of the state by realising the vision of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Pandian on his part thanked the association members and sought their cooperation. "We all belong to Team Odisha. Let us work together to realise the dream of Chief Minister for a new Odisha, empowered Odisha," he said. The associations which met him included Odisha Medical Service Association (OMSA), Odisha Information Service Association, Odisha Electrical Workers' Union (G.E.D), Odisha led by Ananta Narayan Jena (MLA Central), Nikhila Odisha Bidyut Mancha and others.

## Team from KIIT leaves for Singapore

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 31:** A 40-member delegation from KIIT Polytechnic including the faculty and staff Tuesday left for Singapore on a week-long 'exposure visit' as KIIT Polytechnic is soon set to be modelled on the world famous Nanyang Polytechnic in Singapore.

During their visit, the delegation will interact with the faculty and students about the infrastructure, teaching methods, and use of latest technology to acquire knowledge and skills.

Prior to their departure, Achyuta Samanta, founder of KIIT & KISS, extended his warm congratulations to the team and conveyed his best wishes for their success. KIIT vice chancellor Saranjit Singh and registrar JR Mohanty were also present during the departure.

Notably, the Quality Council of India (QCI)'s National Accreditation Board for Teaching Education and Training (NABET) 2023 ranking has judged KIIT Polytechnic as the best in Odisha among all public and private institutes for the second time in a row.

## 'HAEMATOCON' TO BE HELD IN CITY FROM NOVEMBER 2

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 31:** The Indian Society of Haematology and Blood Transfusion (ISHBT) will host its 64rd Annual Conference - Haematocon2023 in Bhubaneswar from November 2 to 5.

Head of Clinical Haematology department of SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, Rabindra Kumar Jena said, "The primary objective of the conference is to engage in comprehensive discussions on the prevalence of blood disorders and diseases, as well as emerging issues within the field of hematology."

Participants will engage in knowledge exchange on the latest advancements in diagnosis

and treatment, along with re-orienting medical professionals in alignment with recent developments. The central focus will be on the holistic management of blood diseases of public health significance, including anemia and sickle cell disease.

Additionally, discussions will encompass progress related to various blood cancers such as Leukemia, Lymphomas, Myelomas, and other blood-related conditions."

More than 1,500 doctors from various regions of India and abroad including USA, Canada, UK, France and Italy along with representatives from ASH, EHA, Sickle Global Network and other stakeholders will participate in the conference, Jena informed.



**ONION WOES:** NSUI activists protest against surging onion prices in front of the residence of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## FICCI delegation meets King & PM of Bhutan

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 31:** A business delegation led by Subhrakant Panda, FICCI president and IMFA managing director recently met the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and prime minister Lotay Tshering.

The delegation, hosted by ambassador Sudhakar Dalela at India Estate in Thimphu, also met senior officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan and local business leaders at the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Speaking about the visit, Panda said, "Bhutan is the most important partner in our immediate neighbourhood and FICCI will facilitate greater business-to-business engagement, especially within the private sector. It was a privilege to meet His Majesty the King who spoke eloquently about his vision for Bhutan's growth and development."

Other members of the delegation included Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, vice president of FICCI, and Shailesh Pathak, secretary general of FICCI.



## All about the new Odisha Governor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 31:** President Droupadi Murmu appointed Raghubar Das, the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, as the new governor of Odisha. Das will replace Ganeshi Lal, a former Haryana Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) president and minister. Lal was serving as the governor of Odisha since May 2018.

Das, a member of the OBC community, made history by becoming the first non-tribal Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019. He has been actively involved in politics for many years, having been elected to the Bihar and Jharkhand assembly five times. From 1995 to 2019, he represented the Jharkhand East assembly seat.

A former employee of Tata Steel, Das is originally from state of Chhattisgarh. He was born in Boirdih village of Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh May 3, 1955.

Das hails from an OBC 'Teli' family. His father Chavan Das was also an employee of Tata Steel. His mother's name is Sonbati Das. He has one brother and three sisters.

After completing his education at Bhalubasa Harijan High School in Jharkhand, he graduated with a science degree. Following his graduation, he pursued a degree in law at Jharkhand State Law College. After completing his education, he started working with Tata Steel.

The 68-year-old leader was an active union leader during his student days and played a significant role in the Jayaprakash Narayan-led political movement



between 1976 and 77.

Das participated in several protests during the Emergency due to which he was even sent to jail. It was during this time that he met other political leaders and decided to involve himself in active politics and hence joined Janata Party in 1977.

His active political journey started after his marriage to Rukmani Devi March 11, 1978.

Das joined the BJP in 1980 as a simple worker and then gradually rose through the party ranks before getting his first break when he was elected as an MLA from East Jharkhand seat in 1995.

In 2004, he was appointed as the BJP state president for the newly-established Jharkhand.

He served as the first non-tribal chief minister of Jharkhand in the Babul Marandi government, and then in the subsequent two governments led by Arjun Munda. In 2009, he held the position of deputy chief minister in the

government led by Shibu Soren. He held portfolios of Finance, Labour and Urban Development during his stint as cabinet minister.

A two-time state unit president, Das was appointed as BJP vice-president by party president Amit Shah, who was impressed by his administrative quality.

Das is a man of simple taste and lives a very simple life. He is also said to be an agrarian and a disciplinarian.

Das does not have any property to his name. He is said to be a follower of Kabir.

He is considered to be in the core team of Amit Shah.

## POLITICAL JOURNEY

In 1995, he was elected as an MLA from the Jharkhand East seat of Bihar.

He was re-elected as an MLA from the Jharkhand East seat of Bihar for five times.

In 2000, he was appointed as the Labour & Employment Minister of Jharkhand.

In 2004, he was appointed as the Jharkhand State President of the BJP.

In 2005, he was appointed as the Urban Development Minister and Commercial Tax Minister in the Arjun Munda government.

On 30 December 2009, he was appointed as the Deputy Chief Minister of Jharkhand when Shibu Soren was the CM.

On 16 August 2014, he was appointed as the Vice-President of the BJP National Committee.

On 28 December 2014, he was sworn-in as the 6th Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

## Antibiotics now ineffective for common childhood infections

**D**rugs to treat common infections in children and babies are no longer effective in large parts of the world, including India, due to high rates of antibiotic resistance, a study has found.

The team led by researchers at the University of Sydney in Australia found many antibiotics recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) had less than 50 per cent effectiveness in treating childhood infections such as pneumonia, sepsis (bloodstream infections) and meningitis.

The findings, published in The Lancet regional Health-Southeast Asia journal, show global guidelines on antibiotic use are outdated and need updates.

The most seriously affected

regions are in Southeast Asia and the Pacific where thousands of unnecessary deaths in children resulting from antibiotic resistance occur each year, the researchers said.

The WHO has declared that antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity. In newborns, an estimated three million cases of sepsis occur globally each year, with up to 570,000 (5.7 lakh) deaths.

Many of these are due to lack of effective antibiotics to treat resistant bacteria.

The study adds to mounting evidence that common bacteria responsible for sepsis and meningitis in children are often resistant to prescribed antibiotics.

The research shows the urgent need for global antibiotic



guidelines to be updated, to reflect the rapidly evolving rates of AMR. The most recent guidelines from the WHO were published in 2013.

The study found that one antibiotic in particular, ceftriaxone, was likely to be effective in

treating only one in three cases of sepsis or meningitis in newborn babies.

Another antibiotic, gentamicin, was found likely to be effective in treating fewer than half of all sepsis and meningitis cases in children, according

to the researchers.

Gentamicin is commonly prescribed alongside aminopenicillins, which the study showed also has low effectiveness in combating bloodstream infections in babies and children.

"Antibiotic resistance is rising more rapidly than we realize," said study lead author Phoebe Williams from the University of Sydney.

"We urgently need new solutions to stop invasive multidrug-resistant infections and the needless deaths of thousands of children each year," Williams said.

The study analysed 6,648 bacterial isolates from 11 countries across 86 publications to review antibiotic susceptibility for common bacteria causing childhood infections.

The data collated largely arose from urban tertiary hospital settings with over-representation from particular countries, especially India and China.

Williams said that the best way to tackle antibiotic resistance in childhood infections is to make funding to investigate new antibiotic treatments for children and newborns a priority.

"Antibiotic clinical focus on adults and too often children and newborns are left out. That means we have very limited options and data for new treatments," she noted.

"This study reveals important problems regarding the availability of effective antibiotics to treat serious infections in children," said study senior author Paul Turner, a professor at the University of Oxford, UK.

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# NH construction hits land hurdle

NHAI OFFICIALS BLAME OWNERS OVER STALEMATE ON BANDHAMUNDA-JAREIKELA STRETCH

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Oct 31:** Land acquisition is proving to be a serious roadblock in construction of National Highway-320-D connecting Hockey Square in this town with Bandhamunda and Jareikela, sources pointed out Tuesday. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is eager to complete the construction of the 25-km stretch between Bandhamunda and Jareikela. However, it is not being able to acquire the land needed for building the road.

The trees that were a hindrance to construction have been cut with the necessary clearance. The NHAI has also agreed to abide by the rules regarding the elephant corridors as stated by the Forest department. However, land acquisition for the project has become a cause of concern for NHAI. The NHAI will have to acquire 5.98 acres of private land and 21.140 acres of government land in Mahipani, Bhalulata, Jammal and Bhulatabahal mouzas for construction of the said highway.



**Owners are adamant that they be paid present-day rates for their land instead of the prices prevalent in February 2022**

The NHAI authorities had issued notices for land acquisition in the concerned areas, February 7, 2022. In the notice, it also stated that compensation will be provided at government

rates for those whose land will be acquired.

Since April 2022, land prices have increased in the stretch needed for highway construction. Initially the NHAI had decided to pay the owners rates that were prevalent the day the notice was issued. Now however, the land owners are demanding compensation at present-day prices. This has put NHAI in a huge fix. The owners have said that unless given the present-day rates, they will not part with their respective lands.

Despite several rounds of dis-

cussions between the land owners and NHAI officials, the stalemate continues. Meanwhile in a separate development, the Land Acquisition department has asserted that it will stick to the rates that were prevalent in February 2022. So the stand-off continues with the construction of the highway suffering a severe setback.

When contacted, head clerk Rabindra Das of Land Acquisition department informed that a fresh notice has been issued to all the registered owners for payment of compensation as per the government price prevalent till, February 7, 2022. He asserted that no new compensation rates have been offered to the land owners.

Jyotshnamayee Biswal, an engineer of the National Highway Division in Rourkela, said that the land will be acquired as per the rate prevalent February 7, 2022. The construction of the highway will begin on war footing after the conclusion of the elections (Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly) in the state, she informed.

# WOMAN HELD FOR FRAUD

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Udala, Oct 31:** Udala police in Mayurbhanj district arrested Tuesday an impostor who was trying to mortgage a plot of land along with others to a private finance firm for loan by posing as the daughter of a deceased person.

The police have not divulged the identity of the accused woman, but it has been learnt that she is the aunt of Ashok Behera, son of the deceased Jagabandhu Behera. Jagabandhu was a native of Khadikapada village in Old Baripada area under Khunta police limits in Mayurbhanj district. Police are now interrogating the accused to get her to confess her crime.

Police said that Jagabandhu after his death left behind a homestead land on plot No-372 in Khadikapada mouza. He is survived by four persons, wife Sabitri Behera, sons Ashok and Saroj and daughter Manorama Sahu. Officially they are the inheritors to the property left behind by Jagabandhu.

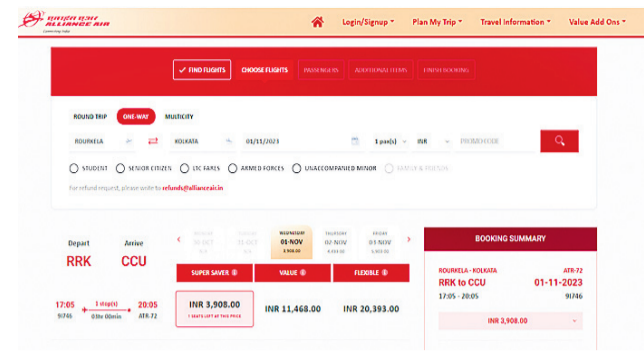
The survivors of the deceased Jagabandhu applied for a loan of ₹5 lakh from a private finance firm. However, while doing so they used the aunt to represent Manorama.

The fraud however, came to light during examination of documents submitted to the sub-registrar. It was then discovered that one of the signatures did not match that of Manorama's. It then came to light, that the 'aunt' had signed on the documents, instead of Manorama.

During scrutiny, officials also found that Aadhaar card submitted by the woman was fake as the fingerprints did not match.

The sub-registrar then found out that the real Manorama was not in the picture and he stopped registration of the land being put up for loan. Later, the sub-registrar lodged a complaint at Udala police station following which the woman was arrested. Police however, remained tight-lipped about the involvement of the three others in the fraud attempt. They will produce the woman in court Wednesday.

# Tickets on website, no guarantee of flights



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Oct 31:** Alliance Air flights between Kolkata-Rourkela-Kolkata may start from Wednesday, sources said here Tuesday. However, officials of the airline company stated that the chances of flights operating from Wednesday are remote indeed. Initially Alliance Air was scheduled to start Kolkata flights from September, but it was cancelled for reasons best known to the company.

Even though there are apprehensions about Rourkela-Kolkata flights operating from Wednesday, the selling of tickets has started. Five tickets have been sold online for Wednesday's flight and five across the counter.

When contacted, Alliance Air CEO Vineet Sood informed, "We are going to operate regular flights to Kolkata in two weeks time. However, I don't think tomorrow (Wednesday) it will be possible." However, despite his disclosure, the Alliance Air website showed that flight tickets were available for November 1 to Kolkata (see above pix).

Alliance Air officials pointed out that the airline company has been asked to operate its Kolkata flight at 5.00pm in the evening. They said that during winter it is difficult to operate flights at 5.00pm as it is quite dark and landing and taking off becomes quite difficult at the airport here.

