

Quality matters
Actor Alia Bhatt believes that even the best PR exercise can't save an extremely badly-made film
LEISURE | P2

EAM meets Blinken
External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Antony Blinken and holds discussions covering deepening bilateral cooperation, and ongoing wars
INTERNATIONAL | P10

Investors get richer
Investors' wealth has surged by a whopping ₹110.57 lakh crore so far this year, driven by a remarkable rally in the stock market
BUSINESS | P11

Back on top
India's fast-bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah reclaims his number one position in the Test bowlers' rankings
SPORTS | P12



FREEZING A FRAME: Models participating in the Miss Teen International competition pose for a group photo during a visit to the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Wednesday

Diarrhoea claims 9 lives in 4 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Oct 2: A suspected diarrhoea outbreak in two villages under Kotagarh block of Kandhamal district has claimed nine lives within just four days while several others have been affected in the last two weeks, officials said Wednesday.

The nine victims of the outbreak, including a pregnant woman, belong to the remote Kanibaru and Sindhibali villages in Durgapanga panchayat of Kotagarh block.

The deceased were identified as Kudungugalu Majhi, Dhuna Jani, Tapara Jani, Budu Naik, Banalata Jani, Praska Majhi, Parameswar Majhi, Rashmi Jani and Purti Majhi, the pregnant woman.

The Health department is yet to ascertain the actual reason behind the back-to-back deaths of the villagers. However, it is suspected that people were afflicted with the disease after partaking in the post-death ritual feast of an elderly woman in the village.

The Health department however, has pegged the number of deaths at five. Health officials

September 18 and spread to six other neighbouring villages. The affected persons experienced fever, loose motion and stomach ache.

"Three health teams have been sent to the area Wednesday and the situation is under control at present. We are closely monitoring the situation," Public Health Director Nilakantha Mishra said.

Although the official death toll is five, villagers claimed that at least a dozen people have died due to the disease in the recent past.

CDMO Dr Bijay Panda said that the disease might have occurred after the villagers ate stale meat that was in store for long days.

They said they do not have any information on the rest of the deaths. However, they did not reject the claims.

Ambulances failed to reach the area due to hilly terrain and absence of motorable roads. The critical patients are being carried by slings or cots to the health centre, while some of them are being treated under trees, sources said.

Officials said that the affected people have been admitted to various hospitals in Kotagarh and Baliguda in Kandhamal and Muniguda in neighbouring Rayagada district.

The outbreak took place in Kanibaru village



Internet restored as Bhadrak unrest eases

BHADRAK: Internet services were restored Wednesday in Bhadrak district, which has started limping back to normalcy after communal tensions, officials said. Internet was suspended in the district following a clash between two communities Friday over a social media post, they said. Also, prohibitory orders imposed in parts of Bhadrak and Dhamnagar towns following the clash have been partially relaxed, they added. Shops and other commercial establishments have started reopening in the two towns of the coastal district with the relaxation. So far, 33 people, including the man responsible for the social media post, have been arrested, said DSP (Bhadrak City) Anshuman Dwivedi.

Israel declares UN chief persona non grata

TEL AVIV: Israel Wednesday declared UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres 'persona non grata' and banned him from entering the country for his failure to "unequivocally condemn" Iran's missile attack. "Today, I have declared UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres persona non grata in Israel and banned him from entering the country. Anyone who cannot unequivocally condemn Iran's heinous attack on Israel, as almost every country in the world has done, does not deserve to step foot on Israeli soil," announced Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Israel Katz, late Wednesday afternoon. The UN Secretary General had Tuesday said that he is "extremely concerned" with the escalation of the conflict.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



All we need is a few more of these, and Manipur will disappear from everyone's mind

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.0°C	34.0°C
Min Temp	28.0°C	26.0°C
Humidity	84%	88%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

Eye on Bihar polls, Prashant Kishor floats Jan Suraaj Party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Oct 2: Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor Wednesday announced the launch of his political outfit Jan Suraaj Party, a much-anticipated move by which he hopes to take the political landscape in Bihar by storm.

Kishor also named Manoj Bharti, a Madhubani-born former Indian Foreign Service officer, as working president of the party, saying the latter will hold the post till March when organisational polls will be held.

The party was launched at Veterinary College Ground in the state capital in presence of many renowned figures, including former Union minister Devendra Prasad Yadav, diplomat-turned-politician Pavan Varma and ex-MP Monazir Hassan.

The party was floated exactly two years after Kishor had embarked on a more than 3,000-km-long 'padayatra' of the state, from Champaran where Mahatma Gandhi had launched the first Satyagraha in the country, in a bid to mobilise the people for a new political alternative that could cure Bihar of its chronic backwardness.

Speaking on the occasion, the I-PAC founder who gave up political consultancy a few years ago, said, "We will need more than ₹4 lakh crore to improve education in the state. We will raise the money by scrapping the prohibition law which is annually causing losses to the tune of ₹20,000 crore."

"I reiterate that once Jan Suraaj comes to power, the ban on liquor will be scrapped within one hour," said the 47-year-old leader, who is known to be a strident critic of the move by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his former mentor.

In his nearly hour-long speech, he underscored that Jan Suraaj would be a party with a difference with provisions in its constitution which were "never before seen in any political outfit".



The wealth of the entire country seems to have been diverted to Gujarat where factories are being set up in every village. How can people of Bihar get development if they have voted for the growth of Gujarat?
PRASHANT KISHOR

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024

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Selected entries will be awarded the Dharitri Climate Grant as encouragement and impetus for their climate action work at Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024 to be held in November at Bhubaneswar.

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Last Date of Entry : 31st October 2024
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Visit : www.dharitriyouthconclave.com for details

Climate Grant Award Date : 24th November, 2024

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SAVE THE PLANET
CLIMATE ACTION NOW

Israel withstands Iranian missiles

AGENCIES

Jerusalem, Oct 2: Israel's multilayered air-defence system appears to have passed another test after fending off Iran's latest missile barrage.

In Tuesday's night's strike, Iran fired over 180 missiles toward Israel. The attack set off air raid sirens across the country and sent residents scrambling for shelter, but caused only a handful of minor injuries and limited damage, in large part because many were intercepted or landed in open areas.

It was the latest success for an air-defence system that over the past year has intercepted projectiles fired from Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Iran. They have ranged from short-range rockets to medium-range missiles to attack drones to long-range ballistic missiles like those fired Tuesday night.

In Tuesday's attack, the US and Britain said they as-

DEFT AIR DEFENCE

THE ARROW

This system developed with the US is designed to intercept long-range missiles, including the types of ballistic missiles Iran launched Tuesday. The Arrow, which operates outside the atmosphere, has also been used in the current war to intercept long-range missiles launched by Houthi militants in Yemen.

DAVID'S SLING

Also developed with the US, David's Sling is meant to intercept medium-range missiles, such as those possessed by Hezbollah in Lebanon. It has been deployed on multiple occasions throughout the war.

IRON DOME

This system, developed by Israel with US backing, specialises in shooting down short-range rockets. It has intercepted thousands of rockets since it was activated early last decade - including thousands of interceptions during the current war against Hamas and Hezbollah.

GAZAN WORKER ONLY VICTIM OF ATTACK ON ISRAEL

Jericho (West Bank): A 38-year-old Gazan, the only known fatality in Iran's missile attack against Israel, was buried Wednesday. Sameh Khadr Hassan Al-Asali had been staying in a Palestinian security forces compound in the occupied West Bank when he was killed by falling missile debris during Tuesday's attack, which Israel said was largely thwarted by its air defence systems. Security forces personnel carried the body draped in the red, green, white and black Palestinian flag.

People climb on the debris of an Iranian missile intercepted by Israel, near Arad, southern Israel

sisted in shooting down the incoming missiles.

But the vast majority of Israel's air defence over the past year has been carried out by Israel itself. Over the decades, Israel has developed a sophisticated system capable of detecting incoming fire and deploying only if the projectile is headed toward a population centre or sensitive military or civilian infrastructure.

leisure



PHOENIX SPARKS WEDDING RUMOURS WITH ROONEY

After calling her his 'wife' during a podcast, Joaquin Phoenix has sparked rumours that he has secretly married his long-term love Rooney Mara. The *Joker: Folie à Deux* actor, 49, has been publicly dating the actress, 39, since 2017 after they first met five years earlier on set of the movie *Her*.

LADY GAGA HAS LOW-KEY PLANS FOR HER NUPITALS

Actress-singer Lady Gaga has shared the plans of her wedding with Michael Polansky. She recently appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live, and said she and her fiancé Michael Polansky have some low-key ideas for their big day.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ideas play havoc in your head today. The good thing is that you will execute them well. Here is a word of caution for you: avoid hasty decisions. Experienced people will help you find a firm footing. Ganesh advises you to pay heed to elders' counselling.

TAURUS
Religious sentiments will be ruling your thoughts today, says Ganesh. This is a great day for making a trip to a temple or a popular religious destination. You should take your parents and other family members along on this auspicious journey. Your parents are sure to pray shower their love and blessings upon you and pray for your well being.

GEMINI
You will be faced with household problems and worries about your children today. You will need to help your children with schoolwork in the morning. In the evening you will likely head out to dinner with family and friends and relax, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Today, it will be all about finding your comfort zone, and spending the day there. You are likely to spend most of the day with your close friends. Your smooth demeanour will help you breeze through all business deals. The opposite sex may find you irresistible.

LEO
Don't expect you'll be handed everything on a silver platter. Especially today, you must put such expectations on the back burner, says Ganesh. Today, you would do better to dig deep into your resources of persistence, as a somewhat less productive day awaits you.

VIRGO
You will charm people with your flexibility of thought and willingness to adjust today. Those under the spell of love will see an unexpected turn of events; but don't panic, as things will eventually work out in your favour. Some quality family time is also on the cards. Strengthen the family bond by adopting your responsibilities and paying respect to family tradition and conventions, advises Ganesh.

LIBRA
Somebody in a position of power at your workplace may decide to pick on you, just for fun. But your luck is strong, and no one but your own thoughts and misgivings can harm you. You shall find it relatively easy to come out of these troubles; much to the chagrin of those who wish otherwise, predicts Ganesh.

SCORPIO
If you have recently started a joint business venture, today you may take your first step towards sealing a profitable deal. However, you should buy some time before signing any contract today; also, be cautious that you do not get the short end of the stick. The best thing is to go through the finer prints of the deal in order to avoid any misgivings in the future, suggests Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You will enjoy the magic of the Midas touch today, feels Ganesh. In business, sheer brilliance will help you derive the best possible results in productivity and clinching new contracts. Your approach, in general, will be methodical, disciplined and systematic for most part of the day.

CAPRICORN
Your power of reasoning will be strong today, says Ganesh. Those of you beginning your career will show a disposition to take up a job in television or print media. The spiritual side of you may also come to the fore and make you feel at peace, especially when visiting a holy place.

AQUARIUS
You zoom in on research and development today. Your fabulous work speaks volumes and your commitment pays off. You're keen to play Romeo today, and all your gimmicks and surprises will work wonders! Love on, says Ganesh.

PISCES
For those who are salaried, today should be a progressive day for you. Important meetings at the work-place will benefit from your presence and the suggestions you have to make. This should enhance your relationship with your superiors.

PR can't fix a bad film: Alia

Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt recently revealed her belief that even the best PR couldn't save an extremely badly-made film, as every good promotion would ultimately end up tagging along with the quality of the movie.

According to an entertainment portal, Alia said that strategies for promotions have limitations as such. "You can't save a bad film with PR, and if a movie works, it's not solely because of PR either. That's an important distinction," she declared.

The actress added that PR and media visibility shouldn't involve fabricating personal truths. Alia shared that while it's acceptable to highlight certain aspects of one's life in the limelight, lying for image management can have toxic effects. "Repeating a lie a hundred times doesn't make it true. A lie will always remain a lie," she said, urging people to avoid misleading narratives.

Meanwhile, Alia is gearing up for a back-to-back schedule. *Jigra*, directed by Vasan Bala, releases October 11, 2024, while Vedang Raina and Manoj Pahwa have important parts in it. She has already begun shooting for *Alpha*, a spy thriller by YRF, with Sharvari Wagh and has only finished the Kashmir schedule.

Alia will also be seen in *Love and War*, a period drama by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, where she will be reunited with Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal.

AGENCIES



Kajol insists on challenging norms

Mumbai: Actress Kajol, who will be soon seen in the upcoming film *Do Patti* is sharing her opinion on breaking the rule-book.

The actress, Wednesday, took to her Instagram, and shared several pictures of herself wearing an inverted suit with the button closure of the blazer at her back.

She wrote in the caption, "If u don't like the rules.. break

the damn book !#suitup #idontfollowtherules #rulebreaker #mirrormirroronthewall #wearitbackwards".

Earlier, the actress took to her social media account and shared a funny take on Mumbai's torrential rains. Kajol, who enjoys a following of 17.3 million on Instagram, shared a short glimpse from her film, *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, helmed by Karan Johar.

She wrote a caption, "Me running to get some bhajiyas and chai to enjoy the #mumbairains (with the emoji of two umbrellas)."

In the clip, Kajol posted a scene in which she runs in the forest in heavy rain, while taking a satirical dig on Mumbai's weather. Mumbai faced heavy rainfall which seems to continue for more than a week.

KJo ready for trolls

Mumbai: Filmmaker Karan Johar said that he is ready for trolls as he shed light on 'guilty pleasure viewing'.

Karan Wednesday shared a post about the upcoming nine-episode series *The Tribe* featuring Alanna Panday, Alaviaa Jaaferi, Srushti Porey, Aryaana Gandhi, and Alia Jafry. The series delves into the journeys of five young, glamorous, and affluent content creators.

Alongside the poster, he wrote: "THE TRIBE!!! So here's my two bits on GUILTY PLEASURE VIEWING! (and go ahead and

Troll me I will still read your comments with delicious pleasure) With the advent of streaming in our collective lives... series and films which are a click away give us joy as we can cuddle our pillow or our



Jonita's take on minimalism in art

Mumbai: Playback singer Jonita Gandhi, who has teamed up with singer Akshath Acharya for the reprised version of the viral hit song *Nadaaniyan*, has shared her opinion on the use of minimalism in art. Jonita feels that sometimes a piece of art can convey many things by keeping it simple.

