



## Nargis' observation

Actor Nargis Fakhri, sharing her fitness journey, says muscle building and strength training are crucial for women

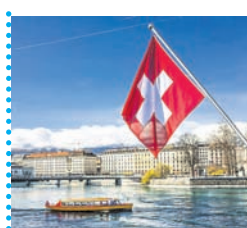
LEISURE | P2



## Hamas militants held

Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) captures around 100 suspected Hamas militants hiding at Adwan hospital in northern Gaza

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## Swiss cos eye India

Investments in India by Swiss companies are on the rise, with a \$100 billion regional trade deal expected soon

BUSINESS | P11



## Tremendous feat

Chirag Chikkara becomes only the 3rd Indian to emerge under-23 wrestling world champion as India finish with 9 medals

SPORTS | P12

## SHORT TAKES

### Third phase of Subhadra soon

**Bhubaneswar:** The third phase of money under Subhadra Yojana of the first installment will be disbursed among the women beneficiaries very soon, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida said here Monday. All the beneficiaries, who were left out in the first two phases, will receive their money in the third phase, she said. More than one crore beneficiaries have applied under the Subhadra Yojana. Around 60 lakh women beneficiaries have received ₹5,000 under Subhadra Yojana in the two phases of the first installment.

### Tadoba tigress released in STR

**Baripada:** TA tigress brought from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra was safely released into an enclosure in the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district Monday morning, field director Prakash Chand Gogineni said in the statement. "The tigress is active and healthy," Gogineni said.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Watch out for chain snatchers and stray animals. Also, political parties are out for a membership drive

### MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	80,005.04	↑ 602.75
NIFTY	24,339.15	↑ 158.35
DOLLAR	84.07	↓ ₹0.01
EURO	90.94	↓ ₹0.06
GOLD	₹78,497	↓ ₹35
SILVER	₹97,600	↑ ₹466

### WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.2°C	31.2°C
Min Temp	23.0°C	22.0°C
Humidity	86%	89%
Rainfall	6mm	1mm

FORECAST  
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY



**FINISHING TOUCH:** An artisan applies paint to decorative items in a stall at the Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PHOTO BIKASH NAYAK

## Wife murders man for ₹8cr

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Oct 28:** Karnataka police have discovered a grisly murderous conspiracy after discovering an unidentified, burned body in a coffee plantation in the Kodagu region three weeks ago. A 54-year-old businessman named Ramesh disappeared a few weeks ago. According to the police, his wife Niharika P, her lover Nikhil, and another suspect, Ankur, carried out a gruesome murder plot for the businessman's money and crossed state lines to get rid of the body. All three have been taken into custody.

At a coffee farm, authorities discovered a burned body October 8. After efforts to identify the corpse were unsuccessful, police found that a missing person's complaint had been filed by Ramesh's wife after they identified the victim's vehicle.

Police suspected Niharika's (29) hand in the murder. She confessed to being involved in the crime with Ankur and veterinary physician Nikhil after Ramesh refused to pay her ₹8 crore during interrogation.

# Census likely in 2025 No deal struck with PM: CJI

The national census exercise could not be conducted in 2021, the scheduled year, due to Covid-19. Government sources have informed it is likely to begin early 2025. However, the sources could not throw light on whether caste census will be conducted. The Opposition including Congress and RJD are among the political parties which have been demanding a caste-based census so that the total OBC population in the country is known. As news of the census became public, the Congress Monday sought an all-party meeting to get clarity on whether the next census would include a detailed enumeration of all castes and whether the census will be used for determining the strength of each state in the Lok Sabha. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, an ally of the NDA, has also demanded a caste-based census. However, that is unlikely to happen as the BJP has continuously opposed caste-based census as the saffron party lays more emphasis on Hindu unity. In 2021, the Union Government dismissed the idea of socio-economic caste census calling it 'administratively challenging and cumbersome'. Hence the chance of a caste-based census appears remote.



likely to begin early 2025 and the data will be declared by 2026, thus changing future census cycles completely, official sources said here Monday. However, no decision has been taken yet on whether caste census will also be carried out along with the general census. Even though the census information was confirmed by officials, so far, no formal announcement has been made on its next schedule by the Centre.

"In all probability, the work for the census and the NPR will begin early next year and the population data will be announced by 2026. With this, the census cycle is likely to be changed. So, it will be 2025-2035 and then 2035-2045 and so on in future," sources privy to the thinking of the government said.

The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner had prepared 31

questions to be asked to the citizens during the census exercise. These questions include whether the head of the household belongs to Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST) and other family members as asked in the previous census.

Opposition Congress and the RJD are among the political parties which have been demanding a caste census so that the total OBC population in the country is known. "The government has not yet taken any decision on caste census," a source said.

On the other hand several political leaders from the southern states have expressed their apprehensions over the possibility of their states losing out on Lok Sabha seats and thereby their political clout as they have been successful in population control, unlike the northern states.

**New Delhi, Oct 28:** Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud finally responded Monday to the massive political row after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to his house for Ganesh puja. The CJI asserted that no judicial matters are discussed in such meetings. He made this observation while responding to a question at the 'Loksatta' annual lecture. Chandrachud also stated it is a practice for chief ministers and chief justices of high courts to hold regular meetings.

"People think why these meetings. The maturity of our political system lies in the fact that there is a great deal of deference to the judiciary even in the political class. It is known. The judiciary's budget is from the



state. This budget is not for judges. We need new court buildings, new residences for judges in districts. For this, the chief justice and chief minister's meetings are necessary," the CJI said.

The CJI said he had earlier served as Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court. "When the Chief Justice is appointed, they go the Chief Minister's house. Then, the Chief Minister comes to the Chief Justice's house. These meetings have set

agenda. Say, 10 projects are going on in the state, what is the infra, the budget? The chief minister informs the priorities for these projects. Wouldn't you have to meet for this? If this happens over letters, the work will never get completed," Chandrachud added.

The CJI praised the maturity which exists in the political system of the country. "There is a great deal of maturity in the political system. In the course of these meetings, never would the chief minister ask about a pending case. When chief ministers and chief justices meet at various places and functions, there is no bearing on judicial work. People ask what deals are happening. This is just part of a robust dialogue," the CJI pointed out.

## 8-yr-old girl raped

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Purusottampur, Oct 28:** Police arrested Monday a 36-year-old man, identified as Aditya Mohapatra, on charges of raping an eight-year old girl. According to the cops, the accused committed the heinous crime Sunday while the victim was playing on the road at a village under this police limits in Ganjam district. The accused also resides in the same village as that of the victim. Police registered a case and

arrested Mohapatra over a complaint filed by the survivor's family members. A medical examination was conducted on the accused and later, he was produced in the POCSO court in Berhampur, sub-inspector Priyanka Behera said.

The girl suffered critical injuries following the assault. Family members admitted her to the hospital here but doctors shifted her to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur after her condition deteriorated.

## Healthcare boost for people above 70

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 28:** The Centre's health coverage scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) will be implemented in Odisha by the end of the current financial year, Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling stated here Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to launch AB-PMJAY for all citizens aged 70 years and above across the country Tuesday. Once the scheme is implemented, beneficiaries would be able to avail facilities at 27,000 hospitals in Odisha.

The previous BJD government did not implement the central scheme in Odisha. The BJD had launched its health assurance scheme, the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) which was renamed Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (G-JAY) by the BJP government.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Mahaling said around 3.5 crore out of 4.5 crore people in Odisha will be covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

"We have already started preparation for its implementation in our state. A budgetary provision of ₹3,500 crore has been made for this purpose. We are holding meetings with the Union Health Ministry and will issue the health cards to the beneficiaries by the end of the current financial year," Mahaling said. "We will integrate the state's Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana with the central AB-PMJAY and issue a single card for the beneficiaries," Mahaling added.

## Majhi warns corrupt officials

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 28:** Lambasting the previous BJD government over alleged corruption, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi warned officials Monday against indulging in dishonest practices. Majhi was addressing officials after inaugurating the 'Vigilance Awareness Week', which will continue till November 3.

"Corruption was rampant under the previous BJD government in the name of 5T and all the officials involved in such practices will not be spared by the government," Majhi asserted.

Drawing a comparison between cancer and corruption, Majhi said his government has decided to remove corrupt officials from the system to provide clean governance to the people of the state. The government has started taking action in this direction, he added.



Majhi pointed out that in the first 140 days of his government, at least six chief engineers, a joint commissioner of Excise department and other senior officials were booked under corruption charges. The chief minister said that the Vigilance department, for the first time, has taken action against six chief engineer rank officers and they have been sent to jail for indulging in corruption.

## PRL scientists discover new exoplanet

Named 'TOI-6651b', this body has been found at the edge of the 'Neptunian desert'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 28:** Researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad announced Monday a remarkable discovery in the field of exoplanet science. Using the advanced PARAS-2 spectrograph, these scientists have identified 'TOI-6651b', a dense, Saturn-sized exoplanet orbiting a Sun-like star.

This is the fourth exoplanet discovery by PRL scientists, showcasing India's growing contributions to global space exploration. According to a report in *India Today* the researchers said 'TOI-6651b' is a 'unique exoplanet, weighing around 60 times the mass of Earth and having a radius approximately five times larger than Earth's'.

'TOI-6651b' is located at the edge of what astronomers call the



- The newly-discovered planet is five times the size of Earth
- 87% of the planet's mass is rocky and has iron-rich materials

'Neptunian desert' a region where planets of this size are seldom found. The discovery of 'TOI-6651b' sheds new light on planetary formation and evolution.

The 'Neptunian desert' is a mysterious area where few planets of this mass exist, so this discovery offers a rare opportunity to investigate why such planets are usually absent there, the researchers said.

This distant planet orbits its Sun-like host star, 'TOI-6651', in

a close, 5.06-day cycle, meaning its 'year' lasts only a fraction of an Earth month. Its orbit is slightly oval in shape, or eccentric, further distinguishing it from typical gas giants like Saturn in our solar system. The star, 'TOI-6651', is a G-type sub-giant that's slightly larger and hotter than our Sun, with a surface temperature of about 5940K, a report said.

A key breakthrough in the PRL team's study is the composition of 'TOI-6651b'. The planet's

high density indicates that about 87 per cent of its mass consists of rocky and iron-rich materials, with the remaining mass forming a lighter envelope of hydrogen and helium.

This dense structure suggests that 'TOI-6651b' may have undergone unique evolutionary processes, possibly merging with other objects or losing much of its original atmosphere due to tidal heating effects.

The discovery of 'TOI-6651b' challenges existing theories about planet formation, raising new questions about how such massive and dense planets evolve. By closely studying 'TOI-6651b', scientists hope to gain fresh insights into the complex dynamics that shape planetary systems, marking a significant achievement for India in the field of space research, the report added.

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
A plain Jane day. Work goes on as usual, and there is progress. But as Ganesh says, it's an ordinary day. Hum, whistle, doodle, and sip your green tea. While day dreaming, start planning your dream home. After all, that's where the first plan takes shape.

**TAURUS**  
Luck is a four-leaf clover in your pocket. You might get the long desired success in education related matters today – a favourable result of a competitive examination, maybe. You will proudly smile at your power of resilience and sense of proportion, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
The day will be dedicated to spending quality time with children, predicts Ganesh. You will be overloaded with household responsibilities and will find it tough to deal with them. However, you will manage to do well and will be satisfied with the outcome. Avoid getting too sentimental if you are a parent; also, you may have to act tough with your kids, suggests Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will strictly follow your plan book. All Ganesh needs to do to predict your day is take a peep into the book. However, this is only one of those rare days when things go according to plan. You are likely to keep your views to yourself, and will hardly betray what's on your mind.

**LEO**  
Most battles are fought and won inside our head. Hence, Ganesh urges you to maintain a positive outlook today. The stars grant you the ability to double your efforts, and allow your imagination to take flight and chart new routes to success. This should curb your frustration of the last few days. If you begin to feel physically drained, just fall back on your reserve of mental strength to push you through.

**VIRGO**  
A day to look inside and contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesh. Clam up like those oysters and discover the pearl within you. A fine helping hand you shall lend today to those who need it, says Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh has a feeling that today may not be the best day to undertake any government dealings. Call it red-tapism, or bureaucratic procrastination, but it is highly unlikely that such tasks shall be fruitful today. This may test your patience, and in doing so, bring out your competency and efficiency to the fore, especially if you happen to be a public servant. Touché!

**SCORPIO**  
It is about time you learn to deal with frustration in a more healthy manner. The right choice is always the hardest to make. Do not let sentiments sway you into hasty choices because they may feel right, but might also be extremely impractical.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Today, arranging meetings with customers and suppliers will eat into most of your time. Your patience will enable you to listen to suggestions and opinions offered by people. The result of all this, however, is slated to be most favourable and productive.

**CAPRICORN**  
You have always been generous by nature, but your benevolent attitude will do you no good, warns Ganesh. People will try, almost blatantly, to take advantage of you, and for once, you will feel that being crafty and unrelenting would have helped kept those blood-sucking leeches at bay. But as the day progresses, you will thank the Almighty for all the precious things he made you the guardian of.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today, you work hard and party harder! The morning sees you sweating it out at work, as you do your best to implement your plans. In the evening, you will don your best attire and get ready to have a gala time with your beloved. Ganesh says, you receive as much as you give.

**PISCES**  
You set impeccable standards for yourself, but what keeps your subordinates from grumbling about it is the efforts you make to help them achieve perfection in their endeavours, says Ganesh. You inspire, they aspire.



## BRITNEY'S POST ABOUT 'FINDING HER SOUL'

Pop superstar Britney Spears has 'found her soul' in nature. The 42-year-old posted a new video on her social media from an unnamed location and noted that while she loves being there alone so she could meditate. "Maybe I just found my soul here," she shared.