The decision by Alliance Air to start flights from here to Kolkata has been welcomed by the people of this city. "This is good news because it will help in the growth of the city, president of the Rourkela Bikash Manch, Suman Dutta said.

Dutta however, criticised the concerned officials for the delay in installation of the instrument landing system (ILS) at the airport here. "The delay in installation of the ILS is the main reason for flights getting cancelled from this city. It will cost only ₹8 crore, but no one is taking the initiative to get the work done," pointed out Dutta.

Meanwhile, the Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Alliance Air flight was cancelled Tuesday putting 50 passengers in a lot of discomfort.

# Headmaster killed in road accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 31:** A person was killed after being hit by an unidentified vehicle near Dharanidhar Medical College on NH-49 under Town police limits in this district Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Lalit Kumar Mohanta, 48, a resident of Japansi village under Turumunga police limits in Champua block. He was working as the headmaster of Saraswati Shishu Vidyamandir at Raisuan. Police said, Lalit was returning to his house in a scooter when an unidentified vehicle hit him from the rear resulting in his death.

# 1 arrested with pangolin

AGENCIES

**Nuapada, Oct 31:** A team of the special task force (STF) along with the officials of Khariar Forest division arrested a wildlife criminal Tuesday in this district and recovered a pangolin



from his possession.

STF sources said that acting on a tip off, the team conducted a raid at Bankapur Chowk under Khariar police station and apprehended the accused Ranjan Kumar Sahu of Kanatamal village in Kalahandi district. While searching his hideout, police found the pangolin. They also

seized a four-wheeler and other incriminating materials were recovered from Sahu's possession.

A case U/s 379/411/120(B) IPC R/W Sec 51 of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been registered and Sahu was forwarded to the Court of SDJM, Khariar. The pangolin has been handed over to DFO, Khariar for safe custody, police said. They added that investigation is under way to find out the involvement of others with Sahu.

Incidentally, pangolin is a slow-moving, nocturnal mammal. It is a Schedule-I protected animal under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

# 20 yrs RI for man for raping minor

PNN & AGENCIES

**Balasure Oct 31:** A POCSO court here has sentenced a 28-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) for kidnapping and raping his minor niece a year ago. The court also imposed a penalty of ₹5,000 on the convict. POCSO court judge Ranjan Kumar Sutar also ordered another two years of prison term for the convict in case he fails to pay the penalty.

The mother of the minor had lodged an FIR at Basta police station in November 2022, alleging that Rajib Lochan Das

had kidnapped and raped her daughter several times. Das was arrested and tried under several sections of the IPC and the POCSO Act.

Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Panda said the accused was tried under several sections of the IPC and the POCSO Act by the court. "After examining 16 witnesses and 36 exhibits, the court sentenced the convict to 20 years in jail and imposed ₹5,000 penalty. The court has ordered ₹4 lakh compensation to be paid to the victim by the district legal services authority," Panda informed here Monday.

# Man gets lifer for killing wife

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasure, Oct 31:** Special Judge OPID and Additional Sessions Judge Biswajit Das sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife over dowry. The judge also slapped a fine of ₹5,000 on the convict. Failure to pay the penalty would result in an additional year in prison, the judge said in the order.

Purna Chandra Mohanty lodged an FIR with police March 10, 2021 alleging that her daughter was burnt to death by the accused son-in-law Tapas. In his complaint Purna Chandra alleged that kerosene was poured on his daughter and she was put on fire after which Tapas locked the door from outside. Purna Chandra also mentioned that since his daughter could not fulfil the incessant demands for dowry she was murdered.

The tragic incident took place on the night of February 21, 2021. The neighbours hearing the victim's screams broke open the door and took her to the hospital. However, she succumbed to her injuries.

"The accused Pradhan was tried under 498(A), 302 of IPC and 4 DP Act. The court after examining 14 witnesses and 20 exhibits sentenced him to life imprisonment along with ₹5,000 fine," Special Public Prosecutor, Pranab Panda said.

	<b>REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH : SAMBALPUR</b>	<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b>
<b>बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा</b>	<b>1ST FLOOR, G.M. COLLEGE CHOWK, CHRISTIAN PARA, SAMBALPUR-768001</b>	<b>(Immovable Property)</b>
<b>(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)</b>		
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.		
<b>SUNDERGARH BRANCH / Name &amp; Address of the Borrower/Guarantor</b>	<b>Description of the Immovable Property</b>	<b>Demand/ Possession Notice Date</b>
<b>Borrower: Mr. Hemanta Kumar Muduli, S/o.: Mr. Manmohan Muduli, At: Sai Bihar, Bijaya Talkies Road, Sundergarh, PIN-770001, Permanent Add- At: Nimapali, PO.: Pingal, PS.: Kalinga Nagar, Dist.: Jajpur, PIN-755026 / Guarantor: Sampika Rath, D/o: Kailash Chandra Rath, At: Patrapada, PO/Dist.: Sundergarh, PIN-770001</b>	All the part and parcel of the Land and Building situated at Mouza: Talasankara, P.S.: Town, Dist.: Sundergarh, Khata No.: 516/1694, Plot No.: 10/3567/6172(P), Area: Ac.0.0573 Dec, in the name of <b>Mr. Hemanta Kumar Muduli, S/o.: Mr. Manmohan Muduli, Bounded by North: Road, South: D. Patel, East: S. Purohit, West: Own Land of Seller</b>	<b>06.02.2015 / 30.10.2023</b>
<b>Place: Sambalpur, Date :31.10.2023</b>	<b>Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda</b>	

	<b>REGIONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR</b>	<b>VEHICLE E-AUCTION</b>					
<b>बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा</b>	<b>Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, Bhubaneswar, 1st Floor, Bivab Gulmohar, Behera Sahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012, Odisha, Ph.: 0674-2421210, Fax: 0674-2421614, E-mail: rm.orissa@bankofbaroda.co.in</b>						
<b>SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE / HYPOTHECATED VEHICLES "APPENDIX-II-A WITH RULE 6(2) FOR MOVABLE APPENDIX-IV-A REFER PROVISIO TO 8(6) FOR MOVABLE VEHICLES"</b>							
<b>E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of movable/vehicles Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) &amp; 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 .</b>							
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable/vehicles hypothecated charged to the Secured Creditor, POSSESSION of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned accounts . The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction Date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below .							
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Branch/ Contact No.</b>	<b>Name &amp; Address of Borrower(s)</b>	<b>Vehicle No.</b>	<b>Make &amp; Model</b>	<b>Reserve Price/ EMD / Bid Increase Amount</b>	<b>EMD Deposit Account No./ IFSC Code</b>	<b>Stockyard Address of the Vehicle</b>
1.	KHANDAGIRI BRANCH / 707772107	Mrs Mamata Rath, Plot No.45, GGP Colony, Pandara Road, Unit-38, Bhubaneswar- 751026 .	OR 02 BL5499	TATA MOTORS SAFARI VX 2.2	Rs.1,45,000/- / Rs.15,000/- / Rs.2000/-	31460015181219 BARBOKHANDG	Patrapada, Santoshimaa Mandir Mob.:9938202766
2.	KHANDAGIRI BRANCH / 707772107	Mrs Saraswati Satapathy, W/o: Saubhagya Kumar Satapathy, At: Patharakata, Post: Langaleswar, Dist: Ganjam; 761029 .	OD 02 AH0404	Maruti Suzuki India RIGID (Passenger Car)	Rs.1,63,000/- / Rs.17,000/- / Rs.2000/-	31460015181219 BARBOKHANDG	Patrapada, Santoshimaa Mandir Mob.:9938202766
3.	PATIA BRANCH / 707772142	Mr Trinath Khamari, S/o: Kelu Sundaray, At/PO: Daruthenga, Chandaka, Khordha- 754005 .	OD33AC 5727	NEXA CIAZ ALPHA BS V1 MT	Rs.1,85,000/- / Rs.19,000/- / Rs.2000/-	85630015181219 BARBODBPATIA	Chandangarh, Near Nuapola, Jagatsinghpur, mob.:8456907181
4.	VSS NAGAR BRANCH / 707772185	Madhusmita Das, D/o: Sahadeb Das, At: Plot No.1687/5145, Kalarahanga, Patia, Radhakrushna Matha, Bhubaneswar- 751024 & Permanent Address: D/o: Sahadeb Das, At/PO.: Sankhapur, Angul, Odisha- 759129 .	OD02CB 1881	HYUNDAI I20 ALL NEW SPORTZ 1.2 KAPPAMT	Rs.6,45,000/- / Rs.65,000/- / Rs.2000/-	61190015181219 BARBOVSSNAG	Patrapada, Santoshimaa Mandir Mob.:9938202766
5.	SWARGDWAR PURI BRANCH / 707772125	Biswaranjan Panigrahi, S/o: Nityananda Panigrahi, At: Baikuntha Dham, VIP Road, Puri, Post: Puri, Odisha- 752001 .	OR02 AT2339	HYUNDAI XCENT ET CRDI	Rs.1,25,000/- / Rs.13,000/- / Rs.2000/-	24290015181219 BARBOSWARGD	Patrapada, Santoshimaa Mandir Mob.:9938202766
6.	SWARGDWAR PURI BRANCH / 707772125	Biswaranjan Panigrahi, S/o: Nityananda Panigrahi, At: Baikuntha Dham, VIP Road, Puri, Post: Puri, Odisha- 752001 .	OD13J 6339	HYUNDAI XCENT	Rs.2,50,000/- / Rs.25,000/- / Rs.2000/-	24290015181219 BARBOSWARGD	Patrapada, Santoshimaa Mandir Mob.:9938202766
7.	JATANI BRANCH / 707772100	Mr Dipti Ranjan Das, S/o: Chandramani Das, Bikas Nagar, Jatani, Dist: Khordha .	OD02AN 8959	Maruti Suzuki Baleno Sigma	Rs.5,00,000/- / Rs.50,000/- / Rs.2000/-	46630015181219 BARBOJATANI	Patrapada, Santoshimaa Mandir Mob.:9938202766
<b>Vehicles Inspection Date: 01.12.2023, Time: 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM</b>							
<b>Last date of submission of online EMD: 02.12.2023 by 04.00PM</b>							
<b>The Schedule date of auction to be held on 04.12.2023 from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM</b>							
Bid and declaration form along with self-attested Aadhar, PAN, EMD deposit with UTR No. to be submitted to Authorised Officer on or before 02.12.2023 for getting user id & password from Auction Tiger . (Help Desk No.: 9265562821/9265562819)							
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer / visit to the website link <a href="https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm">https://www.bankofbaroda.com/e-auction.htm</a> and <a href="https://bob.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/prospective_bidders">https://bob.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/prospective_bidders</a> may contact the Authorised Officer on Mobile: 7077721255, 9437312501 .							
<b>Place: Bhubaneswar, Date:31.10.2023</b>							
<b>Sd/- Branch Manager, Bank of Baroda</b>							

Advt. No.01/2023

**Government of India**  
**Department of Atomic Energy**  
 Invites application for the Post of  
**Director (Finance)**  
 In Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL)  
 Last date of receipt of applications is  
**15.12.2023 upto 1700 hrs.**  
 For details login to website  
<http://www.dae.gov.in>  
 CBC 48134/12/0038/2324

**VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK**  
 30th October to 5th November 2023

**"SAY NO TO CORRUPTION, COMMIT TO THE NATION"**

**AN APPEAL TO CUSTOMERS**

- PLEASE DO NOT PAY ANYTHING OVER AND ABOVE THE LEGITIMATE CHARGES.
- PLEASE INSIST ON RECEIPT/TICKET FOR THE PAYMENT MADE BY YOU.
- IF YOU COME ACROSS ANY EMPLOYEE OF THE RAILWAY DEMANDING BRIBE OR INDULGING IN MALPRACTICE, PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLAINT TO SR. DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER (SDGM), EAST COAST RAILWAY, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR-751017, TELEPHONE NO.: 0674-2300230, FAX NO.: 0674-2301328 AND E-MAIL ID: sdgm@ecor.railnet.gov.in
- PLEASE SIGN THE COMPLAINT AND PROVIDE PROPER ADDRESS. THE EMAIL COMPLAINT SHOULD NECESSARILY ENCLOSE A SIGNED COPY WITH COMPLETE POSTAL ADDRESS.
- IN CASE YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR NAME SECRET, PLEASE MENTION THE SAME IN YOUR COMPLAINT AND SEND IT IN A CLOSED/SECURED ENVELOPE, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, CENTRAL VIGILANCE COMMISSION, SATARKATA BHAWAN, BLOCK-A, GPO COMPLEX, INA, NEW DELHI-110023, DULY SUPER SCRIBING "COMPLAINT UNDER THE PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE AND PROTECTION OF INFORMERS" OR "PIDPI" ON THE ENVELOPE.
- IN YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINT REGARDING CORRUPTION IN RAILWAYS, YOU CAN RING UP & INFORM ON VIGILANCE HELPLINE NO.: 8455885031.

**VIGILANCE**  
 Helpline No. 8455885031

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
[www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in)

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF P.R. & D.W.**  
**OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, TALCHER**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
 IDENTIFICATION No. TAL-02/2023-24  
 E-mail: ori-talcher@nic.in

The Block Development Officer, Talcher on behalf of PR & DW Department, Govt. of Odisha invites percentage of rates BID in Double Cover System from the work 1. Construction of Community Centre for Brahman Samaj of Talcher Town. 2. Renovation of Shiv Mandir at Village/G.P.: Kumunda from a Class of eligible bidders as mentioned in Column 4 (Four), registered with the State Government and Contractors of the equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/ MES/Railways to be eventually drawn up in PWD P-1 form, for execution of building (Civil Work). The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid. If successful the Bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing the Agreement.

- The sale of BID documents will be started from Dt.30.10.2023 to 08.11.2023 upto 5 P.M.
- The bid documents will be received through Speed Post/ Registered Post latest by 09.11.2023 upto 5 P.M.
- The bid documents will be opened on 10.11.2023 at 11 A.M. till completion.
- For other details you can visit the website [www.angul.nic.in](http://www.angul.nic.in) or in the Office of the BDO, Talcher during office hour.

