



CANDID OPINION

Actor Janhvi Kapoor opens up about how people treat films with female protagonists irrespective of the genre

LEISURE P2



KHARGE TO TAKE CHARGE

Veteran leader Mallikarjun Kharge will formally take over as Congress president today

NATIONAL P7



BOMBAY HC FIAT

The Bombay HC said that calling husband a womaniser and alcoholic without proof is cruelty

TWO STATES P8

CCI slaps ₹936cr fine on Google, 2nd in a week

New Delhi: In its second ruling against Google in less than a week, the Competition Commission Tuesday slapped a penalty of ₹936.44 crore on the internet major for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies. The regulator has also directed the company to cease and desist from unfair business practices as well as carry out various measures to address the anti-competitive issues within a defined timeline. This is the second major CCI ruling against Google in less than a week. **P11**

Odisha honours 100 Nat'l Games medallists

Bhubaneswar: The state government Tuesday felicitated about 100 sportspersons of state with special cash awards totalling to ₹3.16 crore for their outstanding performance at the 36 National Games 2022, Gujarat. Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Odisha Hockey Promotion Council Chairman Dilip Turkey and Sports Secretary R Vineel Krishna presented the awards at Kalinga Stadium. The winners of team and individual sports of 36 National Games, Gujarat 2022, received ₹5 lakh for Gold medal, ₹3 lakh for Silver and ₹2 lakh for Bronze medal. Two athletes of Odisha, Dinesh Kumar and Muna Nayak were also felicitated on the occasion. **P12**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We celebrate Diwali because it was the day Virat Kohli returned to his form!

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	59543.96 ↓ 287.70
NIFTY	17656.30 ↓ 74.50
DOLLAR	82.85 ↑ ₹0.05
EURO	82.06 ↑ ₹0.36
GOLD	₹50,631 ↑ ₹51
SILVER	₹57,738 ↓ ₹10

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.2°C	33.4°C
TEMP MIN	20.6°C	21.2°C
Humidity	71%	63%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather likely	

BUMPY ROAD AHEAD FOR SUNAK



NEW INNINGS: King Charles III welcomes Rishi Sunak during an audience at Buckingham Palace, London, where he invited the newly-elected leader of the Conservative Party to become Prime Minister and form a new government, Tuesday

The 42-year-old investment banker-turned-politician is the youngest British PM in 210 years

AGENCIES

London, Oct 25: Rishi Sunak Tuesday took charge as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister with a promise to put the crisis-hit country's needs 'above politics' and 'fix the mistakes' made by his predecessor, a day after he was elected the leader of the Conservative Party in a historic leadership run.

The 42-year-old investment banker-turned-politician is the youngest British prime minister in 210 years. He is also Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister.

In his first address at the doorstep of 10 Downing Street in London after meeting King Charles III at Buckingham Palace, the new Prime Minister said that he takes over at a time when the UK is facing a 'profound economic crisis' as it deals with the aftermath of COVID and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Sunak asserted that he is 'not daunted' by the high office he has accepted and hopes to live up to its demands. "I admired her restlessness to create change. But some mistakes were made. Not borne of ill will or bad intentions. Quite the opposite in fact, but mistakes nonetheless," he said about his predecessor Liz Truss. "And I have been elected as

leader of my party and your prime minister in part, to fix them. And that work begins immediately," Sunak said as he sought to bring stability to the UK after months of political and economic turmoil.

"I will unite our country not with words but with action. I will work day in and day out to deliver for you," Sunak, the second prime minister in as many months and the third this year.

Sunak, Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's son-in-law, warned of 'difficult decisions to come' and pointed to his record as chancellor of exchequer during the pandemic to promise that he will bring that 'same compassion' to the challenges ahead. "I stand here before you ready to lead our country into the future, to put your needs above politics, to reach out and build a government that represents the very best traditions of my party. Together we can achieve incredible things. We will create a future worthy of the sacrifices so many have made and fill tomorrow and every day thereafter with hope," he said. "Congratulations to @RishiSunak on this historic day, this is the moment for every Conservative to give our new PM their full and wholehearted support." Johnson tweeted. **Continued on P4**

Woman found dead; family cries murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: A 26-year-old woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances at her residence in Kalinga Nagar area under Tamando police limits here, following which her parents lodged a complaint against her in-laws charging them with murder, Tuesday.

The woman, Sushree Sangeeta a nurse and resident Baharana under Niali block, had married Praveen Nayak of Govindpur in Nuagaon in January 2021. The couple, along with Praveen's parents, had been residing in Kalinga Nagar locality.

On Monday night, Sushree's family got a call from her in-laws that she was unwell. "Praveen called us around 11:30 pm Monday to inform that she (Sushree) had locked herself in the room. And that they broke open the door to find her in an unconscious state," the woman's brother Biswajit Bastia said adding, "We were told to reach AIIMS-Bhubaneswar."

Biswajit claimed that Sushree's in-laws had strangled her to death. According to Tamando IIC Subhanta Kumar Jena, a case (256/22) under Sections 498A, 304B, 306, 34 IPC and 4 of the DV Act has been registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the deceased's parents. "We're waiting for autopsy report for further action," Jena said.

The police have launched a manhunt to nab Sushree's husband, sister-in-law and father-in-law as they are on the run after the incident, added Jena.

Air quality 'very poor' as Delhiites defy cracker ban

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 25: The air quality in Delhi was recorded in the 'very poor' category Tuesday morning as many residents defied the firecracker ban on Diwali - Monday.

On Monday night, people in Delhi flouted the ban on firecrackers with impunity. PM2.5 concentration at most places in the capital was over 550 micrograms per cubic metre by 1 am. However, PM2.5 levels dropped below 350 micrograms per cubic metre by 10 am due to warm and windier conditions. PM2.5 are fine particles that are 2.5 microns or less in diameter and can travel deep into the respiratory tract, reaching the lungs and entering the bloodstream.

The capital's air quality index (AQI) stood at 310 at 11 pm Monday. It increased to 326 by 6 am Tuesday, remained stable till 9 am and started decreasing thereafter.

The neighbouring cities of Ghaziabad (272), Noida (312), Greater Noida (282), Gurugram (313) and Faridabad (311) reported 'poor' to 'very poor' air quality at 9 am.

An AQI between zero and 50 is



Mobile anti-smog guns spray water into the air in New Delhi, Tuesday

considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. On Sunday evening, the city reported a 24-hour average AQI of 259, which was the lowest for Diwali eve in seven years.

"Bursting of firecrackers led to a sharp increase in air pollution with PM2.5 concentration, on an average, jumping to 550 micrograms per cubic metre across Delhi by 1 am," Sunil Dahiya, an analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy

and Clean Air (CREA), said.

The Delhi government had in September announced a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, 2023, including on Diwali.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai had said bursting of firecrackers on Diwali in the city will attract a jail term of up to six months and a fine of ₹200. He had said production, storage and sale of firecrackers will be punishable with a fine of up to ₹5,000 and three years in jail. **Continued on P4**

WhatsApp back after longest global outage

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 25: WhatsApp services were restored following a nearly two-hour-long global outage Tuesday that left users from the UK to India complaining about not being able to send or receive text and video messages.

Meta, which owns the popular messaging app, said it has fixed the outage - dubbed as one of its longest - and the service was back. It, however, did not explain what caused the glitch.

According to DowntoDetector, which tracks outage reports, the messaging app was not working for many users across multiple regions. WhatsApp Web, the app's web version, used by many on their desktops and laptops, was also hit by the outage.

"We know people had trouble sending messages on WhatsApp today. We've fixed the issue and apologise for any inconvenience," a Meta company spokesperson said. Meta, previously known as Facebook, bought WhatsApp in 2014.

The outage led to Twitterati taking a dig at WhatsApp, with hilarious memes floating around. The hashtag #whatsappdown was trending on Twitter. "#WhatsApp University students, kindly note that a holiday has been declared today. Classes will resume tomorrow. #WhatsAppDown," one user tweeted.

Year's last solar eclipse seen for 20 mins in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The last solar eclipse of the year was seen here for 20 minutes, Tuesday.

The Regional Science Centre (RSC) organised the eclipse viewing for the City residents.

RSC project coordinator Somen Ghosh said more than 250 visitors witnessed the eclipse through telescope. The eclipse, which was partial, started at around 16:56pm and lasted for 20 minutes. As the state government had declared a holiday Tuesday, Pathani Samanta Planetarium remained shut. Some science enthusiasts also watched the eclipse near Dhaul. Meanwhile, a group of people describing themselves as rationalists served chicken biryani at a community feast here to bust what they termed as 'blind

belief' that people should not cook or eat during a solar eclipse.

Their action sparked a debate between traditionalists who preach against consumption of food during eclipses and rationalists who consider such strictures as 'superstition'.

"It's nonsense that people stop taking food during a solar eclipse. There is no bad effect on the body if one consumes cooked food, including non-vegetarian food during solar eclipse," said Pratap Rath, a retired professor.

Satyanarayan Panda, an expert in Vedic practices, said, "We're not opposing anyone who eats during the solar eclipse. Hindus worship the sun as God and as the origin of the universe. Therefore, at least for the sake of respect, I appeal to all to abide by the tradition." **MORE P3**

'World's dirtiest man' dies

Amou Haji had avoided showering for over half a century over fears of getting sick

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tehran, Oct 25: An Iranian man nicknamed the 'dirtiest man in the world' for not taking a shower for decades has died at the age of 94, state media reported Tuesday.

Amou Haji, who did not wash for more than half a century and was single, died Sunday in the village of Dejgah in the southern province of Fars, IRNA news agency reported.

Haji had avoided showering over fears of 'getting sick', the agency quoted a local official as saying.

"But for the first time a few months ago, villagers had taken



him to a bathroom to wash," IRNA reported.

A short documentary film titled 'The Strange Life of Amou Haji' was made about his life in 2013, according to Iranian media outlets.

Hubble's image of 'keyhole' among stars stuns netizens

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 25: A newly-released image from the Hubble Space Telescope reveals a smoke-wreathed keyhole among the stars.

The telescope returned an image of a so-called "reflection nebula" around 1,350 light years in the constellation Orion. Reflection nebulae are only visible when illuminated from within, according to a European Space Agency blog post about the image, and in this case a newly-born star provides that light.

Known as V380 Orionis, the young star acts like a lamp in a smoky room, illuminating the clouds of gas and dust curling around it — these are materials leftover from the star's formation.



At the center of the image is an inky black region that appears like a keyhole into a darkened room.

According to ESA, when the

material, or some mass of particularly cold gas and dust. Subsequent observations by ESA's Herschel Space Observatory, a space telescope with more powerful optics than Hubble that flew from 2009 through 2013, confirmed that the keyhole is, in fact, a hole, providing a view to the space on the other side of the nebula.

Scientists do not yet understand the origin of the keyhole void in the nebula, according to ESA.

The ESA's Hubble telescope account on the social media website Twitter shared the keyhole image Monday morning.

Although the new James Webb Space Telescope continues to awe scientists and the public with new space images made possible with its record-breaking powerful op-

tics, the Hubble telescope, and other space observatories, continue in their missions, providing scientifically important and sometimes beautiful views of the universe.

Rather than replacing older space telescopes, the Webb telescope often teams up with them. The collaboration provides either alternative views of cosmic phenomena, or allows scientists to create composite images in order to create a fuller picture of distant objects. Astronomers recently combined both Webb and Hubble data to create striking images of a distant pair of galaxies, while Hubble and Webb data were also combined with observations by NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory to create new depth to some of the first images from the Webb telescope.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today you may try to make your loved one happy, and perhaps even try to woo the person in a fresh manner. You may not be too satisfied with your friends and relatives, but, Ganesh says, you can expect to go to a party in the evening and make new friends.

TAURUS
Today, Ganesh sees your feelings and emotions running high. There is a strong possibility of an emotional encounter with some close to you. You are likely to be swayed and influenced by the other in course of this meeting. Avoid getting into any kind of dispute or controversy. Confrontation is most likely to have adverse consequences.

GEMINI
Lady Luck is likely to smile on you, foresees Ganesh. You are generally shy, but today is a different day. You will remain outgoing and will be able to freely express your feelings. This temporary change will do a lot of good to your ego, says Ganesh.

CANCER
It is likely that you will reach an important milestone in life today. Keep in mind that your success may be a cause of envy for a few people, some of whom may want to harm you. You are left with two choices: either try to help them out of their troubles and miseries, or prepare for a battle.

LEO
Easy come, easy go – that is the best way to sum up money. Try holding on to it, advises Ganesh, as there is a strong possibility that you shall incur a lot of wasteful expenditures today. Always think twice before you spend your hard-earned money. Remember the Grasshopper, cautions Ganesh, and learn from the fable, if not the life philosophies of the famous rich men of our age.

VIRGO
Sense and sensibilities will prevail today as you address relationships. On the emotional front, you may be unclear and oscillate between what you feel and what you really expected of you. But in the end, you may well end up following your inner voice than depend on others. Your intuition is invincibly strong, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
The whole point of being a Libran is that you always have the tendency to be two separate things put together on a pair of scales that somehow balance. Ganesh feels that today, you'll bring to the scales the stability of being your own master and servant. It's a fine balance to maintain.

SCORPIO
Retail therapy with your loved ones is a perfect recipe to have a good time! You will be more than willing to buy things of their choice. Hagglng will be a trait you have closteted today as you go about being lavish in your expenses, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Be ready with you bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today. Sharpen your public relation skills, which will come in handy when you deal with strangers today, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
That you are affectionate towards your loved ones will be more noticeable today than ever before, says Ganesh. In fact, you will enjoy your company and will do everything in your capacity to make them feel wanted. Long-term relationships will also thrive.

AQUARIUS
If you're stuck indoors today, make the most of it. There's always carrom, checkers, chess and partying! Shake yourself a bit, and you'll come up with creative ways to spend a leisurely day. You'll find that either way, life is wonderful, says Ganesh.

PISCES
In spite of the hardships that you will encounter on your way, your high spirits, enthusiasm and innate confidence will overcome all obstacles. And no matter how troubled the day starts, it ought to end on a cheerful note, says Ganesh.

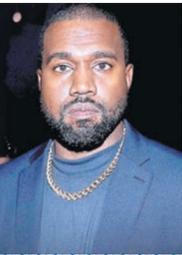


'SNOOP DOGG SMOKES 150 JOINTS A DAY'

Rapper Snoop Dogg smokes up to 150 marijuana joints a day, says his blunt roller. The 51-year-old star - who resides in California, where recreational marijuana use is legal - employs a member of staff, Renegade Piranha, to roll his joints for him, and she has rolled around 450,000 for the rapper.

KANYE'S STREAMS SEE DROPS AFTER ROW OVER HIS ANTI-SEMITIC STANCE

Repercussions are surfacing for Kanye West's recent hateful remarks as his album sales have plummeted. The rapper recently made some controversial remarks about Jewish people, which led to his Twitter and Instagram accounts being restricted.



Janhvi talks about viewers' attitudes

Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor is slowly but gradually carving her niche in the industry with her choices of films and performances. The actress recently opened up about how people treat films with female protagonists, about characters, irrespective of the genre. Janhvi hopes that their attitude changes.

Janhvi says it is empowering to witness the audience embrace good storytelling even if there are people who will still ask her who the male star in the film is. "At the end of the day, we are just telling stories about characters, irrespective of the genre. I hope that attitude changes. So many times, when I am doing this film, I am asked, 'Oh hero kaun hai?' and I answer: 'Me.'"

"It is extremely empowering that so many people and the audi-

ence right now are gravitating towards just stories. You make a good film, and the film is the hero, not the man or the woman in it," she added.

On the work front, Janhvi will next be seen in *Mili*, which is a Hindi remake of the Malayalam film, *Helen*. The Mathukutty Xavier directorial also stars Manoj Pahwa and Sunny Kaushal. It is scheduled to release in theatres November 4.

This is the first time that she has collaborated with her father Boney Kapoor.



Bhumi gets trolled for her dressing sense

Mumbai: Celebs are often seen being trolled for their look or dressing styles and now Bhumi Pednekar has come to the radar of trolls. Well, the actress was recently spotted during a Diwali party, and no doubt she looked sober and elegant in her white dress, but there are many who criticised her for her dress and in fact compared her with Urfi Javed.

At a recent Sonam Kapoor's Diwali party, when netizens spotted her walking inside in a white coloured dress, many said she never looks good, or commented on her choice and said that she looks 'vulgar'. Moreover, few straightforwardly called the dress inspired by Urfi.

One fan wrote: "With all the designers who they have access to, this is what she picks."

Another commented: "Name for Diwali festive vulgarity at peak."

Few went on to the extent to say that her outfit is hilarious and mentioned: "Cartoon network outfit where's the dislike button."

Another one said she is inspired by Urfi's dressing style and wrote: "Urfi influence."

While the netizens have left no words to criticise her dressing sense, Bhumi has made her mark with her acting skills and it is up to her comfort level as to what she wants to wear. **IANS**

New Delhi: Actress Maanvi Gargoo, who plays the affable Siddhi Patel in the web series *Four More Shots Please!*, talks about sex and intimacy being a taboo topic even in this day and age. She said that it has been taught to us to keep it very personal.

Talking about what according to her is responsible for the hesitation to discuss openly issues relating to sex and intimacy, Maanvi said: "I think culturally we have been taught that when we speak about physical intimacy, we keep it very pri-

vate, very hush-hush because it's extremely personal. If you want to keep your sex life or love life private, it's completely up to you."

She added, however, that sex and intimacy must not be considered taboo topics.

"People who want to talk about it should also be allowed to do so as long as you don't go into details that might offend somebody. I think, similarly, Siddhi had notions about how she led her life and it changed, which happens to all of us."

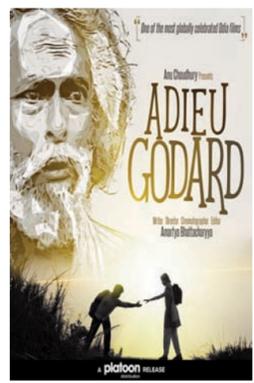
Season 3 of the *Four More Shots Please!* will also see Kirti Kulhari, Bani J, Prateik Babbar, Lisa Ray, Simone Singh, and Samir Kochhar reprising their roles.