## OLIVIA HINTS AT HER RETURN TO ACTING

Actress-singer Olivia Rodrigo has expressed her wish to return to acting in the future. The 21-year-old Grammy-winning singer started out starring on the Disney Channel series *Bizaardvark* in 2016. She last acted in the series *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* in 2019.



# 'LIFE WOULD BE EASIER AS A GUY'

**MUMBAI:** An old video featuring actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, also known as PC among fans, from her appearance on the talk show *Rendezvous with Simi Garewal* has resurfaced. In the video, the actress shared her thoughts on the challenges women face compared to men.

In the throwback clip, Priyanka could be heard saying, "It's so difficult being a girl, really wish I was a guy at times. For real, nothing no stress, just throw on a pair of jeans and a t-shirt and you are done."

In response, Simi remarks, "But these days, guys are taking on more responsibilities". However, Priyanka remains skeptical, asserting, "They can never do as much as we have to do. We have to stay so stiff that one curl doesn't go out of place."

Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka Chopra will next be seen in the upcoming film *Citadel Season 2*, reprising her role as special agent Nadia Sinh.

Directed by the Russo Brothers, the series features Richard Madden returning as Mason Kane/Kyle Conroy. This season boasts an impressive ensemble cast, including Stanley Tucci, Leslie Manville, Ashleigh Cummings, Roland Møller, Nikki Amuka-Bird, and Moira Kelly.

**MUMBAI:** The OTT series *Mirzapur* is expanding into a universe with a *Mirzapur* film with a fresh storyline on the horizon, and there's a reason for the fans to rejoice, it marks the return of Mouna Bhaiyya (played by Divyendru).

The makers Monday announced the *Mirzapur* movie. Created by Puneet Krishna and directed by Gurmmeet Singh, the film is scheduled for a release in 2026, and features the iconic characters of *Mirzapur*, Kaleen Bhaiya (played by Pankaj Tripathi), Guddu Pandit (played by Ali Fazal) and Mouna Bhaiyya (played by Divyendru) along with Abhishek Banerjee who plays the role of the Compounder in the series along with other actors.

Talking about expanding the *Mirzapur* universe into a film, producers Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar of Excel Entertainment said, "It is a landmark milestone for us to bring the quintessential *Mirzapur* experience to our audiences, yet again, but this time on the big screen. Over the course of three successful seasons, this acclaimed franchise has struck all the right chords with fans through its powerful storytelling and memorable characters – from the likes of Kaleen Bhaiya, Guddu Bhaiya, and Mouna Bhaiya, to name a few".

The film is produced by Amazon MGM Studios and Excel Entertainment.



## Mirzapur expands into film

# Nargis shares her fitness journey

**Mumbai:** Nargis Fakhri has been a passionate advocate for health and fitness and continues to inspire countless fans worldwide in this journey of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

In a recent conversation, Nargis Fakhri opened up about essential health and fitness topics that particularly resonate with women. She shared, "I've tried all sorts of exercise, diet, and lifestyle changes, but one thing I found that works is the importance of calories in and calories out for maintaining or losing weight. For women, muscle building and strength training are crucial, along with getting your vitamins and minerals from healthy food choices. Hydration is also key, which means drinking good quality water and not dead water."

Drawing from her own fitness journey, Nargis provided valuable insights into the importance of calorie balance, the significance of strength training, and the need for proper nutrition and hydration. Her guide serves as a comprehensive resource for women seeking to achieve their health and fitness goals through informed

choices in diet, exercise and hydration.

Coming to her work commitments, Nargis is gearing up to star in the much-anticipated Indian comedy franchise, *Housefull* as the film is all set for its fifth instalment.



## Samantha on USP of Citadel

**MUMBAI:** *Citadel: Honey Bunny* is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated spy thrillers, as it promises a gritty, raw, and action-packed glimpse into the world of espionage.

Speaking about taking up the character of Honey and the USP of the series, Samantha Ruth Prabhu shared, "It's not gimmicky and full of high-tech gadgets and technology. The world that is created is so real. The characters are genuinely relatable—ordinary people placed in extraordinary circumstances. That drew me in immediately. I also believe it was a brilliant move to set the show in the nineties. Everything about this world feels authentic. By choosing the 90s as the backdrop, there's a greater dependence on human capabilities rather than on gadgets. It's more

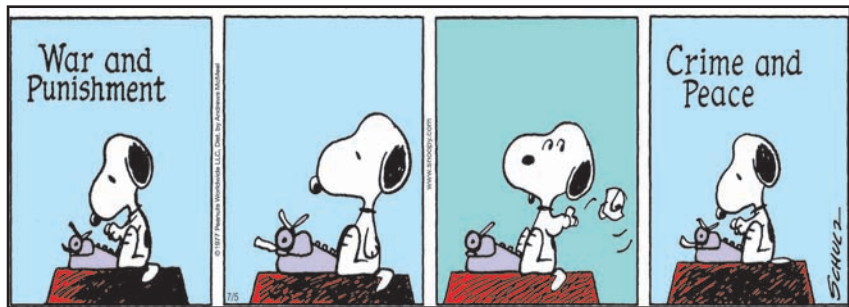
about human wit and hand-to-hand combat, resulting in a very raw experience."

She went on to add, "When you think of a spy film, high-tech gadgets and fancy technology often come to mind, but those elements can overshadow emotions and character arcs. This approach makes it more exciting for an actor. I think this is a very original way of doing things, completely different from the norm. It was an original idea, and I truly believe it was the best decision for the show."

Produced by D2R Films and Amazon MGM Studios, *Citadel: Honey Bunny* is directed by Raj & DK.



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

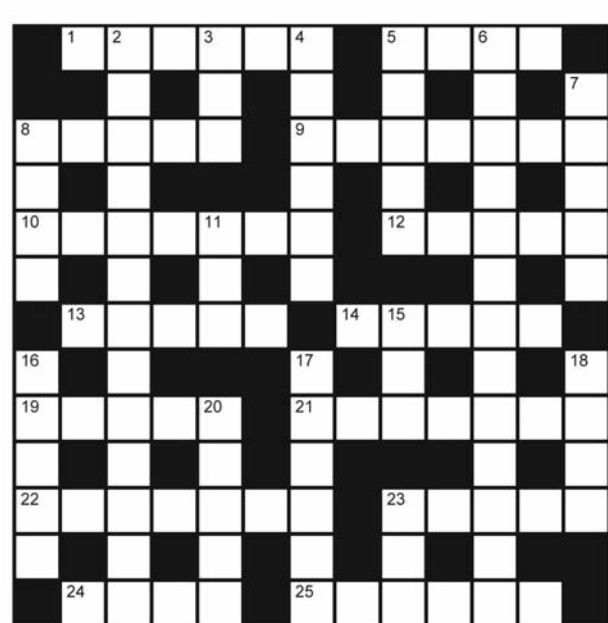


## BREVITY



## FUN post

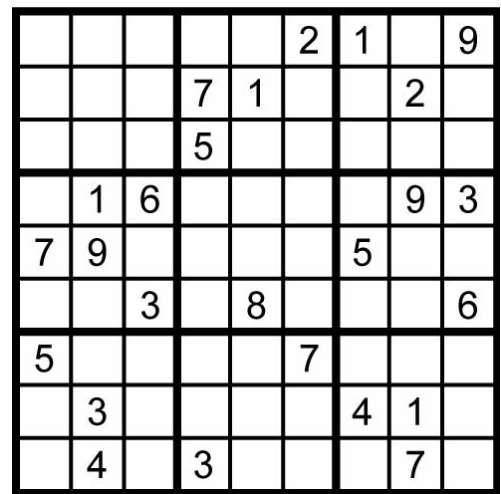
## CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Damage
  - 5 Wedding day promises
  - 8 Soft creamy candy
  - 9 Outermost tip of a spar
  - 10 Largest living bird
  - 12 Earthy colour
  - 13 Angler's basket
  - 14 Healthy diet necessity
  - 19 Beauty pageant wear
  - 21 They can be flying ones, maybe
  - 22 South China Sea nation
  - 23 Photo finish
  - 24 Quartz variety
  - 25 "Romeo and Juliet" setting
  - 5 Sixth sign of the zodiac
  - 6 Like most seaside cottages (7-6)
  - 7 Kathleen Winsor's novel, "Forever \_\_\_"
  - 8 Hoodwink
  - 11 Swelling reducer
  - 15 Marker
  - 16 Barrel part
  - 17 Noted sci-fi author
  - 18 Man, for one
  - 20 Extension
  - 23 Mal de \_\_\_
- Down**
- 2 Egadi Islands locale
  - 3 Word of support
  - 4 Beat

## 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.

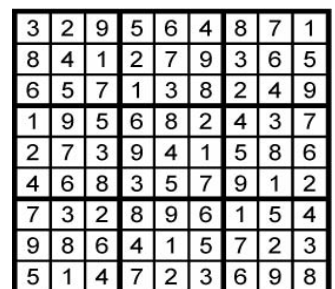


## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## RAISING VOICE

Members of Odisha Hindi Sikshyak Ashayee Sangha stage a protest near Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Monday, urging government not to recruit non-Hindi BEd candidates to Hindi teachers' posts



# Registration must for migration: Singh Deo

THE DEPUTY CM HOLDS FIRST MEET OF TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION



He was joined by Deputy CM Pravati Parida, who is also a member of the task force.

It is worth noting that around 8.38 lakh people had returned to Odisha post Covid-19 pandemic. In 2024, about 1036 people have been given labour license while 96 times inspection process has been held.

Panchayat survey has been carried out in 29 villages of 20 blocks in four districts - Balangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada-during the period. "In order to prevent this problem, there is a need to increase the wages of the workers and provide them with these wages at the right time," Singh Deo said.

To prevent illegal traffic under the ISMW Act, 1979, tracking and where necessary, the joint efforts of the Red Police and the administration should be done, the DY CM said.

A toll-free number '180034567003' has been provided by the state government. "This can be solved by creating awareness and creating sustainable employment opportunities in rural areas and using government approved services such as banks, UPI," Singh Deo added.

Other members of the task force Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik, Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner, and secretaries from relevant departments.

POST NEWS NETWORK

### HIGHLIGHTS

**M**andatory incensing of labour contractors

**P**lans afoot to develop a mobile app to maintain data of migrant workers

**S**pecial health card to be issued to migrant workers

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 28:** Persons traveling to foreign states or countries must first register themselves so that the government can provide timely help in case of any problem in future, Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo said Monday.

Speaking at the first and inaugural meeting of the high-level task force, which was set up by the state government October 14 to recommend measures to address the issue of distress migration in the state, Singh Deo said the problem of labour displacement will be reduced to some extent by providing people with permanent means of livelihood, or employment, and removing middlemen and agents.

"They (middlemen) lure the labourers by promising high income. But then they (labourers) are left to work day and night without proper payment. To address the problem, the task force has been formed on behalf of the government and a strategy is being prepared," Singh Deo said.

As part of the strategy, he said, labour contractors would henceforth be licensed. "They should be checked from time to time. Action will be taken against illegal contractors," he said.

The government has planned to develop a mobile app to maintain data of the migrant workers. Also, a special health card will be issued for them, Singh Deo

## Body of RSP worker found

**ROURKELA:** The body of an employee of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) with its head severed was found near the railway tracks on the plant premises, under mysterious circumstances Monday. The deceased was identified as Basudev Pradhan, 51, who worked at heavy maintenance engineering department of RSP. On being informed, RSP, CISF and other officials reached the spot and shifted the body to Ispat General Hospital (IGH). It is learnt that Pradhan was under stress owing to his inability to pay back some loans. Zone I SDPO Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra said, "The body will be handed over to family members after post-mortem." A probe is on.

# Scheme soon to protect, manage temples & mutts

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 28:** The state government will soon launch a scheme for the conservation, reconstruction and management of temples and mutts of cultural significance.

According to Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan, the detailed blueprint of the scheme, 'Debalay Yojana', is being formulated.

"The temples, mutts and institutions of cultural importance having issues of conservation and management will be addressed under the yojana. Our gov-

ernment is committed to preserve, conserve and protect shrines and mutts which have rich cultural heritage," he said Monday.

Harichandan said the proposed scheme will also address issues pertaining to the functioning of religious institutions including their security across the state.

Referring to the previous BJD government's Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme, the minister said the new scheme will address several issues and will not be limited only to temple repairs.

## UNTIMELY RATH YATRA IN USA

# SJTA to hold talks with ISKCON authorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 28:** The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) in Puri will take up the matter with the Indian authorities of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) over its plan to hold an "untimely Rath Yatra" in the US, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said Monday.

He said several socio-cultural organisations met him and expressed concern over the plan of ISKCON's Houston unit to conduct Lord Jagannath's 'Snana Yatra' (bathing festival) and Rath Yatra (chariot festival) in November, deviating from the normal practice at the temple in Puri where it is held a few months back at a stipulated time period.

Many people including priests of the Srimandir are of the opinion that all rituals of the Lord across the world should be observed following religious practices held at Srikhetra in Puri, the law minister said.

The Puri Jagannath temple falls under the jurisdiction of the state government's Law department.

"The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration will hold talks

with the ISKCON and I hope a positive result will emerge," Harichandan said.

According to the website of ISKCON's Houston unit, the 'Snana Yatra' and 'Rath Yatra' will be held November 3 and 9, Sunday and Saturday, respectively.

According to the practice in Puri, 'Snana Yatra' is conducted on the full moon in the month of 'Jyeshtha', usually in June.

Similarly, Rath Yatra or chariot festival is observed on the second day of the bright fortnight of the 'Ashadha' month, which falls in June or July.

The ISKCON Houston unit website said, "This re-enactment of the famous Rath Yatra parade, also celebrated as the Festival of Chariots, is rooted in ancient India's bhakti (devotional) tradition. It has been observed annually for more than 3,000 years in the holy city of Puri in Odisha, India, making it the world's longest-running street festival."