**Sd./- Block Development Officer, Talcher**

We are always surrounded by the things of which we think.

THE MOTHER



## Out of Touch

Perform or Perish is a corporate world mantra with the stated objective of increasing productivity to benefit private owners. Superficially, there is nothing wrong with this. However, trouble starts when it is stretched too far and working hours are extended to abnormal limits that tell on the health – both physical and mental – of the workforce. The whole mechanism of productivity then becomes counter-productive. Recently, Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy has, out of the blue, suggested that working Indians should put in 70 hours of toil per week. Why at this juncture Murthy had to spill this liquid pearl of wisdom is unknown to most of us common citizens of this country. Especially in the third decade of the 21st Century, most civilized countries across the world are trying to cut down on working hours. Some developed countries are even opting for four work days per week. The reason for squeezing working hours is that people are getting mentally stressed or even ill due to long hours of work. The world over a clear understanding is dawning on business and administrative leaders that it is extremely important to keep the nation's workforce in a stable and healthy physical and mental condition. Narayana Murthy's statement is also surprising since he is not a building contractor. His enterprise, that is known to the world, primarily deals with intellectual property creation. He may be labeled a software contractor who is not known to have developed a single mass use software or app that is recognised to be Indian. As an example, one can cite Baidu, which the Chinese developed as an alternative to Google. In his quest for more profits, Narayana Murthy might have sought legitimacy in making his staff work longer hours. Undoubtedly, Infosys employees are well paid by Indian standards. The same quality and quantity of output in countries like the US and Germany would certainly fetch much more attractive packages.

Murthy sought to link the exacting working hours with India's work culture and its ability or lack thereof to compete effectively on the global stage. He argued that unless India's youth commit to significantly more working hours, the country will struggle to catch up with economies that have seen remarkable progress over the past few decades. Unfortunately, no one wants to delve deeper into the reasons for which most Indians do not prefer to toil hard. Merely increasing number of working hours would definitely not bring forth any tangible results. This can be said since the current eight hour shift is also not utilized in totality. Any organization operating in India should consider itself extremely lucky if it can extract even four hours of hard as well as sincere work from its employees. Whether at offices, factories or construction sites, the scenario is similar. In situations where there is a hard taskmaster, the rate of attrition rises.

It is the mindset of workers that has to be dealt with. Most entrepreneurs in the small and medium level perish very soon if their operations are based on large workforces. Many organizations consciously cut down on profitability by putting on layers of staff for the same job. Even the government, whether at the Centre or in any state, suffers from its employees' disinterest in putting up the basic minimum hours of sincere work. Apart from this, Indians do not believe in the system of hourly payment. Unlike developed countries, we do not accept payment based on output. Therefore, a monthly salary is the safest and only acceptable form of employment in this country. Also to blame could be the feudal mindset of both the employers and employees. Employers want undue profits by whipping the staff to work more while the employee feels he will not be a gainer any which way by putting in extra efforts. That is the negative aspect of fixed salaries. Added to this, we have had a long history of labour laws which protect non performers and laggards.

Merely calling for a 70 hour work week is a clear sign that the person is totally clueless and is out of touch with the predominant attitude of the bulk of Indian working class.



Michael Bröning

**GERMANY HAS LONG BEEN THE LARGEST RECIPIENT OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE EU**

"Too many people are coming," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz recently declared in an interview with the weekly news magazine Der Spiegel. The chancellor's stern gaze on the cover underscored the seriousness of his proclamation: "We must finally deport on a large scale those who have no right to stay in Germany."

Such an equivocal message from the head of Germany's three-party coalition government is seen as a turning point in the domestic debate about migration. But in many ways, Scholz's strong language reflects a deeper, long-simmering shift in policy.

In June, Scholz overruled opposition within his coalition and helped push through a major migration deal to overhaul the European Union's asylum procedures. The newly proposed rules would enable the EU to create processing centers on its external borders. Addressing the Bundestag, Scholz declared that restructuring the "completely dysfunctional" European immigration system was a "historic" achievement.

More recently, Scholz's government introduced draft legislation that would facilitate deportations by increasing the maximum length of pre-deportation custody and simplifying the procedure for removing convicted criminals, in addition to establishing temporary internal border controls to limit irregular migration. Scholz also distanced himself from the decision to provide financial support to NGOs carrying out search-and-rescue operations in the Mediterranean, stressing that the funds had been approved by parliament, not by his government.

Such a drastic move away from the celebrated Willkommenskultur of 2015, when Germans flocked to train stations to welcome Syrian refugees, is largely driven by high levels of migration in recent years. Germany has long been the largest recipient of asylum seekers in the EU. The number of people seeking humanitarian protection in Germany

FOCUS SOCIETY

# UNEXPECTED CASUALTY



**Through a complex interplay of events, the war in Gaza has led many Germans to question previously sacrosanct immigration policies. As a result, polarisation has given way to political consensus**

Through a complex interplay of events, the war in Gaza has led many Germans to question previously sacrosanct immigration policies. As a result, polarisation has given way to political consensus.

Hamas' murder of more than 1,000 Israeli civilians outraged much of the German public. Yet many were shocked to learn that this sentiment was far from unanimous. A significant portion of Germany's immigrant population, often with family connections to the Middle East and living in disadvantaged urban areas, had a radically different assessment and sympathies.

Since the October 7 attack, the Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Anti-Semitism has registered more than 200 anti-Semitic incidents in Germany, including an arson attack on a synagogue. And in Berlin's Neukölln neighbourhood, an Islamic association gained notoriety for handing out sweets in the street to celebrate Hamas' brutality.

For many Germans, the surge in anti-Semitism strikes at the heart of the country's post-Holocaust identity: the idea of "never again." At the same time, it serves as seemingly irrefutable evidence of the challenges of integration. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier echoed the general sentiment when he reminded the public that everyone "who lives here must know Auschwitz and understand the responsibility that our country has."

Thus, in a surprising – and not necessarily nuanced – way, outrage over the conduct of a few has legitimised an about-face on migration policy that could affect thousands more. It is unclear whether this consensus will hold, or whether this dramatic shift in both rhetoric and action will be enough to placate a concerned public. But, for now, it is clear that Germany's Willkommenskultur has become an unexpected casualty of the Israel-Hamas war.

*The writer is on the Basic Values commission of Germany's Social Democratic Party.*

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increased by 1.14 million from 2021 to 2022, one of the highest year-on-year increases since 2007, when the German Federal Statistical Office began reporting these data.

The trend has persisted this year, and, coupled with a looming recession and strained resources at the local level, it has fueled a tectonic shift in German public opinion. Concerns over immigration now cut across political lines, with 44% of Germans considering it the most important problem facing the country.

At the same time, nearly two-thirds of voters are dissatisfied with the coalition government, while polls indicate that the xenophobic Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) has firmly established itself as Germany's second-strongest party. This was obvious in recent state elections in Bavaria and Hesse: the government parties suffered significant losses, while both the conservative Christian Democrats and the far-right AfD gained ground.

Already under pressure from the right, Scholz now faces yet another political challenge: at the end of October, former far-left leader Sahra Wagenknecht announced the creation of a new party. Born and raised in East Germany and long a central figure of the post-communist Die Linke, Wagenknecht is known for her emphasis on working-class voters, her con-

servative social values, her criticism of military support for Ukraine – and her strident calls to limit migration.

In 2021, Wagenknecht, a frequent and eloquent guest on Germany's talk shows, published an all-out literary assault on left-liberals – whom she calls the "self-righteous" – that became an instant bestseller. According to current polls, a staggering 27% of German voters would consider supporting her new party.

Against this backdrop, Scholz's change of language on immigration is the equivalent of a frantic search for the emergency brake. But while inaction comes with a price, so does action. For example, his tough talk is almost certain to alienate the Green Party, a coalition partner that prides itself on welcoming migrants.

Scholz also faces a growing wave of criticism from within his own party ranks. The Social Democratic Party's youth wing has pledged to resist the tightening of immigration rules, declaring that there is "no point in mimicking the right." Moreover, in the past, pushback from civil society, religious leaders, and progressive media has made it politically risky to pursue a more hardline stance on migration.

For the time being, however, the escalating conflict in the Middle East has shifted the ground beneath this debate.

IN JEST THIS

## Some divorces need to be celebrated too



Melvin Durai

**IF YOU WANT TO FEEL FINANCIALLY SECURE IN PORTUGAL, MAKE SURE YOU BECOME A DIVORCE ATTORNEY**

There's a common saying that marriages are made in heaven. But if they're made in heaven, why are they so hard?

For many people, it's a struggle to get married, and it's also a struggle to stay married. That's why the divorce rate keeps rising. In some countries, it's almost 100 per cent.

No, I'm not kidding. The divorce rate in Portugal is 94 per cent, according to the Global Index. If you want to feel financially secure in Portugal, make sure you become a divorce attorney.

The divorce rate in Spain is not far behind: 85 per cent. In fact, in almost all Western countries, the divorce rate is higher than 40 per cent, according to the Global Index. In India, it's still very low, around 1 per cent, but it's been rising gradually.

I'm not sure how the Global Index determines a country's divorce rate, but perhaps they send representatives to a public place and see what percent-

age of adults are smiling. The ones who are smiling are divorced.

Trust me some of the happiest people in the world are divorced. You'd be happy too if you just got divorced from the worst person in the world. Of course, there is no shortage of candidates for the title of "worst person in the world," but millions of people around the globe would bestow it upon their ex-husbands or ex-wives. And many would bestow it upon a former in-law.

But even when a marriage is terrible – when your spouse or your in-laws mistreat you – going through a divorce isn't easy. And being divorced may make you feel like a failure: you failed to keep your marriage intact or failed to recognise the type of person you were marrying. If it was an arranged marriage, you might blame your parents or whoever arranged it. If it was a love marriage, you might blame yourself. But as far as I know, there is no guaranteed formula

for a successful marriage. Sure, there are certain guidelines you can follow, such as these:

1. Do not marry someone who has been convicted of murder. This may seem obvious, but lots of people believe in redemption and second chances. I do too, but I don't plan on attending any weddings at the penitentiary.

2. Do not marry someone who listens to country music. Actually, it's okay if they listen to country music, as long as they use earphones. If they blare it in your home, most judges would consider that grounds for divorce.

3. Do not marry someone who doesn't treat everyone with respect, even the people who listen to country music. If they're rude to people who are different from them in any way, don't be surprised when they mistreat you or someone you love.

Even when everything seems perfect, when all the boxes are checked, marriages can fail, and divorce may be the only path to happiness.

In some cases, when two peo-

ple are just not right for each other, divorce should be welcomed, even celebrated. That's why I was pleased to read about the 'baarat' that a man named Prem Gupta organised for his daughter: He welcomed her home after her divorce with a procession that featured drums, firecrackers and motorcycles.

A video he posted on Facebook showed his daughter pulling her suitcase behind her, as she was hugged by relatives.

"When your daughter's marriage is done with great pomp and show and if the spouse and family turn out to be wrong or does wrong things, then you should bring your daughter back to your home with respect and honour because daughters are very precious," Gupta wrote.

Among the many responses online, one person wrote, "Salute to the great father. ... Many best wishes for the daughter for a new beginning."

A new beginning. That's what divorce often brings. Another chance to get it right.

WISDOM CORNER

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

ANNE FRANK

The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.

PABLO PICASSO

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on.

ROBERT FROST

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1512: For the first time, the general public was able to view Michelangelo's fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican Palace; the artwork is among the greatest achievements in Western painting.

1755: Lisbon was heavily damaged by an earthquake that demolished more than 9,000 buildings and killed as many as 30,000 people.

1952: On an atoll of the Marshall Islands, Edward Teller and other American scientists tested the first thermonuclear bomb, its power resulting from an uncontrolled, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

1994: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched its Wind spacecraft on a mission that would include a "halo orbit" between the Sun and Earth to explore the space environment there.

1997: James Cameron's Titanic, a drama about the doomed ocean liner, had its first public screening at the Tokyo International Film Festival; the movie would become one of the highest grossing of all time, and it made Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet international stars.

LOL



ROOKIE ON THE JOB

A rookie police officer was out for his first ride in a cruiser with an experienced partner. A call came in telling them to disperse some people who were loitering.

The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner.

The rookie rolled down his window and said, "Let's get off the corner people."

A few glances, but no one moved, so he barked again, "Let's get off that

corner... NOW!"

Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, casting puzzled stares in his direction.

Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, "Well, how did I do?"

"Pretty good," chuckled the vet, "especially since this is a bus stop"

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

No smoke without fire

Sir, Denial of bail to former Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia reveals wrong doings in the liquor policy. Multiple bail pleas have been rejected by the courts. It can be construed that there can be no smoke without fire. The CBI has submitted that the conspiracy and involvement of Sisodia is well established. The ED has submitted that ₹45 crore was transferred through havalas for the Goa election and used by AAP. Denial of bail must put to rest the opinion of the AAP that the central government was indulging in witch-hunting. It is not unusual for political parties to make mountain out of mole hill. Investigating agencies do their job. The substance of findings by the investigating agencies is measured in the courts of law. In the case of Sisodia, the Supreme Court has seen money trail. The veracity of truth with regard to corruption and money laundering comes out only after complete trial in the court. The buck in the liquor scam has not stopped at Sisodia. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been summoned by the ED for questioning and recording his statements under PMLA in the ongoing investigation.

KV Seetharamiah, BANGALORE

People have right to know

Sir, This refers to "People need not know" (Orissa Post, October 31). I would like to comment that the decision of the Centre with regard to party cash is nothing but the height of autocracy. Citizens have brought a political party in power at the Centre and the leaders are always answerable to the public. They have every right to ensure that political leaders do not indulge in any unfair means to retain power. Citizens cannot allow the ruling party to accept huge donations without disclosing the source in order to influence the course of national politics. I think, the attorney-general R Venkataramani has wrongly argued rather cautioned the apex court to not suggest the replacement of electoral bonds. The political funding may be fully tax compliant, but the people have every right to know who are influencing the party in power at the Centre and for what interest?