AGENCIES



Odia film *Adieu Godard* set for Spanish premiere

Bhubaneswar: Odia feature film *Adieu Godard* has been selected for the prestigious 10th Asian Film Festival of Barcelona where it will have its Spanish premiere. The film is part of the official Panorama section and is in competition with several other Asian films. The festival presents a program that includes more than a hundred films from around 25 countries in Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. It is organized by the Spanish Ministry



of External Affairs and the city councils of Madrid and Barcelona and will take place from October 26 to November 6.

The movie has also been selected as finalists of the feature film category at the CARDIFF International Film Festival, 2022 which is supported by the Welsh Assembly and Cardiff Council (UK). The film is competing with 5 other international films and the results are due later this week.

Last month, the film had its theatrical run across several cities in India followed by special shows held in Jaipur and Mumbai. Additionally, the film has been invited by the Alliance Française de Bangalore for a special screening later this month.

Written and directed by National Award winner Amartya Bhattacharyya, *Adieu Godard* is an Indo-French production and has been produced by Swastik Arthouse in collaboration with

FilmStop Entertainment and Les Films de la Haute-Vallée. Renowned actor Anu Choudhury had presented the film for its theatrical release while Mumbai based Platoon Distribution had distributed the film.

Amartya says - "It is only a matter of joy that we could take this Odia film far and wide, and it continues to be celebrated globally. We are very happy that the film will now have a Spanish premiere at Barcelona and at the same time, will be a part of the Cardiff international film festival in the UK."

The film has Choudhury Bikas Das, Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, Sudharsri Madhusmita, Swastik Choudhury, Choudhury Jayaprakash Das, Shankar Basu Mallick and Abhishek Giri in important roles. **PNN**

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

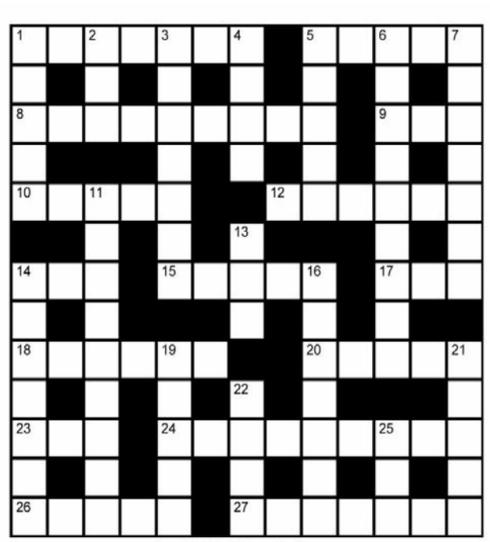


BREVITY



FUN post

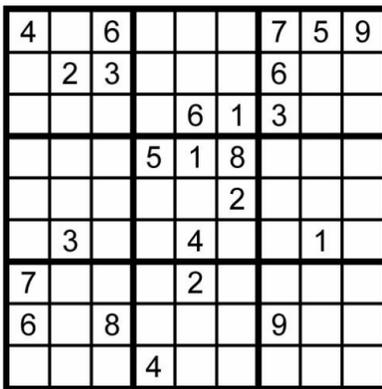
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Asia's longest river
 - 5 Attempts at humour
 - 8 Orange relative
 - 9 Samovar
 - 10 Heavy-coated breed of dogs
 - 12 Facet
 - 14 Stadium cheer
 - 15 Man of steel?
 - 17 German spa
 - 18 Yam starters
 - 20 Billiards stroke
 - 23 Young newt
 - 24 Type of mousse or syrup
 - 26 Kind of wave
 - 27 Volcano type
 - 5 Some Aussie youngsters
 - 6 Window wipers
 - 7 Classical compositions
 - 11 Resided in
 - 13 Flow's partner
 - 14 Ponder
 - 16 Tympan
 - 19 Surpass expectations
 - 21 Fighter jet button
 - 22 Egg on
 - 25 Carte start
- Down**
- 1 Abominable snowmen
 - 2 Convent dweller
 - 3 Hair remover?
 - 4 Devilish

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.

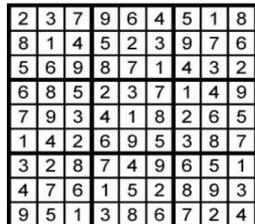


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



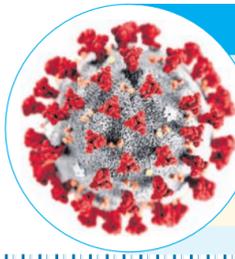
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Cuttack Mayor Subhash Singh and others greeted Padma Shri Jayanta Mahapatra on his 95th birthday at Tinikonja Bagicha in Cuttack, Tuesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,34,14,631	61,23,80,020	65,84,592
India	4,46,44,938	4,40,93,409	5,28,980
Odisha	13,35,920	13,26,335	9,203

Raghunandan Library a victim of heritage plan

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 25: The Raghunandan Library here has lost its existence due to execution of Srimandir Heritage Corridor project as the state government demolished all the structures within 75 metre radius of the Meghanada Wall of the shrine.

Although many intellectuals of Puri have appealed to the administration several times for restoration of the library, which was once a knowledge hub for the academics and culture enthusiasts of the state, the administration seems to be paying no heed to their appeals.

Mahant Gadadhar Ramanuj had inaugurated the library on the premises of 710-year-old Emar Mutt August 14, 1921 and since then the mutt had been taking the responsibility of managing it. It is believed that the Mahant had built the library in memory of his guru Raghunandan Ramanuj.

It is learnt from an annual bulletin published by the library in 1936 that a range of newspapers and magazines were being subscribed for the library. These included 'The Statesman', 'Amrit Bazar Patrika', 'New Odisha', 'Samaj', 'Asha', 'Biswamitra' and some 20 other magazines. The library also used to host 13 weekly magazines for its readers, with its brilliant collection of 715 English, 811 Odia, 701 Sanskrit, 550 Bengali, and 483 Hindi books. "Most importantly, there were also 266 palm leaf manuscripts in the library. It is also said that ancient rare religious texts from across the country were



▶▶ The administration has shown no interest in restoration of the library

▶▶ Intellectuals doubt about any efforts by the administration for conservation of the ancient palm leaf manuscripts

brought to be kept at the library as pundits especially from Northern India used to frequent the library a lot. The availability of Vedas and Upanishads had brought the library fame and had made it a tourist attraction. But by the dawn of this millennium, many ancient texts were found to have been missing due to lack of care and conservation efforts," said Bhaskar Mishra, a researcher on Jagannath culture, and alleged that some of the ancient texts were stolen.

Though the library boasted of many ancient texts, it also housed contemporary books on science, mathematics, economics and political science as many people donated their books and the Emar

Mutt from time to time organised book collection drives. Some people claimed that at a point the library had the largest collection of books as compared to other libraries of the state.

However, in 2020, after demolition of the library, all its books, manuscripts and furniture were shifted to a building on the premises of the Collector's office. The intellectual community of Puri is skeptical about the efforts being taken to preserve all the ancient texts.

District culture officer Hemanta Kumar Behera said that the Culture department doesn't have the responsibility of the library. "All the books are safe in the conference hall of the district Collector's office. The Culture department doesn't have any information about efforts to reconstruct another library," said Behera.

On the other hand, Puri sub-collector Bhabataran Sahu said that all the books - over 6,000 - are safe and that the library will be reestablished in time.

Rationalists hold feast during solar eclipse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: A group of people describing themselves as rationalists served chicken biryani at a community feast here Tuesday to bust what they termed as 'blind belief' that people should not cook or eat during a solar eclipse.

As the solar eclipse set in Tuesday, their action sparked a debate

between traditionalists, who frowned on the consumption of food during eclipses, and rationalists.

The organisers of the feast here dismissed the practice as 'superstition' and said it is neither wrong nor harmful for human beings to eat during a solar eclipse.

The Odisha government had declared a holiday Tuesday in view of the eclipse and roads remained

empty. Shops were closed for the most part of the day.

"It is all nonsense that people stop taking food during a solar eclipse. There is no bad effect on the body if one consumes cooked food, including non-vegetarian food during solar eclipse," said Pratap Rath, a retired professor of psychology at Utkal University. Another rationalist Debendra Sutar, editor

of the science magazine 'Baigyanika Charcha', said there is no scientific reason behind the traditional practice of fasting before and during a solar eclipse.

Supporting the rationalists, Suwendu Pattnaik, the director of Pathani Samanta Planetarium here said, "There is no impact on the human health for eating food during the solar eclipse."

Notorious criminal in police net again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: Habitual offender and notorious burglar Sanjay Kumar Nishank was once again arrested by the Commissionerate Police Monday. Earlier, the police had nabbed Nishank over a mobile theft case registered at Chandrasekharpur police station July 26, 2018.

The booty seized from his residence at Sarala Nagar in Laxmisagar area which included gold and silver ornaments, electronic gadgets, laptops, LED TVs and sarees, had left the cops awestruck in 2018. The accused is a resident of Saradhapur village under Atri police limits in Khurda district.

He is currently staying at Saubhagya Nagar area of the city. In the latest case (673/22) registered at Nayapalli police sta-

tion, Nishank was accused of stealing valuables worth several lakhs including two gold chains, four bangles and two pairs of earrings October 14, 2022. He also allegedly decamped with Rs 1 lakh in cash from the residence of Ranjan Kumar Nanda in Nayapalli area here.

Subsequently, a joint team comprising cops from the special squad of Commissionerate Police and Nayapalli police station was constituted to nab the accused.

Following a tip-off, the team arrested Nishank while he was trying to enter a person's residence at N-1 area in Nayapalli for burglary Monday.

Nishank also confessed before the police that he had stolen ornaments, cash and electronic gadgets during the burglary. He used to target residences when there is no one in the house. He even revealed about stealing women's inner wears.



Odia diaspora hopes Sunak would stabilise economy, revive healthcare

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

BHUBANESWAR: India and the entire world witnessed a historic event on the occasion of Diwali, when Britain got Rishi Sunak as its first Indian-origin Prime Minister. The 42-year old is the youngest Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) in over two centuries. He succeeded Liz Truss, who faced a humiliating exit within two months after her tax-cutting plans backfired. Many in India including Odia community in UK welcomed the news of his victory Monday, which also happens to be the Hindu festival of Diwali. **OrissaPOST** spoke to a section of Odia community and sought their responses to Sunak's rise.

Bhagyashree Singh, cultural secretary of Odisha Society of UK and member of Conservative Party in London, said, "October 24 was a historic day

when on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, Britain declared its first ever non-white, Indian origin British Hindu Prime Minister. It came with great glory especially to the British Indians who constitute 1.4 million population of the UK. She said Sunak was an MP and became more popular in early 2020."

While working as a chancellor during Covid crisis, he introduced a furlough scheme/coronavirus job retention scheme which was made to avoid or defer mass redundancies, company bankruptcies and save people from a huge financial crisis, she added

"As a member of conservative party and National Health Services (NHS) member of conservative, I met and witnessed Rishi's public address and had the chance to interact with him about his plans and ideas for improving healthcare system in the UK. He was phenomenal in his proposed plans and action," she stated.

He carries the best of Indian and British values being extremely hard-working, talented and well behaved modest man, said Bhagyashree.

She also added, "UK is going through one of the worst economic crisis and we strongly believe that the new PM will rebuild the economy, restore the trust and build Britain to be the best of the best. We also have hope that Sunak would bridge the gap between India and Britain and strengthen the ties. He is a practising Hindu and a firm believer of Lord Jagannath. So, he believes in giving



and doing things for great cause."

Dr Sahadev Swain, general practitioner, National Health Service, UK, said, "We are very happy with Rishi Sunak as the Prime Minister because he is a confident and consistent politician with track record of managing well in crisis situations. He is the best candidate to lead the country in this crucial financial and economic juncture. We hope that he will bring talent from different factions in his Cabinet and will bring stability in the country."

Dr Chetan Shatpathy, founder trustee, Shree Jagannatha Society, UK, said, "It's a very thrilling day for us. Sunak became the first PM from minority section. It's not just because he is an Indian but also because he is a man of integrity with good track record and his policy helped the country during Covid crisis. His experience in financial sector will help in rise of the country."

Chetan hoped that Sunak would take steps to stabilise the economy. "Inflation is at a 40-year high of 10.1 per cent. Mortgage rates for 2-year deals have risen from average of 2.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent over the past month, putting huge pressure on ordinary households. Energy prices (gas and electricity) have doubled since October 1." All these have added to a 'cost of liv-

ing' crisis for ordinary households, he added.

Sukanta Kumar Sahu, another founding trustee of Shree Jagannatha Society in UK, said that Sunak had the chance to become the PM in August but some circumstances didn't help. However, this time it was his day.

"His selection proves that it's not skin/colour but capabilities which determine success. We had presented an idol of Lord Jagannath to him in August," he said. Sukanta hopes that Sunak can fix the economy and the internal rift within the Conservative Party.

Abhipsa Mishra from London said, "It's an absolute delight to see Rishi Sunak being appointed as UK's Prime Minister. He is not only one of the youngest serving PM, but also the first British Indian Prime Minister of the UK. An absolute proud moment for everyone of Indian origin."

Stating that his strong finance, economics and politics background would help him in putting forward proposals and implementing measures to strengthen the economy, Abhipsa said he is very much expected to strengthen international relations.

"Wishing him all the best for his upcoming works towards a better future for everyone living in the UK," she concluded.

Crops in 1.24 lakh ha damaged by Aug flood



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: Crops in over 1.24 lakh hectares of land in 22 districts of the state have sustained 33 per cent or above loss due to flood and heavy rainfall in August 2022.

Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) PK Jena has issued a notification on the crop damage recently.

"The state government do hereby declare crop area of 124,47,611 hectares in 3224 villages under 901 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of 93 blocks and 29 wards of 7 ULBs in 22 districts as affected by floods & heavy rain occurred in August, 2022 having sustained crop loss of 33 per cent and above based on the field verification reports received from the collectors," read the notification.

Out of the total 1.24 lakh hectares of damaged crop area, about 1 lakh hectares is rainfed area, 23,638 hectares is irrigated area and 175 hectares are perennial crop area, it said.

Highest 34,859 hectares of crop area damaged in Cuttack district, followed by Puri district where standing crops in 25,058 hectares have been damaged. While 15,914 hectares of crop was damaged in Jajpur district in the flood, 12,732

hectares of crop in Bhadrak district and 10,278 hectares in Khurda also damaged in the heavy rain and floods.

The other districts where crop damage has been reported include Angul (1568 ha), Balanagir (579 ha), Bargarh (646 ha), Boudh (1762 ha), Jagatsinghpur (4,015 ha), Jharsuguda (265 ha), Kalahandi (1840 ha), Kandhamal (24 ha), Kendrapara (2202 ha), Koraput (297 ha), Mayurbhanj (949 ha), Nabarangpur (98 ha), Nayagarh (4,113 ha), Sonepur (605 ha) and Sundergarh (69 ha).

As per the report submitted by the collectors, relief assistance will be paid to the affected farmers, sources said.

As per norms, agriculture input subsidy will be provided to the small and marginal farmers who have sustained crop loss of 33 per cent and above Rs 6,800 per hectare of land in rain-fed/non irrigated areas, Rs 13,500 per hectare of land in areas under assured irrigation, and Rs 18,000 per hectare for all types of perennial crops.

The agricultural input subsidy to any affected farmer shall not be less than Rs 2,000 for perennial crops and Rs 1,000 for other crops.

Accusation of poll code violation by BJD, BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The ruling BJD and opposition BJP Tuesday lodged complaints and accused each other of violating the model code of conduct in Dhamnagar assembly seat where bypoll is scheduled to take place November 3.

A BJP delegation led by the party's state president Samir Mohanty was the first to rush to the office of the chief electoral officer (CEO) here and lodge a formal complaint against the ruling party.

The BJD leaders followed and lodged a similar complaint against the saffron party.

"The BJD leaders are distributing money to voters under the guise of meeting of SHGs (self help groups) as part of the party's strategy to woo the voters. We have drawn attention of the CEO again in this regard," Mohanty told reporters. Accusing the BJD of "blatantly violating" the model code of conduct, the BJP state president claimed that during a recent party meet a fellow party worker identified as Jayant Kumar Bhoi had said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will give Rs one crore each to every panchayat that votes for his party.

The BJD party worker had said this in the presence of state minister Pritiranjana Ghadei, BJD parliamentary Sulata Deo and the zila parishad vice president Tunibala Biswal, Mohanty claimed. "The CEO of Odisha must take action in this regard. We were waiting that the CEO to initiate suo-motu action against the BJD workers for breaching the poll code. But the CEO maintained silence on the issue," he said.

Finding no other way for redressal of the violation, the BJP approached the CEO and submitted a complaint letter. "If the CEO fails to do justice within 48 hours, we will bring the matter to the notice of the Election Commission of India," Mohanty said.



KALI PUJA: Devotees worshipping Goddess Kali at Satya Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

SUMUM organises DDT orientation programme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: SUM Ultimate Medicare (SUMUM) organised a Deceased Donor Transplant (DDT) Orientation Programme Friday to create awareness of DDT protocols among key stakeholders of the hospital.

Umakanta Satapathy, Additional Director, Medical Education and Training and State Nodal Officer of State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), who graced the occasion as chief guest, emphasized on organising such programmes on DDT while congratulating SUMUM for arranging the interactive session.

"Such programmes will certainly create awareness and also fill



up the gaps during the implementation of DDT," he said.

The state government, Satapathy said, was keen on such programmes which would benefit patients waiting for organ transplantation. He said that the government would extend all support for such a noble cause.

Biraj Mohan Mishra, Chief of

Medical Services, SUMUM, chaired the meeting which was an initiative by CEO of the hospital, Swetapadma Dash at the behest of Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA). "Deceased Donor Transplant has remained sporadic in India and there is an urgent need to bring clarity regarding DDT protocols to address the attitudes to-

wards organ donation after death and encourage participation in the DDT programme. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative and we expect to evolve a structured programme for deceased donor transplantation in Odisha", informed Dash.

Bibhuti Bhushan Nayak, Joint Director, SOTTO, explained the standard operating procedure followed by the SOTTO team in case of deceased donor transplantation and explained the role of police and forensic specialists in case of medical-legal cases.