When contacted, the ISKCON Temple in Bhubaneswar said it has nothing to comment on the matter. "We have absolutely no idea," a senior priest of the ISKCON temple here said.

## Govt effects major OAS reshuffle

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 28:** The state government Monday effected a major reshuffle in OAS cadre by transferring 11 officers.

As per a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievances department, Sailendra Kumar Jena, presently posted as Joint Secretary in Sports & Youth Services department, has been transferred and posted as Joint Secretary in Mission Shakti department. Similarly, the Joint Secretary in Health & FW department Mamata Barik has been moved as Joint Secretary to Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM), Bhubaneswar.

Joint Secretary to Mission Shakti department Binod Kumar Jena has been transferred as Joint Secretary to Tourism dept and given additional charge as Joint Secretary in Odia Language Literature & Culture dept.

Similarly, Puri Sub Collector Gopinath Kuanr has been transferred and posted as Joint Secretary to Women & Child Development department. Suraj Kumar Pattnaik, former Sub Collector, Subarnapur UoT has been posted as Additional EO, Zilla Parishad, Bargarh. Owing to this, the posting of Suraj Kumar Pattnaik as Deputy Secretary to Sports & Youth Services department has been cancelled, said the notification.

Hemasagar Bhoi, former Sub-Collector, Kuchinda, Sambalpur will now join in the GA & PG department as PA, ITDA, Kuchinda, Sambalpur. Likewise, Surendra Meher, BDO, Sohela, has been transferred and posted as Additional Sub-Collector, Subarnapur.

Manoranjan Sahu, GM (Social Projects), Bhubaneswar Smart City Ltd, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Collector, Bhubaneswar.

Manorama Jali, Additional Sub-Collector, Jajpur has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, SIRD, Bhubaneswar.

Raj Kishore Jena, Dy Commissioner, BMC has been transferred and posted as Sub-Collector, Puri. Sunil Kumar Meher, tehsildar of Bolangir, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Collector, Patnagarh, Bolangir.



AGROUND: A boat ferried on a trolley rickshaw to a workshop for repairs, at Jobra Road in Cuttack Monday

OP PHOTO

## TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN & CHILDREN

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 28:** Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida has stressed the need for strengthening laws related to child protection and controlling digital behaviour of children.

Speaking as the chief guest at the state-level 'Stakeholder Consultation on Eliminating Child Trafficking' at the State Institute of Women and Child here Monday, Parida said child trafficking is a sensitive issue, and the state government is giving priority to all aspects of child and women trafficking.

"It is high time to tighten the laws related to child protection and to strengthen laws to control the digital behavior of chil-



dren," she said.

The Deputy CM said in view of the current situation, a proactive approach is needed to deal with the child protection issues. She also suggested an awareness program and a helpline number for quick action to deal with the problem of trafficking. She also called for support from all stakeholders to join the movement to work in a mission mode

# Time to tighten laws: Parida

to eradicate child trafficking.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary, Women and Child Development department Subha Sarma said, "We all must work together in partnership to prevent heinous crimes like child and women trafficking." She also said that the department will make all possible efforts to prevent child trafficking.

William Hanlon Jr, UNICEF state chief, also joined the program and appreciated the Odisha government's commitment to combat child trafficking.

The program, hosted by the department of Women and Child Development, Odisha, in collaboration with UNICEF, was attended by officials of various concerned departments, chairmen

of various district child welfare committees, district child protection officers, project coordinator of child helpline number and the members of prominent non-government organizations of the state working on child protection.

Officers from the Kharagpur railway protection force (RPF) and state police also took part in the discussion.

On this occasion, a detailed discussion was held on the causes and prevention of child trafficking while giving stress on the 4P - prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership - approach.

Monisha Banerjee, Director, WCD delivered the welcome address while Sambit Kumar Nayak, Additional Secretary, WCD, composed the vote of thanks.

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Newborn girl rescued from bag near pond



Keonjhar: A newborn girl packed in a bag was found dumped near a pond at Khireitangiri village under this block in Keonjhar district, Monday. On being informed, Turumunga police reached the spot and rescued the seven to 10-day old baby girl from the embankment of the pond behind a school at Dhanabeni Sahi in the village. Police handed over the newborn to the District Child Welfare Committee. Later, the infant was admitted to the district headquarters hospital in Keonjhar. The matter came to the fore when a woman identified as Gurubari Munda had gone near the pond to attend nature's call and heard the baby crying. She rescued her from the bag and brought her back home. Another woman named Dalimba Munda nursed her and informed the police. It is suspected that someone might have placed the baby inside the bag, zipped it up and left it there, Turumunga IIC Dharmendra Shanti said.

Police detain 2 BJD leaders for 'derogatory' posts against MLA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Oct 28: Two Biju Janata Dal (BJD) youth leaders in Jajpur district have been detained after they allegedly uploaded derogatory posts on social media about Dharmasala's independent legislator Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo, police said Monday.

Dharmasala police have detained BJD youth leaders Subrat Kumar Dhal and Manas Mohanty, they said.

According to the complaint filed by Biswajit Swain, a BJP activist of Deulipal village with Dharmasala police station, Subrat Kumar Dhal and Manas Mohanty have been posting derogatory videos, articles, audio-visual items against Sahoo on social media platforms.

"The posted articles, videos and audio-visual items have absolutely no resemblance with truth and reality. Moreover, these items are derogatory and abusive in nature and intended to tar-

nish the image of the Dharmasala MLA," the complaint stated.

Based on the complaint, police picked up Dhal and Mohanty and detained them in the police station Sunday night.

When the news of detention of Dhal and Mohanty spread, former Dharmasala legislator Pranab Balabantaray along with his supporters reached the police station Sunday and demanded the reason for their detention.

Balabantaray alleged that the police are taking a partisan attitude and harassing BJD workers.

Jajpur Additional SP Anirudha Routray reached the spot and held talks with the former legislator and BJD leaders.

Dharmasala police station Inspector-in-Charge Tapan Kumar Nayak said police have detained the two youths in connection with a written complaint.

Maha tigress released into STR enclosure

The tigress was captured in Maharashtra Saturday morning and brought to Similipal Sunday afternoon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Oct 28: A tigress brought from Maharashtra was safely released into an enclosure in the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district Monday morning, an official statement said.

The tigress, named Jamuna, was brought from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra.

"The tigress was safely released into a soft enclosure of around two hectares in the core area of Similipal at 9.25am. The tigress is active and healthy," STR Field Director Prakash Chand Goginemi said in the statement.

The two-and-a-half-year-old tigress was captured in TATR Saturday morning and brought to Similipal Sunday afternoon after a nearly 36-hour journey covering over 1,000km.

Forest officials said the en-



The tigress will be kept in observation for at least one to two weeks before its release into the wild, Forest officials said

closure has been created in the core area within the Similipal South Division where the wild animal will be kept in observation for at least one to two weeks before its release into the wild.

The translocation of the tigress was done with the permission of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Two felines, including this tigress, from TATR will be re-

leased into STR, officials said. This was Odisha's second attempt to translocate tigers. In 2018, the state government had made a tiger translocation attempt at Satkosia Tiger Reserve, which no longer has tigers.

A tiger named Mahavir and a tigress named Sundari were brought from Kanha National Park and Bandhavgarh National Park, respectively in Madhya Pradesh, and released in Satkosia.

While the tiger died after falling into a trap laid by poachers, the tigress was sent back to its original habitat after it allegedly killed two persons during its 30-month stay in Odisha.

With the arrival of the tigress in Similipal, the tiger population in the state has increased to 31, of which 28 are in STR. The STR, spread across 2,750 sq km, is the country's only wild habitat for melanistic royal Bengal tigers.

In-breeding among the closed population has emerged as a looming threat to the striped predators in the protected area. Therefore, the STR authority has decided to bring tigresses from Maharashtra to improve the gene pool of tigers inside the reserve, the officials added.

One more tigress from a tiger reserve in Maharashtra will be brought to STR soon as part of the translocation project, officials said.

14-ft-long crocodile rescued



PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 28: Forest personnel from the Kanika Forest Range have rescued a 14.2-foot-long male estuarine crocodile from a prawn ghery in Khunta village, located in the Rajkanika block of this coastal district.

According to Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav, the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Rajnagar Mangrove (Forest) and Wildlife Division, the team, experienced in rescuing estuarine crocodiles, captured the reptile with the help of fishing nets and later released it into the Bhitarkanika river within the national park.

Sukanta Kumar Biswal, a resident of Khunta, spotted the giant crocodile Saturday in his prawn ghery. He informed the Bhitarkanika National Park authorities, who promptly deployed a forest rescue team to the site. After an eight-hour-long opera-

tion, the team successfully secured the crocodile.

Crocodiles typically stray from their natural habitat into nearby rivers and water bodies during high tide, when salinity levels rise due to the influx of tidal water into the creeks and rivulets.

During the severe cyclonic storm 'Dana', high tides caused tidal water to enter water bodies in Bhitarkanika National Park, which is home to 1,811 estuarine crocodiles. It is believed that the rescued crocodile might have strayed from its natural habitat, said DFO Yadav.

A few days earlier, during the cyclone, Forest personnel also rescued a cobra that had entered Alekha Ashram in Gupti.

The Bhitarkanika National Park authorities have alerted locals to avoid rivers and rivulets, as estuarine crocodiles may have entered these waters.

35-yr-old gets 20 yrs in jail for raping teen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Oct 28: A 35-year-old man was sentenced to 20 years in jail by a court in Mayurbhanj district for raping a teenage girl.

The fast-track court of Special Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak sentenced the convict to jail and also imposed a fine of ₹50,000 on him, Special Public Prosecutor Manoranjan Pattnaik said.

The court directed the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay a compensation of ₹50,000 to the victim, he said.

On the night of July 8, 2017, the convict and another man forcibly took the 15-year-old girl to a nearby forest while she was sleeping with her grandmother and gangraped her, according to the prosecution.



The girl was rescued by villagers, and the police were informed, following which a case was registered at the Bisoil police station.

One of the accused was arrested, while the other remained absconding.

The arrested accused was convicted on the basis of the statements of the victim, 18 witnesses and the medical report.

Monkeys attack, injure 15 people

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliapal, Oct 28: The residents of Raghunathpur panchayat under Singla police limits in Balasore district are living in fear of monkey attacks with a sudden uptick in such incidents. In the latest instance, more than 15 people were seriously injured after being attacked by monkeys. They are currently undergoing treatment in various hospitals.

For the past few days, more than 50 monkeys have been entering the village, attacking residents frequently. As a result, people are too scared to even step out of their houses.

Monkeys have spread panic in Sanaasti, Kunkudi, Mathakunkudi and Palasahi villages under the Raghunathpur panchayat area. Things have come to such a pass that people are unable to go out for work and children are afraid to leave for school.

While venturing out for essential tasks, villagers arm themselves with sticks and move in groups. According to villagers, there are some aggressive monkeys within the troop, who are biting people relentlessly. Some villagers, seriously injured, are receiving treatment in major hospitals in Balasore, Cuttack, and Bhubaneswar.

After being notified by the villagers, a Forest department team has arrived and is making efforts to capture the monkeys. However, the villagers have demanded that the monkeys be promptly controlled and relocated.

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Government of Odisha, No.MM-213 Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Chilika Wildlife Division, Balugaon

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FOCUS JUDICIARY

# THE HAND OF GOD



It is not insignificant that CJ Chandrachud turned to God for a solution rather than ask for resolve, strength or wisdom to enable him navigate the complexities of the case

The 1,045-page judgement that paved the way for the construction of a grand Ram temple at a place where the Babri masjid was demolished by VHP and BJP-led protesters stands as a political-legal milestone in the history of India. It came on 9 Nov, 2019, with an unprecedented, unsigned, unexplained "addenda," and was delivered by a five-judge bench comprising the then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi (who retired later that month), Justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and Abdul Nazeer. Never before was a more complicated case before the courts with material going back several centuries, spanning land disputes, issues of faith, archaeological artefacts, and a violent and illegal demolition of the Babri masjid that tore apart the secular fabric of independent India. The judgement itself highlighted the significance of the matter in these words: "This Court is tasked with the resolution of a dispute whose origins are as old as the idea of India itself. The events associated with the dispute have spanned the Mughal empire, colonial rule and the present constitutional regime."

scholarly in matters of law and as highly-regarded as he has been, would surely have known that such a remark would lead to many questions and open up new controversies on the judgement itself, and how the five-judge bench arrived at a consensus if at least one of them was admittedly listening to authority beyond the Constitution of India. It is not insignificant that Justice Chandrachud turned to God for a solution rather than ask for resolve, strength or wisdom to enable him navigate the complexities of the case. Thus, the final tome that came from the bench can be now seen as the authorship of God, the position made clear and attested by none other than the CJI. This now becomes a curious case of God having decided on a case involving the House of God, and many questions immediately arise.