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

# Over 76,000 people infected with dengue in West Bengal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
Kolkata, Oct 31: Dengue spread in West Bengal seems to be heading for an alarming proportion as the total number of affected people in the state has crossed 76,000 mark.

State health department said that, till October 24, the total number of dengue affected people in the state stands at 76,475. Last year the total affected people stood at 67,271.

The maximum spike in the number of affected people had been in the 10-day period from October 14 and October 24, when around 9,000 newly affected people had been detected.

State health department said that besides Kolkata, the adjacent districts of North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Howrah are majorly affected districts. The situation is also alarming in districts like Hooghly, Malda and Murshidabad. Meanwhile, the state health department is yet



**T**he maximum spike in the number of affected people had been in the 10-day period from October 14 and October 24, when around 9,000 newly affected people had been detected

**S**tate health department said that besides Kolkata, the adjacent districts of North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Howrah are majorly affected districts

to release any official date about the deaths but unofficial estimates that at least 65 people have died so far due to the disease.

Opposition BJP is constantly claiming that the actual death figure has well crossed over 100 deaths. They also allege that often doctors, especially those attached to state-run hospitals or health centers are forced to report dengue deaths as "deaths due to unknown fever".

Last month, a PIL was also filed in Calcutta High Court

seeking the court's intervention in ensuring proper administrative initiatives in arresting further spread of the disease.

The PIL was filed at a time when the Health and Family Welfare Ministry had accused the West Bengal Health Department of suppressing the actual figures relating to the number of affected people or the deaths. On the other hand, the state government has accused the Central government of denying the necessary financial assistance.

# Drought study tour a farce: K'taka CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 31: Terming Karnataka BJP's drought study tour as "farce", Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Tuesday accused it of using the drought situation for 'petty political gains'.

Siddaramaiah alleged delay in the release of central funds, and asked BJP leaders to at least arrange an appointment for him with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, if they don't have the courage to talk to him.

The BJP has formed 17 teams headed by leaders, including former CM B S Yediyurappa, to tour all 33 districts of the state and assess the drought situation from November 3 to 10. The party said it will submit a report to the government and seek time in the next Assembly session for a debate on the issue.

"The new drought study tour of BJP leaders of Karnataka is a farce. While the ones who should provide drought relief are seated in Delhi, these state BJP leaders are undertaking a drought study tour within the state instead of appealing to their bosses in the union government," Siddaramaiah said in a statement.



**The new drought study tour of BJP leaders of Karnataka is a farce. While the ones who should provide drought relief are seated in Delhi, these state BJP leaders are undertaking a drought study tour within the state instead of appealing to their bosses in the Union government**

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

"Dear BJP leaders, your very own party's government had sent a team of experts from Delhi to study the drought situation in Karnataka. But now, you are undertaking a tour for the same purpose. Don't you trust your own government's drought study team?" he asked.

The Karnataka government has estimated loss due to the drought to be around ₹33,770 crore and has requested ₹17,901 crore relief from the union government. Noting that "unfortunately" the state has not received even a single paisa as relief, the CM said, "Dear BJP leaders, if you genuinely care about the farmers of the state, first demand from your government.

How many BJP MPs have written a letter to the Prime Minister demanding the relief funds for Karnataka?"

He charged the BJP with hoodwinking the innocent people of Karnataka by claiming that if the 'double engine' government comes to power, the state would witness unprecedented development.

Averring that the BJP managed to win 25 seats in the last Lok Sabha elections, he said, "What are these MPs doing? Why are they sitting idle? Have they ever raised their voice against the injustice done to the state by the union government?"

BJP leaders should be touring Delhi, not the state, he said.

"Take your 25 Lok Sabha members to Delhi, meet the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and question him if needed, and ask for the relief funds. If you don't have the courage to talk to him, at least arrange an appointment for me with the Prime Minister."

"After causing injustice to Karnataka on the issues of land, water and language, do BJP leaders have any shame left to tour the state? Drought-affected people don't need your empty words of consolation; they need relief. How can the people accept you when you're using the drought situation for petty political gains?" he asked.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said let the BJP leaders take steps to ensure that the state receive relief funds from the central government at the earliest.

"Let the BJP study the drought situation, there is nothing wrong, let them get the relief funds from the Centre. Let them ensure that the state gets relief funds in accordance with the report submitted by the Revenue and Agriculture Minister. The union government should be liberal while releasing funds as per norms," he said.



Administrator General and Official Trustee of West Bengal, Biplab Roy shows the weapons that were surrendered by Pakistani Army in 1971 Indo-Pak war, after receiving them from BSF for a museum and research centre, in Kolkata, Tuesday

# Mamata attends office after 50 days

**SHE WAS CONFINED TO HOME FOLLOWING HER RENEWED LIMB INJURIES AND INFECTION THAT SHE RECEIVED DURING HER OVERSEAS TRIP TO SPAIN AND DUBAI A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 31: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Tuesday, attended her office at the state secretariat of Nabanna at Mandirtal in Kolkata adjacent Howrah district after a gap of 50 days.

She was confined to home following her renewed limb injuries and infection that she received during her overseas trip to Spain and Dubai a couple of months ago.

The Chief Minister Tuesday,

on the order of a three-member Arbitral Tribunal, has directed the West Bengal government to pay a compensation of ₹765.78 crore in addition to an interest at the rate of 11 per cent accrued on it since September 2016 as compensation to the company for the closure of its Nano car project in Singur in Hooghly district.

Sources from the state government said that Chief Minister



Banerjee is also expected to discuss her senior cabinet on the fate of chair of the state forest minister following the arrest of the Jyotipriya Mallick by Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths in connection with multi-crore ration distribution in the state.

Now, it is to be seen whether the Chief Minister will totally replace Mallick and appoint a full-time state forest minister, or will give any existing cabinet member the additional responsibility of the said department.

At the same time, state government sources said, the Chief Minister is also expected to discuss the agenda for the forthcoming next meeting of the state cabinet on November 9.

**Now, it is to be seen whether the Chief Minister will totally replace Mallick and appoint a full-time state forest minister or will give any existing cabinet member the additional responsibility of the said department**

# Liquor sale touches ₹600 cr-mark in WB



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 31: The West Bengal government has earned a whopping state excise income of ₹600 crore through sale of liquor during the four days of the just concluded Durga puja festival in the state.

Monday was the first working day for the state government after a long Durga puja vacation and the calculations drawn on the liquor sales in the state and the amount coming to the state exchequer in the form of state excise has made the officials of the state finance department quite elated.

As per calculations of the state finance department officials, the state excise collection has already touched around ₹8,000 crore which is around 45 per cent of the targeted collection of ₹17,921.56 crore as per the budget estimates for 2023-24.

Going by the trend during the four days of Durga puja, the state excise officials expect similar impressive sales of liquor and beer during the current month on the occasion of Kali Puja and Diwali and then in

December because of another prolonged festive season starting with Christmas and ending with New Year's Eve.

"Generally, the period between October and January is the boom period as regards liquor sales and state excise collection because of two prolonged festive seasons at short intervals. But the trend in Durga Puja this year on this count has surpassed all previous records. So it is now almost certain that the targeted state excise collection will be well surpassed by the end of the current financial year," said a state finance department official.

As per the budget estimates for the financial year of 2023-24, the state excise collection is slated to rise to ₹17,921.56 crore, up by 19.41 per cent from the figure of ₹15,001.39 crore as per the revised estimates for the financial year of 2022-23.

Whereas, the total state's own tax revenue as per the budget estimates for 2023-24 is slated to increase by just 12.69 per cent to ₹88,595.54 crore from the figure of ₹79,500 crore as per the revised estimates for 2022-23.

# Bangalore 'kambala' to have longest track

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mangaluru, Oct 31: The first competitive 'kambala', slush track buffalo race, to be held in Bangalore on November 25 and 26 will have the longest slush track measuring 155 metres instead of the normal 145 metres, Puttur MLA and Bengaluru kambala committee president Ashok Kumar Rai, has said.

During an interaction at the press club here, he said 116 Kambala buffalo owners have registered their names to participate in the first-ever Kambala to be held at the Palace Grounds in Bangalore.

He said more than 8 lakh people



are expected to witness the two-day event in the state capital. The winner of the race will be given a cash prize of ₹1.50 lakh.

Rai said the committee's target is to have at least 125 pairs of buffaloes participating in the event. The buffalo owners will be

paid ₹50,000 each as transport cost. Several stalls showcasing the traditional delicacies of Dakshina Kannada will be set up at the venue, he said.

The name of the Kambala track in Bangalore will be finalised within a few days. The proceeds from the Kambala event will be spent on the construction of a Tulu Bhavan in Bangalore. The government will be requested to allot one acre of land for the purpose, Rai said.

Rai said film actors Suniel Shetty, Shilpa Shetty, Anushka Shetty, Yash, Darshan and cricketer K L Rahul will attend the event, which is being held out of the coastal belt for the first time.

# ISRO chief chosen for Rajyotsava Award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 31: The Karnataka government's Rajyotsava Award will be conferred this year upon 68 persons, including ISRO chairman S Somanath, for their meritorious service in their fields.

The award, considered to be the second highest civilian award given by the state government annually, will be conferred on the occasion of

68th Karnataka Rajyotsava, the state's formation day on November 1.

In addition to 68 Rajyotsava awards, it was decided to give away 10 awards to organisations, on the occasion of 'Karnataka Sambhrama' celebration marking the golden jubilee of renaming of Mysuru state as Karnataka, Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj Tangadagi said, announcing the winners of the award Tuesday.

# Restaurants make ₹1,100cr during puja

*This is the second Durga puja after all curbs related to the Covid-19 pandemic were withdrawn*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 31: During the just concluded Durga puja festival, revellers of Kolkata not only spent hours and overwhelmed by the pandals, idols and overall decorations, besides thronging restaurants to satisfy their taste buds.

The fine dining restaurants of the city made ₹1,100 crore in six days culminating on 'Dashami', the last day of the festival, which is more than 20 per cent of the earnings in the same period last year, according to the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Eastern India (HRAEI).

This is the second Durga puja after all curbs related to the Covid-19 pandemic were withdrawn.



The buoyancy remained on all six days till Dashami as foodies were found till 3 am across eateries, said HRAEI President Sudesh Poddar Poddar, who is also the owner of a fine dining restaurant cum bar in Kolkata.

"As per preliminary estimates, restaurants in the city did over ₹1,100 crore business during the period," Poddar said. A spokesperson of HRAEI said there has been a 20-25 per cent rise in sales compared to the figure last year.

He said the sales in some popular restaurants in the city were even better than the pre-Covid days of 2019. "Two years after the Covid-19 situation and the lock-

down, the feel-good factor, which was apparent in 2022, continues. People are enjoying the experience of dining out and watching films in theatres," said Nitin Kothari, owner of three restaurants including two iconic ones - Mocambo and Peter Cat.

Even during sudden showers on 'Navami' afternoon, all three eateries were filled to capacity, he claimed. "During this year's Durga Puja, we've been blessed to see a surge in enthusiasm from patrons from across the state," said Azra Asher Ather, the Sales Director of Aminia, a 95-year-old restaurant brand.

In comparison to last year, there was a 10-12 per cent growth in sales across all outlets during the Durga Puja period, Ather said. "During the four days from Saptami to Dashami, a remarkable 1,812 patrons, averaging an impressive 453 guests per day, went to our restaurant in Salt Lake area," owner of Ambrosia Bar and Restaurant, Supratik Ghosh, said.

No.C-1715

**WATCO**  
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**  
**WATCO, SEWERAGE DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR**  
2nd FLOOR, PHEO BUILDING, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001  
ODISHA, INDIA, E-MAIL: pe\_bs@owssb.in

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
Bid Identification No. 09/OWSSB, Dt. 30.10.2023

1. Name of the Work:	03 Nos. (Three Nos.)
2. Estimated Cost:	Rs.41.86 Lakhs to Rs.49.97 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion:	4 (Four) Months
4. Date & Time of availability of bid Documents in the Portal:	From 11.00 AM of 04.11.2023 to 5.00 PM of 14.11.2023
5. Last date/time of receipt of bids in the Portal:	5.00 PM of 14.11.2023
6. Date & time of opening of Bids:	12.30 PM of 15.11.2023
7. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid:	GENERAL MANAGER, WATCO, SEWERAGE DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR 2nd FLOOR, PHEO BUILDING, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001. ODISHA. E-MAIL: pe_bs@owssb.in
8. Further details can be seen from the website:	<a href="http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in">www.tenderodisha.gov.in</a>

The bidders have to participate in Online bidding only.

Sd/- General Manager  
WATCO, Sewerage Division, Bhubaneswar  
OIPR-13246/11/0003/2324



Artistes perform during 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' (National Unity Day) celebrations on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, near the Statue of Unity, in Kevadia, Gujarat



A reveler dressed in a costume poses during a Halloween celebration in Vilnius, Lithuanian



Protesters chant slogans and wave banners in the hearing room during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing to examine the national security supplemental request, on Capitol Hill in Washington



President Droupadi Murmu inspects a Guard of Honour upon her arrival in Leh



Women pose for photos showing their hands decorated with henna ahead of 'Karva Chauth', at Lajpat Nagar in New Delhi



Patients undergo treatment at a dengue ward of District Government Hospital, in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh



Artistes perform Pulikali during a procession ahead of 'Keraleeyam 2023', in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



# national

## of the day quote

All states' integration was assigned to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel except Jammu and Kashmir, and we know the problem we faced



JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

Every important force within the INDIA alliance would be subjected to cooked-up cases by central agencies. However, we are here to stay and emerge victorious



ABHISHEK SINGHVI | CONGRESS LEADER

There was no dearth of money, only a dearth of people willing to work. That changed under Modi ji. What was not achieved in 65 years was done in the last 10 years



NITIN GADKARI | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### SC notice to Centre on Umar Khalid's petition

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a response from the Centre on former JNU student Umar Khalid's plea challenging various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. A bench of justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi also said it would hear similar petitions on the issue on November 22. The top court said it would also hear Khalid's plea seeking bail in a case lodged under anti-terror law UAPA over his alleged involvement in the conspiracy behind the northeast Delhi riots of February 2020 on the same date. "Let them all be taken together," the bench said.