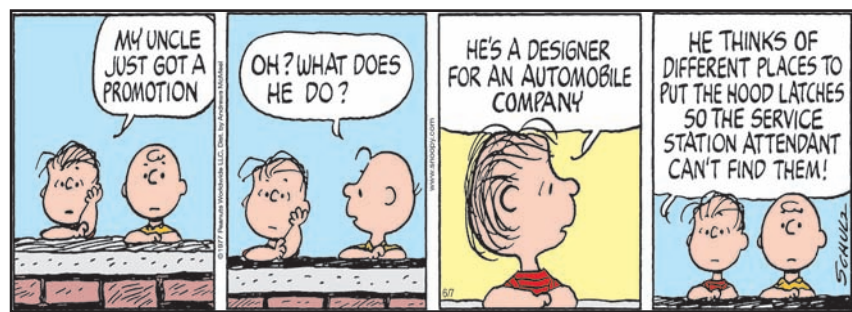
She told this agency, "Sometimes less is more and I think the expression of the song really talks a lot, in spite of a simple structure, we think the essence is captured and really works as the listeners are able to make this song their own". When asked what the song meant to her as an artiste, Jonita, who has worked across several languages of India, said, "I think *Nadaaniyan* is known for its simplicity and relatability - the song feels like an emotion. So when Akshath and I sat to work on a special

duet version, we kept that in mind. It was important to give the audience a fresh take without taking away what we all already know and love about the song".

She further mentioned, "We had a really seamless time working on this female perspective for the song and I'm happy to see that people are connecting so well with it". *Nadaaniyan* is available to stream on Akshath Acharya's official YouTube channel.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

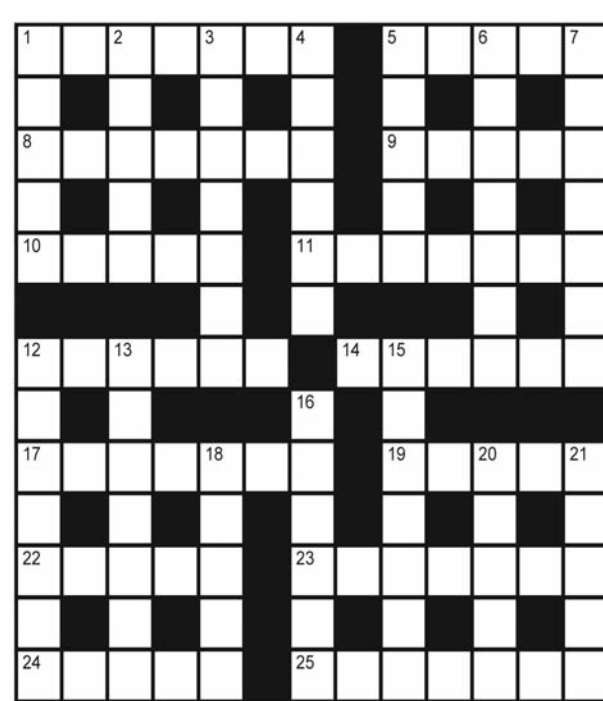


BREVITY



FUN post

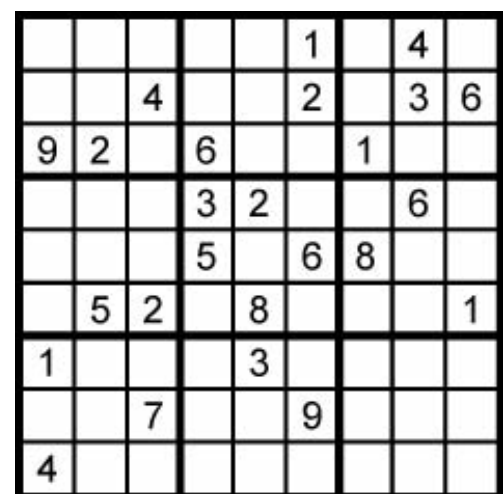
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Fr. country
 - 5 Impersonator
 - 8 Whale's insulating layer
 - 9 Billiards bounce
 - 10 Sports facility
 - 11 Height
 - 12 Spice tree
 - 14 Conformed
 - 17 Charge card
 - 19 Peruvian beast
 - 22 Loafer
 - 23 Torment
 - 24 Barracks boss
 - 25 Like some peanuts
 - 6 The smallest planet
 - 7 Praise
 - 12 Table linens
 - 13 Movie promo
 - 15 Capital of Emilia-Romagna
 - 16 Cream puff
 - 18 Crisp
 - 20 Listing
 - 21 Plant-sucking insect
- Down
- 1 Deadly snake
 - 2 Sky-blue
 - 3 Kiss or hug, e.g.
 - 4 Social turmoil
 - 5 Coffee shop order

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

RICH TRIBUTES

Orissa High Court Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, in Cuttack, Wednesday



Odisha eyes ₹5L crore investment in 5 yrs: CM

ROADSHOW IN DELHI FOR BUSINESS SUMMIT TODAY

The curtain raiser event in New Delhi will feature representatives from 34 countries, including Indonesia, Norway, Singapore, China, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, the USA, Thailand, Vietnam, and the UK

Nine foreign associations will also take part in the roadshow, showcasing Odisha's growing global presence

The 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' will be held in Bhubaneswar January 28 and 29 next year



vestment of Rs 45,000 crore. "Therefore, with blessings of Lord Jagannath, we will meet the target of attracting Rs 5 lakh crore in a span of five years," he said.

The 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' will be held in Bhubaneswar January 28 and 29 next year.

The curtain raiser event in New Delhi will feature representatives from 34 countries, including Indonesia, Norway, Singapore, China, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, the USA, Thailand, Vietnam, and the UK.

Nine foreign associations will also take part in the roadshow, showcasing Odisha's growing global presence, an official said.

"Delhi is ready for the curtain raiser event of the Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025. This event highlights Odisha's plan to attract global investment and grow its industries. With participation from major countries and top brands, Odisha is positioning itself as a key location for business and innovation," said Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, who is accompanying the CM to New Delhi.

The event will end with an interactive session, where the Chief Minister will speak about Odisha's plans for infrastructure, industrial development, and collaboration with international companies.

bring business leaders and investors to Bhubaneswar.

"Today, I am embarking on a tour to Delhi on a mission to bring rapid industrial growth to Odisha. 'Utkarsh Odisha' conclave will take the state to the excellence of industrial development. I will have one-to-one discussions with industry leaders and invite them to attend the upcoming business summit in January 2025," Majhi told reporters before departing for the national capital.

He said the state's priority is to seek investment in food processing, IT, chemicals, petrochemicals and other allied sectors.

Majhi said that within the first 100 days of his government, the state has already attracted in-

3 held for gangrape

BHUBANESWAR: The twin city Commissionerate Police Wednesday arrested three persons in connection with the gangrape of a 29-year-old woman after looting her ornaments here Sunday night. The woman has been staying with her two-year-old daughter under Maitri Vihar police limits here. Police Commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said while two of the accused entered the woman's flat through the balcony and committed the theft and gangrape, another accused - their associate - waited outside to keep a watch. Though the incident took place Sunday night, it came to light after the woman lodged a police complaint Tuesday. She alleged that two masked robbers first looted valuables from her house and then took turns to rape her by holding her child at knife point.

We don't exist without nature: Union Minister

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Human beings are always dependent on nature, irrespective of the scale of development, Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav said during the inaugural session of 'Earth Again Conclave' being organised by 'Sambad' and 'Kanak News' here, Wednesday.

Yadav, who graced the conclave as its chief guest, said Earth has been facing three dangers - impact due to development activities, farmlands turning barren due to use to modern technology and deteriorating biodiversity. And it is harmful for the future generation, he added.

"Be it oil, food, energy, medicine and cosmetics, we are always de-



pendent on the nature. However, in the process of development we are damaging the nature. In fact, humans have destroyed around 50,000 species of flora and fauna. Hence, we need to take pledge for conserving the nature," the Union minister said.

Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy said, "We have been advising all on environment protection. However, we must re-

alise how much damage we are causing to the Mother Earth."

IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra and Energy Swaraj Foundation founder Chetan Singh Solanki also highlighted ways to protect environment.

Among others, 'Sambad' Group Chairman Soumya Ranjan Patnaik and 'Sambad' & 'Kanak News' Editor Tanaya Patnaik were present.

BJP came to power by false promises: LoP

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: BJD president and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Assembly Naveen Patnaik Wednesday claimed that the BJP came to power in the state by making false promises and misleading people.

The former chief minister made the allegations while addressing a gathering after launching the regional party's annual 'Jan Sampark Yatra' in the state capital here.

The ruling BJP, however, denied the allegations asserting that all poll promises were fulfilled. "The BJP has come to power in Odisha by making false promises and telling lies to the people," Patnaik said.

Listing the BJP's promises made during the Assembly polls,



the BJD supreme asked whether the people are getting 300 units of electricity free of cost and Rs 3,000 as social security pension, as promised by the saffron party leaders ahead of the elections. Referring to the state government's flagship Subhadra Yojana, Patnaik asked whether the women get Rs 50,000 each as promised by the BJP in its election manifesto.

"During elections, they (BJP leaders) promised to give many

things to the people. Now BJP's lie has been caught," Patnaik said.

Referring to the alleged sexual assault of a woman at a police station in the capital city recently, the former CM said that women are not safe even in the police station. The BJD president said, "Government servants are also not safe in Raj Bhavan. People cannot trust this BJP government. The party can win elections by lying, but not the hearts of the people. Lies are the identity of BJP." He was referring to the physical assault on a government official allegedly by the son of Governor Raghubar Das inside the Raj Bhavan in Puri during Rath Yatra.

Claiming that BJD is no more a political party, but a movement in the state, Patnaik said the people love the regional party

and trust it.

Citing an instance of his government's programme, Patnaik said lakhs of people benefited from the BJD government's Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY).

However, the present BJP government has changed the name of the scheme, he said.

Responding to Patnaik's charges, BJP spokesperson Manoj Mohapatra said, "Our (BJP) government has fulfilled the promises it had made before the elections."

"The people know everything and therefore rejected the BJD in the last elections. The previous BJD government has looted the state and failed on all fronts," he said, accusing Patnaik of taking shelter in 'lies' to blame the '100-day-old BJP government' in Odisha.



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'Advanced spinal cord surgery in state'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The two most common and painful ailments of the spinal cord and sciatica can now be treated with advanced 3D+4K 5S" endospine surgery, said PC Dey, noted endoscopic surgeon and orthopaedician, Modern Ortho clinic, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar.

Dey said that the latest technology has been introduced for the first time in Odisha and is 1st in the world. With the latest technology, the treatment and surgeries of such diseases could be done with minimally invasive techniques, he said.

"Such techniques ensure lesser blood loss during treatment, smaller cuts or holes for surgeries and faster recovery of the patients," he said.

Dey installed the system August 11 and has carried out 35 surgeries till date.



He said that endoscopic spine surgery is the latest management trend for back pain issues and added that he has performed around 3,000 such surgeries using the technique.

"It achieves almost 100 per cent success in diagnosis and many-fold accuracy in operative goals than traditional procedures like open or micro spine surgeries," he said.

A training programme on spinal cord surgery is going to be held from October 3 and 4 at KIMS, he added.

Second edition of Yi Run announced

Bhubaneswar: In a significant step towards raising awareness about drug abuse and promoting mental well-being, Yi Bhubaneswar Wednesday announced the launch of second edition of Yi Run - Bhubaneswar by Nite | Rise above Addiction and Break the Silence and unveiled its mascot Mighty. The unveiling ceremony took place at Utkal Kanika Galleria Mall in presence of distinguished guests Sports and Youth Services principal secretary Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma, and sports icon Dilip Tirkey. "The event marked the launch of a series of initiatives aimed at combating the growing issues of drug abuse. Mighty," the organiser said.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn on before the Notary Public, Angul, 23.09.2024, that my Father's actual name is Natabar Lenka which has been reflected in his Aadhaar card bearing No-XXXX XXXX 2431. But in my Educational certificates my Father's name has been written as 'Natabara Lenka' instead of 'Natabar Lenka'. So I hereby declare that my Father's name is Natabar Lenka & Natabara Lenka is the same and one person for all future purposes.

Biswa Ranjan Lenka.

By virtue of an affidavit vide No.462 dated 01.10.2024 before the Notary Public, Junagarh, I, Shatruijit Sahoo, R/o. Vill./P.O.- Habaspur, P.S.- Junagarh, Dist.- Kalahandi (Odisha) declare that I wish to add my Son's surname as "Sahoo" in his Passport bearing No. S1808913. Hence he is known as Arnab Gourav Sahoo for all future purposes.

Events held to mark Mahatma's birth anniversary

VARIOUS INSTITUTES OBSERVE THE DAY BY HOLDING A NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES BASED ON MAHATMA GANDHI'S PRINCIPLES OF CLEANLINESS, COMMUNITY SERVICE AND NON-VIOLENCE



Peace March by BJEM School
Bhubaneswar: The 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the 120th birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri were observed at BJEM School here Wednesday.

A peace march was held on the occasion. Also the 6th edition of SRMG (Students Remember Mahatma Gandhi) programme was organised in collaboration with the Alumni Association of Government High School in Badagada, with the support of Union Bank of India (UBI).

Principal Sandhya Jena welcomed the august gathering and while briefing the objective of the programme.

Gracing the occasion as the chief guest, UBI general head Sarvesh Ranjan highlighted Gandhiji's philosophy, ideologies and advised the students to imbibe Gandhian way of living.

SMC manager Pratap Kumar Jena asked the audience to get conditioned in an environment to embrace Gandhian ways of life.

Attending the celebration as the chief speaker, writer and activist Gourang Charan Parida advised the students to follow non-violence.

The chief guest, in presence of guests of honour UBI DGM Niranjan Barik and ward-56 corporator K Shanti, flagged off the Peace March in the morning session.

Presiding the session, BJEM chairman Raghunath Mishra emphasised how Gandhi's talisman works as a source of

constant inspiration for enhancement of all. Eminent Gandhian and freedom fighter Ramahari Goswami was felicitated on this occasion.