It would be presumed that Justice Chandrachud, a practising Hindu, would look up to a Hindu God for a solution in a case that was won hands down by the Hindu side. How would the matter look if this was a Muslim judge praying at a mosque and asking his God to write the judgement in the matter? And how would history look at this judgement which can now be seen as taking the form of a judicial robbing of a religious edict emanating from a source that is not the constitution? Further, how does this stand against the oath of office, which states that the CJI would "uphold the Constitution and the laws" of the land rather than the voice of an authority that he may see as higher. And how does it hold against the document titled "Restatement of values of judicial life" which was adopted by a full court meeting of the Supreme Court on 7 May, 1997. The first item on that document states: "Justice must not merely be done but it must also be seen to be done. The behaviour and conduct of members of the higher judiciary must reaffirm the people's faith

in the impartiality of the judiciary. Accordingly, any act of a Judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court, whether in official or personal capacity, which erodes the credibility of this perception has to be avoided." Apart from doing disservice to the sanctity of the judiciary and the rule of law, and poorly serving his fellow judges who were on the bench in the Ayodhya matter, the remarks also pull the CJI into avoidable controversies of the kind that he appears to have attracted in recent times. The Ganesh aarti at the CJI's home, with the Prime Minister leading the prayers, duly publicised on social media, with the CJI and his wife standing by, have already raised questions. The conduct of the CJI has thus invited some questions from even his admirers, and given rise to a new conversation on the motives for this distinctly religious bent being brought out openly in public debate, given that the CJI recently visited the Ram temple at Ayodhya, among other comments and many other temple visits that have been covered in the media. This is not good news for the legal system and the two sides in the Ayodhya judgement - the winning side must live with the prospects of a judgement being attacked as more flawed than it was thought to be earlier, while all those disappointed with the original judgement can convince themselves and forcefully now argue that justice was not done. That means that a matter considered settled, however imperfectly, is now unsettled. And that cannot be a happy ending of the case or the remarkable career of the 50th CJI, who retires on 10 Nov, 2024.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. @THEBILLIONPRESS



Jagdish Rattanani

THIS NOW BECOMES A CURIOUS CASE OF GOD HAVING DECIDED ON A CASE INVOLVING THE HOUSE OF GOD

It is this vexed case that the current CJI DY Chandrachud has reminisced about at a meeting in Khed, Maharashtra, bringing up once again the complexities of the matter but speaking this time about how he turned to God for a solution in the case. Justice Chandrachud was quoted by PTI as having said, "Very often we have cases (to adjudicate) but we don't arrive at a solution. Something similar happened during the Ayodhya (Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid) dispute which was in front of me for three months. I sat before the deity and told him he needs to find a solution." This is an extremely loaded statement. The CJI, known to be

A paper in the Fordham Law Review puts the position of a judge in such a case rather succinctly. Titled "Jurisprudence and Theology", the paper by Prof. Edward B. Foley notes: "The duties of judges must be limited to identifying the law, as promulgated by the authoritative legislative bodies. Judges are specialists, trained in this skill. They should not confuse them-

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

## Making biodiversity credits work

Humans do not just depend on nature; we are part of it. Indigenous peoples and local communities understand this and act as responsible stewards of their natural environment. If we are to succeed at mitigating and adapting to climate change, as well as halting and reversing biodiversity loss, passing a vibrant and healthy planet on to future generations, we must learn from - and support - these guardians of nature.



Almir Narayamoga Surui & Simon Zadek

BY PUTTING A 'PRICE ON NATURE,' SUCH CREDITS MAY ENCOURAGE BUSINESSES TO TAKE MORE CARE NOT TO UNDERMINE BIODIVERSITY

Conservation relies on a complex set of factors, including education and awareness, enforcement of rights and laws, effective policymaking, and finance. But it is finance - specifically, how to close the \$700 billion annual biodiversity-financing gap by 2030 - that is a central focus of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, taking place this week in Cali, Colombia.

Among the innovative financing mechanisms that have been attracting attention as a potential solution are biodiversity credits. While such credits come in many different forms, all are essentially a market mechanism for rewarding those who channel finance into nature conservation and restoration. At their core, they provide those that invest in nature with robust "credit" of their positive impact according to land conserved or restored

that can be used to demonstrate compliance with relevant laws, improve nature's productivity, or enhance good reputations.

If used effectively, biodiversity credits can channel financing toward nature's stewards, improving their material conditions and reinforcing the legitimacy of their critical role in environmental stewardship. Moreover, by putting a "price on nature," such credits may encourage businesses to take more care not to undermine biodiversity.

But there is no guarantee that biodiversity credits will meet their potential. After all, while other public-interest markets can and should work, they often do not. Consider voluntary carbon markets, which look great on paper but have sometimes failed to live up to their promise - highlighting the dangers as well as the potential of market-based solutions. If markets for biodiversity credits are to be more successful, they must be better designed, implemented robustly, and governed effectively. Indigenous peoples, who know nature's true value, must be central to this process - not merely consulted on it.

This recognition drove the creation of the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits last year. Comprising roughly two dozen environmental, policy, and business and

finance experts, as well as conservation practitioners, local community activists, and indigenous leaders (including the authors), the panel was tasked with designing a framework for biodiversity-credit markets that could credibly deliver benefits for nature, climate, and people. To this end, we have spent over a year consulting with hundreds of interested parties, studying third-party research, carrying out research of our own, and analysing ongoing biodiversity-credit pilot programmes.

We make five recommendations, all supported by real-life use cases and practical guidance.

First, unlike carbon markets, there should be no globally traded biodiversity offsets. The scheme would limit claims to those entities that have actually invested in nature.

Second, biodiversity markets should not be mainly voluntary, as carbon markets are. Instead, government policy - at the national, regional, local, and municipal levels - should support the rapid scale-up of demand and its effective use. Measures could be compliance-based, involve tax incentives, or be tied to financing and supply-chain conditions.

Third, biodiversity credits should be bought and sold only where there is clear evidence that local people's rights have

been respected. Fourth, price floors need to be established, to ensure that, even at their minimum level, biodiversity credits provide nature's stewards sufficient financing. Lastly, equitable access to markets must be assured; the adoption of more radical approaches to transparency concerning where and how money is invested and returned, together with investment in building up the capacity of nature's stewards to negotiate the value of nature's capital can help here.

Any and all new mechanisms for financing nature conservation and restoration, including biodiversity credits, must be introduced with caution. This means learning from past mistakes and embedding inclusivity and effective governance in their design. But it does not mean going slow: on the contrary, we must act now - before the land loses its ability to produce, the rivers dry up, and the available financial resources are no longer sufficient to repair the damage caused.

Almir Narayamoga Surui is Leader of the Paiter Surui people from the Brazilian Amazon. Simon Zadek is Co-CEO of NatureFinance.

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



SRI AUROBINDO

## Lessons From Japan

Voters in Japan have spoken and delivered the loud and clear message to the ruling coalition that they cannot be taken for a ride with gimmicks or the political trick of changing a discredited Prime Minister. Just as voters in India recently did not allow the ruling party to win a simple majority, their Japanese counterparts have punished the ruling coalition in an unprecedented manner as it has lost its majority, throwing the country into political instability not seen for decades.

The final tally shows that Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner Komeito have managed to win only 215 seats, down from 279 and well short of the 233 needed to form a government. It is the worst result for the LDP - which has ruled Japan for 65 of the past 69 years.

The defeat of the LDP alliance is being attributed primarily to a corruption scandal involving money siphoned off from party fund-raising events. That apart the people were seething with rage for the failure of the government to address bread and butter issues. The blow has been so severe that the chastened-looking Ishiba admitted in a television address that it was a "very tough" election for the party.

Of the 46 candidates against whom the allegations of corruption were directed only 18 have been able to retain their seats. Some of them were denied party tickets and they won as independents.

The result shows the depth of public distrust in the LDP as a result of the slush fund scandal. Some of the biggest names in the ruling coalition failed to win seats, including Komeito's leader Keiichi Ishii. Interestingly, such strong reaction against graft is rarely, if ever, seen among Indian voters.

The Opposition party that has gained the most from the collapse in LDP support is the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP), which has won far more seats than it expected - 148 seats, up from 98 in the last election. The stranglehold of the ruling coalition in Japanese politics has been such that Opposition leader Yoshihiko Noda said, after the poll results, that it was a major achievement that they could reach their goal of preventing "the ruling coalition from getting a majority."

However, despite the Opposition parties' collective success in winning enough seats to form a majority, a grand coalition among them appears to be unlikely as they have diametrically opposing views on key matters from fiscal and defence policy to the use of nuclear energy.

With its 191 seats, the LDP remains the single largest party and could still cobble together a government by adding a third coalition partner. At the moment Ishiba is keeping his cards close to his chest. But, he is likely to first approach the centrist Democratic Party for the People for support and then the conservative Japan Innovation Party. The two parties have won 28 and 38 seats, respectively. Though both parties previously ruled out a formal coalition with the LDP, the post-poll scenario may make them revisit their position. Of course, such a fragile government will make Ishiba vulnerable to a leadership challenge from within his own party. It is likely to come from Sanae Takaichi, the preferred choice from the ultra-conservative faction of the LDP whom Ishiba, a moderate, defeated in last month's leadership election. Ishiba appeared to have decent approval ratings after that victory and called the snap election hoping to capitalise on party support. But, his popularity came under a question mark after he made a U-turn on a number of policies that resonated with the voters - support for same-sex marriage and the right for married individuals to choose to keep different surnames - after entering office.

The great message emanating from Japan to democracies around the globe is that it is the people and not politicians and their propaganda machinery that have the last word in the formation of a government.

WISDOM CORNER

Listen to the cry of a woman in labor at the hour of giving birth - look at the dying man's struggle at his last extremity, and then tell me whether something that begins and ends thus could be intended for enjoyment.

SOREN KIERKEGAARD

People are basically the same the world over. Everybody wants the same things - to be happy, to be healthy, to be at least reasonably prosperous, and to be secure. They want friends, peace of mind, good family relationships, and hope that tomorrow is going to be even better than today.

ZIG ZIGLAR

What each must seek in his life never was on land or sea. It is something out of his own unique potentiality for experience, something that never has been and never could have been experienced by anyone else.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1863: Red Cross founded. Also known as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Red Cross is a humanitarian institution that has been a three-time recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1923: The Republic of Turkey was established, largely through the efforts of Kemal Atatürk, who is considered the country's founder and served as its first president.
- 1929: Collapse of U.S. stock market prices. Just five days after nearly 13 million shares of U.S. stock were sold in one day in 1929, an additional 16 million shares were sold this day, called "Black Tuesday," further fueling the crisis known as the Great Depression.
- 1956: Israel's army attacked Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula in a fight for control of the Suez Canal area.

LOL

### Say no to counter fitting

Several years ago, Andy was sentenced to prison. During his stay, he got along well with the guards and all his fellow inmates. The warden saw that deep down, Andy was a good person and made arrangements for Andy to learn a trade while doing his time. After three years, Andy was recognized as one of the best carpenters in the local area. Often he would be given a weekend pass to do odd jobs for the citizens of the community... and he always reported back to prison before Sunday night was over. The warden was thinking of remodeling his kitchen and in fact had



done much of the work himself. But he lacked the skills to build a set of kitchen cupboards and a large counter top which he had promised his wife. So he called Andy into his office and asked him to complete the job for him. But, alas, Andy refused. He told the warden, "Gosh, I'd really like to help you but counter fitting is what got me into prison in the first place".

## 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

Shared interests

Sir, Singapore is considered India's "gateway" to the east. Both nations have mutually beneficial cultural exchanges, while defence, sea and space, commerce and infrastructure, too, are areas of bilateral interest. It was no surprise, therefore, that the sixth India-Singapore defence ministerial dialogue at New Delhi decided to step-up defence cooperation in niche domains like automation and artificial intelligence. Regional peace and stability are shared interests of the two countries, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Singapore counterpart Ng Eng Hen underscored the aspect while driving home the importance of shared bilateral defence relations. Since armed forces of India and Singapore engage frequently for mutual benefit, a five-year extended agreement on Joint Military Training-Army is a decisive step.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Conflict between laws

Sir, It is the general principle that constitutional law is supreme. In case of conflict between constitutional law and personal law, it is the writ of constitutional laws that must run large over personal laws. The Supreme Court has upheld that child marriage is impermissible in any and every religion. In this, the Court has given a stern message that religious laws should not come in the way of constitutional laws. Much in contrast to this ruling, a division bench of Justices BP Colabawalla and Somasekhar Sundaresan of the Bombay High Court has given a ruling that a Muslim man can register more than one marriage as their personal laws permit multiple marriages. Accordingly, the HC has reportedly directed the deputy marriage registration office of the Thane Municipal Corporation to decide the application filed by a Muslim in February 2023 seeking to register his third marriage with a woman from Algeria. In fact the authorities concerned had rejected the plea of the couple on the ground that it is the third marriage of the man which is in violation of the Maharashtra Regulation of Marriage Bureaus and Registration of Marriage Act. Considering the case Krishna Singh vs. Mathura Ahir of 1980(5) where the apex court had held that "personal laws could not be challenged for being in contravention of the provisions of Fundamental Rights enshrined under the Indian Constitution," the Bombay HC has not erred.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE



### 'VERY POOR' AIR QUALITY

# Smog chokes Delhi



National capital has been grappling with air pollution for the past few days and a thick blanket of smog is visible ahead of Diwali

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 28: The air quality in Delhi-NCR continued to be in the 'very poor' category as a layer of smog engulfed the region in the morning hours.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the average air quality index was recorded at 328 in the national capital. While other cities in the Delhi-NCR region also recorded high pollution levels - Paridabad at 248, Gurugram at 195, Ghaziabad at 252, Greater Noida at 248 and Noida at 267.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) had improved to the 'poor' category Saturday due to some wind flowing across the belt. However, it again slipped to the 'very poor' level Sunday and continued to remain so Monday morning.

Various areas in the national capital city recorded 'very poor' air quality, as per the National Air Quality Index. The worst areas included Anand Vihar with an AQI of 357, Ashok Vihar with 361, Wazirpur with 362, Jahangirpuri with 366 and Najafgarh with 325.

The IGI Airport (T3) recorded an AQI of 316.

The city has been covered by a layer of smog, which is most prominent early in the morning. In conversation with news agency ANI, Himanshu who is visiting Delhi, said the rising pollution feels "suffocating".

A cyclist told the news agency,

"We are from Delhi and we (the cyclist group) cycle daily here, but this situation of air pollution since the last few days we are facing a lot of problems."

He added, "We can't breathe properly, we get tired faster due to the pollution. We take precautions like wearing a bandana but nothing is working because the pollution is increasing a lot."