### 4 killed as vehicle falls into gorge

**Srinagar:** Four persons Tuesday were killed while 10 injured after the vehicle in which they were travelling fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, an official said. According to the police, the driver lost control of the vehicle following which it fell into a gorge in Nawagabra area of Karnah in Kupwara district. "The injured are being treated at a hospital in Tangdhar. A case has been registered in this incident," an official said.

### Fishermen leaders meet Union Minister

**Delhi/Chennai:** A delegation of leaders of Tamil Nadu fishermen associations, led by DMK MP T R Baalu, Tuesday called on Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan in Delhi and requested that steps be taken to solve the long-standing issue of arrests of fishermen by Sri Lanka. Baalu handed over a letter from Chief Minister M K Stalin to Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan, in which he flagged the arrest of 64 fishermen in October alone.

### 2 coaches, engine of Suhaildev Express derail

**New Delhi:** Two coaches and the engine of the Suhaildev Express train, which runs between Anand Vihar in Delhi and Ghazipur city in Uttar Pradesh, derailed at the Prayagraj railway station at around 9 pm Tuesday, the North Central Railway said. "The train started from the station and two wheels of the engine went off the track. Two coaches behind the engine also got derailed. However, no casualty was reported," Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO), North Central Railway (NCR), said.



The 'B jasoos' party first used 'Pegasus' to snoop on opposition leaders and institutions, now snooping is on through other mechanism. INDIA means India will not be intimidated by such threats

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

## TRAFFIC WOES

Commuters faced a harrowing time Tuesday owing to traffic restrictions imposed in central Delhi in view of the "Run For Unity" and "Meri Maati Mera Desh" mega finale events



# 'ED may arrest Kejriwal Nov 2'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** The AAP Tuesday claimed there are apprehensions that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) will arrest Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal November 2 after questioning him in a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam.

The ruling party in Delhi also alleged that the BJP was trying to finish it off by putting its top leaders behind bars. Kejriwal has been issued the summons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and according to sources, the ED will record his statement once he deposes at the probe agency's Delhi office at 11 am November 2.

This is the first time that Kejriwal has been summoned by the ED. He was questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the case in April. Addressing a press conference Tuesday, Delhi Cabinet Minister Atishi claimed the BJP was using these tactics to target the AAP as it knows that it cannot defeat Kejriwal in elections.

"According to various sources, the ED will also arrest Arvind Kejriwal and put him in jail November 2. Today, the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi want to eliminate the Aam Aadmi Party. This is why, one after another, AAP leaders are being arrested in false cases and sent to jail," she said.

Atishi said Kejriwal will be arrested not because there is any case or evidence against him but because he has spoken out against the BJP.

"He will be arrested only be-

KEJRIWAL HAS BEEN ISSUED THE SUMMONS UNDER PMLA AND ACCORDING TO SOURCES, THE ED WILL RECORD HIS STATEMENT ONCE HE DEPOSES AT THE PROBE AGENCY'S DELHI OFFICE AT 11 AM NOVEMBER 2

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT KEJRIWAL HAS BEEN SUMMONED BY THE ED

HE WAS QUESTIONED BY THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (CBI) IN THE CASE IN APRIL

cause Prime Minister Modi is afraid of him. They know that if there is one leader in this country who openly speaks against the BJP and fights against the party, it is Arvind Kejriwal. Since Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, he has been most troubled by one person and that is Arvind Kejriwal," she said.

In 2015, the BJP had been winning one state election after another but Kejriwal managed to confine the BJP to just three seats in Delhi, while the AAP won 67 of the 70 seats, she said.

In 2020 again, Atishi said, the BJP put all its efforts into the Delhi elections, fielding its leaders and creating a charged atmosphere across the country.

"However, the people of Delhi showed their love for their son Arvind Kejriwal and made him the chief minister of Delhi once more.

"When the MCD elections came, the BJP knew that the people of Delhi would elect Arvind Kejriwal and throw the BJP out of the MCD. They delayed the MCD elections, imposed restrictions and conducted elections along with the Gujarat elections. However, despite all this, the people of Delhi still elected Arvind Kejriwal in the MCD elections," she said.

Referring to the arrest of the AAP's top leaders, including Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and Satyendar Jain, Atishi claimed it only means that the BJP wants to "finish off the AAP". Jain has been granted interim bail in a money laundering case. "After Kejriwal is arrested, the BJP will target other leaders of the INDIA alliance and its chief ministers using the CBI and the ED.

**AAP alleged that the BJP was trying to finish it off by putting its top leaders behind bars**

## Air quality 'very poor' in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** Haze enveloped Delhi and its suburbs Tuesday, with the capital recording 'very poor' air quality for the fourth day on the trot.

According to a numerical model-based system developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, vehicular emissions (11 per cent to 16 per cent) and stubble burning (7 per cent to 16 per cent) currently stand as the two major contributors to the city's air quality.

It also showed that pollution sources in Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, are responsible for up to 14 per cent of the air pollution in the capital.

The city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 359, the highest so far this season. It was 347 Monday, 325 Sunday, 304 Saturday and 261 Friday, 256 Thursday, 243 Wednesday and 220 Tuesday.

The AQI was 232 in neighbouring Ghaziabad, 313 in Faridabad, 233 in Gurugram, 313 in Noida and 356 in Greater Noida.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

The city's air quality deteriorated to the 'very poor' category on Saturday due to slow wind speed at night and a dip in temperature.

# Rajasthan polls: Cong releases fourth list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** The Congress Tuesday released a fourth list of candidates for the Rajasthan assembly elections, naming 56 leaders including national spokesperson Gourav Vallabh from Udaipur and Manvendra Singh, son of the late BJP stalwart Jaswant Singh, from Siwana.

The Congress has so far announced 151 candidates for the November 25 polls in the desert state, where the party seeks to

buck the trend of incumbent governments being voted out.

At a meeting of the party's Central Election Committee earlier in the evening, the Congress also discussed the names of probable candidates for the Rajasthan assembly. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Sonia Gandhi, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge of the state Sukhjinder Randhawa and the party's state unit chief Govind Dotasra attended the

meeting. AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and Rajasthan screening committee chief Gaurav Gogoi, besides members of the CEC were among others who attended the Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting.

The Congress had Thursday released its third list of 19 candidates for the polls. The first list of candidates for Rajasthan had 43 candidates and the second has 33.

The 200-member Rajasthan Assembly will go to polls on

November 25 and the counting of votes will be taken up on December 3. Meanwhile, former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot filed his nomination for the upcoming state polls from Tonk assembly constituency and asserted that there is no discord within the party and everyone is working together.

Asked about the Congress' chief ministerial face, Pilot said the party has a tradition of not declaring one before elections and it will be decided by the high command after the party wins.

The group also informed that youth volunteers would be the ones going to face the "war" on the frontlines and the Kuki National Army and underground groups won't be able to join the "war" freely in view of SOO agreement, the state government release said.

The group had further in-

formed that its national volunteers shall be equipped with the best arms and if required, unlimited ammunition will be supplied. The Manipur cabinet noted that an FIR was already lodged against the organisation Monday

The cabinet also decided to instruct the security forces to "launch a joint operation in Moreh and its adjoining areas to arrest the culprits responsible for the crime" and "noted that additional state forces have been detailed from Imphal for the purpose. The operations have since started".

The cabinet instructed central and state forces to ensure free movement of vehicles on Pallel-Moreh road NH-102 which connects Imphal valley with the border town, a distance of around 110 km. Manipur has been on the boil since May 3, when ethnic clashes broke out between the Meitais and the Kukis.

The group had further in-



Agitators burn tyres and other inflammable items during a protest on Pune-Bangalore Expressway to press for Maratha reservation, in Pune, Maharashtra

# Manipur SDPO shot dead

AGENCIES

**Imphal, Oct 31:** A senior police officer of Manipur was shot dead by suspected tribal militants in Tengnoupal district Tuesday prompting the state government to recommend declaring World Kuki-Zo Intellectual Council (WKZIC) as a banned group under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Sub-divisional police officer Chingtham Anand, a resident of Imphal's Haobam Marak locality, was killed in a sniper attack while he was on duty overseeing the cleaning of the grounds of Eastern Shine School for construction of a helipad jointly by the police and BSE, officials said.

He was taken to a primary health centre in Moreh where he succumbed to injuries, they said.

Within minutes, the state cabinet met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Biren Singh and announced a relief of Rs 50 lakh to the kin of Anand. It also decided to provide a suitable government employment to the next of the kin of the slain police officer.

"In view of today's incident leading to killing of a senior police officer, the Cabinet therefore approved to recommend for declaration of the World Kuki-Zo Intellectual Council (WKZIC), as an unlawful association/organization under section 3 of the Unlawful Activities



(Prevention) Act, 1967," an official release said.

However, the state government's recommendation have to be confirmed by the Centre, which is the deciding authority on declaring an organisation as unlawful under the UAPA.

The Manipur cabinet, in its meeting, noted that WKZIC had issued a press release on October 24 calling upon the Kuki-Zo community to have "sufficient stock" of arms and ammunition as it will "face another war" in November before the harvest season.

The group also informed that youth volunteers would be the ones going to face the "war" on the frontlines and the Kuki National Army and underground groups won't be able to join the "war" freely in view of SOO agreement, the state government release said.

The group had further in-

# Naidu walks out of jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rajamahendravaram (Andhra Pradesh), Oct 31:** TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu walked out of the Rajamahendravaram central prison Tuesday and thanked all his supporters from across the spectrum, spanning IT professionals to political parties.

Naidu, who spent 53 days in jail, walked out at 4.20 pm to a rousing reception by his family, party leaders and supporters, hours after the Andhra Pradesh High Court granted him a temporary bail in the Skill Development Corporation scam case.



Earlier in the day, the High Court granted interim bail for a period of four weeks to Naidu on health grounds. Advocates representing the former Andhra Pradesh chief minister had informed the court that he needed the bail to undergo a cataract surgery.

"I extend my gratitude to all the Telugu people. In the past 52 days when I had been in difficulties, all of you have come out and extended support to me and said your prayers for me. I will never forget the love you have showered. Not only in Andhra Pradesh but in both the Telugu states," Naidu said, talking to reporters outside the jail.

He thanked all the people who supported him across India and all over the world in various countries, promising to never forget their gesture. Naidu noted that "all the political parties" have supported him, especially Pawan Kalyan and Janasena. He highlighted that the BJP, CPI, BRS and some leaders from the Congress party had also extended support and thanked all of them.

# IMD PREDICTS WARMER NOVEMBER

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** Above-normal minimum temperatures are expected in most parts of India in November, barring some areas in the northwest and west-central regions, amid strengthening El Nino conditions, the IMD said Tuesday.

At a press conference here, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said rainfall over the country as a whole in November is most likely to be normal - 77-123 per cent of the long-period average.

Above-normal rainfall is likely over some areas of the southernmost parts of peninsular India, most parts of northwest India, and many parts of east-



central, east and northeast India, he said.

El Nino conditions are prevailing over the Equatorial Pacific Ocean and positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are prevailing over the Indian

Ocean. The latest global forecasts indicate that the El Nino conditions are likely to continue during the season and positive IOD conditions are likely to weaken during the coming months, the IMD said.

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD) DIRECTOR GENERAL MRUTYUNJAY MOHAPATRA SAID RAINFALL OVER THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE IN NOVEMBER IS MOST LIKELY TO BE NORMAL - 77-123 PER CENT OF THE LONG-PERIOD AVERAGE

ABOVE-NORMAL RAINFALL IS LIKELY OVER SOME AREAS OF THE SOUTHERNMOST PARTS OF PENINSULAR INDIA, MOST PARTS OF NORTHWEST INDIA, AND MANY PARTS OF EAST-CENTRAL, EAST AND NORTHEAST INDIA, HE SAID

Mohapatra, however, said models suggest that El Nino conditions are unlikely to continue into the next monsoon season.

El Nino conditions - the warming of waters in the Pacific Ocean

near South America - are associated with weaker monsoon winds and drier conditions in India. Indian Ocean Dipole is defined as the difference in the sea surface temperatures between the western parts of the Indian Ocean near Africa and the eastern parts of the ocean near Indonesia.

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# international



The atrocities of Hamas do not absolve Israel from its obligations under international humanitarian law. Every war has rules and this one is no exception  
PHILIPPE LAZZARINI | COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF UNRWA

**BOOSTING TOURISM**  
Thailand will waive visa requirements for arrivals from India and Taiwan from next month to May 2024, a government official said Tuesday, in a bid to draw in more tourists as high season approaches



## of the day quote

The Malaysian government will earmark 81 billion ringgit (\$17.1 billion) to subsidise essential items including electricity, fuel and food  
ANWAR IBRAHIM | MALAYSIAN PM

The international community clearly bans North Korea's nuclear and missile development and provocations  
CHOE SON-HUI | NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Mass illegal immigration harms each and every one of us. No one benefits from this, except criminal groups who get rich at the expenses of the most fragile and use their strength even against the governments  
GIORGIA MELONI | ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### 59 arrested

**Jakarta:** Indonesia's elite counterterrorism police squad arrested at least 59 suspected militants in recent weeks in a nationwide crackdown as the country gears up for elections in 2024, police said Tuesday. The arrests were made in eight provinces since Oct. 2, including 27 suspects who were arrested Friday, said Aswin Siregar, the spokesperson of the squad known as Densus 88. Those arrested believed to have links to banned extremist groups who were allegedly plotting to disrupt next year's election, he said. Indonesia is the world's third-largest democracy and the most populous Muslim-majority country.

### Quake hits Chile

**Santiago (Chile):** A magnitude 6.6 earthquake struck off the coast of northern Chile Tuesday morning and was felt in several provinces of neighbouring Argentina, but there were no immediate reports of damage and authorities said there was no tsunami risk. The US Geological Survey said the earthquake struck at 9:33 am local time (12:33 pm GMT), and its epicentre was 42 km (26 miles) southwest of Huasco, a city in Chile's Atacama region. The quake had a depth of 35 km (22 miles). Chile's national emergency office did not report any damages or injuries, and the Chilean navy dismissed the possibility of a tsunami.