Doctors of different departments of SUMUM, SOTTO team members and other officials participated in the interaction programme.



AT WORK: Artisans making artificial flowers at Balyatra Fairground ahead of the festival in Cuttack, Tuesday OP PHOTO

Hawker found dead at Baramunda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The body of a 25-year-old youth was found under mysterious circumstances near Baramunda bus stand here Tuesday morning.

Sources revealed that some locals first spotted the body of Lingaraj Dakua, a hawker, lying along the road near the bus stand. Subsequently, they informed the police who reached the spot and recovered the body before sending it to Capital hospital for post-mortem. The autopsy is scheduled to be conducted Wednesday.

However, the family members of Dakua have not lodged a complaint alleging foul play, said reports. Police claimed that Dakua, who worked as a hawker at the bus stand, was an alcoholic and drug addict. "He might have died of drug overdose. However, we are waiting for the post-mortem report which can only reveal the exact cause of death," a police official said.

Air quality 'very poor' ...

The Delhi government had formed a total of 408 teams to implement the ban. The Delhi Police has set up 210 teams under assistant commissioners of police, the Department of Revenue has set up 165 teams and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has constituted 33 teams.

Farm fires raged across Punjab and Haryana Monday but the wind direction changed to south westerly, which is unfavourable for the transport of smoke. Hence, the contri-

Bumpy road ...

Earlier in the day, outgoing Prime Minister Truss chaired her final Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street before making her way to Buckingham Palace to formally tender her resignation to the 73-year-old monarch.

Sunak then arrived at the palace for his meeting with the King, who then invited him to form a government as the UK's 57th Prime Minister and the third in just seven

Continued from P1

weeks. "The King received in Audience The Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP today and requested him to form a new Administration. Mr Sunak accepted His Majesty's offer and kissed hands upon his appointment as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury," the palace statement said.

As the former chancellor made his first prime ministerial address on the steps of 10 Downing Street, he was not joined by his wife

in the season this year; moderately warm and windier conditions prevented rapid accumulation of pollutants from firecrackers bursting and reduced the effect of stubble burning. Diwali was celebrated on November 4 in 2021 and on November 14 in 2020 when temperatures were considerably low and winds calm. Dahiya said stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana peaks only in October-end and November and hence its contribution to air pollution on Diwali was not very significant.

Akshata Murty and daughters Krishna and Anoushka as was expected. He then went in for meetings with officials at 10 Downing Street to start finalising his Cabinet, starting with the key roles of Chancellor, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary. Sunak describes himself as a "proud Hindu". His victory on Diwali has resonated among the Indian diaspora groups across the UK, who have hailed it as a "historic moment" in British social history.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Anubhav Kumar Singh, S/o Bimal Prasad Singh residing at Bhubaneswar, Odisha have changed my name to Anubhav Singh vide affidavit dated 11.10.2022, sworn before Notary Pratap Kumar Dalabehara, Bhubaneswar.

By sworn affidavit before Executive Magistrate, Sambalpur, I, Sabitree Burma, D/o. Late Manoj Burma, At-Badbazar, PO/PS-Khetrajpur, Dist.Sambalpur having Aadhaar No. xxxxx6079 and PAN No. CBYPP5523L, states that I have changed my surname from Burma to Pradhan. Henceforth I will be known as Sabitree Pradhan for all purposes. Sd./- Sabitree Pradhan

WHAT IS - AND WHAT ISN'T - 'BRAIN FOG'?

The Covid pandemic has introduced many scientific and medical terms into our everyday language. Many of us are now fluent in conversations about viral strains, PCR tests and mortality rates. "Brain fog" has joined these ranks to describe a now-familiar symptom of Covid and long Covid.

But what exactly is brain fog, and is it limited to Covid?

It is what it sounds like

Brain fog is not a medical diagnosis, but rather the description patients tend to use for their symptoms. Brain fog is what doctors refer to as "cognitive dysfunction". This describes problems with closely linked tasks such as concentration, information processing, memory, thinking and reasoning, and making sense of language.

Brain fog is exactly what it sounds like: a feeling something like being shrouded by a thick fog, not quite able to grasp ideas, feeling confused or disoriented, and having trouble concentrating or recalling memories. Sufferers describe ex-

periences with brain fog as lapses in memory and concentration, with some saying they "put food on the gas stove and walked away for over an hour, only noticing when they were burning".

Other people say they "forget how to do normal routines like running a meeting at work".

Brain fog can make even simple tasks like grocery shopping very difficult: navigating the car park, remembering a list of items to buy, switching attention between products and prices, and reading ingredients can be confusing, overwhelming and exhausting.

Brain fog can be unpleasant in the short term, but over time can make it difficult to work and maintain social activities. Brain fog can also take a toll on relationships, and change the way we see ourselves personally and professionally.

One recent study asked people with long Covid about their experiences with brain fog. They reported feeling guilt and shame, especially about how brain fog had affected their ability to return to



Brain fog is what doctors refer to as "cognitive dysfunction". This describes problems with closely linked tasks such as concentration, information processing, memory, thinking and reasoning, and making sense of language

Some studies have found more problems with attention and executive function in people who have had Covid. Cognitive deficits linked to brain fog have also been reported as worse for those with more severe Covid infection

work and their relationships.

Linked to Covid

Brain fog was one of the most common symptoms to emerge in the first months of the Covid pandemic.

Recent reports suggest 20-30 per cent of people have brain fog three months after infection. Up to 85 per cent of people with long Covid also have brain fog.

Scientists aren't sure whether the

same biological processes underpin brain fog in different illnesses; however, brain fog is common among people recovering from traumatic brain injury, experiencing persistent post-concussion symptoms, with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, HIV, postural tachycardia syndrome, lupus, post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome, and as a side-effect of chemotherapy. People with coeliac disease may even experience brain fog

after consuming gluten. It's also been reported as a symptom of menopause.

What causes it?

While Covid may cause shrinkage of some brain areas, brain fog itself has not been linked to brain volume changes on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans.

There isn't one single test for brain fog, so it can be difficult to diagnose. Although there are combinations of tests that can be used, formal testing may not always be helpful because symptoms can look different for each person, and some days may be worse than others.

How do you know if you have it? Traditional assessments can test a person's executive function and cognitive status. But findings have been mixed in people with brain fog due to Covid.

Some studies have found more problems with attention and executive function in people who have had Covid. Cognitive deficits linked to brain fog have also been reported as worse for those with

more severe Covid infection.

A new study suggested conflicting findings in studies on brain fog might be due to the brain functions assessed by different tests. People with both mild and more severe cases of Covid might experience problems with processing speed, reasoning, verbal and overall performance, but no problems with memory.

How to manage

For people experiencing brain fog, developing coping strategies and prioritising time to rest may help to manage symptoms. Coping strategies could involve making lists, using visual reminders (such as calendars, digital alerts and timers), and altering work duties where possible.

Clinical trials are underway for naltrexone, a medication used for alcohol and opioid drug addiction, which has shown promise in reducing brain fog. Aside from getting enough sleep, people are often encouraged to approach recovery from brain fog holistically.

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DHAMNAGAR BYPOLL

13 panchayats hold key



Women workers of BJD in campaign trail

BJD workers at a merger meeting

There are over 25,000 voters of minority community in Dhamnagar NAC and block under this coastal Assembly seat

important role are Talagopabindha, Baro, Kubera, Kanpada, Bodak, Bilana, Shyamsundarpur, Guamal, Achak, Talapada, Nayanada, Dolasahi and Paliabindha. All of them are under the Tihidi block. Abanti and Rajendra belong to Zone-7 of the Tihidi block.

Figures from the last Assembly elections show that BJD got 2,766 votes against BJP's 1,298 votes in Kanpada panchayat. However, this time around the BJD may not be able to obtain a sizeable lead, because

Rajendra Das will split the votes for certain, analysts pointed out Tuesday. They also said that the fight will mainly be among the BJD, BJP and the Independent candidates.

In the 13 panchayats, the BJD had got 27,825 votes while the BJP got 20,815 votes. Whether the BJD can get such a healthy lead again will certainly depend on the Rajendra factor, sources said. The minority community voters also can tilt the balance in favour of a particular candidate. The NAC in Dhamnagar constituency has over 15,000 voters of minority community in 11 wards. The number of minority voters in Gudupokhari, Pandarbati, Piteipur, Jafarpur and Bayangdihni panchayats is over 10,000. All political parties have been trying to woo these voters.

2 siblings swept away in Rushikulya, one rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Purusottampur, Oct 25: A minor boy went missing while his younger sibling was rescued after they were swept away in the Rushikulya river while taking a bath near Sholaghar village under this police limits in Ganjam district, Tuesday.

The missing boy was identified as Krushna Chandra Mohanty, 15, and his rescued brother as Kanhu Charan Mohanty, 12, son of Santosh Mohanty of Berhampur. The duo was on a visit to their native village with family members for Diwali celebrations.

The mishap occurred when they had gone to take a bath in the river with their father. They were playing on the river islet when they slipped into the river and were swept away.

The elder sibling went missing while his younger brother has been rescued later.

When the two siblings were being swept away in the swirling waters during bath in the river, a woman bathing nearby managed to rescue the younger brother. The rescued minor was rushed to a hospital where his health condition was stated to be stable.

The incident has spread a pall of gloom in the area even as a search operation is being carried out to trace the missing boy.

On being informed, Purusottampur BDO Bijay Kumar Behera, tehsildar Santosh Kumar Sahu and additional tehsildar Sunil Kumar Tudu reached the spot and launched a search operation with the help of ODRAF and fire personnel. Villagers also joined in.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Crimes up in Mahakalapara due to influx of Bangladeshis

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Oct 25: The remote parts of this seaside block in Kendrapara district has become a safe haven for outsiders engaged in all sorts of crimes. Outsiders from Odisha use this place for human trafficking, trading of narcotics, running fake currency rackets and illegal poaching of marine animals and wildlife. Locals of the area fear that if prompt law enforcing measures are not taken to check illegal activities of outsiders, it might lead to major law and order situation in this coastal block.

The crime rate here has increased manifold in a few years, as it takes only eight hours to travel from Bangladesh by boats to the block. Villages like Batighara, Kharinasi, Ramnagar, Petchhela,

Baulakani, Jambu, Suniti, Nanjura, Ke Dandua and Gogua areas have turned into the crime hubs, sources said.

They also pointed out 'fake' doctors in the name of providing medicines deal in trading of narcotics including brown sugar, heroin, charas, ganja and sedatives.

Taking advantage of the poverty, some of the 'foreign' elements also indulge in trafficking of young girls and women. They say that the women will be provided with employment, but in most cases it does not happen. Instead the girls are forced into prostitution in places like Kolkata, Jhansi and Mathura. Then there are some miscreants who regularly decamp with gold and silver ornaments on the pretext of cleaning those.

Many Bangladeshis have em-

ployed local youths in the drug trade while many youths have also turned addicts, it was alleged. On the other hand, police have allegedly failed to solve the drug menace despite arresting a few people.

Locals alleged that a few years back some persons from Bangladesh set up a radio station at Jambu which was allegedly used for espionage.

Similarly, a fake currency printing racket was also unearthed at Pitapata village under the block. However, before police came, the miscreants had fled the spot.

Meanwhile, others said that many outsiders visit the block for poaching animals both on land and in the sea. Senior citizen Subhash Chandra Swain and other residents have questioned the silence of officials of the district administration.

History-sheeter killed during Diwali celebrations

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Oct 25: A notorious history-sheeter was stabbed to death by a group of miscreants in a group clash during the Diwali celebrations at Madhyakhanda village under Daspalla block in Nayagarh district, Monday night.

The deceased was identified as



Bikash Behera of the village. The incident occurred while people were busy bursting crackers for the festival. A rival group of Bikash attacked him during the celebrations and rendered him critical. He was first rushed to the Daspalla hospital and later shifted the district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Police seized the body from the hospital and sent it for post-mortem. Meanwhile, police also detained two persons and are interrogating them about the murder. Notably the deceased, as a notorious history-sheeter has several criminal cases registered in his name in various police stations of the district.

SHORT TAKES

Two die as truck hits motorbike in Bhadrak

Bhadrak: Two youths were killed on NH-16 near the Odisha Power Transmission Corporation office in Bhadrak district as a truck hit their bike on Monday night, police said Tuesday. The two were on the way from Bhubaneswar. The impact of the accident was such that they were thrown off the bike to the other flank of the highway. Irate locals blocked the road for hours, disrupting traffic on the highway. The deceased were identified as Jayaprakash Pradhan, 24, and Minaketan Bindhani, 25. They were residents of Hatisahi and Ramnagar villages under Bhadrak rural police limits.

Man trampled to death by jumbo

Paikamal: A 65-year old man was trampled to death by an elephant that had strayed into Rasamunda village under this Padmapur sub-division in Bargarh district, late Monday night. The deceased was identified as Rama Chandra Nayak in the village. The incident occurred when he had come out of his house to relieve himself when the animal which strayed into the village attacked and trampled him to death. Forest officials started a probe and seized the body for post-mortem.

Two men kill fathers

Aska/Lahunipada: Two elderly persons were killed by their respective sons in separate incidents in Aska area of Ganjam and in Lahunipada area of Sundargarh district, police said Tuesday. In the first incident, a man identified as Debaraj Nahak, 64, was brutally stabbed to death by his son Arun Nahak over domestic dispute at Padhali village under Aska police limits in Ganjam district, Monday night. In the second incident, Bhuban Munda, 48, of Ghanighasa village under Lahunipada police limits in Sundargarh district was beaten to death by son Akash Munda for not tending his cattle back from the jungle on the village outskirts.



THEME BASED PANDAL: A theme-based tableau displaying an ongoing talk to stop Russia-Ukraine war adorns the Kali puja pandal at Patharaadi in Bhadrak, Tuesday

Sidhamula bridge turns safe haven for criminals



POST NEWS NETWORK

Khandapara, Oct 25: The Sidhamula bridge on Mahanadi river near Sidhamula under this block in Nayagarh district has allegedly turned into a safe haven for criminals, sources said Tuesday. The 1,568 metre long bridge connects Nayagarh with Ekadal village in Cuttack district and is a very busy thoroughfare with thousands of commuters and vehicles using it.

This bridge is also used by tourists and devotees from both within the state and outside wishing to visit the famous Gokulanandajew shrine in Nayagarh on the banks of Mahanadi river.

However, the lack of lights and absence of traffic personnel and police have enabled criminals and miscreants to use the bridge as a safe cover. These people commit crimes

under the cover of darkness and cause inconvenience to commuters once the sun sets.

People travelling on two-wheelers are the most vulnerable and there have many incidents of snatching on the bridge. Sometimes if commuters try to resist the miscreants then they are attacked with sharp weapons. Sources pointed out that on a couple of occasions, these criminals have allegedly murdered people and dumped the bodies in the Mahanadi river.

They pointed out that a man from Narsinghpur locality of Cuttack district in an effort to exact revenge from his estranged brother, allegedly lured the latter's minor son to the bridge on the pretext of visiting the Gokulananda shrine. The man then killed the kid and disposed of the body in the Mahanadi.

The bridge also is turning out to be a notorious suicide spot. Recently two women tried to die by suicide by jumping into the river. Luckily however, they were rescued.

Retired teacher-cum-social activist Maheswar Rana has drawn the attention of authorities to the crimes that take place on the bridge. However, his pleas are yet to be addressed.

Khandapara block BJD president Susant Kumar Mishra and several local residents have demanded for installation of light posts on the bridge as well as fencing on both sides. Similarly, Zilla Parishad member Ujjwal Moharana demanded that solar lights be installed on the bridge during a meeting September 22. But since then nothing much has happened.

Ministry of Culture Government of India

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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Other Pan India programs being organised from 25-31 Oct

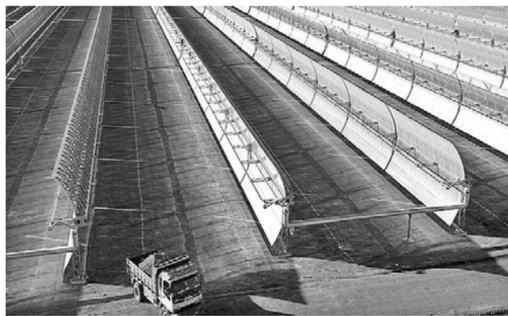
Cycle Rallies | Bike Rallies | Nukkad Natak | Exhibitions

“ This Amrit Kaal of India is of unprecedented pace of development, of achieving challenging goals. This Amrit Kaal is of re-formation of India of Sardar Patel's dreams.”

Narendra Modi Prime Minister

FOCUS CLIMATE ACTION

DO YOUR PART



The scale of the climate challenge cannot be overstated. Confronting it will require a combination of mitigation, resilience-building, and adaptation, enabled by strategic partnerships, effective knowledge-sharing, and the delivery of adequate financial support and technical knowhow

in annual funding to help developing countries advance mitigation and adaptation goals by 2020. Two years after the target date, rich countries' commitments remain largely unfulfilled.

That is why we are calling for the introduction of improved mechanisms for monitoring and tracking climate-finance commitments. It should not be difficult to attach clear timelines and implementation benchmarks to pledges. Processes for accessing these funds must also be simplified.

It will be essential at COP27 to shift the focus from decisions to action. We do not need more agreements on future progress. Rather, we must translate the achievements of past summits into global cooperation on comprehensive climate action. For example, initiatives to strengthen disaster risk management must take a holistic approach, covering everything from resource mobilisation and early-warning systems to technology transfer and capacity-building.

A more holistic approach is also needed in Africa, which is not only highly vulnerable to climate change, but also has considerable development needs. Such an approach will demand a significant capital outlay, which cannot be financed by borrowing without driving already debt-distressed African countries toward crisis.

Beyond fulfilling funding commitments, international actors must provide a broader selection of financing options for all African countries, regardless of their financial position. This effort should include the private sector. To support implementation, African countries will need access to appropriate technical support.

The scale of the climate challenge cannot be overstated. Confronting it will require a combination of mitigation, resilience-building, and adaptation, enabled by strategic partnerships, effective knowledge-sharing, and the delivery of adequate financial support and technical knowhow.

Africa is doing its part. The rest of the world must do the same - beginning at COP27.