The air quality in Noida (Uttar Pradesh) was recorded to be in the 'poor' category Monday morning with several areas seeing AQI between 250 and 299. Some areas in the Gurugram (Haryana) witnessed 'poor' air quality while some were in the 'very poor' category.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered good, 51-100 is satisfactory, 101-200 is moderate, 201-300 is poor, 301-400 is very poor, and 401-500 is severe. The air pollution levels in Delhi-NCR are likely to rise in the coming days with stubble burning and firecrackers being major contributors. The absence of favourable

Citizens demand government to take action as cases of respiratory illnesses have risen during this period

wind conditions is also contributing to the rising levels.

According to the CPCB, the AQI reached hazardous levels Sunday morning touching 400 in areas such as Anand Vihar, Mundka, and Bawana. According to the CPCB data, Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 355 Sunday at 4 pm.

On October 22, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) ordered the implementation of Stage 2 emergency measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to curb the city's air pollution.

Under this phase of GRAP, additional efforts focus on tackling dust pollution and limiting emissions from diesel generators, a move aimed at curbing further deterioration. Authorities deploy mechanical and vacuum road sweepers, conduct water sprinkling operations on key roads, and intensify inspections at construction sites to enforce strict dust control measures.

The Delhi government has also banned the use and sale of firecrackers till January 1. The government has also adopted measures such as spraying water on roads, frequent cleanings of public spaces etc to reduce particulate matter in the air.

### Vehicular emission, farm fires big contributors

Vehicular emission was the biggest contributor to Delhi's pollution Sunday, accounting for approximately 10.7 per cent, according to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management. It is predicted that vehicular emissions will remain the top contributor to Delhi's pollution over the next two days, with an estimated share of approximately 14 per cent. Apart from transport, other prominent contributors to Delhi's pollution include farm fires. Data shows that Sunday, a total of 138 farm fires were recorded in Punjab, 13 in Haryana, and 27 in Uttar Pradesh. Between September 15, 2024, and October 27, 2024, a total of 1,995, 713, 892, and four farm fires were recorded in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi. The Delhi government Monday announced plans to deploy 10,000 civil defence volunteers, who were terminated from service last year as bus marshals, to help the government implement pollution mitigation measures. The volunteers will be deployed alongside teams from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, and the Transport Department, Chief Minister Atishi said. Delhi registered a maximum temperature of 34.4 degrees Celsius Monday, 3.4 degrees above normal, according to the weather department. The temperature was between 30 and 31 degrees Celsius around the same period last year.



A Delhi Jal Board worker sprays defoaming chemical in the Yamuna river to reduce the toxic foam, ahead of Chhath Puja in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

### Diwali rush: DMRC to add 60 trips to ease congestion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: The Delhi Metro will introduce additional 60 trips Tuesday and Wednesday in a bid to enhance commuter convenience and ease congestion in view of festive season.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has urged people to commute using public transport to avoid traffic and pollution. The DMRC said, "Delhi Metro is adding 60 extra trips on Tuesday and Wednesday to ensure smoother and more convenient travel for all commuters."

According to officials, there are around 4,000 daily trips of metro. "Whether you're heading to festive markets, visiting friends and family, or simply exploring the city, avoid traffic and pollution by choosing the metro. Let's make this festive season hassle-free and sustainable with every ride," it added.



### Mission on to end child marriage

After new SC guidelines, civil society organisations meet to eradicate child marriage before 2030

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Oct 28: Armed with the latest Supreme Court guidelines on child marriage, civil society organisations Monday gathered in Jaipur and hoped to end the practice by 2030 while also extending full support to the state government in this endeavour.

NGO partners from the Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRCA) - Association for Voluntary Action and Gayatri Seva Sansthan - along with Child Marriage Free India addressed media in Jaipur Monday to strategise on effectively eradicating child marriage in the backdrop of the Supreme Court guidelines.

She said that they will further intensify their work on the ground such as working with village authorities, spreading awareness among the masses and roping in faith leaders of different religions to eliminate child marriages.

The alliance supports the 'Child Marriage Free India' campaign, whose partners played a significant role as petitioners in the case that resulted in the apex court's guidelines to eliminate child marriage. The campaign, supported by JRCA, has already been working on the ground on the PICKET strategy which is echoed in the SC guidelines.

The PICKET strategy, espoused by the CMFI Founder Bhuwan Ribhu, stands for Policy, Institution, Collaboration or Convergence, Knowledge, Ecosystem, and Technology and it is with the implementation of this holistic approach that in the past year in which over 120,000 child marriages were prevented across the country.

Expressing gratitude over the Supreme Court judgment, Rajeev Bharadwaj, Convener, Child Marriage Free India, said "We



Just Rights For Children Alliance comprises over 180 NGOs across the country fighting for child protection and have been instrumental in many significant judgments ensuring child rights, the latest being the historic Supreme Court order on storing and sharing child pornography material as a crime

Child marriage, entwined in the social fabric for centuries, needs a multipronged approach and this judgment further bolsters our resolve to end child marriage

RAJEEV BHARADWAJ | CONVENER, CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

have been committed to the rights of children in our country. As JRCA members, we will extend our complete support to the state government to ensure that no child in Rajasthan is forced into marriage and every child is educated and protected."

Echoing similar thoughts, Manish Sharma, Senior Director, Association for Voluntary Action, said that child marriage is child rape, and its elimination requires a united effort from all stakeholders, from Panchayats to Police.

"The Supreme Court's order reinforces what we have been

following on the ground already. We stand with the government in every effort to end this heinous crime against children and we will collectively reach the tipping point to end child marriage, maybe even before 2030," he said.

Hearing a petition filed by Child Marriage Free India (CMFI) coalition partners, the SC passed a landmark judgment October 18 and issued guidelines that focus on mobilising village communities to end child marriage.

Charting a slew of guidelines that focus on empowering children about their rights, sex education, making panchayats, school authorities and Child Marriage Protection Officers accountable for any child marriage being solemnised in their vicinity, the apex court has also directed that prevention, protection and prosecution model should be used to implement the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA) 2006.

# RAJASTHAN UNDER HEAT SPELL

### WESTERLY WIND TO BLAME AS TEMP RISES ALL ACROSS THE STATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 28: Cities across Rajasthan continue to experience hotter days, logging maximum temperature from 35 to 40.5 degree Celsius - 2 to 7 degrees above normal.

The highest temperature Sunday was recorded in Barmer at 40.5 degrees Celsius, while Bikaner sweltered at 40 degrees.



The maximum temperature in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Jalore, Phalodi was recorded between 39 and 40 degrees Celsius.

A MeT department spokesperson said that the reason behind this heat is the westerly wind.

Usually after mid-October, the wind direction in Rajasthan becomes north-westerly, due to which mild cold starts in Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi.

At present, the wind in the western parts of Rajasthan is coming from Pakistan, Balochistan, which is hot.

Maximum temperature was recorded above normal in Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Bikaner and above normal in Kota and Udaipur Sunday.

# Muslim poets recite Urdu version of Ramayana

The Urdu Ramayan Vaachan, composed 89 years ago, has been a unique event in the Bikaner calendar for 12 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 28: Setting the syncretic way for a Diwali of goodwill and harmony, Muslim poets in Bikaner recite an Urdu version of the Ramayana to begin the countdown to the festival of lights.

The Urdu Ramayan Vaachan, composed 89 years ago, has been a unique event in the Bikaner calendar for 12 years. And so it was Sunday as well when Hindus and Muslims gathered for an Urdu rendition of the Hindu epic.

Dr Ziya Ul Hasan Quadri who was among the poets who took part in the recitation said that the

objective of the event is to give a positive message of harmony and brotherhood.

Quadri said the couplets vividly describe scenes from Ramayan like Lord Ram's exile, victory against Ravan and his return to Ayodhya, capturing the emotions depicted in the epic which is greatly appreciated by audiences in the city.

"Paryatan Lekhak Sangh" and "Mehfil-e-Adab" jointly organise the event 'Urdu Ramayan Vaachan' every year in Bikaner since 2012.

Maulvi Badshah Hussain Rana Lakhnavi of Bikaner composed the poetic version of Ramayana in Urdu language in 1935 for a competition organised by the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on the birth anniversary of Tulsidas. It won the gold medal following which the erstwhile ruler of Bikaner, Maharaja Ganga Singh, organised a ceremony to listen to Rana Lakhnavi's version.

### DIWALI CELEBRATIONS



Things have drastically changed from the time when it was composed. Today, communal harmony is under threat. Lord Rama is revered by all and belongs to all, but today he has been limited which is disappointing

ZIYA UL HASAN QUADRI | POET

Tej Bahadur Sapru presented the gold medal to Rana Lakhnavi on behalf of the BHU in this programme. Quadri said he first learned about the Urdu version of the epic in 1996. In the fol-

lowing years, the idea to hold the event began to take shape.

The poets, who take part in the recitation in Rajasthan's Bikaner before Diwali, now want to take the practice at the na-

tional level and plan to organise the recitation programme in the national capital next year.

"Things have drastically changed from the time when it was composed. Today, communal harmony is under threat. Lord Rama is revered by all and belongs to all, but today he has been limited which is disappointing," Quadri said.

He said that Muslim poets recite the Urdu Ramayan and the audience comprises of both Hindus and Muslims.

Quadri said that initially, the event used to be organised in the open but later the venue changed and now it is held in a hotel so that things are well arranged. He said that Maulvi Badshah Hussain Rana Lakhnavi worked for Maharaja Ganga Singh from 1913 to 1919, during which he translated orders issued by the Mughal rulers from Persian to Urdu. In 1920, he was appointed as the teacher at Dungar College by Ganga Singh.

# Vasant Vihar stretch to be renamed 'Jamaica Marg'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: A stretch in south Delhi's Vasant Vihar locality will be renamed Jamaica Marg, according to a proposal passed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) during a House meeting Monday.

The stretch - from B-9 Road at Vasant Marg (House No 7, Vasant Marg) to B-8 Street (House No B-8/26), Vasant Vihar - currently named Marcus Garvey Marg, in honour of Jamaica's first national hero and activist Marcus Mosiah Garvey, will be renamed Jamaica Marg, it said.

The proposed renaming of the street is seen as a symbol of strong goodwill between the two countries and their people. It aims to strengthen their bilateral ties and forge an unbreakable bond of trust and friendship of India with the Caribbean country, it stated.



"This will also be in consideration of reciprocity regarding the renaming of Tower Street in Kingston after Dr BR Ambedkar," it added.

In a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the MCD in September, the High Commission of Jamaica proposed renaming of the road as Jamaica Marg.

"The High Commissioner in his subsequent email on September 20 itself proposed to name the said road as 'Jamaica Marg' instead of 'Marcus Garvey Marg'. The same has been conveyed by the Jamaican High Commission to MEA also," the proposal said.





# national

## of the day quote

Kejriwal himself is the biggest polluter. He couldn't even clean the Yamuna which he said he would a decade ago

NAYAB SINGH SAINI | CM, HARYANA

I explained that various construction and development works will be started in the vicinity of the capital Amaravati with USD 3 billion in the government sector and USD 4.5 billion dollars in the private sector

NARA LOKESH | ANDHRA PRADESH MINISTER

While the Union Government has followed the Direct Benefits Transfer initiative of the Dr. Manmohan Singh administration (of course without acknowledging it), it has failed to coordinate with the RBI to ensure widespread banking access

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

## X POST OF THE DAY

Many innocent or accused are found dead, each day, in the various police stations of India. Yes, each day. A society that wants instant justice (e.g. Bulldozers) ends up empowering the police to do as they please. (Supreme Court has mandated compulsory CCTV systems in all stations.)

@SANDEEP\_PT

## SHORT TAKES

### Hand grenade found in front of college

Imphal: A hand grenade was found at the gates of GP Women's College, located less than 100 metres from the Raj Bhavan here, Monday morning, police said. The incident triggered panic among passersby. Police, after being informed about the presence of the grenade, cordoned off the area, an officer said. Later, a bomb disposal squad removed the grenade from the spot and disposed of it, he said. The college is located less than 100 metres from Raj Bhavan and 300 metres from the chief minister's official residence, and Manipur Police headquarters. A hand-written note, stating 'glory to the proletarian students', was left at the spot. The incident comes amid several educational institutions in Imphal Valley reporting extortion threats. Students of the college later staged an incident against the incident. They held placards and raised slogans against the incident, demanding that such acts are not repeated.

### Prohibitory orders imposed in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Police has issued prohibitory orders on procession, dharnas and public meetings till November 28 in the city. Hyderabad Police Commissioner C V Anand, who issued the orders, said reliable information has been placed before him that several organisations/parties are trying to create disturbances affecting public peace and order in Hyderabad city, by resorting to dharnas and protests. According to a notification issued by Anand, to maintain public order, peace and tranquility in Hyderabad city, gathering of five or more persons, processions, dharnas, rallies or public meetings are not allowed.



As Bharat Ratna Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's jann jayanti (birth anniversary) coincides with Diwali this year, the 'Run for Unity' event will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, October 29

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

## VINAY MISHRA TAKES CHARGE AS DELHI JAL BOARD VICE CHAIRMAN

AAP MLA Vinay Mishra Monday took charge as vice chairman of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and said he would make dedicated efforts to tackle the city's water and sewer problems. The Dwarka MLA succeeds Somnath Bharti, who had resigned as DJB vice president before filing his nomination for the Lok Sabha elections in May



## Terrorist killed after attack on army convoy

The terrorists, believed to be three in number who infiltrated into India from across the border the night before, opened fire on the Army convoy around 6:30 am, targeting an ambulance

- The operation was suspended as the darkness fell and the Army illuminated the area
- Officials said the operation will resume with the first light of the day Tuesday

per hour: Helicopters were also pressed into action to locate the hiding terrorists in the jungles of the area.

The officials said the terrorists, believed to be three in number who infiltrated into India from across the border the night before, opened fire on the Army convoy around 6:30 am, targeting an ambulance. Both of its occupants, including the driver, were unharmed.

As the troops retaliated, the attackers fled towards the forest area nearby and were later located inside a basement, the officials said, adding there was an exchange of fire until 11 am when the guns fell silent.