KIIT, KISS remember stalwarts
Bhubaneswar: KIIT, KISS and KIMS commemorated the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri with a series of events Wednesday, including Swachhata Hi Seva initiative.



Students, faculties, and staffers participated in a large-scale campus-cleaning drive during the celebration under the supervision of KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta.

Addressing the gathering, Samanta urged the students to be inspired by the principles of Gandhi and Shastri, emphasising the need to maintain cleanliness not only in the environment but also within one's mind.

"Cleanliness is worship. Cleanliness also keeps us healthy and develops a positive spirit within us," he said.

In addition, a plantation drive was also held across various campuses of KIIT and KISS to promote environmental

sustainability.
SafaiMitras feted by Bhub IIT
Bhubaneswar: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar felicitated 25 housekeeping and horticulture staff with the SafaiMitra Award-2024 for their significant contributions to cleaning activities inside and outside the campus during the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign.

Institution director Shreepad Karmalkar felicitated the awardees during Gandhi Jayanti celebration Wednesday.

As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign, IIT-Bhubaneswar conducted



various activities reiterating its commitment towards cleanliness, in line with this year's theme 'Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskaar Swachhata'. Activities were divided into three segments, Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs), Swachhata Mein Jan Bhagidari and SafaiMitra Suraksha Shivirs.

The Institute also organised a mass cleanliness drive recently where students, faculty members and employees joined the housekeeping staff in cleaning the main entrance road.

Artistic tributes, cleanliness drive
Bhubaneswar: City-based organisation, Unmukt Foundation conducted a cleanliness drive at Udayagiri caves here. Marking both Gandhi Jayanti and the foundation's anniversary, the event focused on fostering environmental consciousness in young minds.

"The drive wasn't just about tidying up a space. It was about reconnecting with nature and encouraging Gandhi ji's ideals of 'Swachhata', said Unmukt Foundation founder Shweta Agarwal. Children and participants cleared



the litter, including harmful micro plastics, from the scenic hills. Following the clean-up, they engaged in meaningful discussions about environmental preservation and participated in a calming meditation session.

Simultaneously, at the Shanti Stupa in Dhauli, the NSS unit of Dhauri College of Art and Crafts hosted an art camp titled 'Swachhata Hi Seva'. Forty talented students gathered to create stunning portraits reflecting Gandhi's ideals of cleanliness and simplicity.

Under the guidance of principal Panchanan Samal, the students showcased their artistic interpretations of Gandhi's vision. Social activist Sushant Kumar Sahoo, who attended as the chief guest, praised the initiative.

Run for DAV organised
Bhubaneswar: DAV Unit-VIII campus here reverberated with Vaishnav Jana song as the school observed Gandhi and Shastri Jayanti with heartfelt gratitude and reverence to the two great sons of the country.

To promote the importance of physical fitness, social responsibility and national values within the student community, a mini marathon 'Run for DAV' was also organised. Staff, students, NCC cadets, scout and guide, cub bulbul also participated enthusiastically.



Unemployment woes

RATE OF JOBLESSNESS AMONG STATE'S GRADUATES AND POSTGRADUATES HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE, ACCORDING TO LATEST PLFS REPORT



The latest survey report said 5.1% of Odisha youths (those 15 and above) are unemployed against the national average of 4.9%.

4.9% people in Odisha are working in the agriculture sector during July 2023-June 2024, while it was 44.7 per cent in 2022-23.

State's tertiary sector saw engagement of 27.6% people during July 2023-June 2024 against 29% in 2022-23.

people in Odisha are working in the agriculture sector, while it was 44.7 per cent in 2022-23.

State's tertiary sector, on the other hand, saw engagement of 27.6 per cent people against 29 per cent in 2022-23. The national average during July 2023-June 2024 stood 31.6 per cent.

The declining rate participation in state's tertiary sector also impacted the average salary earnings of individuals, in comparison to the national figure.

"The average salary earned by individuals in formal sector in Odisha was ₹18,671 during July-September 2023 against the national figure of ₹20,095. However, as the simultaneous elections approached, the average salary of an individual in Odisha rose up to ₹19,567 during April-June 2024," it pointed out.

Even though the average salary earned by individuals in Odisha saw an increase during April-June 2024, it was less than that received by those in neighbouring states. "An individual in Andhra Pradesh received an average of ₹21,459, while in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand it was ₹19,753 and ₹18,664, respectively," it said.

Similarly, in case of daily wage earnings, the average income of an individual in Odisha was at ₹355. It was ₹78 less than the national average.

While a daily wage worker earned ₹583 in Andhra Pradesh, it was ₹384 in West Bengal and ₹398 in Jharkhand, the report said.

Meanwhile, the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in Odisha was 62.9 per cent against the national average of 58.2 per cent.

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The unemployment rate among the graduates and postgraduates in Odisha is higher than the national average, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report for July 2023 to June 2024.

The report, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) recently, said 18.9 per cent graduates and 13.6 per cent postgraduates in Odisha are unemployed against the national average of 13 per cent and 12.4 per cent, respectively.

It said neighbouring states like Jharkhand and West Bengal

have fared better than Odisha during the period.

"The unemployment rate among graduates in Jharkhand and West Bengal are 7.5 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively, while in case of post-graduates, it stood 6.4 per cent (Jharkhand) and 7.7 per cent (West Bengal)," the report said.

The latest survey report said 5.1 per cent of Odisha youths (those 15 and above) are unemployed against the national average of 4.9 per cent during the period.

"The unemployment rate in urban Odisha stood at 8.1 per cent, while it was 4.7 per cent in rural Odisha," it said.

The report said 44.9 per cent



ENACTING ROLE: Artistes from Brundaban Natya Sansad perform a play 'Swarga 0 Km' at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

'Working to serve people on path of Bapu'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday asserted that his government is working to serve the people of the state on the path of Mahatma Gandhi.

Majhi was addressing an event in Cuttack to celebrate the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our government is working to fulfill the ideals and goals of Gandhiji in Odisha," he said.

The chief minister said that Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which was launched October 2, 2014, has completed 10 years in 2024.

"The country is cleaner today than before. Millions of rural people have toilets in their houses now," he said.



Stating that Swachhata Abhiyan has become a successful movement in the country, Majhi said PM Modi has fulfilled the goal of Mahatma Gandhi.

He said another dream of Mahatma Gandhi was the development and welfare of the bottom strata of society.

Accordingly, more than 80 crore people in the country are

Govt changes Class IX, X school uniform

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: The newly-formed BJP government has changed the colour of the school uniforms of students studying in Class IX and Class X of government and aided schools.

According to a government order, the new uniforms will have a combination of light brown, chocolate and clay-baked yellow colours.

Currently, the school uniforms have a combination of green and white, which matches the colour code of BJP's party symbol.

In a letter to the Director of Secondary Education, the School and Mass Education department said that secondary school students would now wear the new uniforms.

The new uniforms will be introduced only in those schools where the uniforms for the students, as per the existing colour code, have not been stitched or distributed, the department's letter read.

The change in the colour of the new uniforms has been implemented under the 'Mukhyamantri Chhatra Chhatra Paridhan Yojana'.

ECOR launches cleanliness drive

Bhubaneswar: The East Coast Railway (ECOR) launched a fortnight-long Swachhata Pakhwada, with a focus on ensuring cleanliness across railway stations, trains, offices, workshops, maintenance depots, hospitals, and residential areas under its jurisdiction. The drive is being carried out to create awareness towards maintaining a clean and green India. ECOR general manager Parmeshwar Funkwal emphasised the importance of personal responsibility in maintaining cleanliness.

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Road on forest land sans gram sabha sparks row



Tonto villagers alleged that the mining firm has constructed the road without the approval of Mines department. It did not seek the advice of the jungle committee before taking up the road construction, they alleged. The firm has smuggled more than 1 lakh tonne iron ore to a nearby plant, they said.

est by clearing the green cover without conducting any gram sabha. The villagers alleged that the mining firm has constructed the road even without the approval of Mines department.

Villagers and members of the village committee Sukadev Munda, Budhuni Munda, Radhika Munda, Gora Munda, Muni Munda and Suna Munda have alleged that the mining firm has felled 40-foot tall trees and cleared the hills without conducting any gram sabha. The mining firm also did not consult with the jungle committee before taking up the road construction.

The mining firm has siphoned off iron ores, blue dust (precious iron ores) and other stones weighing over thousands of tonnes while cutting down the hill using heavy stone cutting equipment, the villagers and members of the village committee alleged.

Kasturi Oram, former sarpanch of the panchayat, said the mining firm has cut down

trees from the forest without conducting any gram sabha. It has also swindled large volumes of iron ore and earned crores in premium without the approval of the Mines department. Demanding a thorough investigation into the issue, she alleged that the mining firm has smuggled more than 1 lakh tonne iron ore to a nearby plant.

Sources in the office of the deputy director of mines at Joda said that the office has seized over 5,000 MT iron ore in the first phase and 35,000 tonne iron ore in second phase of construction of the road by clearing forest cover of 700 metre in length.

Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD said the road is being constructed with the approval of the Union government. Barbil forest ranger Ranjan Kalo said the state government has approved the construction of the road.



YOGA FOR HEALTH: Girls perform yoga in the presence of district Collector Siddheshwar Baliram Bondar and other guests at the All-Odisha School Level Yoga and Swimming Championship which commenced at Lady Lewis Girls' High School in Sambalpur, Wednesday

Another lone elephant tranquilised in Bonai

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Oct 2: Fourteen days after a wild elephant was tranquilised and a radio collar was put around it, another wild elephant has been tranquilised under Bonai Forest Division.

The elephant was terrorising residents for the last three months and was finally tranquilised in the small hours of Wednesday.

This male elephant, left out of a herd, has been a trouble maker in the area. It has caused large-scale damage to properties,



crops and injuries to human beings during the last three months, said sources.

The villagers of many remote areas and also the residents of Bonai had made fervent appeals to the DFO of Bonai, Lalit Patra, to tranquilise it and put a radio collar around it so that the department can track it.

Patra and his squad including, ACF of Bonai Jagannath Prasad Bisoi, all rangers of the division, foresters, guards, elephant squad, staff from Simlipal Forest, a special doc-

tor and the tranquilising team started keeping track of the elephant and it was tracked inside the jungle near Bonai town around 12:30am.

Soon, the tranquiliser was shot into it. "Without wasting time, we immediately put the radio collar around it. The previous one is also helping us," said Patra. It was later allowed to go deep into the jungle when it regained its senses.

On September 18, another elephant was tranquilised and a radio collar was put around it.

'Lovebirds' found hanging from tree

POST NEWS NETWORK

Attabira, Oct 2: In a shocking incident, police recovered the bodies of a youth and a minor girl—reportedly lovebirds—hanging from a tree near Bindhyabasini hill at Sankridda under Bheden block in Bargarh district Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Sunil Kathar, 25, and Lija Bhue, 17, both residents of Sarasapali village under Rusuda outpost in Bheden police limits. The police seized the bodies and sent them to Bargarh hospital for autopsy. However, it is still unclear whether they committed suicide or the deaths happened due to some other reasons. Bheden police registered a case of unnatural death (No-17/24) and started an investigation.

According to reports, Sunil and Lija had been into a relationship for a long time. However, their families were opposing it as they were from different castes. Though a meeting was held involving the family members and villagers regarding the matter, the couple went missing August 26. Lija's father, Ananta, had reported their disappearance to the police but there was no trace of them until their bodies were found.

The families reached the spot and identified the bodies. Senior officials, including Additional SP Tapan Kumar Mohanty, SDPO Padarabinda Tripathy, Bheden police station IIC Premajit Dash, and Rusuda outpost in-charge Promod Kumar Sahu conducted an inspection of the spot. The bodies were seized in the presence of additional tehsildar Debanand Sahu. The incident has sent shockwaves in the locality.

Five cops face music over man's mysterious death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Phulbani, Oct 2: Kandhamal police Wednesday placed two cops under suspension and disengaged three home guards from duty following the mysterious death of a person recently.

Kandhamal SP Suwendu Kumar Patra has taken this action against the police officials of Gochhapada police station after the deceased's family mem-

bers and villagers alleged involvement of police in the death of the man, identified as Jyestha Bandaki, a resident of Boudh district.

Bandaki's body, who was a ganja smuggler, was found near Danganamu ghat under Gochhapada police station September 26.

Kanistha Bandaki, the younger brother of Jyestha Bandaki, al-

leged, "My brother and his friend were travelling on a motorcycle.

My brother's friend, who escaped from the police, told us that the police chased them and hit their two-wheeler from behind. When my brother fell down, the police beat him and then killed him on the spot. Later, they dumped his body in the 'ghat' and left the spot with his mo-

torcycle." The SP has suspended an ASI and a havildar. Besides, he disengaged three home guards on duty at the spot September 26, and assigned a senior DSP rank officer to investigate the case, sources said.

According to the SP, the police officials were checking motor vehicles near the ghat that day. At that time, Jyestha and another man did not stop their two-

wheeler at the spot.

"When the police van chased them, the duo ran away into the forest after leaving the motorcycle in the middle of the road. The police team returned to the police station with the bike," the SP said. "I'm not ruling out any criminal angle. I'm personally monitoring the case, and we are trying to examine the person who accompanied the deceased man on that day," he added.

Hundreds offer prayers at Bhatra Gandhi temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Oct 2: Hundreds of people offered prayers at the Gandhi temple at Bhatra in Sambalpur district on the 155th birth anniversary of the father of the nation Wednesday.

It is probably one of the oldest of the few temples dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi in the country.

A bronze idol of the father of the nation is worshipped twice every day with priests reciting Gita and Ram Dhun, Radhakanta Bag, chief priest and president of the temple committee, said.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Collector Baliram Bondar also paid tributes at the temple, while many visitors took part in a cleanliness drive. Members of various social organisations also



garlanded the idol.

The temple at Bhatra in Sambalpur Municipal Corporation area was constructed by people, led by former Rairakhol MLA late Abhimanyu Kumar in 1974.

Abhimanyu Kumar had attended a meeting addressed by Mahatma Gandhi in Sambalpur in 1934.

Kumar was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and he and other locals later decided to build a temple dedicated to the father of

the nation.

The foundation stone was laid March 23, 1971 and the temple was built within three years and inaugurated April 11, 1974.