Josefa Leonel Sacko is Commissioner at the African Union Commission. Kevin Kariuki is Vice President at the African Development Bank.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

This November's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) will come at a time of economic and geopolitical turmoil, affecting food security, public health, and more. But the immediate challenges we face must not distract us from an unassailable truth: the single most important battle our generation will face is the fight against climate change.

Earlier this year, extreme rainfall caused one of South Africa's deadliest disasters this century. Today, the worst floods in Pakistan's history have left one-third of the country under water. Far from freak occurrences, such severe weather events are becoming the new normal. Experts believe that extreme rainfall is now twice as likely, owing to climate change, which has also led to other types of devastation, such as droughts and wildfires.

Africa is especially vulnerable to these effects. According to the acting chief economist of the African Development Bank (AfDB), climate change is costing the continent between 5% and 15% of its per-capita GDP growth. As time passes, those losses could increase considerably, with agriculture suffering the most. This would have devastating consequences not only for economic development, but also for food security.

Many are calling COP27 - being hosted in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt - "Africa's COP." But we in Africa prefer to see it instead as "the implementation COP" - a meeting that will move beyond lofty aspirations and vague pledges to deliver a comprehensive results-oriented agenda. And, yes, that agenda should include delivering greater support - financial and otherwise - to Africa, which has contributed the least to climate change.

To echo AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina, we Africans do not come to beg, we come with resources and solutions. We are already taking concrete action to accelerate the green transition and protect ourselves from the worst effects of climate change.

For starters, African countries are embracing green energy. In recent years, the continent's renewable-energy capacity rose sharply, with double-digit annual increases in solar, wind, and hydro power. Africa is home to two of the world's largest solar projects

(in Egypt and Morocco), and two of Africa's 20 fastest-growing companies in 2022 are in the solar-energy business. From Nigeria to Namibia, countries are embracing climate-friendly technologies like green hydrogen.

The African Union Commission is fully engaged in tackling climate change on multiple fronts. The mandate of the AU Commission for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) has been broadened to reflect the importance of resilience building, adaptation, and mitigation. ARBE has been working on a number of defining projects with partner organisations, including elaborating on the AU Climate Change Strategy. It also recently contributed to developing an integrated strategy to guide the development and application of weather and climate services in Africa.

Meanwhile, specialised agencies of the AU, such as the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group, are helping African countries take advantage of technology-based early-warning and preparedness systems to improve their resilience. The organisation works closely with governments to strengthen their capacities to protect lives and support reconstruction of damaged infrastructure in the wake of natural disasters. Through ARC Limited, the insurance af-

filiate of the Group, it provides parametric insurance against extreme weather events.

For its part, the AfDB has shifted its attention - and resources - toward climate change. In 2020, 63% of AfDB funding went to projects related to climate-change adaptation, the largest share of any development finance institution. This year, the Bank committed another \$12.5 billion toward climate-adaptation financing through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) - an African-led multi-stakeholder body established in 2021.

Africa's adaptation-financing needs are estimated at \$52.7 billion annually through 2030. The AAP's funding target was set at \$25 billion, with rich countries expected to make up the rest. But, even as Africa pursues - and funds - climate action, the international community's commitments continue to fall short.

And commitments are only the first step. We commend the British government's success, at COP26 in Glasgow last year, in mobilising not only the international community, but also the private sector and civil society, thereby crowding in record climate-finance pledges. But a year on, many of these pledges remain just that: promises.

Perhaps we should not be surprised. After all, at the 2009 COP in Copenhagen, rich countries committed to deliver \$100 billion

No Cheer for Sunak

The elevation of the former hedge manager and ex-Chancellor Rishi Sunak to the top job of UK Prime Minister is certainly a cause for celebration in India which was once the jewel in the crown of the British Empire. For some, history comes full circle as the UK will now be ruled by a descendent of Indians once exploited and ruthlessly subjugated by their British colonial masters. Some others even recall the infamous saying of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who described Indians as "a beastly people with a beastly religion." The table seems to have finally been turned on Churchill as a migrant from India steps into his shoes.

However, these are nothing but emotional froth. The reality is indeed stark as Sunak is faced with an uphill task of lifting the UK from the quagmire of its worst economic crisis in decades. It would be ridiculous if he is expected to right the wrongs the British colonialists inflicted on India - for instance, returning the Kohinoor diamond that was taken away by the British from India or tendering apology for the killings of people at Jallianwala Bagh. In a sense Sunak is a creature of the British upper-class establishment owning assets worth about 730 million pounds which is supposedly greater than the recorded wealth of Queen Elizabeth II who passed away recently. He has risen to the position of PM not via the votes of the British public, but the support of his peers in the Tory party.

It is known that his grandmother and grandfather lived in Africa. Their parents had migrated to Kenya-Tanzania as clerks to the British. His grandfather, it is being claimed, hailed from Gujranwala, now in Pakistan. Strictly speaking, migrants always go overboard to prove their loyalties to their new land. It is something one should not only accept but approve. Rishi Sunak's only connection to India could be through his wife who is the daughter of Sudha and Narayan Murty, the founders of Infosys, a multi-billion dollar Indian IT company. Therefore, the current craze visible in India and its media after Sunak took over Downing is clearly proving the imbecile nature of some people.

Sunak is confronted with the same political and economic crises that plagued Liz Truss whom he replaces and former Prime Minister Boris Johnson. What can be said in his favour is that he is a moderate among liberals. He correctly predicted Truss' prescriptions cutting taxes for the super-rich and relying on borrowings to mitigate the hardships of the people were but a recipe for disaster. This is exactly what happened when investors and businessmen panicked at the mini Budget of Truss' finance minister effecting tax cuts for the rich, while the common people reeled under cost of living crisis and feared even losing their homes mortgaged to banks due to sharp rise in loan interests. Sunak has promised a more sober and less ideological approach to governance which seems to have brought a degree of calm to both the market forces and his own party. But, he will likely face the same criticism his two immediate predecessors did.

As for the expectations that Rishi Sunak as Prime Minister will look after the interests of the people from Asia may be belied as Opposition Labour MP Nadia Whittome, who is also of Indian origin, rightly remarked. What she said is not far from the truth. "He is a multi-millionaire who, as Chancellor, cut taxes on bank profits while overseeing the biggest drop in living standards since 1956. Black, white or Asian: if you work for a living, he is not on your side," she said.

In fact, Sunak is the third politician of Asian origin to have risen to the top position in Europe. Portugal can boast of two premiers of Goan ancestry, including current Prime Minister António Costa. Leo Varadkar, whose father is from Mumbai, served as Ireland's Prime Minister from 2017 to 2020. He is poised to return to power in December.

Realising the tough challenges, Sunak told his lawmakers in Parliament October 24 that they faced an "existential crisis" and must "unite or die". His party MPs have backed him as they know they had hardly any chance of retaining power in the election under Liz Truss. Besides, he has to tackle the problems arising out of discontent in Scotland and Northern Ireland and the impact of the oil and gas crisis due to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

This is the inescapable truth that cannot be glossed over by the euphoria over a non-white being given the reins of power in the UK. Sunak seems to be the last man that his hopeless and helpless party could fall back upon.

Josefa Leonel Sacko & Kevin Kariuki

WE DO NOT NEED MORE AGREEMENTS ON FUTURE PROGRESS. RATHER, WE MUST TRANSLATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAST SUMMITS INTO GLOBAL COOPERATION ON COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

WISDOM CORNER

- Each man is good in the sight of the Great Spirit. SITTING BULL
- The ability to be in the present moment is a major component of mental wellness. ABRAHAM MASLOW
- Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold. BOB MARLEY

WORDSWORTH

Cenatory

This is one of 22,889 words and senses marked in the Oxford English Dictionary as being both obsolete and rare. The OED's only record for it is from a work of 1646 by the physician Sir Thomas Browne. He's immortalised in the OED by 3792 other citations, which include many equally rare words, such as bicipitous (having two heads); elychniuous (having the nature of a wick); latirostrous (broad-beaked); stillicidious (falling in drops); and zodiographer (a person who writes about animals). Cenatory, relating to dinner or supper, isn't quite so rare as the OED entry might suggest. It turns up, for example, in Camp-Fire and Cotton-Field, by Thomas W. Knox, published in 1865: "On one line of boats, the cold meats on the supper-table were from carefully selected pieces, cooked and cooled expressly for the cenatory meal." And it's in James Branch Cabell's Chivalry (1921), in a passage that follows a description of a meal: "Richard was replete and contented with the world. He took up the lute, in full consciousness that his compliance was in large part cenatory." Cenatory is from Latin cenatorius, relating to dinner. It has a similar meaning to prandial (Latin prandium, meal), which the OED describes as "affected or jocosely" and which usually appears in the compounds pre-prandial, before dinner (sometimes also ante-prandial), and post-prandial, after the meal. ("He went through dinner talking on such events of the time as usually form the subject of prandial conversation." - The Man Who Bought London, by Edgar Wallace, 1915.)

Cento

This Latin word was borrowed into English at the beginning of the seventeenth century. In its original language, it meant a garment made of patches, but could also figuratively refer to a literary work that had been created by sticking together bits of the work of other writers, as patchwork recycles older garments. Both of these senses came into English pretty much together, though the literary one soon triumphed. An example appears in a letter that Oliver Goldsmith wrote to a newspaper in 1767: "He had taken my plan to form the fragments of Shakespeare into a ballad of his own. He then read me his little Cento, if I may so call it, and I highly approved it." William Hazlitt created a typically forthright essay, On Familiar Style, which should be required reading for aspiring writers. He deprecated those who favoured style over substance: "Their most ordinary speech is never short of an hyperbole, splendour, imposing, vague, incomprehensible, magniloquent, a cento of sounding common-places."

IN JEST THIS

Britain gets another PM, but for how long?



Melvin Durai

SUNAK IS SO RICH THAT HE WAS RECENTLY SPOTTED SMILING WHILE FILLING A CAR WITH PETROL

Rishi Sunak, as you've probably heard, is the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. With overwhelming support from members of the Conservative Party, Sunak is expected to lead Britain at least until his next haircut.

If it's a bad one, who knows what might happen?

Sunak is so confident that he is even moving his entire collection of suits into 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister's residence. His collection of hair grooming products will be spread out among his five homes for emergencies.

He is taking over for Liz Truss, who was Britain's Prime Minister for a blink of an eye. US President Joe Biden was still composing his congratulatory letter to her when she resigned.

Sunak has the distinction of being Britain's first non-white Prime Minister, youngest Prime Minister in 200 years, and richest Prime Minister ever. How rich is he? He's so rich that he was recently spotted smiling while filling a car with petrol.

His grandparents emigrated from India, his parents were born in East Africa and Sunak himself was born in Southampton, England. Many Indians are happy to see a man of Indian descent become Prime Minister of India's former colonial ruler, as a BBC correspondent in Delhi found out.

BBC correspondent: "Indians are very excited. In fact, there were massive fireworks here as soon as Sunak was announced as Prime Minister. People were dancing and having a parade."

Delhi man (interrupting): "Those fireworks were not for Sunak! They were for Diwali!"

Correspondent: "I've been corrected. The fireworks were for Diwali. The dancing was for Sunak!"

Delhi man: "No, that was for Diwali, too!"

Correspondent: "What about the parade?"

Delhi man: "For Diwali, too!"

Correspondent: "Did you do anything for Sunak?"

Delhi man: "Yes, I ate an extra jamun for him."

Correspondent: "There you have it! Indians are celebrating Rishi Sunak in the sweetest way possible."

Many Indians are, of course, happy to see a person of Indian descent occupy 10 Downing Street, just as they were happy to see Kamala Harris become Vice-President of America. But in celebrating Sunak's ascent, some can't help asking an important question: when will India elect a non-brown person as Prime Minister?

India was not ready for Sonia Gandhi in 2004, but will it be ready for Nick Jonas in 2044? (By then, Priyanka Chopra's husband may establish Indian citizenship and give up music for politics.)

If India is looking for a short-term experimental white Prime Minister, Liz Truss has experience. But Truss left the British economy in shambles. Her economic policies were so disastrous that members of the Conservative Party decided it was best to turn the leadership over to a Stanford-educated man.

Yes, Sunak earned an MBA (master's in business administration) at Stanford University in California on a prestigious Fulbright

Scholarship. It was at Stanford that he met his future wife, Akshata Murty, daughter of Indian billionaire NR Narayana Murthy - and it's at Stanford that thousands of other young men have gone to seek their fortune.

A former investment banker and hedge fund partner, Sunak served as Chief Secretary to the Treasury from 2019 to 2020, and Chancellor of the Exchequer from 2020 to 2022, so he has the right credentials to give Britons hope that he can resuscitate the economy.

But his critics aren't sure that a man of his wealth can fully understand the plight of average British citizens and work for their benefit. They've seen him wearing custom-made suits worth £3,500 (Rs 3.25 lakh) and Prada suede loafers worth £490 (Rs 45,800). They've heard him tell Conservative Party members in a leaked video that he's working to undo a funding formula that put money into "deprived urban areas."

Sunak is well-dressed and well-groomed, but whether he's well-suited to be Prime Minister remains to be seen.

Bristling dragon

Sir, This refers to the editorial "Xi's grip," Orissa POST, Oct 24. Xi Jinping has been successful in securing an unprecedented third term to helm the Chinese party-state in the final session of the 20th Chinese Communist Party congress, amid dramatic scenes as former Chinese President Hu Jintao - seated next to Xi Jinping - was escorted out in full view of the press. The CCP has always been animated by internal politics and contentions over economic and social policies. Xi has been rather good at outmanoeuvring his opponents in the CCP. But, ten years after Xi took charge, there is no escaping Xi's dismal record. He handled the COVID pandemic in disastrous fashion, slowed down the Chinese economy, pushed China into conflicts with the West and Asian neighbours, alienated much of the world with an aggressive foreign policy and "wolf warrior" diplomacy. Add to this, Xi has nothing new to offer in his third term, only continuity with tighter political control at home, further privileging of the state against markets, and more assertive policies abroad in the name of nationalism. In the Indian context, New Delhi needs to steel itself and adopt an all-of-government approach to tackle Beijing. Upgrading India's defence preparedness, coordinating with like-minded countries and boosting the domestic economy are musts for tackling the bristling dragon. N Sadasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Curb hate speech

Sir, This refers to "SC calls for suo motu action on hate speech," Orissa POST, Oct 22. Hate speech directed at religious minorities has become a routine feature of public life in India. The rise of Hindu nationalists to power has increased the insecurities of the Indian minorities, and they are being asked to accept the cultural discourse of the majority community as the national way of life of all Indians. In case of any disagreement, the individuals of the minority communities are being ridiculed and threatened. The process of hate preaching has undermined the self-respect and self-confidence of the minorities. Dissemination of hate is changing India, its democracy and relations with its largest minority - the Muslims. The Hindu nationalists have transformed its socio-political culture and may be able to change the liberal secular polity as well. BJP's spokesperson (now suspended) Nupur Sharma's remarks, denigrating Prophet Mohammed have broken all the barriers of shamelessness and have brought Prime Minister Narendra Modi into the ambit of innumerable questions. Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

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national

of the day quote

After 48 days journey, 4 states, 18 districts, 4 public rallies, 35 street meetings and 4 press conferences, I can say that the desired purpose and objectives with which Bharat Jodo Yatra was started is being achieved

JAIRAM RAMESH | AICC GENERAL SECRETARY

The Eknath Shinde-Bharatiya Janata Party government in Maharashtra has failed to take concrete measures to help cultivators who have incurred heavy losses due to rains in parts of the state

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP PRESIDENT

It was the Governor who appointed the VCs of these nine universities and if these appointments were made illegally, then the primary responsibility lies with the Governor himself

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM



The Aam Aadmi Party government will overhaul the entire system in the state to ensure its progress and prosperity of people

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

CLOSE WATCH

In a bid to stop LED fishing for sustainable fishing activities, the Goa government has decided to install CCTV cameras at jetties in the coastal state, state Fisheries Minister Nilkanth Halarnkar said Tuesday



War of words over Sunak's rise as next UK PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: With opposition leaders using the elevation of Rishi Sunak as Britain's next prime minister to lament alleged majoritarianism and divisiveness in India, the BJP on Tuesday cited the rise of A P J Abdul Kalam and Manmohan Singh as the country's president and prime minister to hit out at them.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also rejected any parallel between its leaders' opposition to prime ministership for Sonia Gandhi, who is of Italian origin, after the Congress won the Lok Sabha poll in 2004 and the Britain's ruling party choosing Indian-origin Sunak as its leader.

"Can't differentiate between Italy-born Sonia (who refused to take Indian citizenship for several decades after marriage with Rajiv) and UK-born Rishi with Indian ancestry," BJP's foreign affairs department head Vijay Chauthaiwale said responding to a Twitter user.

The reactions from BJP leaders came after leaders from various opposition parties, including the Congress, appeared to take a swipe at the BJP while lauding the rise



of Sunak. PDP president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti said it was a proud moment that Indian-origin Sunak was elected as the UK's prime minister, but it should also serve as a reminder that Britain has accepted an ethnic minority member as its premier but "we are still shackled by divisive and discriminatory laws like NRC and CAA".

Congress leaders P Chidambaram and Shashi Tharoor welcomed the move and hoped one day this practice is adopted in the country. TMC MP Mohua Moitra welcomed the move and hoped

India too becomes more tolerant. "First Kamala Harris, now Rishi Sunak. The people of the US and the UK have embraced the non-majority citizens of their countries and elected them to high office in government," Chidambaram said on Twitter. "I think there is a lesson to be learned by India and the parties that practise majoritarianism," he also said.

Tharoor said, "If this does happen, I think all of us will have to acknowledge that the Brits have done something very rare in the world, to place a member of a visible minority in the most powerful office. As we Indians celebrate the ascent

of @RishiSunak, let's honestly ask: can it happen here."

However, the Congress rebuffed its leaders in a clear attempt to not get drawn into a political fight with the BJP around the issue which the ruling party may turn into a debate around its familiar turf of nationalism.

AICC general secretary communications Jairam Ramesh said respecting diversity has been India's hallmark for many years and cited the examples of Zakir Hussain, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and A P J Abdul Kalam who held the top constitutional position in the country for many years.

He said India does not need to draw lessons from any other country as many minorities have become the president and chief minister in the past.