The situation intensified around 2:45 pm again, leading to explosive sounds and heavy gunfire as the Army's special forces and National Security Guards (NSG) commandos engaged the terrorists.

"The body of one terrorist along with weapon has been recovered. Operations are under progress," the Army's Jammu-based White knight Corps said in an update Monday evening.

The operation was suspended as the darkness fell and the Army illuminated the area. Officials said the operation will resume with the first light of the day Tuesday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 28: Terrorists opened fire at an Army convoy Monday morning, targeting an ambulance, in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu region, following which special forces and NSG commandos launched an operation killing one of the attackers, officials said.

In a first, the Army also pressed its four BMP-II infantry combat vehicles for surveillance and strengthening the cordon around the attack site near the Assan temple in Jogwan village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Bhattal area of Khour, the officials said.

The Boyevaya Mashina Pekhoty or BMP-II is a 1980-era Soviet Union Infantry Combat Vehicle which has 30mm fully stabilised automatic cannon, 7.62 mm Machine Gun and 4 kms range anti-tank wire-guided 'Konkurs' Missile. It can carry seven troopers and three crew members.

It is also equipped with the Night Vision Device and Smoke Grenade Launchers system and has a maximum speed of 45 Kms



Sand artist Ajay Rawat poses for photos near his sand sculpture themed on the Pushkar camel fair ahead of its start, Monday

PTI PHOTO

## BARAMULLA MP ENGINEER RASHID BACK IN TIHAR JAIL

Rashid has been in Tihar Jail since 2019 following his arrest by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in connection with the 2017 terror funding case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Baramulla Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, commonly known as 'Engineer Rashid', surrendered to Tihar authorities Monday after his interim bail expired and a court here reserved its order on his regular bail over jurisdictional concerns.

The Awami Ittehad Party leader, who was arrested in a terror funding case, was granted interim bail September 10. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh granted the in-



terim relief to Rashid to enable him to campaign for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections while deferring the order on his regular bail plea.

The judge was scheduled to pass the order on his regular bail plea Monday but he adjourned the matter. Reserving the order, the judge underscored that he would first consider the issue of jurisdiction and whether or not to transfer the case to a special court meant to try lawmakers, considering Rashid was now an MP.

"Since we are considering the

jurisdiction issue whether the matter will be heard by this court or the designated MP/MLA court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), keep it (bail order) post that," the court said.

It will now review the jurisdiction matter November 13.

Rashid, who faces charges of terror funding, arrived in New Delhi from Srinagar in the morning to fulfil his surrender.

Before entering the prison complex, the MP, who had attempted to hold a beef party in 2015, told media persons, "The solution to every problem is talks. If India wants to become 'Vishwaguru' by 2047, they need to talk. We request Pakistan too, to stop the killings and come for talks. The only way of resolving an issue is to talk."

"For the people of Kashmir, I want to say that wherever I stay, my heart will always be with them. I am ready to be sacrificed for the people of my Kashmir. We are peace-loving people," Rashid added.

## MAHA ASSEMBLY POLLS

### BJP releases third list of 25 candidates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 28: The BJP Monday released its third list of 25 candidates for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, giving tickets to two Congress turncoats and the personal assistant of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The BJP, so far, has announced candidates for 146 seats. Polls to the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly will take place November 20, while results will be declared November 23.

Jitesh Antapurkar, who won a bypoll in 2021 on a Congress ticket and is considered close to former chief minister Ashok Chavan, has been nominated from Deglur.

Chavan had left the Congress recently and joined the BJP, which made him a Rajya Sabha MP.

Archana Patil-Chakurkar, daughter-in-law of Congress veteran and former Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil, has been fielded from Latur City seat. She had joined the BJP from the Congress in March this year.

Sumit Wankhede, who has served as Fadnavis's personal assistant for several years, will be the BJP's candidate from Arvi Assembly constituency.

Incidentally, the BJP had given Fadnavis' former PA Abhimanyu Pawar a ticket from Ausa in 2019. Pawar had won at the time. Later, Shreekrant Bharatiya was made an MLC by the party.

Borivali BJP MLA Sunil Rane has been replaced with Sanjay Upadhyay, while MLC Praveen Datke has been fielded from Nagpur Central seat.

Ashish Deshmukh, son of former Congress state president Ranjeet Deshmukh, has been given a ticket from Savner in Nagpur district.

Sitting MLA Bharti Lavekar has been repeated from Versova seat in the western part of the metropolis.

## Rahul's fresh attack on SEBI chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Stepping up his attack over conflicts of interest allegations against SEBI chief Madhabi Buch, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Monday said the current regime is no longer merely encouraging monopolies but actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few.

Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, made the remarks in his post along with a video featuring him and Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera in which they talk about the alleged conflicts of interest of SEBI chief Buch.

"Institutional collapse has now given way to a more dangerous form of cronyism - Adani Bachao.



Institutional collapse has now given way to a more dangerous form of cronyism -- Adani Bachao. The current regime is no longer merely encouraging monopolies, it's actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The current regime is no longer merely encouraging monopolies, it's actively concentrating the nation's wealth in the hands of a few," Gandhi said.

The Madhabi Buch scandal goes deeper than initially imagined, he said, adding that it may be that Buch, entrusted with safeguarding retail investors, has been manipulating the system to protect Adani's interests and his inflated valuations.

Those entrusted with protecting common Indians and their in-

vestments have abrogated their responsibilities and are indulging in wide scale corruption and malpractice, he alleged.

The Congress has consistently raised these issues, is investigating these scams, and exposing the truth to the public, Gandhi said. In the video, Khera is seen explaining to Gandhi the various conflicts of interest allegations against Buch and how there were powers behind her that were at work, an apparent reference to the Adani Group.

## Greenhouse gas emissions surge to new record in 2023: WMO

THE GLOBALLY AVERAGED SURFACE CONCENTRATION OF CARBON DIOXIDE REACHED 420 PARTS PER MILLION (PPM), METHANE 1934 PARTS PER BILLION AND NITROUS OXIDE 336.9 PARTS PER BILLION (PPB) IN 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 28: Greenhouse gas levels surged to a new record in 2023, rising by more than 10 per cent in just two decades, according to a new report by the

World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

In the course of 2023, large vegetation fire CO2 emissions and a possible reduction in carbon absorption by forests combined with stubbornly high fossil fuel CO2 emissions from human and industrial activities to drive the increase, according to the WMO's annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin.

The globally averaged surface concentration of carbon dioxide reached 420 parts per million (ppm), methane 1934 parts per billion and nitrous oxide 336.9 parts per billion (ppb) in 2023.

These values are 151 per cent, 265 per cent and 125 per cent of pre-industrial (before 1750) levels, it said. These are calculated on the basis of the long-term observations within the Global Atmosphere Watch network of monitoring stations.



"Another year. Another record. This should set alarm bells ringing among decision makers. We are clearly off track to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius and aiming for 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. These are more than just statistics. Every

part per million and every fraction of a degree temperature increase has a real impact on our lives and our planet," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo.

The 2023 increase of CO2 in the atmosphere was higher than that of 2022, although lower than that of the three years before that. The annual increase of 2.3

In the last 20 years, the CO2 level has increased by 11.4 per cent (42.9 ppm) above the level of 377.1 ppm recorded in 2004 by WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch network of monitoring stations

ppm marked the 12th consecutive year with an increase greater than 2 ppm. In the last 20 years, the CO2 level has increased by 11.4 per cent (42.9 ppm) above the level of 377.1 ppm recorded in 2004 by WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch network of monitoring stations. From 1990 to 2023, radiative forcing -- the

warming effect on our climate -- by long-lived greenhouse gases increased by 51.5 per cent, with CO2 accounting for about 81 per cent of this increase, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Annual Greenhouse Gas Index cited in the WMO Bulletin.

As long as emissions continue, greenhouse gases will continue accumulating in the atmosphere leading to global temperature rise. Given the extremely long life of CO2 in the atmosphere, the temperature level already observed will persist for several decades even if emissions are rapidly reduced to net zero.

The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO2 was 3-5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2-3 degrees Celsius warmer and sea level was 10-20 metres higher than now.

# international

## of the day quote

Simply put, China has given the Philippines some prominence that in normal terms, if everybody followed the rules of the road, if they didn't do bad things, then this prominence of the Philippines would not be there

GILBERTO TEODORO | DEFENSE SECRETARY, THE PHILIPPINES

Russia is maintaining contacts with all parties to this conflict. We have contacts with Tehran, and we have contacts with the Israelis and the Palestinians

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

We (Switzerland-EU) have already made very good progress in certain areas, particularly on institutional issues and state aid. In other areas, especially immigration, positions need to converge further

VIOLA AMHERO | PRESIDENT, SWITZERLAND

## SHORT TAKES

### PIO charged with attempted murder

London: An Indian-origin man appeared in court Monday charged with the attempted murder of a woman and two children in east London, who were stabbed and rushed to hospital last week. Kulvinder Ram, 48, appeared at Barking's Magistrates' Court charged with three counts of attempted murder of the woman in her 30s, an eight-year-old girl and a two-year-old boy. "Three people, a woman aged in her 30s, an eight-year-old girl and a two-year-old boy, were all found suffering stab injuries. All three were taken to hospital for treatment, none of their conditions are life-threatening," the Met Police said.

### Pak starts new polio vaccination

Islamabad: Pakistan Monday started its third nationwide polio campaign to vaccinate 45 million children against the crippling disease as the virus was detected in the environmental samples from 16 districts. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated the campaign during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's House on World Polio Day last week, the Dawn newspaper reported. He also administered polio drops to children there. The week-long vaccination campaign, which will run till November 3, aims to tackle the alarming spread of polio in the country, which has reported 41 cases this year.

### 4 Indians killed in car crash in Canada

Ottawa: Four Indian nationals were killed and one injured when the car they were travelling in crashed and burst into flames in Canada's Ontario province, authorities said. The accident occurred last week Thursday in the Lake Shore Boulevard East and Cherry Street area of Toronto city, police said in a press release. The five people, between the ages of 25-32, were travelling in a Tesla when it "lost control and struck the guard rail and then a concrete pillar" before bursting into flames, the press release said. "We have gathered some evidence so far to suggest that speed was a factor," Toronto Police Duty Inspector Phillip Sinclair was quoted as saying by the Toronto Sun newspaper. "Heartfelt condolences on tragic loss of Indian nationals in car accident that took place yesterday in Toronto," the official handle of the Indian Consulate in Toronto said in a post on X.



I aspire to continue the process I led a few years ago of the signing of the historic Abraham Accords, and achieve peace with more Arab countries

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

## GUARDIAN STATUES FOUND AT ANGKOR

Archaeologists have discovered 12 door guardian statues during a recent excavation at the north gate of the ancient Royal Palace within Angkor Thom in Cambodia's Angkor Archaeological Park Monday



# Political turmoil in Georgia

GEORGIA'S PRESIDENT URGES WEST TO BACK PROTESTS AGAINST RULING PARTY AFTER IT CLAIMS ELECTION WIN, ACCUSING IT OF USING RUSSIAN 'METHODOLOGY' IN DISPUTED VOTE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tbilisi, Oct 28: Georgia's President Monday urged the West to support Opposition protests against the official results of a weekend parliamentary election in which the governing party was declared victorious amid voting irregularities and allegations of Russian meddling. Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili, who refused to recognise the official results, told The Associated Press in an interview that the South Caucasus nation has fallen victim to Russian pressure aimed at derailing its plans to join the European Union.

"We've seen that Russian propaganda was directly used," said Zourabichvili, a fierce critic of the governing party. She said Georgia's government has been "working hand-in-hand with Russia" and probably had help from the Russian security services. On Sunday, Zourabichvili stood alongside Opposition leaders and urged Georgians to join a rally on the main street of the capital, Tbilisi, Monday night to protest what she called a "total falsification, a total stealing of your votes."



We've seen that Russian propaganda was directly used

SALOME ZOURABICHVILI | PRESIDENT, GEORGIA

We aren't meddling in Georgia's internal affairs, and we have no intention of meddling

DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESPERSON, RUSSIA

Georgian Dream wins 54% of vote, electoral commission says

Opposition parties reject results, alleging violations

EU, US call for probe into reports of violations

Kremlin denies accusations of vote interference

She told the AP that she expects the US and the EU to back the protests.

"We need to have the firm support of our European partners, of our American partners," Zourabichvili said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on the social media platform X that "the Georgian people embraced democracy yesterday" and urged Georgia's political leaders to "respect the rule of law, repeal legislation that undermines fundamental freedoms, address deficiencies in the electoral process, and move Georgia toward its Euro-Atlantic future."

The Kremlin has rejected the accusations of interference.

"We aren't meddling in Georgia's internal affairs, and we have no intention of meddling," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said. He charged that it was the West that had tried to influence the outcome of the vote. Asked about Zourabichvili's call for the Georgians to join protests, he described it as an attempt to destabilise the country.

The Central Election Commission said Sunday that the governing Georgian Dream party received 54.8 per cent of Saturday's votes with almost all ballots counted. The party, established by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a shadowy billionaire who made his fortune in Russia, has be-

## Pannun: Indian 'spy network' operates in US and Canada

REUTERS

New York, Oct 28: Canada and the US must get tougher on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for trying to silence dissidents on foreign soil, a controversial Sikh separatist who was the target of an alleged India-led murder plot said in an interview.

The US Justice Department has unsealed indictments against two Indian nationals in connection with an alleged plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a dual US-Canadian citizen, in New York. The two Indian accused included an ex-government official, who the indictment said worked as an intelligence officer

at the time and had orchestrated the assassination plan.

Pannun told Reuters earlier this month that the Modi government should not be allowed to conduct hostile activity in foreign countries and said India's consulates in the US and

Canada were running a "spy network", although he did not provide any proof.