Prasanta Majhi, a visitor, said, "I visit the temple on Gandhi Jayanti and Shahid Divas. Nowadays, people from even other states come here. Gandhiji is worshipped here every day. People don't wait for any occasion to remember his sacrifices."

In 2019, on the occasion of the 150th birth an-

Celebration in Steel City

Rourkela: Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated by Gandhi Peace Foundation (GPF) unit of Rourkela Wednesday which saw participation of noted Gandhian retired Justice Manoranjan Mohanty.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Mohanty explained how Gandhian philosophy continued to influence him throughout his life. "Gandhi is eternal. He is beyond time. We can rely on him (his ideology) to find out solutions to our problems. And Gandhi will always remain relevant," said the retired Justice. He further added, "Gandhi's relevance cannot be overlooked. For every generation his ideals, teachings and principles are like a beacon of hope." He said, "I have always found him relevant and during hours of depression or confusion I get my answers from his teachings. Social activist and former police officer Suman Dutta said, "Gandhiji and his philosophy have no substitutes. Especially, for the present generation he should be the role model, without any hesitation. So, I request all of you to take cue from his writings and move forward in life."

niversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) named the ring road of the city after the father of the nation.

The 7.5-km-long road, which originates from Dr Nelson Mandela Square and connects with National Highway 53, is called Mahatma Gandhi

Marg. The road runs along Mahanadi.

Mahatma Gandhi had visited Sambalpur twice, December 22, 1928 and May 5, 1934. On both occasions, he had addressed public meetings on the riverbed of Mahanadi near Brahmmapura temple ghat, historian Deepak Kumar Panda said.

MIGRATION SEASON

Forest dept steps up vigil for winged guests

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balugaon, Oct 2: In what has brought cheers for wildlife enthusiasts and bird lovers, migratory birds have started arriving at the blue waters of Chilika here in Khurda district before the onset of winter even as the wildlife wing of the Forest department has set up temporary camps to prevent poaching activities in the area.

While some birds are seen flying in small flocks, others are descending on the waters of Chilika in search of a safe habitat. Typically, the arrival of birds in Chilika begins in the latter half of October, as the atmosphere starts cooling down. However, this year, birds were sighted from the beginning of October. The exact number and species of birds arriving will be clear within a week, said Chilika Wildlife Division DFO Amlan Nayak.



It is pertinent to mention here that migratory birds in huge numbers flock to Chilika perceiving it as a safe haven, from October to March every year.

The birds, which primarily come from regions beyond the Himalayas—such as Northern Eurasia, the Caspian region,



Siberia, Kazakhstan, Lake Baikal, and other remote areas of Russia and neighbouring countries—visit Chilika every winter to escape the harsh cold of their native habitats, departing before the onset of summer.

The birds begin to retreat once summer starts in April. During

this six-month stay, Chilika Wildlife department takes various measures to ensure the safety of avian guests.

As part of its measures to protect the migratory birds, the department has intensified actions to catch bird hunters and keep a close watch on them.

It has set up 21 security camps under five ranges.

In Balugaon range and Nalabana Bird Sanctuary area, four camps have been set up. Similarly, 11 camps have been set up in Tangi, Mangalajodi and Bhushandpur areas and two camps in Satapada range, including the Krishnaprasad area. Moreover, two camps have been set up in Nuapada range and as many in Rambha range.

Additionally, mobile squads have been formed to inspect dhabas, hotels and other eateries along the road. Boats have also been arranged by the department for day-and-night patrolling in the Chilika waters.

During the previous winter, Chilika hosted 1,137,759 birds from 187 species. There were no reported cases of bird poaching during the migration period last winter because of strict patrolling measures in place, the DFO added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
O/O. THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
ANGUL IRRIGATION DIVISION, ANGUL
e-Mail Id: eeangulirrigation@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice No. SE-AID-6/2024-25
No. A-353: The Superintending Engineer, Angul Irrigation Division, Angul on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate basis bid in Single Cover system through e-procurement for the work mentioned below.

1	Total No. of Works	13 (Thirteen) Nos. Civil Work
2	Cost of work put to tender	Approximately Rs.4.15 Lakh to 21.96 Lakh
3	Tender Paper Cost	Rs. 2,000/-, Rs. 4,000/-, Rs. 6,000/- (Non Refundable)
4	Class of Contractor	'D' & 'C' / 'C' & 'B' equivalent Grade/Class
5	Period of Completion	60 Days & 90 Days
6	Availability of Bid Documents and receipt of bid through online	From 10.00 A.M. of 10.10.2024 to 5.00 P.M. of 17.10.2024 in the website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
7	Date, time & place for opening of online tenders	18.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M. and onwards in the O/o. the SE, Angul Irrigation Division, Angul
8	Date, time & place for finalization of tender through transparent lottery system (if required)	29.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/o. the SE, Angul Irrigation Division, Angul
9	Digital Signature Certificate	The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III
10	Name and Address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT)	Superintending Engineer, Angul Irrigation Division, Angul, A/P.O.: Hakimpada, Dist.: Angul, Odisha. e-mail Id: eeangulirrigation@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha at www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Angul Irrigation Division, Angul
OIPR-32049/11/0013/2425

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID
NOTICE

1. Approval under Regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for assets under Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme - XV (ERSS-XV) in Eastern Region.

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (i) Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd, (ii) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd., (iii) Grid Corporation Of Orissa Ltd., (iv) Damodar Valley Corporation, (v) Power Department, Govt Of Sikkim, Gangtok, (vi) Jharkhand Biji Vitran Nigam Ltd. And (vii) West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Ltd.

3. Tariff details:

		Rs. In lakhs				
Asset detail	COD / E-COD	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024	Tariff	2019-20	2021-22	2022-23
Asset-1	22.08.2018	30701.97	Revised AFC based on truing up	5076.63	5054.71	4969.56
Asset-2	23.06.2021	6260.78		-	789.73	1037.49
		Rs. In lakhs				
Asset detail	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2029	Tariff	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Asset-1 (com-bined)	37010.12	AFC	5703.57	5572.37	5436.84	5296.51

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at: www.powergridindia.com.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: GURGAON
Date: 03.10.2024
Sd/-
General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122 001.
A Maharatna PSU

“Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.”
THE MOTHER



The New Gilded Age

Tech billionaires such as Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and Elon Musk are not just among the richest people in human history. They also are exceptionally powerful – socially, culturally, and politically. While this is partly a reflection of the social status that our society attaches to wealth in general, that is not the whole story.

What matters even more than simple wealth is that these particular billionaires are viewed as entrepreneurial geniuses who exhibit unique levels of creativity, daring, foresight, and expertise on a wide range of topics. Add the fact that many of them control major means of communication – namely, the key social-media platforms – and you have something almost unparalleled in recent history.

The image of the rich, brave businessman who transforms the world can be traced back at least to the robber barons of the Gilded Age. But one of the main sources of its contemporary popular appeal is Ayn Rand's novel *Atlas Shrugged*, whose protagonist, John Galt, strives to re-create capitalism through the sheer force of his idealism and will.

While Rand's novel has long held canonical status in the minds of Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and libertarian-leaning politicians, the influence of its central archetype is hardly confined to those circles. From Bruce Wayne (Batman) and Tony Stark (Iron Man) to Dariusz Taz in the TV series *Salvation*, rich, technologically savvy innovators who save the world from impending disaster are a staple of our popular culture.

Some individuals will always have more power than others, but how much power is too much? Once upon a time, power was linked to physical strength or military prowess, whereas now its perquisites usually stem from what Simon Johnson and I call “persuasion power,” which, as we explain in our book *Power and Progress*, is rooted in status or prestige. The greater your status, the more easily you can persuade others.

The sources of status vary greatly across societies, as does the extent to which it is unequally distributed. In the United States, status became firmly linked to money and wealth during the Industrial Revolution, and income and wealth inequality skyrocketed as a result. While there have been periods in which government intervention sought to reverse the trend, American society has always been structured around a steep status hierarchy.

This structure is problematic for several reasons. For starters, the constant competition for status – and the persuasion power it confers – is largely a zero-sum affair, because status is a “positional good.” More status for you means less status for your neighbour, and a steeper status hierarchy implies that some people will be happy while many others are unhappy and dissatisfied.

Moreover, investments in zero-sum activities tend to be inefficient and excessive compared to investments in non-zero-sum activities. Is it better to spend a million dollars on gold Rolex watches or on learning new skills? Commentators often ask why someone with hundreds of millions of dollars would ever need hundreds of millions more. There are few things that you cannot afford if you already have \$500 million, so why long for \$1 billion? Because “billionaire” is a rank of status. What matters is not the spending power but the prestige and power that it confers relative to one's peers. Under a “wealth-is-status” equilibrium, a mad dash by the ultra-wealthy to amass ever more wealth becomes inevitable.

The deeper we are drawn into the “wealth-is-status” equilibrium, the more we may come to accept the supremacy of tech billionaires. Yet it is difficult to believe that wealth could be a perfect measure of merit or wisdom, let alone a useful proxy for authority on carpentry or freedom of speech. Moreover, wealth is always somewhat arbitrary. We can argue endlessly about whether LeBron James is better than Wilt Chamberlain was at the peak of his basketball career, but in terms of wealth, there is no contest. While Chamberlain had an estimated net worth of \$10 million at the time of his death in 1999, James's net worth is estimated at \$1.2 billion.

These different outcomes are not about each player's respective talent or work ethic. Rather, Chamberlain happened to live at a time when sports stars were not compensated as much as they are today. This is partly about technology, partly about norms, and partly about taxes. Similarly, if the tech sector had not become so central to the economy, and if it was not driven by such strong winner-take-all dynamics, today's tech tycoons would not have become so rich. The fact that Gates and Musk have been taxed less does not make them any wiser, but it certainly has made them wealthier, and thus more influential under the prevailing “wealth-is-status” equilibrium.

Such figures also benefit from an even more pernicious dynamic that Johnson and I explore in *Power and Progress*, using the example of Ferdinand de Lesseps. Lesseps gained tremendous status in late-nineteenth-century France, where he was known as “Le Grand Français,” owing to his success in completing the construction of the Suez Canal in the face of longstanding British opposition to the project.

Lesseps had foresight, and he demonstrated great skill in convincing politicians in Egypt and France that maritime international trade would become very important. But he was also tremendously lucky: the hoped-for technologies that he needed to build the canal without locks were developed just in time to save the project. With his Suez victory, Lesseps gained great prestige. But what he did with his new status is instructive. He became reckless, unhinged, and cocky, pushing the Panama Canal project in an unworkable direction that ultimately led to the deaths of more than 20,000 people and the financial ruin of many more.

Lesseps' story remains relevant, because it clearly has echoes in the behavior of many billionaires today. While some of America's wealthiest individuals do not use their wealth-derived status to influence critical public debates (think Warren Buffett), many do. Gates, Musk, George Soros, and others do not hesitate to weigh in on matters that are important to them, and while it is easy to welcome such contributions from those whom we agree with, we should resist this temptation. It makes a lot of sense for society to tap into the knowledge and wisdom of those with expertise on a given topic, but it is counterproductive to amplify the status of those who already have plenty of status.

Of course, it is not entirely billionaires' fault that US policy is fueling massive inequality. They should, however, bear responsibility if they misuse the immense status that wealth affords them under conditions of rising inequality. If unaccountable billionaires already wield too much undue social, cultural, and political influence, the last thing we should want is to give them even bigger public forums – for example, in the form of their own social network as Musk now has through his ownership of X. Instead, we should pursue stronger institutional means of limiting the power and influence of those who are already privileged, as well as reconsider the tax, regulatory, and spending policies that created such massive disparities in the first place.

But the most important step will also be the most difficult. We need to start having a serious conversation about what we should value, and how we can recognise and reward the contributions of those who do not command vast fortunes. While most people would agree that there are many ways to contribute to society, and that excelling in one's chosen vocation ought to be a source of individual satisfaction and the esteem of others, we have disregarded this principle, and are at risk of forgetting it altogether. That, too, is a symptom of the problem.

The writer is Institute Professor of Economics at MIT
@PROJECTSYNDICATE

CASE FOR INTERNET FREEDOM

FOCUS FREE SPEECH



DV Ramana

GOVERNMENTS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE CREATED LAWS TO HANDLE MISUSE OF INTERNET FREEDOM

Internet freedom and courts are in the news once again. The Centre had suggested an amendment to the Information Technology (IT) Act 2000. Under the amendment to the Act, the Centre proposed to establish Fact Checking Units (FCU) to identify fake news about its activities, and it mandated that intermediaries pull down content identified as “misinformation” by the FCU, or else face judicial proceedings. The proposed amendment reveals the continuous efforts of the government to control freedom of expression on digital platforms.

The judiciary, once again, stepped in to protect freedom of speech in digital media. The judgement delivered by Justice Atul Chandurkar of Bombay High Court on 20 September, declared the amendments unconstitutional, primarily mentioning violations of fundamental rights provided in Articles 14 and 19.

Human beings have an innate interest in communicating with others by listening and sharing their views. Developments in digital technology have provided different avenues for people to express themselves and democratised communication. Through digital communication, one can reach millions of people within a short period. But people are also concerned that digital tools can be used to manipulate opinions clandestinely, which poses a threat to democracy and individual independence. Different facets of communication and restrictions on communication have been an important topic of research for ages in various branches of knowledge.

One of the important theories is the democracy-based theory. The theory says freedom of speech is vital for both individual liberty and collective self-governance. According to John Rawls, a key advocate of this view, restricting citizens' speech disrespects their status as free and equal moral agents, who



Courts have played an important role in maintaining a balance between freedom of expression, societal interests, and democratic values

have a moral right to debate and decide the law for themselves.

Governments in different countries have created laws to handle misuse of internet freedom. In India, we have the IT Act, 2000, which provides legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication. One of the relevant sections of the Act that directly impacts internet freedom is Section 66A. Section 66A of the IT Act made it a punishable offense for any person to send offensive information using a computer or any other electronic device. The provision also made it punishable for a person to send information they believed to be false. Such laws created more apprehension in the minds of the people about whether the laws are protecting or curbing freedom of speech.

According to Freedom House's 2023 report, there has been a persistent decline in internet freedom for 13 consecutive years, with 29 countries experiencing worsening conditions for online human rights. Key metrics used, in examining the internet freedom, include internet connectivity, social media restrictions, website blocks, and content removal.