Former law minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad hit out at opposition leaders for their suggestion that rise of a minority like that of Sunak, a practising Hindu, in the UK will be difficult in India, especially under the BJP rule. Taking a swipe at Mehbooba, he asked her to answer if she will accept a minority as Jammu and Kashmir's chief minister.

Kharge to formally take charge today



KHARGE DEFEATED THIRUVANANTHAPURAM MP SHASHI THAROOR IN A DIRECT CONTEST FOR THE TOP POST IN THE GRAND OLD PARTY AFTER THE GANDHIS OPTED OUT OF THE RACE

WEDNESDAY MORNING KHARGE WILL PAY HOMAGE TO MAHATMA GANDHI AT RAJGHAT AND ALSO VISIT MEMORIALS OF FORMER PRIME MINISTERS JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI, INDIRA GANDHI AND RAJIV GANDHI, BESIDES FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Veteran leader Mallikarjun Kharge will formally take over as Congress president Wednesday after he is handed over the certificate of election and the baton by Sonia Gandhi at a function here.

Hectic preparations were underway at the Congress headquarters for the ceremony where party president Sonia Gandhi will hand over the baton to her successor, Mallikarjun Kharge, the first non-Gandhi to head the outfit in 24 years.

Kharge defeated Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor in a direct contest for the top post in the grand old party after the Gandhis opted out of the race. Ahead of his taking over, Kharge called on former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his residence and spent some time with him.

Wednesday morning Kharge will pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat and also visit memorials of former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, besides former Deputy Prime Minister Jagjivan Ram.

Meanwhile, security personnel and workers made last-minute arrangements in the Congress president's office and on the AICC headquarters lawns where a tent was being put up.

Chairman of the central election authority of the Congress Madhusudan Mistry will formally hand over the election certificate to Kharge at the function, which will also see the presence of outgoing chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

Kharge, 80, takes charge of the party at a time when it faces a tough challenge from a formidable BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi which has ousted the Congress from many states. For Kharge, who has served as a leader of the opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, leader of Congress in Lok Sabha and later leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha, the current assignment comes at a time when the party is at a historic low, electorally.

With the Congress now remaining in power in only two states -- Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh -- on its own and as a junior partner in Jharkhand, Kharge's first challenge is to bring the party to power in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, which go to polls in the next few weeks.

Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh are on November 12. The dates for Gujarat polls are yet to be announced. In 2023, Kharge will face the onerous task of leading the Congress in nine assembly elections, including in his home state of Karnataka where he was an MLA for nine terms.

SHORT TAKES

Cracker explodes in man's pocket

Lucknow: In a freak accident here Tuesday, a man carrying a cracker in his pant pocket was seriously injured when it exploded accidentally. The incident took place in Banthra on the outskirts of Lucknow when Babloo collided with another man coming from the opposite direction. Babloo has been admitted to the Lok Bandhu hospital in a critical condition.

Dalit couple, son shot dead

Damoh: A Dalit couple and their son were shot dead allegedly by six persons over a dispute in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district Tuesday morning, police said. Two other sons of the couple were injured in the incident which took place at around 6.30 am in Devran village under Dehat police station limits, located more than 20 km from the district headquarters, Superintendent of Police D R Teniwar said. Efforts were on to nab the six absconding accused, he said. The incident was the fallout of a minor dispute, the official said.

Four killed in UP

Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh): Four youths were killed when their bikes collided with each other head-on and one of them was seriously injured. The accident took place when one Sundaram, with his friends Ajit and Sunny, was on his way to his home in Bhatat. His bike collided with another bike coming from the opposite direction, driven by Anand with his friend Annu riding pillion.

Security stepped up in Shivamogga

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shivamogga (Karnataka), Oct 25: A 25-year-old man was allegedly attacked here Monday by three assailants shouting anti-RSS slogans, prompting the police to strengthen security in this town that witnessed the brutal killing of a Hindu activist a few months ago.

The victim, Prakash, claimed the attackers were not locals, adding he had attended an event on Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar recently. Prakash was attacked on Monday allegedly by the three persons who came on a motor bike, police said.

They were said to have thrown stones at him and allegedly shouted slogans and passed comments against the RSS and Hindutva activists, police added. Prakash suffered minor injuries in the attack, and is in hospital. He was safe, police said, adding they are examining the CCTV footage to identify the assailants.

The victim said he was attacked while returning home from a bus stand, and that he does not know why he was attacked, for he claimed he had no enmity nor was he associated with any organisation. "Two men started hitting me with their hands, then stones and other things, and kicked me, they used some derogatory words against RSS and activists, while one was on the bike...I fell to the ground, they still attacked me, but somehow I got up, they hit me in my face and then on my head which led to bleeding. I somehow ran towards my home nearby, but they came chasing and attacked me with stones. As soon as my mother opened the door, I ran in," he told reporters. Senior police officials visited the area.

Shivamogga SP G K Mithun Kumar said there is no need to panic, the situation was under control, officials and staff have been deployed, checkpoints erected and there have also been patrols.



Devotees carry an idol of goddess Kall for immersion at Santipur in Nadia district

PTI PHOTO

Sexual assault case: 'Civic' Chandran surrenders

The accused reached the Vadakara DySP office Tuesday along with his lawyers after Kerala High Court had recently set aside a sessions court order granting him anticipatory bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

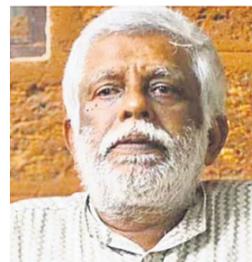
Kozhikode, Oct 25: Writer and social activist 'Civic' Chandran, who is an accused in a sexual harassment case filed by a Dalit woman, on Tuesday surrendered before the investigating officer.

The accused reached the Vadakara DySP office Tuesday along with his lawyers after Kerala High Court had recently set aside a sessions court order granting him anticipatory bail.

"He reached the office and sur-

rendered. We will produce him before the court," Vadakara DySP, R Hari Prasad, said. The sessions court had granted him the relief on the ground that the accused was a reformist and against the caste system and it was highly unbelievable that he would touch the body of the victim fully knowing that she belongs to the Scheduled Caste (SC).

Disagreeing with the findings of the lower court, Kerala High Court had on October 20, said the fact that the accused and the com-



plaint woman were very familiar to each other was discernible from prosecution records and therefore, his knowledge about her being a Dalit can be discerned from the materials available on record.

The high court had also rejected the accused's plea for relief on medical grounds, saying that in

cases involving serious offences under the SC/ST Act where anticipatory bail is specifically barred by the statute, mere illness of the accused is not a ground for granting the relief.

It had directed Chandran to surrender before the investigating officer within seven days "for subjecting himself for interrogation and medical examination, if any, for the purpose of investigation".

Chandran has been accused in two sexual harassment cases, one by a writer belonging to Dalit community, alleging sexual harassment by him during a book exhibition here in April.

The other was by a young writer, who accused him of sexual harassment during a book exhibition in town in February 2020.

Two more VCs get show cause notices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 25: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, as Chancellor of Universities in the state, Tuesday issued show cause notices to two more Vice Chancellors asking what legal right they have to hold the office as their appointment was allegedly in violation of UGC norms.

Khan issued show cause notices to the Vice Chancellors of Sreenarayanaguru Open University and Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology. The show cause notices came in the wake of the Governor, last week, asking the VCs of nine other Kerala universities to quit their respective offices.

After the VCs did not send their resignations by 11.30 AM on Monday as sought by Khan, he had issued show cause notices to them seeking their response by November 3 on what legal right they have to continue in their respective offices following the Supreme Court order of October 21.

A similar notice has now been sent to Dr P M Mubarak Pasha, the VC of Sreenarayanaguru Open University, and Dr Saji Gopinath, VC of Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology, seeking their responses by November 4. "Notice issued to VCs of Sreenarayanaguru Open University & Kerala Univ. Of Digital Sciences, Innovation & Technology to show cause, by 5pm on/before 04.11.2022, their legal right to hold Office of VC & not to declare their appointment 'illegal & void ab initio':PRO, KeralaRajBhavan," the Raj Bhavan tweeted. In the notice sent to Pasha, it is said that in view of the apex court judgement "it is prima facie found that your appointment as the VC of Sreenarayanaguru Open University is contrary to the UGC Regulations and as such is bad in law / illegal and void ab initio".

PARTIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE ENTHRALLS STARGAZERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: A partial solar eclipse Tuesday evening enthralled stargazers, who pointed their telescopes towards the sun to watch the celestial tango, while the faithful bathed in lakes and rivers at pilgrimage sites to mark the occasion.

Astronomical telescopes at Hanle in Ladakh, Naintal in Uttarakhand and several amateur and professional astronomers watched the eclipse that began at 4:17 p.m as the moon started covering the solar disc.

A solar eclipse occurs on a new moon day when the moon comes in between the earth and the sun and when all the three objects are aligned. A partial solar eclipse will occur when the lunar disk covers the solar disk partially. Astronomy clubs set up public viewing of the eclipse at several lo-

cations across the country and even distributed special eyewear to watch the eclipse.

In Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath witnessed the eclipse at the Veer Bahadur Singh planetarium with a telescope and special glasses. The partial solar eclipse was observed in several parts of the country with Srinagar witnessing the maximum obscuration of the solar disc at 55 per cent. In Delhi 43 per cent of the solar disc was covered by the shadow of the moon, Jammu (52 per cent), Bengaluru (9.9 per cent), Kochi (5.1 per cent).

Students from the High School at Hanle in Ladakh had gathered at the Indian Astronomical Observatory located in the region to watch the eclipse, while the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research had thrown open their lawns for public viewing of the celestial phenomenon.



A youngster watches the solar eclipse through a telescope in Kolkata

PTI PHOTO

Since the eclipse began in the evening, the ending of the celestial phenomenon was not visible as it took place after sunset. The Indian

Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, Naintal

and Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune had set up live streams on YouTube from the sites of their tel-



DELHI

TWO STATES



MAHARASHTRA

POLLUTION SPIKES AT NATIONAL CAPITAL

'Citizens, Delhi govt equally responsible'



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

New Delhi, Oct 25: People in Delhi disregarded the ban on firecrackers that led to a rise in the city's air pollution, environmentalists said the national capital's air quality dipped to the 'very poor' category on the morning after Diwali.

The air quality in Delhi on Diwali turned "very poor" amid an increase in stubble burning, bursting of firecrackers and moderately unfavourable meteorological conditions which allowed the accumulation of pollutants.

Founder and Director of Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group, Bharati Chaturvedi said citizens and the Delhi government are "equally responsible" for worsening air quality. The norms implemented by the city government to control air pollution "was flouted by the citizens" in most parts of Delhi, Chaturvedi told PTI.

"When the time comes for people to be responsible citizens and be a part of the solution, they don't do it. Most people who broke the law and burst firecrackers clearly don't care about their children or the elderly, or even their own quality of life," she said.

Chaturvedi said the citizens failed in their "constitutional duty" and the state government is "equally responsible" mainly because of their "inadequate and infirm" decisions. The capital's air quality index (AQI) was at 310 at 11 pm Monday. It was 326 by 6 am Tuesday, remained stable till 9 am and started decreasing thereafter.

The neighbouring cities of Ghaziabad (272), Noida (312), Greater Noida (282), Gurugram (313) and Faridabad (311) reported "poor" to "very poor" air quality at 9 am.

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

Delhiites share videos of flouting of firecracker ban

New Delhi: Social media was abuzz with videos of people bursting firecrackers with impunity on Diwali in the national capital, defying a ban in place to curb pollution. The veracity of these videos could not independently verified. The Arvind Kejriwal government had in September announced a complete ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers till January 1, 2023, including on Diwali, a practice it has been following for the last two years.

poor", and 401 and 500 'severe'. Environmentalist Bhavreen Kandhari said the police and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) need to "take action" and "set a precedent" for the future.

"Air quality data shows firecracker ban wasn't implemented in Delhi as average pollution levels crossed the 500 micrograms per cubic metre around midnight despite better meteorology and lower contribution from farm fires this year compared to past years," Sumil Dahiya, an analyst at Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), told PTI.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai Tuesday said that incidents of bursting firecrackers on Diwali in Delhi "dropped by 30 per cent this year" as compared to last year and the city recorded its "best air quality for the day after the festival in five years".



Birds are silhouetted in the backdrop of the Moon partially covers the Sun during the partial solar eclipse in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

'Restaurant on Wheels' at 4 more stations in Maha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 25: The Central Railway will soon set up 'Restaurant on Wheels' at four more stations in Maharashtra apart from two such existing facilities, to offer a unique experience to diners inside a modified coach mounted on rails, officials said Tuesday.

The CR opened one such restaurant at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai last year and another one at Nagpur station earlier this year under the Non Fare Revenue Scheme.

Similar restaurants will soon come up at Akurdi, Chinchwad, Baramati (all in Pune district) and Miraj (Sangli) stations under the scheme, the Central Railway (CR)



said in a release.

"The 'Restaurant on Wheel' is a modified coach mounted on rails, a fine-dining place offering a unique experience to diners and accommodates more than 40 patrons inside the coach with tables," the release said.

Its interiors have been decorated in such a way that people can enjoy the experience of dining in a rail-



themed setting, it said. "The 'Restaurant on Wheels' theme is a superb example of passenger-friendly initiatives combined with novel ideas of revenue generation," it said.

Around 1.25 lakh visitors have

enjoyed eating at the CSMT restaurant and 1.50 lakh people visited the outlet in Nagpur since the opening of the two facilities, the release said.

The CR said it has identified seven more locations - Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Dadar (in Mumbai), Kalyan (Thane), Lonavala (Pune), Igatpuri (Nashik), Neral and Matheran (in Raigad district) - to set up similar projects under its jurisdiction.

The CR opened one such restaurant at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai last year and another one at Nagpur station earlier this year under the Non Fare Revenue Scheme

Hospitals see fewer respiratory illnesses cases this yr

Doctors warned that it is too early to reach a definitive conclusion about the prevalence of respiratory illness post-Diwali since people tend to come to hospitals only when their condition worsens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Hospitals in Delhi saw fewer people coming in with respiratory illnesses this year as the national capital reported less air pollution post-Diwali compared to last year.

Also, fewer instances of burn injuries were reported in Hospitals than in 2021. "The air quality this time is better than the last few years. Although there has been an increase in the number of respiratory cases in the last couple of days, the numbers were about 20 per cent less than last year," said Dr Manoj Goel the Director of Pulmonology at Fortis Memorial Research Institute.

Government-run Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan (LNJP) Hospital and Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital reported fewer instances of such cases.

Dr Suresh Kumar, the medical director of LNJP Hospital said four



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

to five patients came with respiratory complaints on Diwali.

GTB Hospital's Medical Director Dr Subhash Giri said there were fewer complaints of such respiratory illnesses since the air quality is slightly better this year probably due to windy conditions and a ban on firecrackers.

About burn injuries, Dr Giri said the hospital received 23 such cases. "Four were serious while the rest were minor burn injuries." LNJP also received six cases of burn injuries with all of them being minor ones, said its medical director.

Dr Sumit Ray, the head of the de-

partment of critical care medicine at the Holy Family Hospital, said that even though there were fewer cases of respiratory illnesses such as COPD and

"People tend to go to hospitals when their condition worsens. So we might see a surge in patients over the next couple of days," he said.

His views were endorsed by Dr Manoj Goel who advised people to get vaccinated against flu and pneumonia.

"It is too early to make a definitive conclusion. We still need to be careful and take all the measures to prevent pollution. Continue preventive therapy if suffering from chronic lung and heart diseases following doctor's advice," he said.

Dr Ray said they received six cases of burn injuries, with one being serious. "We referred that patient to Safdarjung Hospital." Some hospitals, however, saw a significant spike in cases of respiratory illness.

Mumbai, Pune huff and puff to breathe easy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 25: As the early winter sets in in Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad and Nagpur, people in these cities dread the prospects of inhaling contaminated air and suffering from multitude pollution-related health issues.

Maharashtra is perched high on the pollution pedestal, with 97.60 per cent of the state's 12-crore people living in areas with 'hazardous or unacceptable levels of air pollution'. A World Bank Group study has ranked the state as the "third-most populous sub-national territory in the world", while the Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago, has said the state is the 15th most polluted in India.

Mumbai has been placed as the 14th most polluted city in the world with average PM2.5 levels at 45.1mg/cubic metre by the US-based Health Effects Institute and Global Burden of Disease Project of the Institute for Health Metrics & Evaluation collaborative 'Air Quality and Health in Cities' re-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

port, released in August 2022.

The Greenpeace South Asia's Analysis from 2021 ranks Mumbai as the fifth most polluted in the world with the highest number of fatalities (25,000) attributable to air pollution, with Delhi leading as the most contaminated megacity in India.

As per the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Maharashtra has the largest number of non-attainment cities, all fast-growing metropolitan areas struggling to control emissions at source, whether due to industries, automobiles, building or

development projects, or subpar waste management, with a daily average of PM2.5 consistently exceeding 35ug/m3.

This naturally has its ill-effects on the people, society, agriculture and the economy, calculated at nearly \$3.7 billion (Rs 27,000 crore), said pollution experts.

The latest Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report of Energy Policy Institute, University of Chicago, warns that exposure to PM2.5 shortens the average lifespan of a person by 3.7 years in Mumbai, and 4.2 years in Pune, or 4 years in Maharashtra.

Monsoon departs with bounty of 98% full lakes



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 25: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) officially drew the curtains on Mumbai monsoon 2022, marking the wettest October month in the past 10 years which left behind lakes brimming to 98 per cent, of officials said.

The monsoon skipped two departure dates this month, but finally bowed out on October 23 as the Diwali celebrations started on a high note after two years (2020, 2021) of low-key revelry owing to the coronavirus pandemic. The dreaded 'October heat' was

partly offset this year by an unexpected 22.63 cms rain, compared with the month's average of 9 cms.

The south-west monsoon had started retreating from north India in early October, but many parts of Maharashtra continued to be lashed with showers owing to weather disturbances on the Konkan coast.

The BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is pleased as the extra rain saw the lakes supplying water to the country's commercial capital getting al-

most full to the brim, with no worries for the next 12 months. This year the city's live storage total stock stands at 14,12,134 million litres, compared with 14,03,567 ML (2021) and 13,78,977 ML (2020), creating a record for the past three years.