### 5 killed in attack

**Islamabad:** At least five people, including a policeman, were killed and two others injured Tuesday in an attack on a police station by the militants in Pakistan's restive southwestern Balochistan province. Police said that about 20 militants attacked the Naseerabad Police Station in the Turbat area of the volatile province in the early morning. District Police Officer Muhammad Baloch confirmed the attack, saying constables Essa and Hassan tried to engage the attackers but the former was killed while Hassan was overpowered. The attacker took possession of the weapons of the two policemen.

### Wildfire destroys over 50 homes

**Canberra:** A wildfire is suspected to have killed a man, destroyed more than 50 homes and razed 20,000 hectares (49,000 acres) of farm and scrubland in eastern Australia, authorities said Tuesday. Firefighters have been battling the blaze that has scorched the Queensland state town of Tara for more than a week. No new property losses were reported Tuesday.



Britain's King Charles III, lays a wreath in honour of all those who lost their lives in Kenya's quest for independence, at Uhuru Gardens, in Nairobi, Tuesday

## Two killed in B'desh clashes



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dhaka, Oct 31:** At least two people were killed and dozens injured in sporadic clashes in Bangladesh on the first day of a three-day transport blockade called by the opposition BNP to demand Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the transfer of power to a non-partisan caretaker government to oversee general elections early next year.

The paramilitary troops were deployed to guard highways and maintain law and order in major cities while armed police and other law enforcement agencies enforced a countrywide vigil. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) protesters clashed with police, torched and stoned vehicles, including ambulances, and tried to disrupt traffic by placing burning tyres on highways or regional roads, police said.

Police confirmed the deaths of two BNP activists in Kishoreganj while three policemen were critically injured in suburban Narayanganj in clashes with the protesters.

BNP leaders in Kishoreganj said that two party workers were "shot dead by police" during a rally. One of them died on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries at a hospital, they said, adding that the clashes left over 100 activists injured. In Dhaka, the protesters set on fire several buses and clashed with police and supporters of the ruling Awami League.

Most transport operators suspended inter-district services. The traffic was thin in the national capital and other cities

**POLICE CONFIRMED THE DEATHS OF TWO BNP ACTIVISTS IN KISHOREGANJ WHILE THREE POLICEMEN WERE CRITICALLY INJURED IN SUBURBAN NARAYANGANJ IN CLASHES WITH THE PROTESTORS**

**THE PARAMILITARY TROOPS WERE DEPLOYED TO GUARD HIGHWAYS AND MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER IN MAJOR CITIES WHILE ARMED POLICE AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ENFORCED A COUNTRYWIDE VIGIL**

though the railways and ferry services were operational throughout the country. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Hasina in a press conference called BNP a "terrorist" organisation and ruled out talks with the opposition party led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. She warned the opposition of the consequences if they continued the blockade.

At least four people, including a policeman, were killed over the weekend in Dhaka and elsewhere during violent protests by the opposition supporters. The violence forced the BNP to abruptly end their rally. The party and its far-right ally Jamaat-e-Islami called a nationwide general strike on Sunday.

Dozens of BNP leaders and activists including the party's secretary general or de facto leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir were arrested for "instigating" violence or on charges like sabotage. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed concern over political violence in Bangladesh.

## Japan cops arrest gunman after 8-hour hostage drama

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tokyo, Oct 31:** Police in Japan ended an eight-hour standoff with a gunman at a post office Tuesday by arresting the suspect after two hostages were freed safely an attack authorities said could be related to an earlier shooting at a hospital.

The man had entered the post office with a gun in Warabi, north of Tokyo, about an hour after the hospital shooting in which two people were wounded in the nearby city of Toda. Footage on NHK television showed an elderly man sitting between two police officers in the back seat of a police car that drove past reporters and headed to a local police station.

Police said they captured the gunman when they stormed into the building, about an hour after the second of the two postal staff who remained in the building had escaped unhurt.

The other hostage had walked out safely nearly two hours earlier, according to NHK reports.

Police said they were investigating the hospital and post office attacks together because of a possibility they are related.

They are also looking into a fire that broke out at a building, which is reportedly the suspect's apartment block, near the hospital around the time of the shooting. Police identified the suspect as Tsuneo Suzuki and arrested him on suspicion of compulsion and taking hostages.

## Pak to take up smog issue with India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lahore, Oct 31:** Pakistan Tuesday said it will raise with India at the diplomatic level the issue of "stubble burning in Indian Punjab" impacting the air quality in Lahore, one of the most polluted cities across the globe.

During a meeting with interim Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar here, Punjab caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi informed him that the main reason for the spread of

## Israeli air strike kills 50 at Gaza refugee camp

**AS THE BATTLE INSIDE THE TINY HAMAS- RULED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY INTENSIFIED, ISRAELI PM BENJAMIN NETANYAHU DISMISSED INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR A HALT TO THE FIGHTING**



REUTERS

**Gaza/Jerusalem, Oct 31:** Israel said its forces fought Hamas gunmen inside the militants' vast tunnel network beneath Gaza as a hospital director said more than 50 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli air strike on a refugee camp in the besieged enclave.

As the battle inside the tiny Hamas-ruled Palestinian territory intensified, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed international calls for a halt to the fighting.

But U.N. and other aid officials warned that a public health catastrophe was engulfing civilians in Gaza, with hospitals struggling to cope with mounting casualties and food, medicine, drinking water and fuel running short.

The director of Gaza's Indonesian Hospital told Al Jazeera that more than 50 Palestinians were killed and 150 wounded in Israeli air strikes on a densely populated area of the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The tunnels under the cramped enclave are a prime objective for Israel as it expands a four-day-old ground offensive - after three weeks of aerial bombardment - into Gaza from the north to hit Hamas in retaliation for the Islamist group's deadly surprise attack into southern

## No ceasefire in Gaza, no votes, Muslim Americans tell Biden

**Washington:** Muslim Americans and some Democratic Party activists say they will work to mobilize millions of Muslim voters to withhold donations and votes towards President Joe Biden's 2024 reelection unless he takes immediate steps to secure a Gaza ceasefire. The National Muslim Democratic Council, which includes Democratic Party leaders from hotly contested states likely to decide the election, such as Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, called on Biden to use his influence with Israel to broker a ceasefire by 5 pm ET (2100 GMT) on Tuesday. In an open letter entitled "2023 Ceasefire Ultimatum," the Muslim leaders pledged to mobilize Muslim voters to "withhold endorsement, support, or votes for any candidate who endorses the Israeli offensive against the Palestinian people."

ern Israel on October 7.

Some of the 240 hostages that Israel says were seized by Hamas that day are believed to be held in the tunnel complex, adding a further complication for the Israelis on top of the difficulties of fighting in an urban setting.

"Over the last day, combined

IDF (Israel Defence Forces) struck approximately 300 targets, including anti-tank missile and rocket launch posts below shafts, as well as military compounds inside underground tunnels belonging to the Hamas terrorist organization," an Israeli military statement said.

Militants responded with anti-tank missiles and machine gun fire, it said. A number of militants were killed, it said, without specifying a number. Hamas said in a statement its fighters were engaging in fierce battles with Israeli ground forces, who were taking losses. "The occupation is pushing its soldiers into proud Gaza, which will always be the cemetery of invaders," Hamas said.

Israeli forces also bombed the narrow coastal enclave overnight in air, sea and ground attacks, hitting northwestern areas, witnesses said on Tuesday. On Monday, Israeli forces targeted Gaza's main north-south road and attacked Gaza City, its northern hub, from two directions.

Gaza health authorities say that 8,525 people, including 3,542 children, have been killed in Israeli attacks since Oct. 7. U.N. officials say more than 1.4 million of Gaza's civilian population of about 2.3 million have been made homeless. About 1,400 people, mainly civilians, were killed in the cross-border Hamas assault on October 7, Israel says. Reuters has been unable to independently verify casualty counts.

The al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, said militants also clashed early on Tuesday with Israeli forces invading Gaza's south, hitting four Israeli vehicles with missiles. Militants also fired at two Israeli tanks as well as bulldozers in northwest Gaza, al-Qassam said.

## Israeli tech CEOs call for Netanyahu's ouster

**Jerusalem:** Negating the notion of "you do not switch (leadership) during war", several leading Israeli tech company leaders have called for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ouster as soon as possible "to cut down losses". Dan Adika, the CEO and Co-Founder of tech firm WalkMe, Tuesday joined Amnon Shashua, the founder of self-driving auto technologies firm Mobileye, in calling for Netanyahu to step down following his government's failures after the unprecedented attack by Hamas militants from Gaza on October 7. Several other tech leaders also harshly criticised the Prime Minister for refusing to accept responsibility.

smog in Lahore is "the burning of residues of crops in Indian Punjab."

He requested the premier to take up this matter with India. Kakar then assured the Punjab government of taking up the issue of the smog with India as he said, "We will take up this matter with India at diplomatic level" and expressed hope the matter will be resolved.

Burning of crop residue takes place at this time of the year to prepare the ground for the next crop planting. The smoke is a



major contributor to dangerously polluting particles in the air. Lahore remained one of the most polluted cities in the world

## ANTI-MIGRANT CRACKDOWN

# Afghans in droves head to border to leave Pakistan

Although the government insists it isn't targeting Afghans, the campaign comes amid strained relations between Pakistan and the Taliban rulers next door

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Peshawar (Pakistan), Oct 31:** Large numbers of Afghans crammed into trucks and buses in Pakistan on Tuesday, heading to the border to return home hours before the expiration of a Pakistani government deadline for those who are in the country illegally to leave or face deportation.

The deadline is part of a new anti-migrant crackdown that targets all undocumented or unregistered foreigners, according to Islamabad. But it mostly affects Afghans, who make up the bulk of migrants in Pakistan.

The expulsion campaign has drawn widespread criticism from

U.N. Agencies, rights groups and the Taliban-led administration in Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials warn that people who are in the country illegally face arrest and deportation after October 31. U.N. Agencies say there are more than 2 million undocumented Afghans in Pakistan, at least 6,00,000 of whom fled after the Taliban takeover in 2021.

Although the government insists it isn't targeting Afghans, the campaign comes amid strained relations between Pakistan and the Taliban rulers next door. Islamabad accuses Kabul of turning a blind eye to Taliban-allied militants, who find shelter in Afghanistan, from

where they go back and forth across the two countries' shared 2,611-kilometre border to stage attacks in Pakistan. The Taliban deny the accusations.

"My father came to Pakistan 40 years ago," said 52-year-old Mohammad Amin, speaking in Peshawar, the capital of the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that borders Afghanistan. "He died here. My mother also died here and their graves are in Pakistan," said Amin, originally from Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province. "We are going back today as we never tried to register ourselves as refugees with the U.N. Refugee agency." "I am going back with good memo-



ries," he said, adding that he would head to the Torkham border crossing later Tuesday.

Nasrullah Khan, 62, said he'd heard the Taliban are considering helping Afghans on their

return from Pakistan. He said he was not worried by the prospect of Taliban rule but that it was still "better to go back to Afghanistan instead of getting arrested here."

More than 2,00,000 Afghans have returned home since the crackdown was launched, according to Pakistani officials. U.N. Agencies have reported a sharp increase in Afghans leaving Pakistan ahead of the deadline. Pakistan has insisted the deportations would be carried out in a "phased and orderly" manner.

Afghanistan is going through a severe humanitarian crisis, particularly for women and girls, who are banned by the Taliban from getting an education beyond the sixth grade, most public spaces and jobs. There are also restrictions on media, activists, and civil society organizations.



**I can say that the second quarter GDP number as and when it is released at the end of November, in all probability will surprise everyone on the upside**  
SHAKTIKANTA DAS, | RBI GOVERNOR

## COTTON OUTPUT LOWEST IN 15 YEARS

The country's cotton production is estimated at 29.51 million bales in the 2023-24 marketing season, the lowest in 15 years on less planting amid the El Nino effect, the Cotton Association of India said Tuesday. The cotton marketing season runs from October to September.



## of the day quote

I never got a customer saying 'I want my people to work so many hours'



ANIL VERMA | GODREJ & BOYCE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We're eager to continue contributing to India's economic and environmental goals as part of Amazon's commitment to become a more sustainable business



ABHINAV SINGH | V-P, OPERATIONS AT AMAZON INDIA

5G will deliver a good experience over a period of time, but whether people are driven by the need for 5G...We've not seen any significant impact until now



AKSHAYA MOONDR | VODAFONE IDEA CEO

# Key infra sector growth at 4-month low of 8.1%

The growth rate in the output of refinery products, fertiliser, cement and electricity during the month under review has decelerated, while it was negative in the case of crude oil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** The growth of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed down to a 4-month low of 8.1 per cent in September 2023 against 8.3 per cent a year ago, according to the official data released Tuesday.

The growth rate in the output of refinery products, fertiliser, cement and electricity during the month under review has decelerated, while it was negative in the case of crude oil.

The previous low was in May, when the growth rate of these sectors stood at 5.2 per cent.

Crude oil output dipped by 0.4 per cent in September as against a contraction of 2.3 per cent in the same month last year, the data showed.

The core sector growth in August was 12.5 per cent, which was highest since June 2022, when it was 13.2 per cent.

The output growth of the eight sectors was also lower at 7.8 per cent in April-September 2023-24 against 9.8 per cent in the year-



ago period.

In September, coal, natural gas, and steel production rose by 16.1 per cent, 6.5 per cent and 9.6 per cent, respectively.

The growth rate in the production of refinery products, fertiliser, cement and electricity slowed down to 5.5 per cent, 4.2 per cent and 9.3 per cent, respectively, in September this year against the last year's corresponding figures of 6.6 per cent, 11.8 per cent, 12.4 per cent and 11.6 per cent.

Icra Ltd Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said a pick-up in rainfall expectedly flattened the core

sector expansion in September to a four-month low from 12.5 per cent, amid the slowdown in growth of seven of the eight constituent sectors barring fertiliser output.