The report shows the deteri-

orating internet freedom in India too, despite the Constitution guaranteeing every citizen the right to freedom of speech and expression. Section 66A was partly responsible for this decline in internet freedom. This is where one remembers the proactive role of the judiciary in protecting internet freedom in India. The Supreme Court played an important role in this direction by giving a landmark judgement in *Shreya Singh vs. Union of India* (2015). This case revolves around the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution. The controversy relates to the arrest of two Mumbai-based girls in 2012 who faced charges under this section for their critical Facebook posts about a political bandh. The case sparked widespread protests and media attention, highlighting the clash between digital expression and legal constraints.

Though the girls were released after a few days, the arrest and the case attracted public protest. Ten criminal and civil writ petitions were filed with Supreme Court. The Supreme Court clubbed all writs into a single PIL. The main argument of the petitioners was that Section 66A was unconstitutional because it violated the right to freedom of speech and ex-

pression. The two-judge bench of Justices Chelameswar and Nariman struck down Section 66A in its entirety.

The Court discussed three fundamental concepts in understanding freedom of expression: discussion, advocacy, and incitement. It emphasised that mere discussion or advocacy of ideas, even if unpopular, is protected, whereas only incitement to violence or public disorder can justify restrictions.

Despite such a powerful judgement that made Section 66A unconstitutional, the government continues its efforts to impose some form of censorship on digital communication through the IT Act. In such situations, the courts have played an important role in maintaining a balance between freedom of expression, societal interests, and democratic values.

However, one must remember that open competition between the government and the citizens cannot be resolved by courts alone. In such situations, we may need to look for solutions outside courtrooms and corridors of power. We may take cues from Gandhi's ideas on freedom of speech. Mahatma Gandhi's ideas on freedom of speech were shaped by his commitment to non-violence and social reform. He emphasised the need for restraint and responsibility in exercising this freedom. Gandhi placed the onus on individuals to be responsible when sharing their views.

I would like to end with a sense of optimism about the future by quoting the famous Lebanese poet, Kahlil Gibran: “Yesterday we obeyed kings and bent our necks before emperors. But today we kneel only to truth, follow only beauty, and obey only love.” Hope Gibran's words become a reality, making courts redundant for protecting our freedom of speech.

The writer is a professor at XIMB.

SPECTRUM FINANCING

Sri Lankans need a new debt deal



CP Chandrasekhar & Jayati Ghosh

AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE, SRI LANKANS NEED A LEADER WHO PUTS THEIR WELL-BEING ABOVE THE INTERESTS OF FOREIGN BONDHOLDERS

Ranil Wickremesinghe, Sri Lanka's president, recently lost his re-election bid after voters overwhelmingly rejected the debt-restructuring deals he negotiated with the International Monetary Fund and other creditors. Instead, Sri Lankans elected Anura Kumara Dissanayake, leader of the left-wing National People's Power alliance and a vocal critic of IMF-imposed austerity measures, who has vowed to renegotiate the country's agreement with the Fund. In an effort to persuade voters that his leadership was crucial to resolving the country's ongoing debt crisis, Wickremesinghe announced on 19 September – just two days before the presidential election – that he had secured a debt-restructuring deal with international private bondholders. If Dissanayake is committed to charting a new economic course, his most pressing task will be to renounce this deal.

Sri Lanka's debt crisis, which caused the country to default on its foreign debt in 2022 and left its economy in shambles, can be attributed to gross economic mismanagement under the corrupt administration of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Wickremesinghe, who became interim president and had to oversee the protracted restructuring negotiations, was forced

to accept onerous and humiliating conditions, including severe austerity measures and cuts to workers' pensions, in exchange for a \$2.9 billion IMF loan.

During our visit to Sri Lanka in July, we witnessed firsthand the heavy toll the IMF programme has taken on the country's population. One problem lies in the Fund's debt-sustainability analysis, which served as the basis for debt-restructuring negotiations and set flawed and unrealistic targets. By now, it is abundantly clear that the country cannot meet these targets, yet ordinary Sri Lankans continue to bear the costs of a failed economic strategy.

As of March 2024, international bondholders held roughly \$12.5 billion of Sri Lanka's \$34 billion in foreign debt. The deal Wickremesinghe announced just before the election proposes swapping existing debt for new bonds at a lower value – thereby imposing an immediate haircut on creditors, although much lower than required to restore debt sustainability under sensible assumptions – and introduces a novel financial instrument: macro-linked bonds.

This instrument, which would require the Sri Lankan government to share the gains from above-target GDP growth with its creditors, was initially presented as a way to enhance debt sus-

tainability. In reality, its primary purpose is to maximise payments to bondholders, offering Sri Lanka no protections if economic growth does not recover.

The proposed deal, which still needs to be approved by the Fund and the official creditors' committee, would inflict unnecessary pain on the people of Sri Lanka. A draft of the proposed agreement underscores the far-reaching implications of Sri Lanka's debt-restructuring deal for other financially distressed countries seeking to restructure their external obligations. Hidden within the text is a provision that allows bondholders to “change the governing law” of the new securities to “English or Delaware law” with approval of a supermajority of bondholders, “if proposed by holders of 20% of any particular series of the new securities.”

Simply put, a small group of bondholders could initiate a vote to change the jurisdiction in which legal disputes or future restructuring agreements are handled. If a “supermajority” agrees, creditors could change the legal framework governing an outstanding bond long after the bond has been issued. (Tellingly, Delaware is a tax haven.)

Instead of demanding much-needed reform of global debt markets, Sri Lanka's previous government effectively aligned itself

with the interests of bondholders intent on strengthening their bargaining position. This creates the potential for more severe harm to the people of Sri Lanka, if, as is likely, this debt deal proves to be unsustainable in a few years.

The agreement, if it holds, could also encourage bondholders to push for similar provisions in future debt-restructuring deals. Over time, this would enable creditors to sidestep legislation intended to rein in predatory practices and undermine developing countries' efforts to secure meaningful debt relief.

Given the stakes, Dissanayake must deliver on his promises and reject Wickremesinghe's deal. Sri Lanka – and the rest of the developing world – should not be held hostage by the failed policies of a defeated president. To support the country's economic recovery and put it on a sustainable debt path, the terms of the IMF loan can and must be renegotiated. At this critical juncture, Sri Lankans need a leader who puts their well-being above the interests of foreign bondholders.

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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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Nail the saboteurs

Sir, Increase in train mishaps due to sabotage is a major cause for consternation. Gas cylinders, detonators, stones, fire extinguishers and rods are some objects that are commonly placed on the tracks to derail incoming trains. In several instances, fishplates may be removed or even the train joints may be loosened. Therefore, the Indian Railways is expected to go the whole hog in halting a saboteur on the track, and it is good to hear that a start has been made. “Live cameras” along the railway tracks is definitely a great idea but to what length and breadth these cameras will be put in place remains a moot question. The Railways intends to make use of the villagers and locals near the railway tracks so that they can bring any acts of omission and commission to the notice of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) or the Government Railway Police (GRP). Bridging the glaring manpower gap and an unflinching vigil are essential measures to identify and nail the rail saboteurs.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Again ceasework

Sir, This refers to the news report “West Bengal junior doctors resume total ceasework.” OrissaPOST, October 2. I would like to comment that honouring some of the demands of the junior doctors such as to ensure timely justice, filling up of vacant posts of doctors, nursing staff and health workers, setting up inquiry committee in every medical college are no doubt time consuming. The process can no doubt be initiated from the side of the state government. But needless to add, the government has no control to hurry up the judicial process and the pertinent question arises: are junior doctors' lawyers appearing on their behalf giving any indication of any negative outcome of proceedings in the apex court? If that not be the situation can't the junior doctors patiently wait for justice instead of contemplating to go on a complete ceasework?

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

MUDA SCAM

Siddaramaiah quotes Gandhi



AGENCIES

Bangalore, Oct 2: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is facing the Lokayukta and ED probes on MUDA 'scam', Wednesday quoted Mahatma Gandhi, who said the "court of conscience" was above all courts.

He said Gandhi might have been killed, but his ideals cannot be killed; truth and non-violence cannot be killed. Addressing the Gandhi Jayanti event organised by the 'Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi', he said, "So all of us should try to conduct ourselves in accordance with our conscience, irrespective whether others like it or not, whether they oppose or appreciate, but we should try to work according to our conscience."

These remarks from the Chief Minister, have come at a time when Lokayukta and ED probes are on against him in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, as per the direction of the courts.

Lokayukta police registered an FIR against Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, Devaraju - from whom Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi - and others, following a Special Court order September 25.

The order of the Special Court came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah.

The ED has also registered an Enforcement Case Information

HDK slams MUDA's move

JD(S) leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy Wednesday questioned the MUDA's decision to take back 14 plots allotted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi B M, and said it amounts to "destruction of evidence". He demanded that the Lokayukta police, which is probing into the case, arrest the MUDA commissioner for the decision. State BJP President B Y Vijayendra too expressed surprise over the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Commissioner's decision, and termed it "illegal". MUDA Tuesday decided to take back 14 plots allotted to Parvathi, following her decision to relinquish their ownership and possession.



Mahatma Gandhi ji had said there is a highest court above all our courts and that is the court of conscience, it surpasses all the other courts.... sometimes everyone may not get justice from the courts, but I can clearly say that, as Gandhi ji said -- the courts we see cannot be above this court of conscience

SIDDRAMAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

Report (EICR), equivalent to an FIR by police, against the Chief Minister over the alleged irregularities in allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the MUDA.

Noting that the Congress party and its government has always been committed to the Constitution, the CM highlighted various welfare programmes of his government including the five guarantee schemes, asserting that it is aimed at giving economic and social strength to weaker sections.

The caste system cannot be eradicated easily, he said, adding, Gandhi fought against caste system and untouchability, but untouchability is still there in many places.

Siddaramaiah also remembered former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, whose birth anniversary is also observed today, as one of the honest politicians the country has seen.

Chinese garlic glut in market worries farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mangalore/Udupi (Karnataka) Oct 2: The Chinese-grown garlic has flooded the tier-two cities and smaller towns and cities in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts, worrying farmers in the region.

The traders and growers Tuesday had expressed dismay over the Chinese garlic flooding the markets in Shivamogga.

Following the complaints by the traders, Udupi Municipal Commissioner, B Rayappa has raided a wholesaler and confiscated five quintals of Chinese garlic from the Agricultural Produce



& Livestock Market Committee (APMC) yard in Adi Udupi. He assured the traders that

only after ensuring the legitimacy of the Chinese garlic he would release the produce in

Traders said while Indian varieties of garlic are priced at ₹250 per kg, the Chinese garlic is sold at ₹50-60 per kg

They added that the customers prefer Chinese garlic as it is bigger and easy to peel and crush

the market. Traders said while Indian varieties of garlic are priced at ₹250 per kg, the Chinese garlic is sold at ₹50-60 per kg. They added that the customers prefer Chinese garlic as it is bigger and easy to peel and crush.

According to APMC officials in Mangalore, the Chinese gar-

lic has arrived in the market under a trade licence held by the wholesalers.

They also said retail traders do not need a special trading licence to trade in Chinese garlic.

A bulk trader in the old port area, Mohammad Ishaq told PTI that Chinese garlic makes its appearance in the Indian market every now and then.

However, according to him, it balances the price level in the market.

Due to the influx of Chinese garlic, the prices of Indian garlic, which is trading at ₹200-225 per kg, will level off at ₹175 to 150 per kg, Ishaq added.

AAP slams Delhi cops' prohibitory order

The Delhi Police Monday issued the prohibitory order against any protests or gathering of five or more persons in the central and border areas of the city for the next six days, citing law and order issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj Tuesday termed Delhi Police's prohibitory orders against any protest or gathering in some parts of the city "Tughlaqi farmaan", and demanded its rollback claiming it has been issued to "ban" Hindu festivals and "hurt" their religious sentiments ahead of Navratri.

The order was issued under the section 163 (earlier section 144 of CrPC) of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita. Bharadwaj hit out at Lieutenant Governor in a statement, Bharadwaj said, "The LG's police is deliberately hurting the



not able to handle the city's law and order.

"This order is laughable and irresponsible; it has been issued to ban the festivals of Hindus, create chaos and harass Delhi people," the Delhi minister said. In a statement, Bharadwaj said, "The LG's police is deliberately hurting the

religious sentiments of Hindus ahead of Navratri and arbitrarily imposing curfew-like restrictions in Delhi."

Navratri is going to start from October 3 and thousands will flock markets, temples, he said, asking if Delhi Police will now start arresting innocent devotees as gathering of five or more

people is prohibited.

"Do Hindus not have the right to celebrate their festivals under the BJP's administration?" he alleged.

Citing the prohibitory order, Bharadwaj said that the reasons cited - MCD and DUSU polls, VIP movement and elections in Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana - to justify the order hold no water. Why ban festivals in Delhi if elections are being held in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, he asked.

The Delhi government minister also alleged that the law and order situation in Delhi was degrading and several gangsters were demanding extortion money from traders and businessmen in the national capital.

Bharadwaj said that even BJP leaders were not safe in the city and cited an extortion message received by a leader of the party in Uttam Nagar area.

AAP national convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a post on X said that he was "very concerned" over the "deteriorating" law and order situation in the capital.

Kejriwal to vacate CM residence in 1-2 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: A house has been finalised in New Delhi area for the AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal where he will move along with his family in the next one to two days, vacating the official residence of Delhi Chief Minister at Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines, the AAP said Wednesday.

Kejriwal is likely to move in with his family in one of the two official bungalows allotted to the AAP Rajya Sabha MPs on Feroz Shah Road near Mandi House, sources in the party claimed. Kejriwal, who resigned as the Delhi Chief Minister earlier this month, said that he would vacate the official Flagstaff Road residence during the Navratri period. The auspicious Hindu festival commences from Thursday.