Calling hubby 'womaniser, alcoholic' with no proof is cruelty: Bombay HC

THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT IN ITS ORDER, ON A WOMAN'S APPEAL CHALLENGING THE DISSOLVING HER MARRIAGE, NOTED THAT APART FROM HER OWN STATEMENT, THE WOMAN HAS NOT PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE HER ALLEGATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 25: The Bombay High Court has said defaming husband and calling him a womaniser and alcoholic without substantiating the allegations amount to cruelty, and upheld a family court order dissolving the mar-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

riage of a Pune-based couple.

A division bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Sharmila Deshmukh in its order passed on October 12 dismissed an appeal filed by a 50-year-old woman, challenging a November 2005 decree passed by a family court in Pune dissolving her marriage to a retired Army official.

The man died pending hearing of the HC appeal following which the court directed for his legal heir to be added as a respondent.

The woman in her appeal claimed her husband was a womaniser and alcoholic and due to these vices she was deprived of her conjugal

rights. The bench said the wife's conduct in making unwarranted and false allegations against her husband's character results in damage to his reputation in society and this amounts to cruelty.

The HC in its order noted that apart from her own statement, the woman has not produced any evidence to substantiate her allegations. The deceased man's lawyer told the court that the petitioner woman had caused mental agony to her husband by making false and defamatory allegations against him.

The court referred to the husband's deposition before the family court wherein he had claimed

that the petitioner separated him from his children and grandchildren. "It is a settled position in law that 'cruelty' can broadly be defined as a conduct that inflicts upon the other party such mental pain and suffering as would make it not possible for that party to live with the other," the high court said. The bench further noted that the petitioner's husband was an ex-Army man who retired as a Major, belonged to the upper strata of society and had a standing in society.

"The conduct of the petitioner in making unwarranted, false and baseless allegations pertaining to the respondent's character and labelling him as an alcoholic and womaniser has resulted in shredding his reputation in the society," the HC said.

"Considering the above, we find that the conduct of the petitioner constitutes cruelty within the meaning of Section 13 (1) (i-a) of the Hindu Marriage Act," the court said, adding it was a fit case for grant of divorce.

Mumbai bizman gets 18 months jail for calling minor 'item'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 25: A special court has convicted a businessman for outraging the modesty and sexual harassment of a minor girl by calling her an "item".

The Dindoshi Special PCO court judge SJ Ansari sentenced Abrar N Khan, a resident of Andheri east, to one and a half years imprisonment for the offence committed in 2015.

The special judge said that the term ("item") "objectified women in a sexual manner" as she slapped the sentence on the businessman, noting such offences and uncalled for behaviour need to be dealt with a heavy hand to protect women.

It was in July 2015 when the minor was returning alone from school that Khan, who was sitting on his bike accosted her, went behind her, pulled her hair and said "Kya item, kidhar jaa rahi ho? Ae item, sun naa (What an item, where are you going? Oh, item, listen to me)", despite her strong protests.

of the day quote

The government has taken 72 big decisions in the interest of the people in last three months and I will respond to the opposition's criticism by showing the work done by my government

It was decided by all coalition partners that we contest both seats. Mokama is our sitting seat while Gopalganj is my native district. We are confident of a Mahagathbandhan victory at both places

What we dreamt of will soon come true. Our educational institutions have led the way in the world. In the history of the world, there is no other nation other than India to give the message of truth and peace

SHORT TAKES

Blast kills boy

Bhatpara (WB): A seven-year-old boy was killed and two others injured as a bomb exploded on a railway track in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district Tuesday, police said.

Two charred

Ranchi: Two persons were charred to death after a fire broke out in a bus in Ranchi, police said Tuesday. The incident happened around midnight in one of the state's busiest terminuses at Khadgarha in Lower Bazar police station area, they said.

Cops save man

Mumbai: Timely intervention by police saved the life of a 30-year-old man here after he allegedly tried to hang himself early Tuesday morning. The incident took place in suburban Vikhroli. Constable Deepak Lahane and his two colleagues visited the man's house around 2 in the morning after learning that a noisy quarrel was going on between husband and wife inside.

1 killed, 8 injured

Indore: A person was killed and eight others were injured following a clash between two families over a dispute in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, police said Tuesday. The incident took place at around 11 pm on Monday in Badi Gwaltoli area, Palasia police station in-charge Rakesh Modi said.



The law and order situation in Tamil Nadu is deplorable and not in order

O. PANNEERSELVAM | FORMER TN CM

RAHUL'S DIWALI GIFT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi wished Diwali to all Bharat Yatris, drivers and labourers working in the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra camp, offered them silver coins and sweets, and hoped their faith in India's true values will defeat hate



TN explosion: 5 held, UAPA invoked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Coimbatore, Oct 25: The stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been invoked in the case relating to a car explosion in the city that killed one person, while five others have been arrested over the incident and police have intensified the probe covering all aspects including terror angle.

The arrested were identified by the police as Muhammad Talka, Muhammed Azharuddin, Muhammed Riyaz, Firoze Ismail and Muhammed Nawaz Ismail, all in their 20s. With some of them being enquired by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2019, the police were also probing their activities after that, City Police Commissioner V Balakrishnan said.

Hours after the Tamil Nadu BJP questioned why the police had not specified the reasons for the arrest of the five and the sections under which they have been detained, Balakrishnan said that besides the UAPA, other IPC sections like conspiracy have also been included in the case.

Police are also probing if the man killed in the gas cylinder explosion in the car on Sunday, Jemisha Mubeen had any links with Mohammed Azharuddin, an accused in the Easter Sunday bomb blasts in a Sri Lankan Church in 2019, which killed over 250 people.

Further, 75 kg of potassium nitrate, charcoal and aluminium



THE ARRESTED WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE POLICE AS MUHAMMAD TALKA, MUHAMMED AZHARUDDIN, MUHAMMED RIYAZ, FIROZE ISMAIL AND MUHAMMED NAWAZ ISMAIL, ALL IN THEIR 20s

THE NUMBER OF CHECKPOSTS IN THE CITY HAS BEEN INCREASED AND PICKETS ERECTED WHEREVER REQUIRED

powder have been recovered from Mubeen's house, Balakrishnan added. These chemicals are used in making country bombs, police had said earlier. "UAPA has been invoked since there has been an explosion," Balakrishnan said here. Three of the arrested were seen

in CCTV footage, along with Mubeen earlier, carrying two LPG cylinders and two small drums, the content of which has been sent for forensic examination, the Commissioner said. While the three had helped Mubeen carry the items "with

knowledge," another person was apprehended for coordination. One man was arrested for providing the car, Balakrishnan added.

Asked if the police was probing a possible terror angle, Balakrishnan reiterated that the UAPA has been invoked since there was an explosion. "all angles are being probed," he said. Soon after the explosion on Sunday, the police took all steps to maintain law and order and this ensured Deepavali was celebrated peacefully on Monday, he said.

The number of checkposts in the city has been increased and pickets erected wherever required. Meanwhile, opposition BJP targeted the ruling DMK over the matter and said it exposed "intelligence failure." "How long will it take for the Chief Minister to accept the Intelligence has failed...Bring professionals back to the force...The Home department had solid professionals, with those good in counter-terrorism, prior to 2021," TN BJP president K Annamalai said, addressing a press conference in Chennai.

The DMK came to power winning the 2021 elections and chief minister MK Stalin holds the Home portfolio. After the DMK came to power, the priorities have changed, he indicated. Annamalai expressed apprehensions if the Sunday explosion was some kind of a "suicide attack," and claimed the western region of the state, comprising the industrial city of Coimbatore among others, was in the radar of "the ISIS."

Seer found hanging, death note recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ramanagara (Karnataka), Oct 25: The seer of Kunchagal Bande Math here, who was found hanging on Monday morning, allegedly killed himself over "blackmail", police said.

Police have found a couple of pages of a purported death note by the seer in which he is said to have blamed some people of "harassing and blackmailing" him. Sri Basavalingeshwara Swami, the head of the Math in Kempapura of Magadi taluk here, which has a history of more than 400 years, was found hanging from a window grill of the puja house at the math's premises.

The seer, who had taken over the reins of the math in 1997, had celebrated the silver jubilee as the chief priest, a few months ago. According to sources, alarmed at the puja house door remaining shut till six in the morning, which was unusual as the seer used to be awake by 4 AM for puja and kept the doors open, and him not responding to knocks or phone calls, math's staff checked from the rear and found him hanging. They subsequently informed the police.

Police said they have registered a case of abetment to suicide and investigation is on. According to police sources, a couple of pages of death note was found in which he has accused some people of harassing and blackmailing him by assassinating his character and



Police have found a couple of pages of a purported death note by the seer in which he is said to have blamed some people of "harassing and blackmailing" him

has even named them. Police, however, refused to divulge details and names citing that the investigations are on. Officials said they will be questioning those named and those who were in close contact with the seer at the math and over phone.

The seer's last rites were performed on Monday evening, after completing due procedures and post-mortem.

In December last year, the head of Chilume Math, Basavalinga Swamy, was also found hanging in a similar fashion.

700 shops gutted

Panicked shopkeepers struggled to save anything they could as exploding LPG cylinders further added fuel to the fire. Three fire tenders, one of which was brought in from Itanagar, fought for hours to bring the blaze under control, police said

Panicked shopkeepers struggled to save anything they could as exploding LPG cylinders further added fuel to the fire. Three fire tenders, one of which was brought in from Itanagar, fought for hours to bring the blaze under control, police said.

The exact damage caused by the fire is being assessed, but it is estimated to be in crores of rupees, they said. Superintendent of Police (Capital) Jimmy Chiram said the exact cause of the fire would be known after the completion of the investigation by the fire department.

Shopkeepers alleged that after spotting the blaze they rushed to the adjacent fire station but no personnel could be found. Further, when the fire services personnel arrived, the fire engines did not have water.

To refill the engines, the personnel had to travel a long distance, and they could come back with water only around 5 am, by which most of the market was already gutted, the shopkeepers alleged. "The police also did not act. All of them should be terminated from service for failure to perform their duties," Naharlagun Bazar Welfare Committee president Kipa Nai said.

After speaking to the shopkeepers, Arunachal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACC&I) president Tarh Nachung demanded that all fire personnel on duty be suspended for negligence.



Aerial view of India's first vertical lift bridge which will connect Rameswaram in the Arabian Sea to mainland India

Ram temple to open to devotees in Jan: Trust

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya (UP), Oct 25: The grand Ram temple in Ayodhya will be opened to devotees in January 2024 after the installation of idols of the deity, said a key member of the trust set up to oversee its construction.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra on Tuesday said 50 per cent of the construction work of the temple has been completed and the overall progress is satisfactory. "The temple will be opened to devotees in January 2024 after the installation of idols of Ram Lalla in the sanctum sancto-



Media personnel click photos during an official visit at the construction site of Ram Janmabhoomi Temple

rum of the shrine on the festival of Makar Sankranti," trust general secretary Champat Rai said.

He said the ground floor of the temple will be ready by December next year and around January 14, 2024, idols of Lord Ram will be in-

stalled. "An estimated Rs 1,800 crore will be spent on building the Ram temple," Rai said, adding that space will be made for idols of prominent Hindu deities.

A group of journalists were on Tuesday taken to the elevated place from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Sunday inspected the construction work of the temple. The prime minister had performed the "bhoomi puja" for the construction of the temple on August 5, 2020.

A Supreme Court verdict of November 9, 2019 had paved the way for the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

11-year-old climate activist's phone snatched

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Greater Noida, Oct 25: Child environmentalist Licypriya Kangujam, was targeted by two bike-borne youths in Greater Noida West on October 23 while she was filming the preparations and Diwali lightings in the area via Facebook live.

The activist was online through a Facebook live outside Nirmala Aspire Housing society, when two miscreants snatched her mobile. "It's very urgent. My mobile phone was just snatched away (10 minutes ago) by two bike-borne thieves while I was going live on my facebook in front of the Bellana Street market, Greater Noida, Sector 16B opposite Nirala Aspire. Kindly help me!", the 11-year-old tweeted while tagging Noida Police.

Kangujam is an environmental activist from India and the founder of 'The Child Movement'. She has been advocating climate change, environmental protection since the age of six. She also gave a speech on climate change at the International Seminar on Climate Protection in Madrid, Spain 2019, after which her popularity increased.



THE CAT IS NOW OUT OF THE BAG

The cat is now out of the bag after the curdling silence of the Narendra Modi-led government as a storm raged over the Gujarat government decision to remit the sentences of the eleven lifers convicted in the 2002 Bilkis Bano case.

The Gujarat government, through an affidavit, told the Supreme Court that it had decided to release them as they had completed 14 years and above in prison and the Centre had conveyed its concurrence / approval. The state government also said that the CBI, Special Crime branch, Mumbai and the Special Civil Judge and the city civil and sessions court, greater Bombay did also opposed the premature release of the convicts. The CBI view was that the offence committed by them was heinous, grave and serious, hence they cannot be released prematurely. Court documents confirm that the state government had sought Union Home Ministry's approval on June 28, 2022 under Section 435 of the CrPC which came within two weeks vide letter dated July 11, 2022. They had completed 14 years and their behaviour was found to be good.

The Gujarat government was responding on a plea filed by CPM's former MP, Suhasini Ali, journalist Revati Laul and Prof. Roop Rekha Vema challenging the release of the eleven men who had been convicted for the gangrape of Bilkis Bano and for multiple murders. Following the state government's approval the orders for their release were issued on August 10, 2015. The government's affidavit stated that the opinion of seven authorities had been considered before ordering their release.

The accused were arrested in 2004 and the trial commenced in Ahmedabad but was transferred to Bombay by the Apex court after Bilkis expressed apprehension of witnesses being harmed and the evidence being tampered with. On January 21, 2008, the special CBI court sentenced the 11 accused to life imprisonment on charges of conspiring to rape a pregnant woman, murder and unlawful assembly. The court acquitted seven other accused for lack of evidence while one of the accused had died during trial. While announcing the sentence, the court identified the three



who had raped Bilkis and also the one who had killed her daughter. The convicted included a head Constable. Judge Salvi in his judgement termed Bilkis Bano's "courageous deposition as the turning point in the case". Ten years later, in May 2017 the Bombay High Court upheld the conviction and life imprisonment sentence of the eleven.

In 2019, the Supreme Court awarded compensation of Rs 50 lakhs, a house and a job. "The state has to give compensation", the bench comprising the then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta and Sanjiv Gupta ruled in its detailed order of April 23. It also ordered with-

drawal of the pension benefits of three Gujarat police officers who had probed the case. Five months later, nothing had moved forcing Bilkis to knock the doors of the Apex court again. Pulled up by the Court, the government promised to comply within two weeks.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat government's submission before the Supreme Court on the plea challenging the release of the eleven has brought out that it has been done under an outdated policy. Gujarat has considered the proposals under the policy of 1992 and not the policy adopted by the state in 2014 and is still effective nor under the circular governing grant of remission to prisoners as part of the celebration of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', as per its own admission in the affidavit.

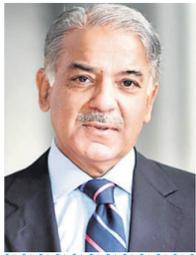
The Gujarat government has taken the plea that the Supreme Court had asked it to go by the remission policy that was in effect at the time of the conviction in 2008 by which it is the 1992 policy that would be applicable. While the 1992 policy did not distinctly categorise convicts eligible or

otherwise for early release, the 2014 policy clearly mentions that rape and murder convicts do not qualify for remission. Neither do those investigated under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946. The Bilkis Bano case was investigated by the CBI which was set up under this Act.

The Gujarat government affidavit before the Supreme Court cites their good conduct as the reason for their release. The fact, however is that ten of the 11 were out of jail for more than 1,000 days each, whether on parole, furlough or temporary bail and the eleventh one for 998 days. Besides, one of them got charge-sheeted for outraging the modesty of a woman in 2020 while out on parole.

There could not be a greater irony than the fact that the eleven walked out of prison on Independence Day and were welcomed with garlands and sweets even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was educating the masses on the need for respecting women and giving importance to 'nari shakti' in his Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

international



I have decided to form a Judicial Commission to hold an inquiry into the killing of journalist Arshad Sharif in order to determine the facts of the tragic incident in a transparent & conclusive manner
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAK PM

ASH CARTER DIES AT 68

Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who opened combat jobs to women and ended a ban on transgender people serving in the military, has died at age 68. Carter died Monday evening after suffering a heart attack in Boston, his family said in a statement Tuesday



WHO SAID WHAT

We continue to battle through a storm but I believe in Britain, I believe in the British people and I know that brighter days lie ahead
LIZ TRUSS | BRITAIN'S OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER

Warmest congratulations @RishiSunak! As you become UK PM, I look forward to working closely together on global issues, and implementing Roadmap 2030
NARENDRA MODI | INDIAN PM

Congratulations to (Rishi Sunak) on this historic day, this is the moment for every Conservative to give our full and wholehearted support
BORIS JOHNSON | FORMER BRITISH PM

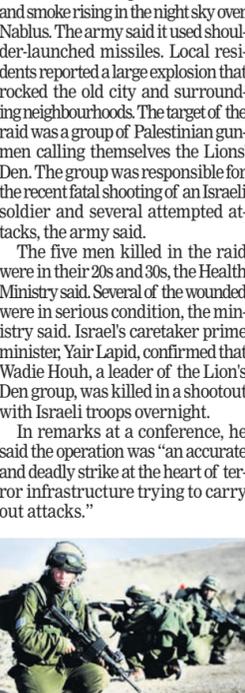
We've got the news that Rishi Sunak is now the prime minister. It's pretty astounding, a groundbreaking milestone and it matters
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

We hope that we can work with the UK side on the basis of mutual respect and win-win cooperation and advance China-UK relations along the right track
WANG WENBIN | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

No hope for positive shift in ties with Britain under new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak
DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN

Israeli troops raid gunmen's hideout; 5 Palestinians killed

Nablus, Oct 25: Israeli forces raided a stronghold of an armed group in the occupied West Bank's second-largest city, blowing up a bomb lab and engaging in a firefight, the military said on Tuesday. Five Palestinians were killed and 20 were wounded, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The overnight raid in the old city, or kasbah, of Nablus, was one of the deadliest in the West Bank in 2022 and comes at a time of escalating tensions. Television footage showed flames and smoke rising in the night sky over Nablus. The army said it used shoulder-launched missiles. Local residents reported a large explosion that rocked the old city and surrounding neighbourhoods. The target of the raid was a group of Palestinian gunmen calling themselves the Lions' Den. The group was responsible for the recent fatal shooting of an Israeli soldier and several attempted attacks, the army said. The five men killed in the raid were in their 20s and 30s, the Health Ministry said. Several of the wounded were in serious condition, the ministry said. Israel's caretaker prime minister, Yair Lapid, confirmed that Wadie Houh, a leader of the Lion's Den group, was killed in a shootout with Israeli troops overnight. In remarks at a conference, he said the operation was "an accurate and deadly strike at the heart of terrorist infrastructure trying to carry out attacks."