"The year-on-year growth in cement production decelerated sharply to six-month low of 4.7 per cent in September...The IIP (index of industrial production) growth is likely to moderate to high single digits in September taking a cue from the core sector's trajectory," she said.

These eight industries account for 40.27 per cent of IIP.

## RETAIL INFLATION FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS EASES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** Retail inflation for industrial workers eased to 4.72 per cent in September, compared to 6.91 per cent in August this year, mainly due to lower prices of certain food items and cooking gas.

"Year-on-year inflation for the month stood at 4.72 per cent compared to 6.91 per cent for the previous month (August 2023) and 6.49 per cent during the corresponding month (September 2022) a year before," a labour ministry statement said.

Similarly, it stated that the food inflation also reduced to 6.52 per cent against 10.06 per cent of the previous month and 7.76 per cent during the corresponding month a year ago.

According to the statement, the All-India CPI-IW (Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers) for September 2023 decreased by 1.7 points and stood at 137.5. It was 139.2 points in August 2023.

The price index decreased by 1.22 per cent from previous month compared to an increase of 0.84 per cent recorded between the two corresponding months a year ago.

The maximum downward pressure in current index came from food & beverages group, contributing 1.10 percentage points to the total change.

## RBI to directly regulate cross border payment transactions



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 31:** The Reserve Bank of India Tuesday said all entities facilitating cross border payment transactions for import and export of goods and services will be directly regulated by it. Such entities will be treated as Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB), the central bank said in a circular.

"Keeping in view the developments that have taken place in the area of cross-border payments, it has been decided to bring all entities facilitating cross-border payment transactions for import and export of goods and services under direct regulation of the RBI," it said.

Currently, all Payment Aggregators (PAs), which facilitate processing of domestic transactions in online mode, are covered within the scope of RBI

regulations.

Non-banks providing PA-CB services as on the date should have a minimum net worth of Rs 15 crore at the time of submitting application to the RBI for authorisation and a minimum net worth of Rs 25 crore by March 31, 2026, it said.

New non-bank PA-CBs (entities which have not commenced operations) should have a minimum net worth of Rs 15 crore at the time of submitting application and should attain a minimum net worth of Rs 25 crore by the end of the third financial year of grant of authorisation. The circular also prescribes procedures for handling of on-line transactions by the PAs.

It also said banks undertaking PA-CB activity should ensure compliance with the requirements for PA-CBs by April 30, 2024.

## Q2 RESULTS

### IOC profit at ₹12,967 crore

**New Delhi:** State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Tuesday reported a return to profitability with a net profit of Rs 12,967.32 crore in the three months to September 30 - more than half of its best-ever annual profit in just one quarter. The net profit came on the back of a boost in refining and marketing margin. In July-September 2022, it incurred a loss of Rs 272.35 crore, according to a stock exchange filing by the company. Besides robust refining margins, the profit was aided by a boost in marketing margins as a freeze on petrol and diesel price revision despite a fall in input crude oil prices helped recover losses incurred when rates were high last year. Pre-tax earnings from sale of petroleum products soared to Rs 17,755.95 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal compared to Rs 104.04 crore in the same period last year.

### JSPL net profit grows multi-fold

**New Delhi:** Jindal Steel and Power Ltd Tuesday posted a multi-fold jump in Profit After Tax (PAT) to Rs 1,390.10 crore during the September quarter, aided by reduced expenses. It had clocked Rs 219.27 crore PAT in the year-ago period, the company said in a regulatory filing. The company's total income, however, declined to Rs 12,282.04 crore from Rs 13,521.88 crore a year ago, while its expenses were down at Rs 10,897.52 crore from Rs 12,569.10 crore. In a separate statement, JSP said it produced 1.90 MT of steel in the July-September period over 1.82 MT in the same period of the last fiscal, while sales remained flat at 2.01 MT. The company's Chirodmi mine in Mozambique saw a decline in coal production at 1.11 MT as against 1.16 MT last year.

### L&T net profit up 45 per cent

**New Delhi:** Engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Tuesday reported a 44.5 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 3,222.63 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2023. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 2,228.97 crore in the year-ago period, L&T said in a regulatory filing. The consolidated income of the company during July-September 2023 increased to Rs 52,157.02 crore from Rs 43,501.14 crore in the year-ago period. "The company for the quarter ended September 30, 2023, posted a consolidated Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs 3,223 crore, registering a significant growth of 45 per cent compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year," the company said.

## Nifty & Sensex log worst month in 2023



REUTERS

**Bangalore, Oct 31:** Indian blue-chips fell Tuesday to log their worst month in 2023 as elevated US interest rates triggered persistent sales by foreign investors, while a rise in oil prices due to the Middle East conflict also added to the selling pressure.

The benchmark NSE Nifty 50 fell 0.32% to 19,079.60, while the S&P BSE Sensex settled 0.37% lower at 63,874.93. They have lost nearly 3% each in October.

The concerns around the Middle East conflict have led to a spike in oil prices, a negative for net importers like India.

More tellingly, the US Federal Reserve's rhetoric of higher-for-longer rates has helped send US Treasury yields to multi-year highs, making them more attractive for investors.

As a result, foreign investors have offloaded 228.50 billion rupees (\$2.74 billion) worth of Indian shares so far in October, the most for any month since January.

The Fed is widely expected to

hold rates at its policy decision after the bell Wednesday, but Chair Jerome Powell's commentary will be key.

Any indication of rates remaining high for a prolonged period will weigh on IT stocks, which have already warned of weak spending by their US and European clients. The IT index lost 0.19% on the day and 3.78% for the month - its worst in 2023.

"The domestic market is factoring prolonged high interest rates in the US. The persistent foreign selling in Indian shares due to higher US yields will also trigger consolidation," said Pramod Gubbi, founder of Marcellus Investment Managers.

Also weighing on sentiment was a drop in Asian markets after the Bank of Japan tweaked its bond yield control policy.

Auto stocks lost 0.67% ahead of monthly sales data. Mahindra and Mahindra, Eicher Motors fell 2.62% and 1.85% respectively, and were among the top losers on the Nifty.

Sun Pharma lost 2.39% on multiple block deals.

## Ameya Prabhu takes over as ICC president; Abhyuday Jindal as V-P

**Bhubaneswar:** Businessman, writer, and philanthropist Ameya Prabhu, Founder, and Managing Director of NAFA Capital Advisors, a Mumbai-based asset management and financial firm, took over as the president of the coveted Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) at a high-profile Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the chamber held at Taj Bengal, Kolkata October 31. Several senior industry leaders, sports personalities, and other celebrities graced the function. It is to be noted that Prabhu, who is also a partner in UAP Advisors LLP, is the first president of ICC from outside West Bengal. UAP's business includes financial services, industrial, and sustainable investments through New Age Financial Advisory, its JV with IFFCO. The oldest chamber of commerce in the country and the only one to be headquartered in Kolkata, ICC has played a key role in shaping India's business landscape, facilitating and promoting the country's economic boom since 1925, the year of its inception. Prabhu, who holds a B.Sc. in Economics, Politics, and International Studies from the University of Warwick, and an M.Sc. in Financial Management from IE Business School, Madrid, wears many hats. He has been designated as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum (WEF). He is an accomplished writer; his debut book "The Rock Babas and other Stories" is a bouquet of short stories about human fragilities and also resilience and is a best seller, selling in over 30 countries. Prabhu is a trustee of Manav Sadhan Vikas Sanstha, an NGO focused on holistic human development. Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director of Jindal Stainless Limited, took over as the Senior Vice President of ICC. Jindal holds a graduate degree in Economics and Business Management from Boston University.



BIZ BUZZ

## Centre's fiscal deficit hits 39.3% of full year target

*In actual terms, the fiscal deficit, or the gap between expenditure and revenue, worked out at Rs 7.02 lakh crore at the end of September*



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** The central government's fiscal deficit touched 39.3 per cent of the full year target in the first half of the current financial year, slightly higher than 37.3 per cent recorded in the year-ago period.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit, or the gap between expenditure and revenue, worked out at Rs 7.02 lakh crore at the end

of September, as per data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent

of the GDP in the 2023-24 financial year.

The fiscal deficit was 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23, against the earlier estimate of 6.71 per cent.

The tax revenue was at Rs 11.60 lakh crore or 49.8 per cent of the annual target. During April-September 2022-23, the net tax collection was 52.3 per cent of that year's annual Budget Estimate (BE).

The Centre's total expenditure was Rs 21.19 lakh crore, or 47.1 per cent of BE for 2023-24, marginally higher than 46.2 per cent of BE for 2022-23.

The Government of India has transferred Rs 4,55,444 crore to state governments as devolution of share of taxes till September, which is Rs 79,338 crore higher than the previous year.

Of the total revenue expenditure, Rs 4.84 lakh crore was on account of interest payments and Rs 2.06 lakh crore towards major subsidies.

## Gold demand loses lustre in peak festive season as prices rally

HIGHER GOLD PRICES HAVE BEEN PROMPTING SOME PEOPLE TO SELL THEIR OLD JEWELLERY AND COINS, LEADING TO A JUMP IN SCRAP SUPPLIES BY 37% FROM A YEAR AGO TO 91.6 TONNES IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Oct 31:** Gold prices near record highs could dampen demand in India during the peak festive season and lead to the lowest purchase volumes in three years, the World Gold Council (WGC) said Tuesday.

India is the world's second-largest gold consumer, and a drop in purchases could limit a rally in global prices. Falling demand for gold imports could also help narrow India's trade deficit and support the rupee.

Higher prices in the December quarter, which traditionally sees

the highest sales of the year, could cut back purchases, said Somasundaram PR, regional chief executive officer of WGC's Indian operations.

Gold demand in India usually strengthens towards the end of the year, which coincides with the traditional wedding season and major festivals including Diwali and Dusherra, when bullion buying is considered auspicious.

Local gold prices jumped this week to Rs 61,396 per 10 grams, near the all-time high of Rs 61,845 hit earlier this year. Last year, prices in the December quarter were nearly 20% lower



than this year.

In the December quarter, demand is expected to be lower than last year's 276.3 tonnes, Somasundaram said.

"Currently, price is a significant influencer. If there is a substantial drop in price closer to Diwali, the entire situation could change," he said. Diwali will be celebrated in mid-November.

Indian gold consumption in the July-September quarter rose 10% to 210.2 tonnes, as both jewellery and investment demand improved due to a correction in local prices, he said.

From January to September,

gold demand fell by 3.3% to 481.2 tonnes due to sluggish demand in the first half.

In 2023, demand could fall to around 700 tonnes, the lowest in three years, down from 774.1 tonnes a year ago, he said.

Higher gold prices have been prompting some people to sell their old jewellery and coins, leading to a jump in scrap supplies by 37% from a year ago to 91.6 tonnes in the first nine months, the WGC data showed.

The trend would continue in the December quarter if prices remain around the current level, Somasundaram said.

# Pakistan knock out Bangladesh of WC with 7-wicket win



Shaheen Shah Afridi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Oct 31:** Opener Fakhar Zaman capped his return with an attacking fifty (81, 74b, 3x4, 7x6) after Shaheen Shah Afridi's fiery spell as Pakistan knocked Bangladesh out of the World Cup with a seven-wicket win to keep their slim semifinal hopes alive here Tuesday.

Shaheen spearheaded their three-pronged pace attack with splendid figures of 9-1-23-3 as Pakistan bundled out Bangladesh for a lowly 204 in 45.1 overs. Fakhar had missed five of their six matches because of a knee injury. Abdullah Shafique also struck a quick 68 (69b, 9x4, 2x6) as the new-look opening pair laid the foundation with an imposing 128-run alliance.

Just when it looked like a one-way traffic for Pakistan, off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz (3/60) took both the openers but with no scoreboard pressure Pakistan knocked off the paltry 205-run target in 32.3 overs.

Skipper Babar Azam continued to disappoint getting out for 9 (16b) when he mistimed a shot off Miraz. But Mohammad Rizwan (26 not out) and Iftikhar Ahmed (17 not out) finished off the chase with 107 balls to spare.

This was Bangladesh's sixth loss on the trot as the Shakib Al Hasan-led side became the first team to be officially eliminated from the 10-team global showpiece with two matches in hand. They next play Sri Lanka and Australia in their last two matches.

Having returned to winning ways after enduring four defeats, Pakistan with three wins from seven matches kept their faint semifinal hopes alive. They next take on New Zealand before concluding their league campaign against England.

Earlier, Shaheen rattled the Bangladeshi top-order and became the fastest Pakistani to reach 100 ODI wickets. Mohammad Wasim Jr. then cleaned up the tail returning with figures of 8.1-1-31-3 as Bangladesh

failed to last the distance yet again to be bowled out in 45.1 overs.

Shaheen may have lost his pace a bit after recovering from a knee injury, but he bowled with clever variations and extracted swing on a flat Eden wicket.

The 23-year-old straightaway got into the action, trapping Tanzid Hasan leg before wicket with extra bounce and late swing. That happened to be his 100th wicket in ODIs. He became the fastest Pakistani to do so beating Saqlain Mushtaq's mark by a couple of innings.

A brilliant low diving catch by Usama Mir at forward short leg made it two in two overs for Shaheen. It would have been worse for Bangladesh but Mahmudullah made a responsible 56 (70b, 6x4, 1x6) in a 79-run partnership with Litton Das (45, 64b, 6x4).

From 6/2 in 2.4 overs, Bangladesh were looking at yet another capitulation when Haris Rauf dismissed Mushfiqur Rahim to reduce them to 23/3 before Mahmudullah came to his team's rescue. The intent was clear from the Bangladesh perspective as they promoted Mahmudullah to No.5.

After Shaheen was taken off the attack, Pakistan also failed to build pressure from both ends, giving Litton and Mahmudullah enough opportunity to make a quick recovery. Bangladesh were looking in no trouble before off-spinner Iftikhar Ahmed (1/44) provided the crucial breakthrough dismissing Litton. Shaheen was recalled and he produced a gem of a delivery to end Mahmudullah's stay in the middle.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan (43, 64b, 4x4) then tried to forge a partnership but frittered away his start and was done in by a short ball from Rauf (2/36).