People take part in Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, in Bangalore, Karnataka

PTI PHOTO

Palace city of Mysuru gears up for Dussehra

Dussehra, considered to be one of the biggest and most important festivals of the region, grew as a festival of masses under the royal patronage of the then Mysuru dynasty; continuing with the traditions, it is being celebrated under the auspices of the Government of Karnataka, after India became independent and republic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mysuru, Oct 2: It is that time of a year again, when this palace city gets decked up for annual 10 day long celebrations, playing host to a plethora of religious and cultural events, to keep up the traditions of celebrating Dussehra or Navaratri festival that began in 1610.

Celebrated as 'Nada Habba' (state festival), the festivities will be a grand affair this year depicting Karnataka's rich culture and traditions, coupled with reminiscence of royal pomp and glory.

Renowned writer and scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah will be inaugurating the festivities during the auspicious "Vrushchika Lagna" between 9.15 am and 9.45 am October 3, by showering flowers on the idol of goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru and its royals, amid chanting of vedic hymns, at the premises of Chamundeshwari temple atop the Chamundi Hills here.



He will be accompanied by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, several of his cabinet colleagues, senior officials among others at the inaugural. They are also likely to visit the Chamundeshwari temple and offer prayers to the goddess, who is referred to as "Naada Devate" (state deity), ahead of the inaugural.

Siddaramaiah had recently said that it has been decided to

celebrate Mysuru Dasara with grandeur and in a meaningful way this year, in the wake of good rains in the state.

Various programmes will be held during these auspicious days of Navratri, during which the palace, major streets, turnarounds or circles and buildings of Mysuru will be beautified by illuminating them with lights, fondly known as "Deepalankaara".

Nearly 6,500 artists, including those from 508 troupes from across the State, will be performing in various cultural events during the Dasara this year at about 11 different platforms.

Also, dozens of events that attract people like- food mela, flower show, cultural programmes, farmers' Dussehra, women's Dussehra, Yuva Dussehra, children's Dussehra,

and poetry recital are also conducted.

However, cultural events in front of the illuminated Ambavilasa palace will be the main attraction, as it will be the main venue for performance by acclaimed artists from both state and national level. This is the very venue where the Chief Minister will confer the prestigious State Sangeetha Vidwan Award.

Other than these events, the famous Dasara procession (Jumboo Sawari), Torch Light Parade, and Mysuru Dussehra Exhibition are the ones that attract a large number of people, turning the city into a carnival of sorts, during the ten day festivities.

However, there will be no air show this year, during Dasra,

according to district administration.

The Navaratri include various decorations and celebrations in households across Mysuru and surrounding areas, namely Gombe habba (arrangement of traditional dolls), Saraswati Pooja, Ayudha Pooja and Durga Pooja, among others. While at the palace too, the royal family will celebrate the festivities as per their traditions.

The Navaratri celebrations at the palace include several rituals, most remarkably Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, the scion of Mysuru royal family, dressed in grand attire, conducting Khasagi durbar (private durbar) by ascending the golden throne, amid chanting of vedic hymns.

The 10-days event, like every year, is likely to showcase Karnataka's cultural heritage resplendent with folk art forms; it attracts large crowds and tourists



IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during a virtual press conference Tuesday that more and intense low-pressure systems, especially in August and September, resulted in 8 per cent more rainfall than usual in India during the 2024 monsoon season.

The southwest monsoon season officially ended Monday, with the country recording 934.8 mm of rainfall compared to the normal 868.6 mm - the highest since 2020. Delhi recorded 1029.9 mm of rainfall against a normal of 640.3 mm in the 2024 monsoon season.

national

of the day quote

Based on intel input, 14 illegal Bangladeshi nationals were apprehended by @assampolice yesterday in South Salmara and Karimganj, 9 of them were found carrying Indian Aadhaar cards

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

Mahatma Gandhiji had wished that the Congress be dissolved after Independence since its utility was over. I would like to remind the Opposition about this wish if they are genuine follower of Gandhian ideals

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | DEPUTY CM, MAHARASHTRA

We are launching the 'Hakk Magtoy Maharashtra' (state demanding rights) campaign across the state. We stand united to create a charge sheet against the Maharashtra government

JAYANT PATIL | UNIT CHIEF, MAHARASHTRA

SHORT TAKES

Schoolboy dies after being hit by excavator

Kolkata: A class 9 student was killed as an excavator allegedly hit him in south Kolkata's Bansdroni area Wednesday morning, police said. The boy was on the way to his tuition classes when the accident happened near Dinesh Nagar auto stand, they said. He was taken to the Bangur Hospital in Tollygunge by locals and doctors there declared him dead. Following the accident, locals protested, alleging that the accident happened because of the deplorable condition of the road, which had not been repaired for long.

IAF helicopter makes emergency landing

Muzaffarpur: An Indian Air Force helicopter made an emergency landing in a waterlogged area in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district Wednesday after it developed a snag, officials said. Senior Superintendent of Police Rakesh Kumar said the helicopter was coming from adjoining Darbhanga after air-dropping relief material to flood-hit people. District Magistrate Subrat Kumar Sen said, "All four occupants appear safe and unharmed. However, as a precaution, they are being taken to a local hospital for check-up and treatment, if required."

3 dead as truck rams into tractor

Bhuj (Gujarat): Two women and a child died and 11 others sustained injuries after a truck hit a tractor carrying people returning from pilgrimage in Gujarat's Kutch district Wednesday, police said. The tractor, carrying devotees returning from Ashipura Mata temple at Mata No Madh in Lakhpat taluka, was hit by the speeding trailer truck from behind. Two women and a nine-year-old boy were killed on the spot.

4 of family found dead at home

Nagpur: A couple and their two sons were found dead at their home in Maharashtra's Nagpur district Wednesday morning, with police suspecting it to be a case of suicide. A purported suicide note found in the house pointed to the family being under stress due to the arrest of one of the sons in a fraud case, a Nagpur rural police official said. Some neighbours noticed unusual silence at the family's residence at Mowad village and alerted police.



The state government has been implicating Congress leaders on false charges. Be it the BJP government at the Centre or the state, they use Income Tax (department), CBI and ED to suppress the voices of Congress leaders

SACHIN PILOT | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

SC TO DELIVER VERDICT ON PLEA AGAINST 'CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION' IN JAILS

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pronounce its verdict Thursday on a plea which has alleged that prison manuals of some states in the country encourage caste-based discrimination. According to the cause list of October 3 uploaded on the apex court website, a bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is slated to deliver the judgement on the petition



MEA: Concerned over West Asia escalation

The MEA urged Indians currently residing in Iran to remain vigilant and stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Tehran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: India Wednesday expressed deep concern over the escalation of the security situation in West Asia and said the conflict must not take a wider regional dimension even as it advised its nationals to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran.

India's comments came a day after Iran fired around 200 missiles into Israel in response to Israel's killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and other commanders of the militant outfit.

Following the Iranian action, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran will "pay" for it.

In its reaction to the fresh hostilities in West Asia, New Delhi reiterated its call for addressing all issues through "dialogue and diplomacy."

"We are deeply concerned at the escalation of the security situation in West Asia and reiterate our call for restraint by all concerned and protection of civilians," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"It is important that the conflict doesn't take a wider regional dimension and we urge that all issues be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy," it said in a statement.

As tension spiked in view of



The travel advisory was issued after Iran fired a barrage of around 200 missiles at Israel Tuesday night

Iran-Israel hostilities, India advised its citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran.

In an advisory, the MEA also urged the Indian nationals residing in Iran to remain vigilant and stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Tehran.

According to official data, over 4,000 Indian nationals are residing in Iran.

"We are closely monitoring the recent escalation in the security situation in the region," the MEA said.

"Indian nationals are advised

to avoid all non-essential travel to Iran. Those currently residing in Iran are requested to remain vigilant and stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Tehran," it said.

The Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv Tuesday issued an advisory for Indian nationals living in Israel.

"In view of the prevailing situation in the region, all Indian nationals in Israel are advised to stay vigilant and adhere to the safety protocols as advised by the local authorities," it said.

"Please exercise caution, avoid unnecessary travel within the country and stay close to safety shelters," it said.

The embassy said it is closely monitoring the situation and remains in regular touch with the Israeli authorities to ensure the safety of all Indian nationals.

HATHRAS STAMPEDE

UP Police files 3,200-page charge-sheet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hathras (UP), Oct 2: The police here have filed a 3,200-page charge sheet in a court in connection with the stampede that occurred during the Narayan Sakar Hari "Bhole Baba" congregation July 2, which claimed 121 lives.

The police have named 11 individuals as accused, including those responsible for securing the event's permit. The court has set October 4 as the date for providing copies of the charge sheet to the accused, defense lawyer AP Singh said. A physical appearance was made in court Tuesday for the 10 accused, including main organiser and fund raiser of the event Dev Prakash Madhukar, who were brought from Aligarh District Jail to the Hathras District Court, he said.

One of the accused, Manju Yadav, is currently out on bail following orders from the Allahabad High Court.

"The SIT probing the case has filed the charge sheet. A separate

judicial inquiry into the matter is ongoing," Singh said.

A total of 121 people, mostly women, died in the stampede after a satsang of Surajpal alias Bhole Baba alias Narayan Sakar Hari July 2 in Fulrai village in Hathras' Sikandra Rao area.

Government agencies, including police, have blamed the organisers for mismanagement at the event, noting the crowd size exceeded to over 2.50 lakh from the permitted 80,000, even though the lawyer of the 'godman' Saturday claimed 'some poisonous substance' sprayed by 'some unidentified men' triggered the stampede.

An FIR was lodged in the matter July 2 under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 126 (2) (wrongful restraint), 223 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by the public servant) and 238 (causing disappearance of evidence).



Students participate in a cleanliness drive on the occasion of the Gandhi Jayanti at Shanghumughom beach, in Thiruvananthapuram, Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

MAOISTS' NEW TACTICS

Naxals use diwali crackers for attacks on CRPF camps

ATTACKS USING CRACKERS AND INCENSE STICKS HAVE SPECIFICALLY BEEN REPORTED FROM REMOTE LOCATIONS WHERE THE SECURITY FORCES, ESPECIALLY THE CRPF, ARE OPENING NEW CAMPS CALLED FORWARD OPERATING BASES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Diwali crackers and incense sticks are the new improvised tools used by Maoists to attack security forces' camps in remote areas in various Left wing extremism-affected regions of the country, according to official sources.

This unique modus operandi of using incense sticks to burst crackers and "divert attention" of the camp troops to launch a swift rocket and gun fire attack was prominently noticed around the Pusuguppa camp of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Kothagudem district of Telangana September 25, the sources told PTI.

A senior officer undertaking anti-Naxal operations said, on that day around 6.30 pm as darkness started descending, the troops at the camp along the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border were alerted with sounds of blasts and subsequent emanat-



ing smoke just about 200 m from the boundary of their base.

As the CRPF personnel took positions thinking it to be an attack by Naxals in the thickly forested area, soon the air was filled by staccato of gunfire and blasts by improvised rockets or barrel grenade launchers (BGLs) from the hiding Maoist groups, the officer said.

The troops undertook retal-

atory fire using their INSAS and AK series assault rifles even as a few bombs and grenades were launched.

The sounds and firing continued for about 45 minutes after which it was ascertained by the troops that the Naxals retreated. There was some damage to the camp fence as improvised rockets crashed near them but there was no casualty, a second officer

based in Delhi said. An inspection of the camp surroundings by the force personnel over the next two days led to the discovery of exploded Diwali crackers hanging on trees using ropes and burnt incense sticks that were used to blast them, the second officer said.

"There have earlier been a few incidents where such modus operandi was used to divert the attention of troops towards the blast sound and immediately attacking their camps with gun fire and crude rockets but these things were not conclusive as no evidence was found.

"The last month attack on the Pusuguppa CRPF camp was con-

firmed this new tact of Naxals as evidence was gathered by the troops and the bomb disposal teams," the first officer quoted above said.

The incense sticks, according to anti-LWE operations experts, are being used as "timers" by the Naxals as they fire these near the crackers and take secure positions near the security camps by the time the crackers explode, he said.

The Maoists are trying to trick the troops through this modus operandi as they aim to confuse them with blasts and gun fire in the dark. They want to draw the troops out from the camps, the officer said.

Experts say as the Naxals are not in a position to undertake a face-to-face gun battle, they are relying in these "proxy" attack techniques including usage of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) beneath or near the tracks to wreak life taking attacks on the troops.

THE MAOISTS ARE TRYING TO TRICK THE TROOPS THROUGH THIS MODUS OPERANDI AS THEY AIM TO CONFUSE THEM WITH BLASTS AND GUN FIRE IN THE DARK. THEY WANT TO DRAW THE TROOPS OUT FROM THE CAMPS

Wangchuk detained again after release

Climate activist Wangchuk was leading 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra', which began from Leh a month ago

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and 150 other protestors from Ladakh who are under detention Wednesday continued their indefinite fast, saying they find their rights "trampled upon" on Gandhi Jayanti, a day that symbolizes peace and democracy.

Wangchuk was leading 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra', which began from Leh a month ago. They were detained Monday night.

In a statement issued Wednesday morning, Jigmat Paljor, Coordinator Apex Body, said their detention, which is continuing for over 24 hours, is illegal.

"We, the 'padyatris', find ourselves in an alarming situation. We have been detained for over 24 hours. This detention is illegal, as the 24-hour period has elapsed, and we must be produced before a magistrate," Paljor said.

"Some groups have been released after just under 24 hours, only to be returned to the police station. Last night, the police attempted to forcibly relocate us to an unknown location, but we stood our ground in resistance," he added.

"Our phones have been confiscated at the Bawana Police Station, leaving us cut off from the outside world," Paljor said in the statement.

Delhi Police, however, said that the 'padyatris' were released last night and detained again.

Wangchuk and other detained



Ladakhis were allowed to go Tuesday night but they were adamant to march towards the central part of Delhi, therefore, they were detained again, a senior police officer told PTI.

The 'padyatris', who started from Leh September 1, marched all the way except upon entering poll bound Haryana where they boarded buses. They were detained at Delhi's Singhu border Monday night and taken to different police stations, where they started an indefinite fast.

The march was organised by the Leh Apex Body (LAB), which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), has been spearheading an agitation for the past four years to demand statehood for Ladakh, seek its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, early recruitment process along with a public service commission for Ladakh and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

Wangchuk has been kept at the Bawana police station along with few others while others have been kept at Narela Industrial Area, Alipur and Kanjhawala police stations, he added.