New chapter in Indo-UK ties

London, Oct 25: India's bilateral relations with the UK may well be poised to see greater two-way exchanges as Rishi Sunak was installed as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister Tuesday, scripting an impressive political comeback in British politics. His vision for India-UK bilateral ties has gone beyond the opportunity for the UK to sell things in India, wanting Britain to also "learn from India". "The UK doesn't have a monopoly on opportunity. There's an enormous amount of opportunity in India, we also want to make sure that if this living bridge is going to be a real thing, we have got to make it easier for people in the UK to go to India, to study at world class institutions to go work in all these amazing start-ups," Sunak said recently when he was Chancellor. "I want to make sure that it's easy for our students to also travel to India and learn, that it's also easy for our companies and Indian companies to work together because it's not just a one-way rela-

UK GETS FIRST NON-WHITE PM

In his first address as Prime Minister, he pledged to approach the country's problems with "compassion" and "to place economic stability and confidence at the heart of this government's agenda". Sunak, whose parents - retired doctor Yashvir and pharmacist Usha Sunak - are of Indian descent, tracing their migration route from Kenya to the UK in the 1960s. The Southampton-born Prime Minister is married to Infosys co-founder Narayan Murthy's daughter Akshata Murthy and the cou-

ple have two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka. His grandparents originated from British India but their birthplace Gujranwala lies in modern day Pakistan's Punjab province. The devout Hindu former minister, who swore his oath of allegiance on being elected MP in the House of Commons on the 'Bhagavad Gita', also found time for darshan at the famous Bhaktivedanta Manor ISKCON temple during the course of the long campaign and had members of the Indian diaspora praying for his success. As the first Chancellor to light diyas on the doorstep of No. 11 Downing Street, his Tory election victory on Diwali this year has been dubbed as very serendipitous by many British Hindus.



Sunak reshuffles Cabinet

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Tuesday began putting his top team in place with key Cabinet appointments and decided to keep the new Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, in place for economic stability and brought back Indian-origin Suella Braverman as Home Secretary. In another move aimed at continuity, James Cleverly will stay in his post as Foreign Secretary despite not being a Sunak loyalist. Braverman, who's scathing resignation letter precipitated Liz Truss' exit from Downing Street last week, is a fellow Bexiteer like Sunak. Hunt, who was parachuted in earlier this month by former prime minister Liz Truss and went on to reverse her tax-cutting mini-budget, has been an ally of Sunak and it was widely expected that he would keep his job. Another close ally, Dominic Raab, who served as Deputy Prime Minister and Justice Secretary in the Boris Johnson led Cabinet returns to the twin posts under Sunak. Raab, who had been the chief cheerleader for Sunak during his latest run for Tory leadership, was widely tipped for a Cabinet return. Ben Wallace stays in post as Defence Secretary and Nadhim Zahawi is appointed Tory party chairman and minister without portfolio. Meanwhile, many from the Liz Truss and Boris Johnson faction of the governing Conservative Party resigned soon after Sunak took charge at 10 Downing Street, with Indian-origin MP Alok Sharma losing his Cabinet Office Minister role to remain only as COP26 President to negotiate on behalf of the UK at COP27 in Egypt next month. Jacob Rees-Mogg resigned as Business Secretary. Brandon Lewis as Justice Secretary, Kit Malthouse as Education Secretary and Sri Lankan origin Ranil Jayawardena as Environment Secretary.

London: The UK media Tuesday welcomed Indian-origin Rishi Sunak with both bouquets and brickbats as he scripted history by becoming the first person of colour to become the Prime Minister of Britain, which in the past had colonised most of the world, with some news outlets acknowledging his leadership as the "new dawn" for the country, while others questioning the validity of his victory. "Unite or die - Sunak's warning to Tory MPs," read The Guardian banner headline under a picture of the 42-year-old Conservative Party leader receiving a hero's welcome at the party's head office in London. Noting that Sunak "will become the third Conservative prime minister in under two months and the fifth in six years", the report said, "He will also make history as the first Hindu to lead the country." Echoing similar sentiment, The Mail headline read, "A new dawn

British media welcomes Sunak with bouquets & brickbats

for Britain" with the sub-head: "Rishi Sunak becomes our youngest modern PM - and first with an Asian heritage". Striking a similar ebullient note, The Sun said, "The force is with you, Rishi" with the main image showing him holding a lightsaber. However, not all media outlets were happy with Sunak being the UK's new Prime Minister. In a scathing attack on Sunak, The Mirror in its banner headline asked "Our new (unelected) PM" that "Who voted for you?" Describing him as "twice as rich as the King", its main story said he will now "preside over brutal public spending cuts". With the headline "Death of democracy", Scotland's Daily Record was even more critical of Sunak. Meanwhile, The Financial Times focussed on the economic challenges that lie ahead for Sunak, a former investment banker-turned politician. The "markets look forward to 'dullness dividend' in the wake of Truss turbulence", it said, quoting Tory MPs that they hope Sunak "will reassure markets and help hold down borrowing costs". The Times highlighted Sunak's warning to Tories that "Failure to heal rifts would 'finish' [the] party". The Telegraph said, "PM aims to bring warring factions together for 'one shot' at ending economic crisis."



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Like human beings stars also die

Stars are quite similar to human beings and they also have their own life span. Like human beings who breathe their last after completing the duration of life, stars also die in their own unique manner. At times, a falling star depicts the end of a life for a star. In the modern world of scientific achievements related to space exploration, there are a vast majority of people who still do not consider the sun as a star. That is indeed surprising, considering the fact that latest up to date pictures are available from the 'Hubble Space Telescope', and now the 'James Webb Space Telescope'. Although the words sun and star are sometimes used interchangeably, for clarity's sake, it is always better to use the term 'sun' to denote the star at the centre of our solar system, something with which most of us are familiar with. Astronomers classify stars according to their spectral characteristics (the analysis of their electromagnetic radiation through a prism or diffraction screen, the



The dwarf galaxy NGC 4214 is ablaze with young stars and gas clouds. Located around 10 million light-years away, the galaxy's close proximity, combined with the wide variety of evolutionary stages among the stars, make it an ideal laboratory to research the triggers of star formation and evolution
Photo courtesy of NASA Image and Video Library

ological similarities. However, even then each human being is unique from the other one. Stars have the same characteristics like human beings. They come in all sizes and weights, just like people. They range from very heavy to big and at the same time they can also be a minuscule of their large counterparts. Stars are classified according to luminosity, mass and size. There are the supergiant stars, followed by the bright giants, red giants and even sub-giants. All main-sequence stars are referred to as dwarf stars, regardless of how large and luminous they are. The sun is also technically a yellow dwarf star, with the spectral classification G2V, meaning it is a main sequence star with a surface temperature of around 5,800 Kelvin. While stars may only appear as bright points of light in the night sky, they are as varied as people who live in earth. As mentioned above, each star after living its life eventually dies, though not as dramatically as human beings.

Cyclone kills 35 in B'desh

Dhaka, Oct 25: At least 35 people were killed and several homes destroyed as cyclone Sitrang ravaged Bangladesh's southern coastlines and central parts after it made a landfall overnight, according to officials and media reports. Sitrang completed its landfall and weakened to a tropical depression over Bangladesh in the early hours of Tuesday. Prothom Alo, a Bengali daily newspaper, reported. Newspaper tallies and unofficial counts stated that the cyclone claimed 35 lives alongside leveling homes and other infrastructures, uprooting trees and disrupting road communication and power supplies. Around 10 million people were without power in districts along the coasts Tuesday. "Until 6 pm this evening, reports of 35 deaths were reported from 16 (of the 64 administrative) districts," the mass circulation Prothom Alo said, but officials preferred several of the deaths as "missing cases", confirming so far 16 deaths. Another prominent news website bd-



news24.Com stated that the death toll from cyclone Sitrang till Tuesday evening was 22. The cyclone made its landfall in southwestern Bangladesh coast but media reports have stated that highest deaths were reported from southwestern Chattogram coastlines where a sand-laden dredger sank in the Bay of Bengal drowning eight workers as strong wind flipped the vessel. Over a million people were evacuated to cyclone shelters in coastlines but deaths were reported from areas in central Bangladesh as well, since strong winds collapsed houses and uprooted trees causing casualties.

business



The premium brands are growing at a faster rate than the popular brands and popular brands are growing faster than the mass brands

SANJIV MEHTA | HUL MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO

TOYOTA SCRAMBLES FOR EV REBOOT

Toyota is considering a reboot of its electric-car strategy to better compete in a booming market it has been slow to enter, and has halted some work on existing EV projects



of the day quote

We, at CCI, are presently addressing competition concerns in digital markets through our anti-trust enforcement measures, which are essentially ex-post.



ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA | CCI CHAIRPERSON

Ford wants to have a considerable amount of green steel, and... we will take steps so that we will be able to deliver it



HANS VAN DEN BERG | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TATA STEEL NEDERLAND

The financial performance this quarter continues to be strengthened by our sustainable long-term strategy of investing in the digital eco-systems and robust technology to provide all market participants an easy and secured platform



NEHAL VORA | CSIL MD AND CEO

PLAY STORE POLICIES

CCI slaps ₹936.44cr fine on Google

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 25: In its second ruling against Google in less than a week, the Competition Commission Tuesday slapped a penalty of ₹936.44 crore on the internet major for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies.

The regulator has also directed the company to cease and desist from unfair business practices as well as carry out various measures to address the anti-competitive issues within a defined timeline.

This is the second major CCI ruling against Google in less than a week. October 20, the watchdog imposed a penalty of ₹1,337.76 crore on the company for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in relation to Android mobile devices and ordered the internet major to cease and desist from various unfair business practices.

In a release Tuesday, the Competition Commission of India



(Commission) said it has imposed a penalty of ₹936.44 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position with respect to its Play Store policies.

Google's Play Store constitutes the main distribution channel for app developers in the Android mobile ecosystem, which allows its owners to capitalise on the apps brought to market.

The regulator noted that making access to the Play Store for app developers dependent on mandatory

usage of GPBS (Google Play's Billing System) for paid apps and in-app purchases constitutes an imposition of an unfair condition on app developers.

Apart from the penalty, CCI said Google should not restrict app developers from using any third-party billing/ payment processing services for purchasing apps.

There was no immediate comment from Google on the latest CCI order. October 21, Google said it will review the order with re-

spect to the Android devices matter.

Similar to the observations made in its ruling against Google in the Android matter, CCI Tuesday said the penalty amount is provisional as there were glaring inconsistencies and wide disclaimers in presenting various revenue data points by Google.

The penalty amount translates to 7 per cent of the company's average relevant turnover.

Google has been given a time of 30 days to provide the requisite financial details and supporting documents, the release said.

The regulator has been probing Google in other cases as well, including those pertaining to alleged anti-competitive practices by the internet major with respect to news content and smart TV.

In February 2018, the regulator imposed a fine of ₹136 crore on Google for unfair business practices in the Indian market for the on-line search.

Apple urges global supply chain to decarbonise by '30

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 25: Apple Tuesday exhorted its global supply chain to decarbonise by 2030, as the tech giant said it will evaluate the work of its major manufacturing partners to decarbonise their Apple-related operations, and track annual progress.

Cupertino, California-headquartered Apple has been carbon neutral for its global corporate operations since 2020, and is focused on the goal to become carbon neutral across its entire global supply chain and the life cycle of every product, the company said in a newsroom post.

"Apple calls on global supply chain to decarbonise by 2030," the post said. The company is accelerating work with suppliers to decarbonise Apple-related production and expanding investments in clean energy and climate solutions.

Apple "will evaluate the work of its major manufacturing partners to decarbonise their Apple-related operations—including running on 100 per cent renewable electricity



—and will track yearly progress." As the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt, Apple also announced new initiatives and investments aimed at helping decarbonise the global economy and promote climate solutions for communities.

These include investments in renewable energy in Europe, partnerships to support businesses transitioning to clean energy, and new support for projects that advance natural carbon removal and community-driven climate solutions.

As part of the supplier engagement, the company is partnering with its worldwide supply chain to urge accelerated action to achieve carbon neutrality for their Apple-related corporate operations.

Indian govt, corporate bond yield spread to widen on rising supply

REUTERS

Mumbai, Oct 25: The spread between Indian government bond yields and their corporate counterparts is expected to widen in the second half of this year, as tight liquidity and increased borrowings will push investors to demand higher returns, analysts said.

"Many corporates and state-run companies that delayed borrowing will have to tap the market to fulfil their target, and with tightening liquidity conditions, yields on corporate papers are expected to see higher impact as compared to government debt," said V Srinivasan, founder and managing partner at debt advisory firm Rockfort Fincap.

The spread between government and corporate yields had dropped sharply in the previous quarter but has been rising since the beginning of this month. For example, AAA-rated SIDBI sold three-year notes at a coupon of 7.75%, earlier in October, while the three-year government bond yield was at 7.33%. The spread between such papers was around 20 bps in September. "Over the next 12-18 months, I see many arguments for an increase in spreads. It should be pre-dominantly driven by the confidence that corporate India has to expand balance sheets, which will lead to more funding needs," said Amit Tripathi, CIO-fixed income investments at Nippon Life.



Moreover, the current levels of bond yields are more attractive for companies, considering bank loan rates have also risen and require collateral, said market participants. India's banking system liquidity deficit has jumped to 42-month high levels, and traders do not expect conditions to improve sharply over the rest of the year, meaning investors will start to look for higher yields.

When overnight funding rates are more than 6%, it indicates tight liquidity, and in such times, investors will demand higher-than-prevailing yields, said Mandar Pitale, head of treasury at SBM Bank (India). He added there could be good traction from at least the higher-rated issuers.

Meanwhile, traders also expect companies that had opted to raise funds in dollars to shift their focus to rupee-denominated debt as it could be cheaper to as refinance.

Over 25 cr e-KYC transactions done using Aadhaar

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 25: Over 25 crore e-KYC transactions were carried out using Aadhaar in September; almost 7.7 per cent higher than the levels seen in August, according to an official release.

An e-KYC transaction is done with the explicit consent of the Aadhaar holder, and eliminates physical paperwork, and in-person verification requirement for Know Your Customer (KYC).

"In September alone, 25.25 crore e-KYC transactions were executed via Aadhaar; almost 7.7 per cent jump in such transactions when compared with August," the release said. The cumulative number of e-KYC transactions through Aadhaar so far has increased to 1,297.93 crore by the end of September. Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), too, has been an enabler of financial inclusion, the release noted.

"Cumulatively, 1,549.84 crore of last mile banking transactions have been made possible through the use of AEPS and the network of micro ATMs so far by the end of Sept 2022. In September alone, 21.03 crore number of AEPS transactions were carried out across India," it said.

In September, 175.41 crore authentication transactions were carried out via Aadhaar.

Sensex, Nifty halt 7-day rally on profit-booking

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 25: Equity benchmarks nursed losses Tuesday as investors booked profits after a seven-session rally amid weak Asian market cues and foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex failed to hold on the early gains and declined 287.70 points or 0.48 per cent to finish at 59,543.96. During the day, it hit a low of 59,489.02 and a high of 60,081.24.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty fell 74.40 points or 0.42 per cent to end at 17,656.35.

Nestle India was the top loser in the Sensex pack, slipping 2.83 per cent, followed by Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC, Reliance Industries, Bajaj Finance and Asian Paints. Market heavyweight Reliance Industries was the biggest drag on the benchmark following lacklustre Q2 results.

In contrast, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, Larsen & Toubro, Dr Reddy's, SBI, NTPC and M&M were among the winners, climbing as much as 3.29 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge dipped 0.35 per cent, while the midcap index climbed 0.45 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices,



FMCG fell 1.10 per cent, telecommunication dipped 0.91 per cent, financial services went lower by 0.62 per cent, realty declined 0.61 per cent and utilities lost 0.60 per cent.

Among the gainers were capital goods, auto, industrials and oil & gas. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower, while Tokyo finished higher.

International oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.27 per cent lower at USD 92.08 per barrel. The rupee appreciated 7 paise to close at 82.81 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday, as easing

crude oil prices buoyed investor sentiments.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth ₹153.89 crore Monday, as per exchange data.

In a special one-hour Muhurat trading session Monday to mark the beginning of Hindu Samvat year 2079, the BSE benchmark jumped 524.51 points or 0.88 per cent to end at 59,831.66. The Nifty advanced 154.45 points, or 0.88 per cent, to finish at 17,730.75.

The BSE and NSE will be closed Wednesday (October 26) on the occasion of 'Diwali Balipratipada'.

IS THE METAVERSE REALLY THE FUTURE OF WORK?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Oct 25: According to Mark Zuckerberg, the "metaverse" — which the Meta founder describes as "an embodied internet, where instead of just viewing content — you are in it" — will radically change our lives.

So far, Meta's main metaverse product is a virtual reality playground called Horizon Worlds. When Zuckerberg announced his company's metaverse push in October 2021, the prevailing sentiment was that it was something nobody had asked for, nor particularly wanted.

Many of us wondered what people would actually do in this new online realm. Last week, amid announcements of new hardware, software, and business deals, Zuckerberg presented an answer: the thing people will do in the metaverse is work.

But who is this for? What are the implications of using these new technologies in the workplace? And will it all be as rosy as Meta promises? The future of work?

The centrepiece of last week's Meta Connect event was the announcement of the Quest Pro headset for virtual and augmented reality. Costing US\$1,499 (~A\$2,400), the device has new features including the ability to track the user's eyes and face.