The US and Canada "need to put their foot down that regimes like Modi's...should not be allowed to come to America or Canada, challenge their sovereignty and get away with it. They need to put their foot down and close (the consulates) permanently," he said.

Pannun did not elaborate on the alleged spy network.



## UK jails 2 men for importing drugs from India

London: Two men face significant prison sentences in the UK for their role in what police described as the large-scale importation and distribution of unregulated pharmaceutical drugs from India into the UK, where they were then repackaged and distributed internationally. City of London police foiled the estimated GBP 1 million racket and seized over 730 kg of strong opioids and sedative drugs during the operation. Salman Ansari, 33, will serve a six-year sentence after being found guilty of 12 counts of possession with intent to supply banned or restricted Class A, B and C drugs, one count of conspiracy to supply drugs and one count of money laundering. Waqas Saleem, 33, was jailed for two and half years after being found guilty of similar charges at the end of a trial in London Friday. "Many of the drugs seized are unregulated products for the UK market, with the investigation team encountering counterfeit brands such as Xanax with flubromazolam where the pills dose and potency unknown," said Detective Constable Syed Shah, from the Serious Organised Crime Team (SOCT) at the City of London Police.



## SNIPPETS

### China looks to spur births, aid families

Beijing: China outlined steps Monday to improve family planning and parenting measures in an effort to boost the number of births, a statement from the state council, or cabinet, showed, after two consecutive years of a shrinking population. The birth rate hit a record low last year in China, which has a population of 1.4 billion, as fellow Asian giant India outpaced it to become the world's most populous nation. The state council called for efforts to build "a new marriage and childbearing culture" by spreading respect for childbearing, marriages at the right age, and parents' shared responsibility for childcare. Measures on offer are better maternity insurance, maternity leave, subsidies and medical resources for children, with the cabinet urging local governments to budget for childcare centres and levy preferential taxes and fees for such services. "Supporting childbirth at this stage is of great significance," said Yang Chang, chief policy analyst at Zhongtai Securities Research Institute, adding that Monday's announcement would serve as a template for future measures. Although China abandoned its 35-year-old one-child policy in 2015, it has struggled to get the birth rate up, particularly as the period saw rural people stream into the cities for jobs.

# NK troops in Russia's Kursk region: NATO

REUTERS

Brussels, Oct 28: NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte confirmed Monday that North Korean troops have been sent to Russia and that military units have been deployed to its Kursk border region.

In response, Kyiv urged its allies to supply it with more weapons and allow deep strikes into Russia, which sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

"The deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea is a threat to both Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic security," Rutte told reporters after NATO officials and diplomats were briefed by a South Korean delegation.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol also sounded the alarm during telephone calls with Rutte and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Yoon told von der Leyen the deployment of North Korean troops to the front lines of the Ukraine war may come sooner than expected, his office said.

He told Rutte that Seoul would continue to consult closely with NATO, and that he hoped the



The deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea is a threat to both Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic security

MARK RUTTE | NATO SECRETARY GENERAL

Western military alliance would redouble its efforts to monitor and block "illegal exchanges" between Russia and North Korea.

Ukrainian military intelligence said Thursday that the first North Korean units had already been recorded in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been operating since staging a major incursion in August.

Rutte said the North Korean deployment represented "a significant escalation" of Pyongyang's involvement in "Russia's illegal war" in Ukraine, a breach of UN Security Council resolutions and a "dangerous

expansion" of the conflict.

### PARTNERSHIP TREATY

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said that Kyiv had been warning about the deployment for weeks, yet there was no strong response from allies.

"Now NATO Secretary General confirmed this. The bottom line: listen to Ukraine. The solution: lift restrictions on our long-range strikes against Russia now," he said on X.

The Kremlin had initially dismissed reports about a North Korean deployment as "fake

news". Last Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin did not deny that North Korean troops were in Russia and said it was Moscow's business how to implement a partnership treaty with Pyongyang.

A North Korean foreign ministry official did not confirm media reports about a troop deployment to Russia but said if Pyongyang had taken such action, he believed it would be in line with international norms.

The deployment of North Korean troops was a sign of "growing desperation" on the part of Putin, Rutte said.

"Over 600,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded in Putin's war and he is unable to sustain his assault on Ukraine without foreign support," Rutte said.

The Ukrainian president's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, said sanctions alone would not be a sufficient response to North Korean involvement.

He added that Kyiv needs "weapons and a clear plan to prevent North Korea's expanded involvement".

"The enemy understands strength. Our allies have this strength," Yermak said on X.

# IDF detains 100 Hamas militants in Gaza hosp



REUTERS

Jerusalem, Oct 28: Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) captured around 100 suspected Hamas militants during a raid in Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza, the military said Monday.

Gaza health officials and Hamas have denied any militant presence at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed Friday and left Saturday.

"The soldiers apprehended approximately 100 terrorists from the compound, including terrorists who attempted to escape during the evacuation of civilians. Inside the hospital, they found weapons, terror funds, and intelligence documents," the military said.

Gaza's health ministry said the troops had detained dozens of male medical staffers and damaged the hospital, which had already been struggling to operate with heavy Israeli raids in the area. "A few of the fully identified terrorists disguised themselves as medical staff so we didn't have any alternative but to check the medical staff as well," a military official told journalists in an online briefing.

Footage circulated by Gaza's health ministry Saturday, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed damage to several buildings after the Israeli forces withdrew. The military official said that troops had caused lim-

ited damage to the hospital when entering it and that soldiers also had to destroy what he described as "dual use" equipment, like oxygen tanks, which if detonated could have harmed anyone at the complex.

### Egypt proposes short Gaza truce

Egypt has proposed an initial two-day ceasefire in Gaza to exchange four Israeli hostages of Hamas for some Palestinian prisoners, Egypt's President said Sunday as Israeli military strikes killed 45 Palestinians across the enclave. Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah el-Sisi made the announcement as efforts to defuse the devastating, more than year-long war resumed in Qatar with the directors of the CIA and Israel's Mossad intelligence agency taking part.

Speaking alongside Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune during a press conference in Cairo, Sisi also said that talks should resume within 10 days of implementing the temporary ceasefire in efforts to reach a permanent one.

There was no immediate comment from Israel or Hamas but a Palestinian official close to the mediation effort told Reuters: "I expect Hamas would listen to the new offers, but it remains determined that any agreement must end the war and get Israeli forces out of Gaza."

## Japan PM Ishiba vows to continue leading government

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Tokyo, Oct 28: Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba Monday said he will continue as Prime Minister to lead the government and tackle growing economic and security challenges after his ruling bloc suffered a crushing blow in the general election the day before.

Ishiba, head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), described the election outcome, in which the ruling coalition, for the first time in 15 years, lost its majority in the 465-member House of Representatives, as "harsh," while stressing "we cannot afford a political stalemate."

At a press conference held at LDP headquarters Monday, Ishiba dismissed the idea of changing the ruling coalition's composition for now but expressed a desire to incorporate policy ideas from the Opposition camp, Xinhua news agency reported.

While the LDP's goal of retaining its majority along with its coalition partner Komeito was not achieved, Ishiba vowed to fundamentally reform the party to restore voter confidence affected by a slush fund scandal.

The main reason behind the election defeat is that "we failed to address people's suspicion, distrust and anger over the underreporting of political funds and the issue of money in politics," Ishiba said.

Following Sunday's election, the LDP and Komeito got 215 of the 465 seats in the powerful chamber of Parliament, a sharp drop from 288, marking the first time since 2009 that they have lost majority control.

The LDP alone only secured 191 seats, much less than the 247 seats it held prior to the election, while the main Opposition, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, surged to 148 seats from 98.

The LDP's election strategy chief Shinjiro Koizumi resigned Monday to take responsibility in light of the party's dismal election results, local media reported.

# business

## of the day quote

We shall continue to leverage our strong cash position to strengthen our pipeline with products that are close to market

**DILIP SHANGHVI** | CMD, SUN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES

Our order book and pipeline remain healthy and combined with the continued positive momentum within our anchor accounts, we are confident that the second half of the fiscal year will show a stronger performance compared to the first half. The long-term fundamentals of our business remain sound

**WARREN HARRIS** | TTL CEO AND MD

We are making long-term investments by implementing a slew of strategic measures to enhance our organisational capabilities and grow the business sustainably. This strategy will also help us in driving our competitiveness to enhance efficiency and profitability

**HIMANSHU MODY** | CFO, SUZLON GROUP

## Q2 RESULTS CORNER

### IOC net profit slumps 98%

**New Delhi:** State-owned Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) Monday reported a massive 98.6 per cent drop in net profit in the September quarter, as refinery margins fell and marketing margins shrank. The company posted a standalone net profit of ₹180.01 crore in the July-September period -- the second quarter of the current 2024-25 fiscal year -- compared with a profit of ₹12,967.32 crore a year back, according to a stock exchange filing by the company.

### PNB profit more than doubles

**New Delhi:** Punjab National Bank (PNB) Monday reported more than two-fold jump in its profit at ₹4,306 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024 on the back of improvement in interest income and robust recovery. The state-owned lender had earned a net profit of ₹1,756 crore in the same quarter in the previous financial year. Total income increased to ₹34,447 crore during the quarter under review against ₹29,383 crore in the same quarter last year, PNB said in a regulatory filing.

### Bharti Airtel net zooms 168%

**New Delhi:** Bharti Airtel on Monday reported a 168 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹3,593 crore for the September quarter against ₹1,341 crore a year ago. India's second-largest telecom company clocked quarterly revenues of ₹41,473 crore, 12 per cent higher than the year-ago period, aided by strong momentum in India and growth in Africa.

### Indian Bank profit rises 36%

**New Delhi:** State-owned Indian Bank Monday reported 36 per cent increase in profit at ₹2,707 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024. The Chennai-based lender had earned a net profit of ₹1,988 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Total income increased to ₹17,770 crore during the quarter under review from ₹15,736 crore in the same period last year, Indian Bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank reported interest income of ₹15,348 crore during the quarter compared to ₹13,743 crore a year ago.



**Biotechnology and synthetic production will not only transform agriculture but redefine India's role in global scientific advancements**

**JITENDRA SINGH** | UNION MINISTER

# FinMin report flags tepid demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 28:** The performance of the Indian economy has been satisfactory during the first half of the ongoing fiscal year but concerns remain with regard to demand conditions going forward, the finance ministry said in a report.

The outlook for the Indian economy is good, underpinned by a stable external sector, positive agricultural outlook, expected improvements in demand supported by the festival season, and the likelihood of an increase in government spending, which will boost investment activity, it said.

However, at the margin, demand conditions in the economy bear watching, the September edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs Monday said.

Urban demand appears to moderate due to softening consumer sentiments, limited footfall due to above-normal rainfall, and seasonal periods during which people tend to refrain from new purchases.

Further, risks to growth arise from escalating geopolitical conflicts, deepening economic fragmentation and elevated valuations in financial markets in some advanced economies, it said.

Their spillover effects on India could cause negative wealth effects, impacting household sen-



timents and altering spending intentions on durable goods, it said. After two months of low inflation, consumer price inflation rose in September, primarily driven by the effects of erratic monsoon on a few vegetable supplies.

Barring a sharp rise in prices of a few vegetables, inflation appears well contained, it said.

In the medium term, it said, favourable factors, such as rejuvenated reservoir levels, healthy Kharif crop sowing brightening the agriculture output prospects, and ample food grain stocks, would help contain price pressures.

Sentiment towards India among international direct and portfolio investors is positive, it said, adding that sustaining the

growth momentum is essential to turn these positive sentiments into actual direct and portfolio investments in the country.

However, foreign investors have continued selling in the Indian market, pulling out a massive ₹85,790 crore (around USD 10.2 billion) from equities this month due to Chinese stimulus measures, attractive stock valuations, and the elevated pricing of domestic equities.

October is turning into the worst-ever month in terms of foreign fund outflows. In March 2020, FPIs withdrew ₹61,973 crore from equities.

The latest outflow came after a nine-month high investment of ₹57,724 crore in September.

The report said the external sector continues to perform well,

## SWIGGY'S IPO MAY OPEN NOV 6

Food and grocery delivery major Swiggy is looking to raise ₹11,300 crore through its initial public offering (IPO) opening for public subscription November 6, sources said Monday. The shares would be available at a price band of ₹371 to ₹390 apiece. The issue would conclude November 8 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day November 5, they added.



# India has entered cyclical growth slowdown: Report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 28:** Japanese brokerage Nomura Monday said the Indian economy has entered a phase of 'cyclical growth slowdown' and the Reserve Bank's estimate of 7.2 per cent GDP expansion is 'overly optimistic'.

The brokerage said it sees 'rising downside risks' to its GDP growth estimates of 6.7 per cent in the ongoing FY25 and 6.8 per cent in FY26.

"We believe India's economy has entered a cyclical growth slowdown. Coincident and leading growth indicators point to a further moderation in GDP growth and the RBI's forecast of 7.2 per cent for FY25 is overly optimistic," the brokerage said in a note.

The RBI maintained its FY25 growth estimate at 7.2 per cent earlier this month, even as some watchers have been coming out with lower numbers.

Nomura said urban consumption indicators have been softening lately, and pointed to the slump in passenger ve-

hicle sales, moderation in airline passenger traffic and FMCG companies flagging weak urban demand.

"We believe this weakness in urban demand is likely to continue," the brokerage said.

Stating that companies are scaling down their salary outlays, the brokerage said real salary and wage expenditure of listed companies has moderated 0.8 per cent in the September quarter when adjusted for inflation if one were to go by the numbers disclosed till now. The same was 1.2 per cent in the June quarter, 2.5 per cent in FY24 and 10.8 per cent in FY23, the brokerage said, adding that this likely reflects a mix of weaker nominal salary growth and a leaner workforce.

"The post-pandemic surge in pent-up demand has faded, monetary policy is tight and the RBI's macroprudential crackdown on unsecured, frothy credit is being reflected in the slowdown in personal loans and lending growth by non-banking finance companies," the brokerage said.