BJP's Surankote candidate Bukhari dies of heart attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Oct 2: Former minister and BJP candidate from Surankote, Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari, died Wednesday after collapsing at his residence in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, party leaders said.

He was 75 and is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

Bukhari was unwell for some time and suffered a heart attack at 7 am, leading to his death, a BJP leader said.

Bukhari, a two-time former MLA from Surankote, joined the BJP in February this year after the Centre granted Scheduled Tribe status to his Pahari community.

He was fielded from Surankote, which went to polls along with 25 other segments in the second phase September 25.

Bukhari had quit the National Conference in February 2022 after four decades long association following an argument with party president Farooq Abdullah over the Scheduled Tribe status.

national



We know the call for cleanliness was given by father of the country Mahatma Gandhi but Prime Minister Modi has changed it into a mass movement
JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

2 WOMEN OFFICERS OF INDIAN NAVY EMBARK ON GLOBAL SAILING VOYAGE

Two women officers of the Indian Navy - Lt Commander Dilna K and Lt Commander Roopa A - Wednesday embarked from Goa on a challenging expedition to circumnavigate the globe covering 21,600 nautical miles over eight months. The two officers are expected to return to Goa in May 2025



of the day quote

Today, we have to make a resolution that by 2029 Andhra Pradesh state has to become Swachh Andhra Pradesh. We should make it our goal. There is on compromise

What we can see is that the people have voted in favour of the alliance or to keep the BJP out of power corridors, which is a good thing

Gandhiji's dream was of a country where every child gets good education, every sick person gets good treatment, and where people of all castes and religions live together in harmony

HARYANA ASSEMBLY POLLS

Don't fall for BJP's poll promises: Cong

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge claimed that BJP has failed to fulfil commitments made to voters in the past

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 2: The Congress Wednesday asked the voters of Haryana to oust the BJP in the October 5 polls, saying this is a fight against "injustice and untruth" and also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging he is the leader of those who break trust and an expert in telling lies.

Congress candidate from the constituency and Olympic wrestler Vinesh Phogat, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra attacked the BJP-led government in the state over employment, the Agniveer military recruitment scheme and farmers' welfare among other issues and also alleged that the ruling party "betrayed" people at every stage.

Urging the people of Haryana not to fall for BJP's poll promises, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge claimed the party has failed to fulfil commitments made to voters in the past.

Referring to the wrestlers' protest last year, she said injustice was done to Vinesh and her companions.

At an election rally at Badhra in Haryana's Charkhi Dadri, Kharge targeted the BJP over several issues, including demands for debt waiver and legal guarantee on MSP from farmers, and claimed people have made up their mind to bring the Congress to power in the state.

place in the world, the voice of truth and justice will rise, she said.

"It is Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri's birth anniversary today. Mahatma Gandhi taught us truth and non-violence. I don't want to say this - how much truth and how much lies those in power speak," he said.

Priyanka Gandhi told the gathering that an "opportunity has come again, similar to the battle of Kurukshetra and the fight against the British rule. There is no difference," she said.

"Modi ji toh bharosa todne walo ka bhi sardar hai (Modi is the leader of those who break trust.) His numerous lies, promises, you know about them," he said in the presence of former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik.

Meanwhile, her brother and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi shared a seven-minute video of his conversation with sportspersons in Haryana and said India cannot achieve its true potential in sports till a system is put in place that directly supports players and makes them in-charge of various sports bodies instead of politicians.

Addressing a public meeting in Julana to campaign for

In the video, he is seen listening to problems of sportspersons from Haryana.

The Congress is contesting in 89 of the total 90 Assembly seats leaving the Bhiwani segment for INDIA bloc ally CPI-M.

The deceased were identified as pilot Paramjeet Singh (62), co-pilot GK Pillai (67), both retired from the Indian Air Force; and aircraft maintenance engineer

Pune, Oct 2: Two ex-IAF pilots and a former Navy engineer were killed after a helicopter belonging to a private aviation company crashed and caught fire near Pune city Wednesday morning, police said.

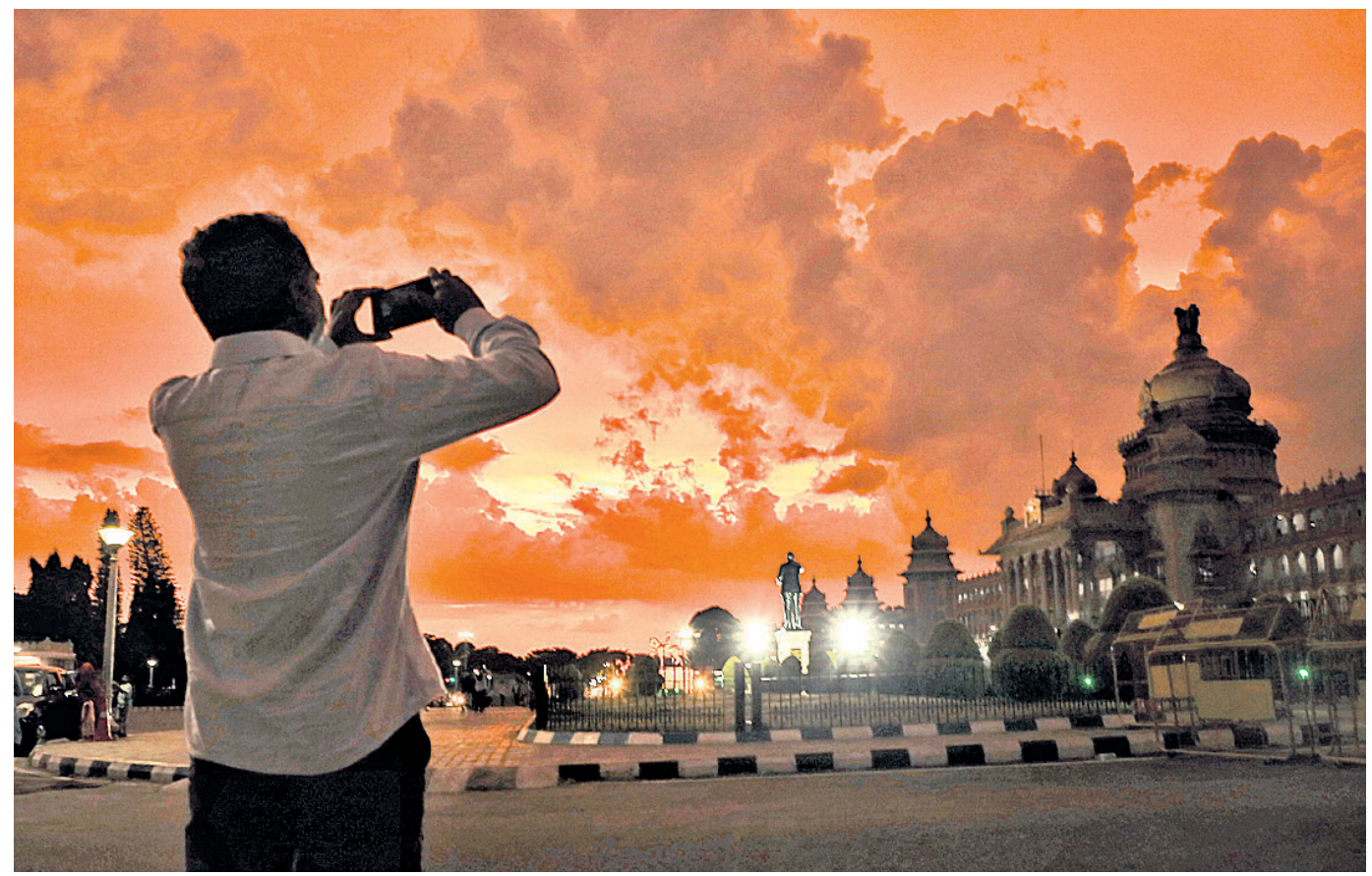
The chopper, belonging to Delhi-based Heritage Aviation, had been hired by the Nationalist Congress Party, said its Maharashtra unit chief and MP Sunil Tatkare. He had flown in the helicopter only a day before,

Malappuram (Kerala): Dissident MLA PV Anwar Wednesday said that he will be forming a new political party in Kerala which will contest in all the coming elections in the state. Anwar, who had won from Nilambur constituency as a left candidate and with whom the CPI(M) has severed all ties, said that the issues raised by him have become a movement which in turn will turn into a political party.

and was supposed to travel by it again Wednesday, he told PTI. The chopper took off from Oxford County Golf Course helipad near Pune and was heading to Juhu in Mumbai when it crashed at 7.40 am, police said.

Imphal: Security forces recovered a huge cache of explosives, including 21 big and medium IEDs, at Senam village in Manipur's Tengenoupal district, the police said Wednesday. The explosives were found when the northeastern state, affected by ethnic clashes since May 2023, witnessed escalated violence from early last month when drone attacks by militants were reported.

from carbon and hydrogen -- have been detected on Charon, this is the first time carbon dioxide and hydrogen peroxide have been detected. They cited limitations in wave-



A man clicks a picture of the sunset, near Vidhana Soudha in Bangalore, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

SNIPPETS

President Murmu to inaugurate Brahma Kumaris' Global Summit

JAIPUR: President Draupadi Murmu will inaugurate a four-day Global Summit at the international headquarters of Brahma Kumaris organisation in Sirohi district October 4. Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma will also be present in the conference. The delegates from more than 15 countries from various fields, including education, science, sports, art and culture, politics and social service will participate in the conference. Dr BK Mritunjay, the summit coordinator and executive secretary of the organisation, said the conference will be held on the topic of clean and healthy society through spirituality. He said President Murmu will reach Shantivan by special plane on the evening of October 3, adding she will formally inaugurate the summit in Diamond Hall the next day.



Dera Sacha Sauda chief walks out of jail on 20-day parole

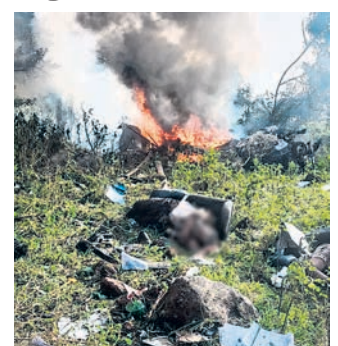
CHANDIGARH: Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Wednesday walked out of the Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak after he was granted a 20-day parole. During his temporary release period, Singh will stay at the Dera ashram in Barnawa in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat. He came out of jail under tight security this morning after his release on parole, an official said. The Haryana government has granted a 20-day parole to Singh while barring him from taking part in election-related activities, making speeches and staying in the state during the period. Singh is serving a 20-year sentence given in 2017 for raping two of his disciples. The Dera chief and three others were also convicted in 2019 for the murder of a journalist more than 16 years ago. He had sought a 20-day parole ahead of the October 5 Haryana Assembly polls.

UP govt to bear entire fee of Dalit student in IIT Dhanbad

LUCKNOW: The Uttar Pradesh government Wednesday said it will help Dalit student Atul Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarnagar, to get admission in IIT Dhanbad and its Social Welfare department will bear the entire fee through scholarship. "Under the state's scholarship scheme, the Social Welfare Department will bear the entire fee of IIT through scholarship so that Atul's education can be ensured," an official statement said here. Atul Kumar, the son of daily wage labourer Rajendra Kumar, could not secure admission in IIT Dhanbad stopped due to non-payment of fees. Atul, a resident of Titoda village of Khatauli tehsil of Muzaffarnagar district, had performed well in the IIT JEE exam and got a seat in the Electronics Engineering branch, but his admission got stuck due to non-payment of fees by June 24. The family approached the Supreme Court after making all efforts. After the intervention of the Supreme Court and the matter coming to the notice of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the government decided to provide full help to the student.

2 ex-IAF pilots among 3 killed as chopper crashes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Pritam Kumar Bhardwaj (53) who had retired from the Indian

Pune, Oct 2: Two ex-IAF pilots and a former Navy engineer were killed after a helicopter belonging to a private aviation company crashed and caught fire near Pune city Wednesday morning, police said.

The crash took place near a hilly terrain in Bavdhan area, close to the golf course and some 25 km from Pune city.

The chopper, belonging to Delhi-based Heritage Aviation, had been hired by the Nationalist Congress Party, said its Maharashtra unit chief and MP Sunil Tatkare. He had flown in the helicopter only a day before,

and was supposed to travel by it again Wednesday, he told PTI. The chopper took off from Oxford County Golf Course helipad near Pune and was heading to Juhu in Mumbai when it crashed at 7.40 am, police said.

Carbon dioxide, hydrogen peroxide detected on Pluto's largest moon

ONCE CONSIDERED THE NINTH AND LAST PLANET OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, PLUTO WAS DEMOTED TO A 'DWARF PLANET' STATUS IN 2006

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



New Delhi, Oct 2: Scientists have detected the gases carbon dioxide and hydrogen peroxide on Pluto's largest moon, 'Charon', which they said could help understand how icy bodies originated and evolved in the outer Solar System.

Kuiper belt region beyond the planet Neptune, was thought to cross with those of other objects.

Once considered the ninth and last planet of the Solar System, Pluto was demoted to a 'dwarf planet' status in 2006, when members of the International Astronomical Union voted to scientifically define a 'planet' for the first time.

Charon is the largest of the five known moons of Pluto and has been studied since it was discovered in 1978. Being extremely cold, there's practically no chance for life to exist on Pluto and water, essential for life, is present as ice.

According to the resolution passed then, a dwarf planet is one that has not been able to create a clear orbit for itself, free from debris. Pluto's orbit, lying in the

The team, led by researchers at the Southwest Research Institute, US, said that while ice, ammonia and organic compounds - formed

The presence of hydrogen peroxide indicated that the ice-rich surface is changed by UV light from the Sun, along with particles in solar winds and cosmic rays

CHARON IS THE LARGEST OF THE FIVE KNOWN MOONS OF PLUTO AND HAS BEEN STUDIED SINCE IT WAS DISCOVERED IN 1978

BEING EXTREMELY COLD, THERE'S PRACTICALLY NO CHANCE FOR LIFE TO EXIST ON PLUTO AND WATER, ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE, IS PRESENT AS ICE

released, which then combine to form hydrogen peroxide -- a highly reactive compound, commonly used in bleaches and disinfectants. The extended wavelength range of NASA's James Webb Telescope allowed the team to study the light scattered from Charon's surface at wavelengths longer than was previously possible, they said. The study is published in the journal Nature Communications. The researchers said that carbon dioxide is present mainly as a coating on an ice-rich surface. "Our preferred interpretation is that the upper layer of carbon dioxide originates from the interior and has been exposed to the surface through cratering events. Carbon dioxide is known to be present in regions of the protoplanetary disk from which the Pluto system formed," lead author Silvia Protopapa, from the Southwest Research Institute, said. The presence of hydrogen peroxide indicated that the ice-rich surface is changed by UV light from the Sun, along with particles in solar winds and cosmic rays, the researchers said.