The Quest Pro will also use outward-facing cameras to let users see the real world around them (with digital add-ons).



Meta's presentation showed this function in use for work. It depicted a user sitting among several large virtual screens — what it has previously dubbed "Infinite Office". As Meta technical chief Andrew Bosworth put it, "Eventually, we think the Quest could be the only monitor you'll need."

Meta also announced it is working with Microsoft to make available virtual versions of business software such as Office and Teams. These will be incorporated into Horizon Workrooms virtual office platform, which has been widely

ridiculed for its low-quality graphics and floating, legless avatars.

THE MICROSOFT APPROACH

The partnership may well provide significant benefit for both companies. Microsoft's own mixed-reality headset, the HoloLens, has seen limited adoption. Meta dominates the augmented and reality markets, so it makes sense for Microsoft to try to hitch a ride on Meta's efforts.

For Meta, its project may gain credibility by association with Microsoft's long history of pro-

ducing trusted business software. Partnerships with other businesses in the tech sector and beyond are a major way that Meta seeks to materialise its metaverse ambitions.

Microsoft also represents an alternative approach to making a product successful. While several decades of efforts to sell VR technology to consumers have had limited success, Microsoft became a household name by selling to businesses and other enterprises.

By focusing on an enterprise market, firms can normalise emerging technologies in society. They

might not be things that consumers want to use, but rather things that workers are forced to use.

Recent implementations of Microsoft's Teams software in industry and government across Australia offer models for how the metaverse may arrive in offices.

ENHANCED BOSSWARE

While proponents of work in the metaverse envisage a future in which technologies like AR and VR are frictionlessly incorporated into our work lives, bringing about prosperity and efficiency, there are a number of areas of concern.

For one, technologies like VR and AR threaten to institute new forms of worker surveillance and control. The rise of remote work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic led to a boom in "bossware" — software for employers to monitor every move of their remote workers.

Technologies like VR and AR — which rely on the capture and processing of vast amounts of data about users and their environments to function — could well intensify such a dynamic.

Meta says such data will remain "on device". However, recent research shows third-party Quest apps have been able to access and use more data than they strictly need.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY

Developers are learning, and worried, about the privacy and safety implications of virtual and augmented reality devices and platforms. In experimental settings, VR data are

already used to track and measure biometric information about users with a high degree of accuracy. VR data also have been used to measure things like attention.

In a future where work happens in the metaverse, it's not hard to imagine how things like gaze-tracking data might be used to determine the outcome of your next promotion. Or to imagine work spaces where certain activities are "programmed out", such as anything deemed "unproductive", or even things like union organising.

Microsoft's 365 platform already monitors similar metrics about digital work processes — you can view your own here, if your organisation subscribes. Microsoft 365's entrance to VR spaces will offer it plenty of new data to be analysed to describe your work habits. Moderating content and behaviour in virtual spaces may also be an issue, which could lead to discrimination and inequity. Meta has so far given little in the way of concrete protections for its users amid increasing claims of harassment.

Earlier this year, a report by consumer advocacy group SumOfUs found many users in Horizon Worlds have been encouraged to turn off safety features, such as "personal safety bubbles", by other users. The use of safety features in workplaces may likewise be seen as antisocial, or as not part of "the team". This could have negative impacts for already marginalised workers.

Hockey fever grips City

FIH Pro League returns to Kalinga Stadium with India hosting Spain, New Zealand in double headers



Indian players work on their penalty corner skills during a training session at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: After the successful hosting of the FIFA Women's Under-17 World Cup, the time has come for hockey fever to grip the Odisha capital once more. The much-awaited FIH Pro League 2022-23 will start at the Kalinga Stadium here with India facing Spain and New Zealand. The Spanish and the Kiwi squads arrived here Tuesday while the Indians landed a day earlier and had their first session of training Tuesday under the watchful eyes of head coach Graham Reid.

Meanwhile Hockey India (HI) announced Tuesday that defender Harmanpreet Singh will lead the Indian squad for the games against Spain and New Zealand. Two play-

ers from Odisha – Amit Rohidas and Nilam Sanjeev Xess have found a place in the team. Manpreet Singh has been named as Harmanpreet's deputy. India are scheduled to open their campaign October 28 against New Zealand followed by the game against Spain October 30. The hosts will play their second tie against the 'Black Sticks' November 4 and face Spain again November 6.

"We are continuing to expand the leadership skills of the group with Harmanpreet being selected as captain for these first four games," chief coach Graham Reid said in a HI release.

The team will also see some fresh faces in Mohd Raheel Mousen, who was part of India's victorious outing in the FIH Hockey 5's earlier this year and S Karthi, who

played his maiden tournament for India at the Asia Cup in Jakarta.

"We have chosen an experienced squad to play the first two rounds of Pro League starting this weekend in Bhubaneswar. Given that, we also have two new players playing in the Pro League. Raheel will make his debut in the 11-a-side format after strong performances in the FIH 5's event," Reid informed.

The team have goalkeepers in Krishan Bahadur Pathak and the experienced PR Sreejesh. Among the defenders Harmanpreet will be joined by Jarmanpreet Singh, Surender Kumar, Rohidas, Jugraj Singh, Mandeep Mor and Xess.

Midfielders Sumit, Manpreet, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Shamsher Singh, Rajkumar Pal and Mohd

Raheel Mousen have been picked to represent India. There are five forwards in the side including Karthi. The others are Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh.

Sale of tickets, both online and offline have started and the demand is growing by the minute.

"Given the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2021 and the FIH Hockey Pro League held earlier this year, was closed to spectators. Fortunately, situations have improved and fans will return in large numbers," Odisha Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera said Tuesday.

The hockey stadium dons a new synthetic turf with floodlights as a lead up to the Men's Hockey World Cup in 2023.

National Games medal-winners honoured by Odisha govt

ACHIEVERS GET ₹5 LAKH FOR WINNING GOLD, ₹3 LAKH FOR SILVER AND ₹2 LAKH FOR BRONZE MEDAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The Sports and Youth Services Department of the Odisha government honoured Tuesday sportspersons of the state with special cash awards for their outstanding performance at the 36th National Games 2022 that were held in Gujarat. Among those present on the occasion were Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey and Sports Secretary R Vineel Krishna. The function was held at the Kalinga Stadium here.

Incidentally two Odia sportspersons, namely Dinesh Kumar (three gold medals in cycling) and Muna Nayak (silver medal in weightlifting) were also

felicitated on the occasion.

As earlier committed by the Odisha government, the winners of team and individual sports events at the National Games received ₹5 lakh for gold medal, ₹3 lakh for silver and ₹2 Lakh for bronze medal. A total of ₹3.16 crore cash awards were presented to 100 sportspersons who made the state proud.

"It gives me immense delight and pride to felicitate our young winners. Their hard work and dedication is paying off. They have given their best at the National Games and brought glory for their state," Behera said while speaking on the occasion. "I am confident, from here on, each one of them will surge ahead in the field of sports. We will continue

to support them in their journey throughout," the minister added.

The medal-winners expressed their gratitude to the Odisha government for supporting them and acknowledging their on-field achievements.

Tirkey meanwhile interacted with the medal-winners and encouraged them to stay focused on their respective disciplines and aim for greater success in future.

The Odisha women's rugby team won the gold medal and were felicitated with ₹60 lakh as total team cash prize. Similarly, the women's kho kho team were awarded ₹45 lakh for winning the silver medal.

Majority of Odisha's medals came in the disciplines of kayaking, canoeing and rowing.



Odisha's medal-winners in the National Games pose with dignitaries at the Kalinga Stadium, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

Sindhu back amongst top 5 in BWF rankings

NEW DELHI: Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and Thomas Cup winner HS Prannoy gained a spot each to reach the fifth and 12th positions in women's and men's singles world rankings released Tuesday by the BWF. Sindhu, who has not played any tournament since winning gold at CWG in August due to an ankle injury, has 87,218 points from 26 tournaments. This is after three years that Sindhu, a former World No. 2, has regained her place in the top five. The former world champion from Hyderabad resumed her training Monday after recovering from the injury.

Alcaraz advances

BASEL: Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz rallied to beat Jack Draper 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 in the first round of the Swiss Indoors. Alcaraz clinched with his third match-point chance, firing a forehand winner when following in a strong serve that left-hander Draper stretched to return. The tournament here was scheduled to be Roger Federer's last, but he called time on his career due to a knee injury. Draper started well winning the first set by twice breaking the Alcaraz serve. However, then the 19-year-old Spaniard took firm control.

Simmons to quit

ST JOHN'S (WEST INDIES): Head coach of the West Indies cricket team, Phil Simmons will step down from his role at the end of this year, following the Caribbean side's debacle at the ongoing T20 World Cup where they failed to reach the Super 12 stage. This was the first time since 2007 that the two-time T20 World Champions (2012 and 2016) crashed out of the showpiece event in the group stage, after losses to Scotland and Ireland. "His (Simmons) last assignment will be the upcoming two-Test series against Australia November 30 to December 12," Cricket West Indies (CWI) said in a statement Monday night.

Villa appoint Emery

LONDON: Aston Villa have named Unai Emery as their new head coach, replacing the sacked Steven Gerrard. The club have paid Emery's six-million Euro release clause from Villarreal, just 24 hours after he led the club to a 2-1 home win Sunday over Almeria. The Spaniard replaces Gerrard, who was sacked after a 0-3 defeat to Fulham last week, and returns to the Premier League where he previously had mixed fortunes at Arsenal. Emery led Arsenal to the UEFA Europa League final in 2019 and a fifth-place finish in the Premier League. AGENCIES

JUNIORS DOMINATE TO OUTPLAY JAPAN 5-1

Indian colts regain winning momentum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johor (Malaysia), Oct 25: The Indian junior men's hockey team returned to their winning ways, beating Japan 5-1 at the Sultan of Johor Cup hockey tournament here Tuesday.

Captain Uttam Singh (third), Rohit (12th), Johnson Purty (21st), Bobby Singh Dhami (31st) and Amandeep Lakra (51st) found the back of the net for India, while Ikumi Saeki (15th) scored the only goal for Japan.

After a delayed start, India got out of the blocks quickly, as Uttam beat the Japanese goalkeeper after a spell of domination. And even though Japan threatened with a couple of penalty corners right after that, India's defence wasn't allowing them any space.

India absorbed the pressure from Japan, before Rohit fired home a penalty corner to make it 2-0. However, just before the hooter, Japan pulled one back through Saeki who also converted a penalty corner to make it 2-1.

In the second quarter, both teams traded blows in the first few minutes before India regained their two-goal lead as Johnson found the back of the net with a crisp shot from the top of the circle. Just after half time, it was the turn of Bobby to make it 4-1 in India's favour.



The juniors celebrate Tuesday after scoring a goal against Japan

Immediately Japan earned a fifth penalty corner, but a bad trap allowed the Indian defence to pounce and clear their lines. Japan did step it up in the final minutes of the quarter, but India kept them out, maintaining the three-goal lead and playing most of the game in their opposition's half.

In need of a quick goal in the final phase of play, Japan went on the attack from the start, but India dug deep and controlled the situation well. Having dealt with the initial flurry of attacks, India stepped up the ante and Amandeep converted a penalty corner to make it 5-1.

'Mankading' doesn't bother Hardik

All-rounder feels players have every right to live by the rule book

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 25: "To hell with the spirit of the game, we need to stop making a fuss about this." Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is very clear in his head how the run out of the batter, backing up far at the non-striker's end should be perceived.

Once considered unfair play, although legal, in the gentleman's game, the ICC has now termed these kinds of dismissals as 'run out'. Since October 1, it no longer sits in the 'unfair play' section of its rule book. However, the debate continues if such dismissals are against the 'spirit of game'.

"Personally, I have no problem with it (running out for backing up far at the non-striker's end)," Pandya was quoted as saying in a Podcast released by the ICC. "If I am walking out (of the crease) and someone runs me out, that is my mistake. He (bowler who runs him out) is using the rule to his advantage, that is fine, that's not a big deal," the Indian all-rounder added.

The issue became a hot topic of discussion when Deepti Sharma ran out Charlie Dean at the non-striker's end for leaving her crease too early and handed India a historic 3-0 clean sweep in the women's ODI series in England, last month.

Such run-outs are known as 'Mankading', harking back to the



Rahul's footwork worries coach

first such dismissal crafted by Vinoo Mankad when he ran out Bill Brown at the non-striker's end in this fashion twice in the 1947-48 Test series against Australia.

"We need to stop making a fuss about this (running out at non-striker's end). It is a rule as simple as that. To hell with the spirit of the game," Pandya said.

Pandya also said match-ups between particular opposing players do not work in the shortest format. "Match-ups, honestly, they are overrated. I don't mind saying that. In Test and ODI cricket, it might work but I don't believe it in T20 cricket. I am never worried about match-ups," Pandya asserted.

SYDNEY: KL Rahul's lack of footwork against quality pace attack was monitored by the eagle-eyed Indian coaching staff during the team's net session here Tuesday while exhausted Hardik Pandya was given a recovery break ahead of the T20 World Cup match against the Netherlands. Since the next match is Thursday against the Netherlands, the Indian think tank can afford to rest Pandya, if need be. But, there are no conclusive indications that Pandya may miss a World Cup match even if it's against a weaker side like the Netherlands. It should be stated here that in the latter part of the Indian innings against Pakistan, Pandya had suffered from cramps. However, he said it wasn't anything 'serious'.

RUSSIA REJECTS GRINER APPEAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Oct 25: A Russian court upheld Tuesday the nine-year prison sentence handed to American basketball star Brittney Griner for drug possession, rejecting her appeal.

Griner, an eight-time all-star centre with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and a two-time Olympic gold medallist, was convicted August 4 after police said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at the Sheremetyevo Airport here.

The Moscow region court ruled Tuesday to uphold the sentence. In the ruling the court stated, however, that the time Griner will have to serve in prison will be recalculated with her time in pre-trial detention taken into account. One day in pre-trial detention will be counted as 1.5 days in prison, so the basketball star will have to serve around eight years in jail.

Griner took part in the Moscow Regional Court hearing via video call from a penal colony outside the Russian capital where she is currently imprisoned.

Griner's February arrest came at a time of heightened tensions between Moscow and Washington, just days before Russia sent troops into Ukraine. At the time, Griner was returning to Russia, where she played during the US league's off-season. Griner admitted she had the canisters in her luggage but testified that she inadvertently packed them in haste.

Stoinis storm sinks Sri Lanka

DEFENDING CHAMPS AUSTRALIA BACK ON TRACK WITH 7-WICKET WIN

AGENCIES

Perth, Oct 25: Marcus Stoinis (59 n o, 18b, 4x4, 6x6) destroyed the Sri Lankan attack en route to scoring the fastest 50 by an Australian as the hosts got their T20 World Cup campaign back on track with a seven-wicket victory here Tuesday. Earlier Pathum Nissanka (40, 45b, 2x4) and Charith Asalanka's (38 n o, 25b, 3x4, 2x6) efforts helped Sri Lanka put up a fighting 157 for six after Australia put them in.

Sri Lanka fought hard before they were blown away by the brute force of Stoinis who reached his record half century in 17 balls. Despite losing fast bowler Binura Fernando to injury in the first over, Sri Lanka kept themselves in the game for a major part of Australia's chase.

The dangerous David Warner (11) perished cheaply and skipper Aaron Finch (31 n o, 42b, 1x6) was unable to break the shackles, increasing the pressure on the hosts.



Mitchell Marsh scored a run-a-ball 17 before Glenn Maxwell (23, 12b, 2x4, 2x6) came up with a short blitzkrieg to release some pressure.

During his short stay, Maxwell suffered a nasty blow on the right side of helmet

grill while trying to pull a rising delivery from Lahiru Kumara.

While Finch struggled at the other end, Stoinis came in and produced a barrage of sixes and fours to effectively shut the door

on Sri Lanka.

Stoinis, and the rest of the batters, targeted star Sri Lanka spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who had a day to forget, leaking 53 runs in three overs.

Earlier, defending champions Australia produced a disciplined bowling effort for the majority of the innings before Asalanka propped up the total on a quick pitch. The last four overs yielded 46 runs for Sri Lanka including a 20-run final over from Pat Cummins.

Early on, the Sri Lankan innings could never get the momentum after Australia put them into bat. After Kusal Mendis fell cheaply, Nissanka and Dhananjaya de Silva (26) shared a steady 69-run stand off 58 balls before regular fall of wickets derailed the Sri Lankan innings.

BRIEF SCORES

Sri Lanka 157 for 6 (Pathum Nissanka 40, Charith Asalanka 38 n o) lost to **Australia 158 for 3** in 16.3 overs (Marcus Stoinis 59 n o) by seven wickets

ARGENTINA BANKING ON 'MESSIMAGIC' IN QATAR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires, Oct 25: Growing old, but still one of the best players on the planet, Lionel Messi will lead Argentina in his fifth – and possibly – last World Cup. And with him, Argentina certainly have a chance to win their third title.

"I don't know whether we are big favourites or not, but I believe Argentina are always a favourite for their history, what it means and even more now for how we got here," the 35-year-old Messi said in a recent interview.

Messi helped the South American country end their 28-year title drought when Argentina won the Copa America in 2021. It was Messi's first major title for the national team.

Argentina will play their opening match November 22 in Qatar in Group C against Saudi Arabia. They will face Mexico four days later and then take on Poland November 30.

Few believed Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni would succeed after

he took over four years ago with little experience on the job. He had coached youth teams in Mallorca, where he lives, and was an assistant to Jorge Sampaoli at Sevilla, and later at Argentina.

Scaloni brought in new talent, including goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, defender Cristian Romero and midfielders Leandro Paredes and Rodrigo De Paul. He also rallied Messi and veterans Nicolas Otamendi and Angel Di Maria around him. The 44-year-old coach broke away from the days of 'Messi dependence'. The team are solid on both ends of the field and haven't trailed in a match since the beginning of 2020.

"Today there's no team dominating 70-80% of a match... There are moments in which you have to fall back, work, feel that you are at a hard time," Scaloni said. "The good thing about this team is that they know how to suffer."

Winning the World Cup remains the focus for Messi, and winning it this year would serve as a tribute to soccer great Diego Maradona.