# Sensex snaps losing streak on DII push

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 28:** Stock markets snapped the five-day losing streak Monday with the benchmark Sensex rebounding 602 points on buying in ICICI Bank, firm global trends and continuous buying by domestic institutional investors.

The BSE Sensex jumped 602.75 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 80,005.04. During the day, it surged 1,137.52 points or 1.43 per cent to 80,539.81.

The NSE Nifty soared 158.35 points or 0.65 per cent to 24,339.15. A sharp correction in global crude prices in international markets boosted sentiments, traders said.

From the 30 Sensex pack, ICICI Bank climbed 3 per cent after the private sector lender posted a 14.5 per cent growth in standalone profit to ₹11,746 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024.

JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Motors and State Bank of India were the other big gainers from the pack.

Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the laggards.



"The market exhibited a rebound after continuous selloff last week. Positive results from banks and a slump in oil prices in expectation of an ease in retaliations in the Middle East aided investor sentiment. Stability in the broad-based rally requires more evidence from earnings, which are currently in the doldrums of weak demand and margin pressure. We expect companies with a less leveraged

balance sheet and growth prospects to outperform when the market stabilizes," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.11 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.69 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, commodities surged 1.79 per cent, realty (1.40 per cent), telecommunication (1.37 per cent), healthcare (1.36 per cent) and metal

(1.21 per cent). In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher. European markets were trading in the positive territory.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude eased 5.84 per cent to USD 71.54 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark plummeted 662.87 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 79,402.29 Friday. The Nifty tanked 218.60 points or 0.90 per cent to 24,180.80.

# \$100bln trade pact: Swiss firms set sights on India

REUTERS

**Zurich, Oct 28:** Investments in India by Swiss companies such as engineering group ABB and transport firm Kuehne+Nagel are on the rise, with a \$100 billion regional trade deal expected to further open it up to businesses long geared towards China.

India's appeal has already reflected a broader shift among businesses in Europe eager to balance the costs of a US-China trade spat and recognition that the Chinese economy is, by comparison to India, losing steam.

But the trade and economic partnership (TEPA) signed in March with the European Free Trade Association, whose biggest member is Switzerland, is likely, when ratified, to provide an extra incentive to Swiss investment as it will slash tariffs on exports from chocolates to watches and machinery.

Under the deal, EFTA, whose other members are Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, will invest \$100 billion in India and will benefit from easier and cheaper access to the Indian

market of 1.4 billion people. India expects the agreement to boost its exports of pharmaceuticals, clothing and machinery.

"India is now really booming," said Morten Wierod, CEO of ABB, an electrical and industrial automation supplier expanding its Indian footprint after its orders there increased by an average of 27 per cent in the last three years.

To meet demand, ABB has been building factories, offices and showrooms in India, with eight projects completed since 2023, increasing its workforce from 6,000 to 10,000 since 2020.

Now ABB's number 5 market, India is on track to become its third biggest after the US and China in a few years, Wierod said.

"Our investments in India are supporting that growth, both with more local manufacturing, but with much more R&D so that you can make designs in India, for India," he said.

Although India is gaining importance, ABB is still committed to China, Wierod said, a view shared by other companies



Reuters spoke to.

No companies Reuters spoke to said they were investing in India specifically because of TEPA, which has yet to come into force, but the Swiss government and business advocates expect the deal will boost trade and investments.

The pact still requires parliamentary approval, and is expected to become effective in either late 2025 or early 2026.

Rapid growth in India has fu-

elled Swiss interest. The IMF expects the Indian economy to grow 7% this year and 6.5% in 2025, outpacing forecasts of 4.8% and 4.5% for China. The IMF expects that trend to continue through the end of the decade.

China has long attracted more Swiss direct investment, but in 2021-2022 India took the lead, according to data from the Swiss National Bank.

"Doing business in China has become less easy as its economy

there has been doing less well, and there is also the risk of large scale conflicts - economic or otherwise - with China," said Philippe Reich, chairman of the Swiss-Indian Chamber of Commerce, who called the trade deal a "game changer".

According to Reich, around 350 Swiss companies already operate in India, and more will follow.

TEPA will reduce tariffs on 94.7% of exports to zero from an average of 22% now, giving Swiss companies an edge over counterparts in the European Union and Britain, which are still negotiating agreements with India, business minister Guy Parmelin said.

In return for EFTA-based firms investing \$100 billion over 15 years - which aims to create 1 million jobs - India has promised to provide a favourable investment climate.

What this means has not been specified in detail beyond the tariff changes, but both sides have agreed to identify investment opportunities and help companies deal with problems.

"The TEPA will benefit every-

one," Parmelin told Reuters, pointing to the reduction of tariffs and administrative burdens.

Florin Mueller, head of the Swiss Business Hub - part of the Swiss Trade Promotion Agency in Mumbai - said TEPA would put India "on the map" for Swiss companies and roll out a "red carpet for them to come and invest".

Smaller firms such as Feintool are setting up there. The precision component specialist is building its first Indian factory near the western city of Pune which will employ up to 200 people when it opens next year.

The plant, which will make parts for the reclining mechanism in car seats, will meet demand from Indian and international customers for a local supplier which makes it easier and quicker to get the right components.

"We see huge potential in India," said Feintool's India managing director Tobias Gries.

Swiss exports to India are still modest. India bought only 1.5% of total Swiss mechanical and electrical exports in 2023, though its share grew by nearly 8%.

SHORT TAKES IOA SGM postponed

New Delhi: The revolting Executive Council (EC) members of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) have decided to postpone the Special General Meeting (SGM) they had called November 10 due to "unforeseen circumstances", just days after a separate notice of postponement of the event on the instructions of embattled president PT Usha.

Kirsten steps down

Karachi: Pakistan's white-ball coach Gary Kirsten has stepped down after reportedly developing a rift with the country's cricket board within six months of his appointment. The 56-year-old South African, who coached India to victory at the 2011 ODI World, was appointed by the PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) in April end this year.

ManU fire ten Hag

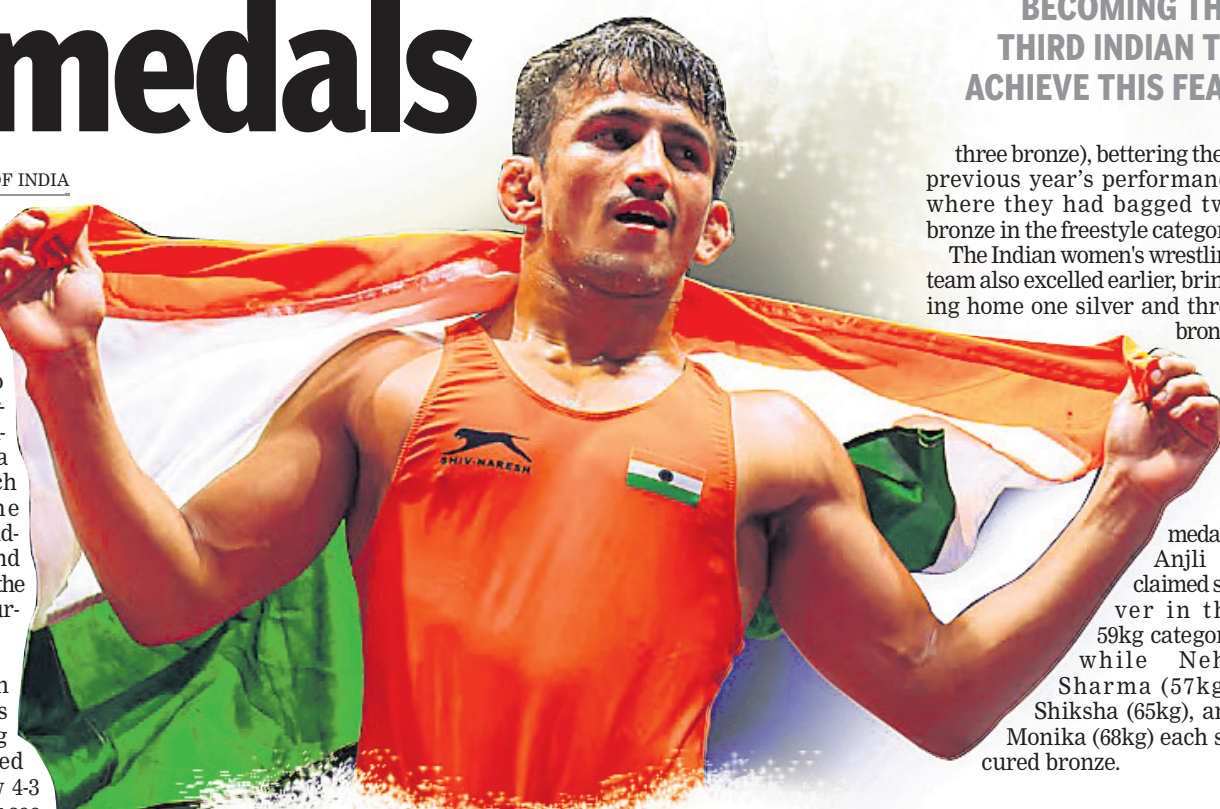
Manchester: Manchester United fired manager Erik ten Hag Monday after a troubled start to the season left the 20-time English champions in 14th place in the Premier League. Ten Hag, who was hired in 2022, paid the price for leading United to just three wins in nine league games in the opening months of the campaign.

U23 WORLD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

India shine with 9 medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tirana (Albania), Oct 28: Chirag Chikkara became only the third Indian to become Under-23 world champion as India capped a rich haul of nine medals, including a gold and silver each, at the age group tournament here.



CHIRAG CHIKKARA CLINCHES THE UNDER-23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BECOMING THE THIRD INDIAN TO ACHIEVE THIS FEAT

three bronze), bettering their previous year's performance where they had bagged two bronze in the freestyle category. The Indian women's wrestling team also excelled earlier, bringing home one silver and three

medals: Anjali claimed silver in the 59kg category, while Neha Sharma (57kg), Shiksha (65kg), and Monika (68kg) each secured bronze.

TEAM FINISHED FOURTH IN THE TEAM RANKINGS WITH SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS IN BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FREESTYLE CATEGORIES

INDIA SECURED NINE MEDALS, INCLUDING GOLD AND SILVER, WITH STELLAR PERFORMANCES FROM REETIKA HOODA, VICKY, AND SUJEET KALKAL

two bronze medals, placing the nation fourth in the team standings with 82 points, trailing Iran (158), Japan (102), and Azerbaijan (100). India also won two more bronze in men's freestyle taking the country's medal count in the category to four that secured the nation a fourth place in the team rankings.

the highest weight category at which India have medalled at this tournament. Having narrowly missed a final berth the other day, Sujeet Kalkal bounced back from being 0-4 down to beat Mustafa Akhmedov of Tajikistan 13-4 and win bronze in men's 70kg freestyle.

ODISHA COLLAPSE AGAINST BARODA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 28: Odisha suffer an embarrassing defeat in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A clash against Baroda at Vadodara's Kotambi Stadium Monday.

count for 15 deliveries before being dismissed to the 16th ball he faced.

That signalled a change in approach, with fellow-opener Anurag Sarangi (49, off 62, 7x4, 2x6) and Sandeep Pattanaik (29, 3x4, 1x6) playing their strokes freely.

THE TEAM WITNESS INNINGS DEFEAT IN RANJI TROPHY

Trailing by 263 runs, Odisha were bowled out for 165 in their second innings in just 34 overs to hand Baroda victory by an innings and 98 runs — with more than a day to spare.

All wickets fell to spin, with left-arm spinner Ninad Rathva claiming a career-best 6/60, while Bhargav Bhatt and Mahesh Pithiya shared the other 4.

Skipper Krunal Pandya (119 off 143 balls, 15x4, 4x6) hit his third first-class century as Baroda added 102 runs on the third morning in just over 20 overs before folding up for 456 in the first innings.

Not sure how to approach the tough task of saving the game on a spin track, Odisha started on a cautious mode. Shantanu Mishra failed to open his ac-

Four wickets fell cheaply, in the space of 6 overs for the addition of 19 runs, to leave Odisha gasping at 88/5. Pushed to a corner, Kartik Biswal decided to counter-attack with no hopes left. Biswal (53 not out off 26 balls) smashed 11 fours and six as he and Aashirwad Swain added 46 runs for the sixth wicket in 4 overs. But it was too good to last, and once Swain fell to Bhatt, Baroda spinners cleaned up the Odisha lower order in no time, leaving Biswal stranded.

It was Odisha's first defeat in 3 games this season, and they sit in sixth place with 4 points. Poddar's men will face Ranji Trophy heavyweights Mumbai in their next fixture.

Sainz wins Mexico City Grand Prix

NORRIS TIGHTENS CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT

Mexico City, Oct 28: Carlos Sainz Jr got the win he desperately wanted in the final days of his Ferrari career. The Formula 1 title race, meanwhile, grew a lot more contentious. Sainz won the Mexico City Grand Prix Sunday and Lando Norris closed the gap on Max Verstappen after another furious battle that cost the reigning three-time series champion three penalties and shaved 10 points off Verstappen's lead in the standing.



time in Mexico City. It was the fourth win of his career, and second of the season for the driver who is being replaced by Hamilton next year at Ferrari. The Spaniard had never before won two races in a season.

"Honestly, I really wanted this one," said Sainz, who sounded emotional on his radio on the cool-down lap. "I really needed it for myself, I wanted to get it done. I've been saying for a while I wanted to get one more win before leaving Ferrari, and to do it here in front of this mega crowd, it is incredible."

The restart was spicy with the Ferraris racing Verstappen and Norris for position. And for a second consecutive week, the title contenders clashed.

Norris was penalized last week. This time it cost Verstappen two penalties totaling 20 seconds. After the race, the FIA also penalized Verstappen two points to give him six for the 12-month period.

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