**BRIEF SCORES:** Bangladesh 204 (Mahmudullah 56, Litton Das 45, Shakib Al Hasan 43; Shaheen Shah Afridi 3/23, Mohammad Wasim Jr 3/31) lost to Pakistan 204/3 (Fakhar Zaman 81, Abdullah Shafique 68; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 3/60) by 7 wickets.

# SHOOTER SHRIYANKA SADANGI BOOKS PARIS OLYMPICS TICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 31:** Star Odisha shooter Shriyanka Sadangi grabbed India's 13th Paris Olympics quota when she finished fourth in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event at the ongoing Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea Tuesday.

Shriyanka shot 440.5, to bow out after the 43rd shot of the 45-shot final, equally distributed between the kneeling, prone and standing positions. Experienced Korean Lee Eunseo clinched the gold while reigning air rifle world champion Han Jiayu of China won silver. China also took the bronze through Xia Siyu.

All Indian women shooters in

the 3P competition were on top of their mark from the qualification stage itself. Sift Kaur Samra, the India number one, shot 592 playing for ranking points only (RPO) to soar to the top of the field.

Ashi Chouksey shot 591 to take the first qualifying spot among contenders and second overall. Shriyanka and Ayushi Podder made the top-eight with scores of 588 and 587 respectively. Manini Kaushik, shooting RPO as well, was 10th overall with a tally of 586.

Shriyanka was the hottest off the blocks among the three Indians in the final beginning with a 10.9. She was second with 51.3 after the first five kneeling shots, while Ayushi and Ashi

were lying sixth and seventh respectively.

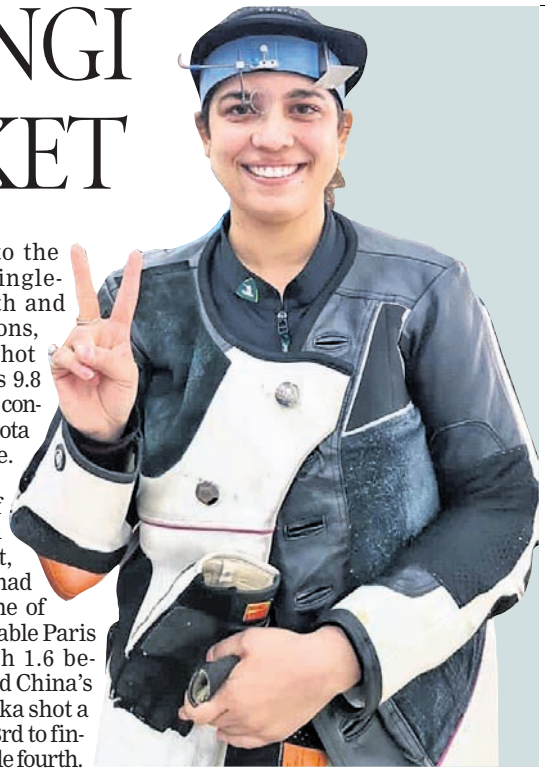
After 10-shots, Han and Lee were already 1-2 and at the end of it Shriyanka had replaced Ayushi in fourth, a position she would hold till the end.

The prone position saw Ashi begin her move up while Shriyanka consolidated her fourth spot. Ayushi fell behind to seventh. Lee had taken over the lead from Han. The fourth shot in the standing position was telling for both Shriyanka and Ashi as the former shot a 10.8 while the latter an 8.7.

An Indian quota was confirmed after the first 10-shots in the standing position when Korean Bae Sanghee and Ayushi bowed out in eighth and seventh

respectively.

Going into the final five single-shots in fifth and sixth positions, Shriyanka shot 10.1 to Ashi's 9.8 as the former confirmed the quota in her name. Arina Altukhova of Kazakhstan was out next, but she too had picked up one of the two available Paris quotas. With 1.6 between her and China's Xia, Shriyanka shot a 10.0 for her 43rd to finish a creditable fourth.



## ARGENTINE CLAIMS RECORD-EXTENDING 8TH BALLON D'OR, BONMATI TAKES WOMEN'S HONOUR



# MESSI ON TOP

Aitana Bonmati won the women's award for guiding Spain to victory at the Women's World Cup in August. She also helped Barcelona win the Women's Champions League and Spanish league.

A year after missing out on the short-list for the 2022 Ballon d'Or, and despite leaving top-level European soccer behind, Messi has recovered his crown.

He won the sport's biggest individual prize due to his tremendous World Cup. In Qatar, Messi was involved in 10

**It's a pleasure that will never leave me, and I hope to be able to enjoy it for many years to come. This title (World Cup) and this trophy, I share them with you (late Diego Maradona) and all our Argentina comrades**

**- LIONEL MESSI**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, Oct 31:** The list reads 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2019, 2021, and now 2023. Lionel Messi won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record-extending eighth time Monday after fulfilling his life's ambition by leading Argentina to the World Cup title in Qatar last year.

Adding to his silverware the one major trophy that eluded him in his storied career was the decisive factor in an otherwise quite mundane season—for his standards—at Paris Saint-Germain.

The 36-year-old Messi won ahead of Manchester City forward Erling Haaland and his former PSG teammate Kylian Mbappe. Messi thanked his Argentina coach, teammates and staff for making his victory possible. Messi also paid tribute to the late Diego Maradona, who also helped Argentina win the World Cup, back in 1986.

goals for Argentina, scoring seven and assisting three. He scored twice in the final against France.

His final season with PSG was less shiny. Although PSG won a record-extending 11th French league, it again exited the Champions League in the round of 16.

Nobody else has won more than five Ballon d'Or. Cristiano Ronaldo has five, and Michel Platini, Johan Cruyff and Marco van Basten each won it three times.

Since moving to Inter Miami in the United States, Messi has already picked up his first silverware there by inspiring the team to victory in the US Leagues Cup.

Messi's latest win marked the first time a Major League Soccer-based player got such recognition. Messi received the trophy from former Manchester United star David Beckham, who is one of the owners of his new club.

Bonmati had already been awarded UEFA best women's player and the Golden Ball for the top Women's World Cup player. She scored three times and assisted twice at the tournament. She followed in the footsteps of her teammate Alexia Putellas, who took the past two awards. Bonmati won ahead of Sam Kerr and Salma Paralluelo.

For the first time last year, the trophy awarded by France Football magazine was based on achievements from the past season. It was previously awarded based on performances through a calendar year. Stanley Matthews won the first Ballon d'Or in 1956.

In other awards, the best U-21 player was Jude Bellingham, while Erling Haaland won the Gerd Muller award for the best striker of the year. Haaland led City to a treble of trophies last season — Champions League, English Premier League, FA Cup — while scoring 52 goals.

The Lev Yashin award for best goalkeeper went to Emiliano Martinez. In addition to his trophy the Argentina goalkeeper collected boos and whistles from the audience at the Theatre du Chatelet that included Didier Deschamps.

Martinez was criticised for the excessive tone of his World Cup celebrations. He carried a doll with Mbappe's face on it while standing alongside teammate Messi as Argentina paraded the trophy back home. Martinez, who also made a crude gesture after winning the Golden Glove award for best goalkeeper, was filmed mocking Mbappe in the team dressing room after the game.

## OTHER AWARD LIST

**GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR (Lev Yashin Trophy)**  
**EMILIANO MARTINEZ**  
Argentina, Aston Villa

**STRIKER OF THE YEAR (Gerd Muller Trophy)**  
**ERLING HAALAND**  
Norway, Manchester City

**U-21 PLAYER OF THE YEAR (Kopa Trophy)**  
**JUDE BELLINGHAM**  
England, Real Madrid

**HUMANITARIAN WORK HONOUR (Socrates Award)**  
**VINICIUS JUNIOR**  
Brazil, Real Madrid

**MEN'S CLUB OF THE YEAR**  
Man City, Premier League, England

**WOMEN'S CLUB OF THE YEAR**  
Barcelona, La Liga, Spain



## Black Caps take on SA in battle of batting units

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, Oct 31:** One side endured the agony of a close defeat and other felt the ecstasy of victory in a rip-roaring game but when New Zealand and South Africa clash in a World Cup game here Wednesday both will start on an even keel.

With both teams firmly in contention for semifinal berths, one can expect good game of cricket where batters of both sides are expected to set the tone of the match.

For New Zealand (8 points from 6 games), the Dharamsalag leg after four straight victories didn't pan out on expected lines and another loss would give the likes of Afghanistan (6 points) and Pakistan (4 points) a shot at semifinal qualification.

On the other hand, if South Africa (10 points from 6 games) win, the 12 points will almost put them in the last-four bracket alongside India. Hence, it would be one of the most high-stakes game of the league stage and a team like Pakistan wouldn't mind if New Zealand suffer a hat-trick of defeats.

Both teams have put up more than impressive batting performances in most of the games but the track at the Maharashtra Cricket Association ground in Gahunje hasn't exactly been a belter with spinners getting sufficient help.

### OLD vs NEW

The most interesting aspect of the contest is the form of batters from both sides which has been the reason of their success so far.

Quinton de Kock (431), with three hundreds so far, has had perfect swansong tourney Young Kiwi Rachin Ravindra (406), on the other hand, is setting the world stage on fire.

If Heinrich Klaasen (300 runs) is the power-hitting-cum-finisher for SA, NZ have Jimmy Neesham. If David Miller's brute power gives an x-factor to Proteas, Daryl Mitchell's (322 runs) ability to take the game deep is an advantage for the Black Caps. Aiden Markram's skills could be countered by Glenn Phillips' talent.

## Eves assure ACT semifinal berth



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Oct 31:** An in-form India eked out a narrow 2-1 win over Japan to register their fourth straight win and storm into the semifinals of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Tuesday.

After two goalless quarters, Navneet Kaur (31st minute) and Sangita Kumari (47th) scored for India, while Japan's lone goal came from the stick of Kana Urata (37th). It was a match be-

tween two undefeated sides in the tournament and it lived up to the billing.

India had earlier defeated Thailand 7-1 in their opener before getting the better of Malaysia and China 5-0 and 2-1 respectively. The Japanese too were undefeated coming into the match, having registered wins over Malaysia 3-0, South Korea 4-0 and Thailand 4-0, respectively.

It was a battle between Indian attack and Japan's defence in the first quarter as the hosts relentlessly put pressure on the

opposition citadel but failed to produce any result. Both the teams failed to create any clear cut scoring opportunities from field effort in the first quarter.

The story was the same as it was in the first quarter as both the teams failed to create any real scoring opportunity. In the last 4 minutes, the Indians came close to scoring at least thrice but were unable to finish the scoring shots.

The deadlock was finally broken a minute after the change of ends through Navneet. A deceptive pass from Salima Tete in the circle area found Navneet, who turned around and fired a powerful backhand shot into the Japanese net.

It took Japan just six minutes to draw level from their third penalty corner. Urata brought her side back into the match, perfectly converting the set piece with a high flick to the top right corner of the Indian goal.

Two minutes into the final quarter, India secured a penalty corner and Deepika's low dragflick was deflected in by Sangita to hand the hosts a 2-1 lead. India will take on South Korea in their final league game Thursday.

## State Ice Skating C'ship concludes

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 31:** The 1st State Ice Speed Skating Championship, organised by All Odisha Ice Skating Association, concluded Monday at Iskate, Gurgaon. The venue is the country's largest indoor ice skating rink.

Skaters from various districts and schools participated in the meet. The participants first attended a 5-day camp in Iskate, their second camp after November 2021. The camp was followed by the one-day competition.

The U-23 girls' category saw Divyanshee Behera and Divyashree Behera finished first and second, respectively. While the boys' segment in the same age category, witnessed Ajitesh Pradhan, Ayan Bardhan and RN Aayan secured first, second and third positions, respectively.

Sai Sriyanshu Rout topped the boys' U-15 competition, while Pratik Arnav Jena and Shitapragnya Jena finished second and third, respectively. In the U-17 boys' segment, Arman Subudhi and Swanta Swaraj Sahoo finished first and second, respectively. Prithvi Aryan Jena aced the U-19 boys' competition against Kaustuv Pattnaik.

## OFC get back to winning ways



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 31:** Odisha FC got back to winning ways in an exciting 3-2 win over Bengaluru FC at the Kalinga Stadium here in the Indian Super League (ISL). The only good news for Bengaluru was veteran India striker Sunil Chhetri inched closer to becoming the all-time leading goal-scorer in the ISL with his 58th strike in the league.

Chhetri's knack of finding the back of the net was evident straightaway as the striker beat his marker and Odisha goalkeeper Amrinder Singh to drill the ball into the bottom left corner of the net in the eighth

minute of the game. Chhetri now stands five behind Bartholomew Ogbeche, who has notched the most goals in the history of the league (63).

Across his three tenures in the ISL, Sergio Lobera has been a proponent of strong defensive discipline. Prior to this match, teams coached by the Spaniard had conceded an average of 1.2 goals per game in the 83 matches he had coached.

However, that missing factor has been hurting the Juggernauts in this campaign, with Bengaluru's Keziah Veendorp cutting through the home team's defensive line with ease courtesy of a perfectly placed through

ball. Ryan Williams met the pass at the centre of the box and slotted it into the bottom right corner to double Bengaluru's lead in the 18th minute.

It was an engaging passage of play nonetheless, and Odisha came back to reduce the deficit. Jerry Mawihingthanga provided a fine assist to Lalthathanga Khawlhing, who netted in the 23rd minute.

Isak Vanlalruaffela found his first goal of the season at the brink of halftime as an offensive move led to former Mumbai City FC winger Goddard setting up a fine assist for Isak, who tapped the ball in barely a few yards away from Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

Irrespective of these well-crafted collective moves, it was a moment of individual brilliance by fullback Amey Ranawade that emerged as the differential point for Odisha in this match.

The Juggernauts had been consistently moving forward from the right flank, and Ranawade received the ball at an acute angle in the 60th minute. He unleashed a wonderful shot that fired past Gurpreet to help Odisha round off a captivating comeback win.