X POST OF THE DAY

Who bombed? Iran. Which country? Israel. Who's most disappointed? Golu Pandey from Bihar. @Nher_who

SHORT TAKES

Dissident MLA PV Anwar to form new party

Malappuram (Kerala): Dissident MLA PV Anwar Wednesday said that he will be forming a new political party in Kerala which will contest in all the coming elections in the state. Anwar, who had won from Nilambur constituency as a left candidate and with whom the CPI(M) has severed all ties, said that the issues raised by him have become a movement which in turn will turn into a political party. "So, I will form a new political party. Without a party you cannot contest in elections," he said. He claimed that he has support of lakhs of youngsters in the state and they were his hope. The Nilambur MLA also referred to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's recent reported statements about gold smuggling and hawala cases in Malappuram district and alleged that these were meant to "appease Hindutva communalists and the RSS".

Bomb threat to rail stations, other places

Jaipur: A letter threatening bomb blasts at several railway stations and religious places in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh was received at the Hanumangarh railway station, police said Wednesday. Additional SP, Hanumangarh, Pyare Lal Meena said the letter was delivered by post to the Hanumangarh station master and the local police was informed Tuesday evening.

Huge cache of explosives recovered

Imphal: Security forces recovered a huge cache of explosives, including 21 big and medium IEDs, at Senam village in Manipur's Tengenoupal district, the police said Wednesday. The explosives were found when the northeastern state, affected by ethnic clashes since May 2023, witnessed escalated violence from early last month when drone attacks by militants were reported.

international

of the day quote

You want to provoke a clash between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. You are behaving like the invaders from central Asia who used to attack Punjab in ancient times. Instead of inciting the people of the province to invade Punjab, you should focus on serving them

NAWAZ SHARIF | PAK'S FORMER PM

The California Dream shouldn't be accessible to just a lucky few, which is why we're opening the door to higher education wide enough for everyone, fairly

GAVIN NEWSOM | CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR

The past few years have been particularly challenging for Zambia, with a series of crisis, including the Covid-19 pandemic, a debt default, a cholera epidemic, and a drought which has led to a severe economic crisis

KAROLINA STASIAK | EU AMBASSADOR TO ZAMBIA

SHORT TAKES

Nepal issues fresh alert for rainfall

Kathmandu: The government of Nepal issued a new alert for heavy rainfall Wednesday, following days of relentless downpours that have triggered widespread floods and landslides, leaving more than 240 people dead across the Himalayan nation. Home Minister Ramesh Lekhak directed authorities and disaster management agencies to remain on high alert as weather forecasts predict heavy rainfall in the Koshi and Bagmati provinces, as well as in the Kathmandu Valley, through Wednesday and Thursday.

Blasts near Israeli Embassy

Copenhagen: Police in the Danish capital said two pre-dawn explosions took place Wednesday in the vicinity of the Israeli Embassy in Copenhagen, prompting the nearby Jewish school to close for the day. Police said no one had been injured and they were investigating whether there was a link between the blasts at around 3:20 a.m. (local time) and the Israeli diplomatic mission, which is close to several other embassies.

Migrant boat tragedy leaves 45 dead

Sanaa: At least 45 people have died and 111 others went missing after smugglers forced migrants returning from Yemen off two vessels in the open sea near Djibouti, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported Wednesday. The incident off the coast of Djibouti's Obock town involved two boats transporting migrants returning from Yemen, the IOM said on its website.

Vietnam hit by 36 quakes in Sept

Hanoi: Vietnam reported 36 earthquakes with magnitudes between 2.5 and 4.0 in September, Vietnam News Agency cited statistics from the Institute of Geophysics under the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology Wednesday. Among those, 32 earthquakes occurred in Kon Plong district, Central Highlands province of Kon Tum. The frequency of earthquakes in September represented a significant drop compared to previous months, with 59 fewer quakes than in August and 46 fewer than in July, said the report.



Our humanitarian colleagues say that this money aims to support 1 million people with humanitarian assistance for the next three months

STEPHANE DUJARRIC | CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

SHEINBAUM SWORN IN AS MEXICO'S 1ST FEMALE PREZ
Claudia Sheinbaum was sworn in as Mexico's first woman president Tuesday, vowing to bolster women's rights and ensure Latin America's No. 2 economy remains a secure destination for international investment



IRAN-ISRAEL CONFLICT

FEARS OF WIDER WAR MOUNT

THE MIDDLE EAST MOVED CLOSER TO A LONG-FEARED REGIONAL WAR ON WEDNESDAY, A DAY AFTER IRAN FIRED A BARRAGE OF MISSILES AT ISRAEL AND ISRAEL SAID IT BEGAN LIMITED GROUND INCURSIONS INTO LEBANON TARGETING THE IRAN-BACKED HEZBOLLAH MILITIA

AGENCIES

Deir al-Balah, Oct 2: Israel said Wednesday that seven of its soldiers were killed in southern Lebanon as troops battle Hezbollah militants on the ground after the start of an Israeli incursion into that country.

The region braced for further escalation as Israel vowed to retaliate for Iran's ballistic missile attack a day earlier. The soldiers were killed in two separate events, military officials said.

In Gaza, where the nearly year-long war that triggered the widening conflict rages on with no end in sight, Israeli ground and air operations in a hard-hit city killed at least 51 people, including women and children, Palestinian medical officials said. Israel has continued to strike what it says are militant targets across Gaza nearly a year after Hamas' October 7 attack ignited the war.

The escalation on multiple fronts has raised fears of a wider war in the Middle East that could further draw in Iran — which backs Hezbollah and Hamas — as well as the United States, which has rushed military assets to the region in support of Israel.

Hezbollah says its fighters clashed with Israeli troops Wednesday, widely seen as the most powerful armed group in the region, said its fighters clashed with Israeli troops in two places inside Lebanon near the border. The Israeli military said ground forces backed by airstrikes had killed militants in "close-range engagements" without saying where.

The military also announced



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut, Lebanon

that a soldier — a 22-year-old captain in a commando brigade — was killed in combat in Lebanon, the first such death since the start of the latest operations. Israeli media reported infantry and tank units operating in southern Lebanon after the military sent thousands of additional troops and artillery to the border. Hezbollah said its fighters wounded and killed a group of Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon after detonating an explosive device.

The Lebanese army said Israeli forces had advanced some 400 meters (yards) across the border and withdrew "after a short period," its first confirmation of the incursion. The Israeli military has warned people in

Khamenei warned Nasrallah of Israeli plot to kill him: Sources
Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned Hezbollah leader Syed Hassan Nasrallah to flee Lebanon days before he was killed in an Israeli strike and is now deeply worried about Israeli infiltration of senior government ranks in Tehran, three Iranian sources said. Khamenei, who has remained in a secure location inside Iran since Saturday, personally ordered a barrage of around 200 missiles to be fired at Israel Tuesday, a senior Iranian official said.

around 50 villages and towns to evacuate north of the Awali River, some 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the border and much farther than the northern edge of a UN-declared zone intended to serve as a buffer between Israel and Hezbollah after their 2006 war. Hundreds of thousands

have already fled their homes as the conflict has intensified. Israel has said it will continue to strike Hezbollah until it is safe for tens of thousands of its citizens displaced from homes near the Lebanon border to return. Hezbollah has vowed to keep firing rockets into Israel

quarter of them women and children, according to the Health Ministry. Meanwhile, Israel lashed out at the United Nations Wednesday, declaring Secretary-General Antonio Guterres persona non grata, or banned from entering the country.

Russia, China urge restraint in the ME

The Kremlin says the situation in the Middle East is developing into the "most alarming scenario" and has called for restraint. "We urge all sides to show restraint against the backdrop of the ongoing events, and of course, we condemn any actions that lead to the deaths of civilians," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday. Russia's Foreign Ministry also urged both sides to exercise restraint. In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry said it "opposes the violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and oppose moves that fuel antagonism and escalate tensions".

until there is a cease-fire in Gaza with Hamas. Israeli strikes have killed over 1,000 people in Lebanon over the past two weeks, nearly a

Biden opposes Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear sites

President Joe Biden says he will not support an Israeli attack on sites related to Tehran's nuclear programme. "The answer is no," Biden said Wednesday, when asked if he would support such retaliation after Iran fired about 180 missiles at Israel Tuesday. Biden's comments came after he and fellow Group of Seven leaders spoke by phone Wednesday to discuss coordinating new sanctions against Iran.

Jaishankar meets Blinken

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 2: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his US counterpart Antony Blinken here and held discussions covering deepening bilateral cooperation, the situation in West Asia, recent developments in the Indian sub-continent, the Indo-Pacific and Ukraine.

Jaishankar - on his first visit to the US capital since the third Modi government took office - met Blinken Tuesday at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the US State Department.

"Delighted to hold talks with @SecBlinken today in Washington DC. We followed up on the Delaware bilateral and Quad meetings. Our discussions also covered deepening bilateral cooperation, situation in West Asia, recent developments in the Indian subcontinent, the Indo-Pacific and Ukraine."



Jaishankar said in a post on X. The minister was referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden.

The US president hosted Modi at his Delaware residence for a bilateral meeting September 21. They were later joined by leaders from Australia and Japan for the Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware. "Together, the US and India are working to address regional and global challenges. Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar and I met to discuss our continued cooperation on the climate crisis and ways we can promote re-

gional security and prosperity," Blinken said in a post on X.

According to US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller, Jaishankar and Blinken "discussed the US and India's enduring commitment to deepening bilateral ties, coordinating closely on regional and global challenges, and advancing cooperation on critical and emerging technologies". "Blinken noted Prime Minister Modi's August visit to Kyiv and reiterated the importance of a just and lasting peace for Ukraine," he said, adding that plans to expand collaboration on clean energy initiatives to address the global climate crisis were also discussed. Welcoming Jaishankar earlier, Blinken said the warmth of Biden and Modi's recent meeting and the ambition in the relationship were at a level never seen before.



An approaching typhoon bringing strong winds and torrential rainfall to Taiwan killed two people and injured dozens of others over the past few days and forced thousands to evacuate from low-lying or mountainous areas. At least 70 people were injured and two people died due to weather conditions attributed to Typhoon Krathon, Taiwan's National Fire Agency said Wednesday

Calif wants to end confusion over safety of food in fridge

A NEW FOOD LABELLING SYSTEM WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM JULY 2026 WHICH WILL REQUIRE THE USE OF "BEST IF USED BY" LABEL TO SIGNAL PEAK QUALITY AND "USE BY" LABEL FOR PRODUCT SAFETY

AGENCIES

Sacramento, Oct 2: California wants to help end the everyday household debate over whether the food stored in the fridge with labels like "sell by" or "best before" is still good to eat, as it has enacted a new law to crack down on such practices — a move that would help consumers stop playing guessing games with produce and reduce food waste.

According to a report by The Associated Press, these labels are misleading because they

have no universal meaning under the current laws.

The state is the first to ban food labels such as "sell by" or "best before" under a law signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. The legislation signed by Newsom over the weekend aims at reducing both food waste and the state's climate-warming emissions.

There are more than 50 different date labels on packaged food sold in stores, but the information is largely unregulated and does not relate to food safety. "Sell by" dates, for example, often act as a guide for stores to pull products from the shelf and not as an indicator of whether the product is still safe to consume.

With no federal regulations dictating what information these labels should include, the stamps have led to consumer confusion — and nearly 20 per cent of the nation's food waste, according to the Food and Drug Administration. In California, that's about 6 million tonnes of unexpired food that's tossed in the trash every year.

"Having to wonder whether our food is still good is an issue



A customer looks at refrigerated items at a Grocery Outlet store in Pleasanton

that we all have struggled with," said Democratic Assembly member Jacqui Irwin, author of the Bill.

The new law "is a monumental step to keep money in the pockets of consumers while helping the environment and the planet," she added in her statement.

The law is set to take effect in July 2026, establishing a new standard for food labeling in California. It will require the use of "Best if Used By" label to

signal peak quality and "Use By" label for product safety, an approach recommended by federal agencies. The law provides exemption for eggs, beer and other malt beverages.

The California law comes as similar efforts around the country remain halted at the federal level. State lawmakers and advocates said they also spent the last decade trying to pass legislation to reduce food labeling confusion and cut down on food

waste. A similar measure died before reaching the Governor's desk in 2016. Then-Governor Jerry Brown also signed a Bill in 2017 to establish voluntary uniform-labeling protocol but few companies ended up following the honour system.

"Widespread implementation that was basically committed to by industry wasn't happening," said Erica Parker with Californians Against Waste, who sponsored the Bill. "Food waste rates are not decreasing, they're increasing," Parker added.

Supporters hope the legislation could pave the way for new food labeling standards in US, though it's not immediately clear if the new law and the massive California market will push companies to standardise food labelling for all products in the country.

"California has such a large market share that we do think this will push manufacturers," said Nina Sevilla with Natural Resources Defense Council, who also sponsored the Bill. "The hope is that California serves as a model either for other states

or ultimately to push action at the federal level."

Shopper Jasmine Acosta, 23, said she believes most people don't understand the current language used on food labels.

"It's confusing to most consumers," Acosta told AP as she shopped Tuesday at a Smart & Final store in Los Angeles.

She used to work at a small grocery store, so she's developed the habit of examining her meat purchases for smell or discoloration before using the food. A sell-by date helps the grocer adhere to a "first in first out" method for its products and get ready for the next shipment arrival, but doesn't mean the food has gone bad, according to Acosta.

While shopping Tuesday, she picked up a pack of meat that said "use or freeze by" — phrasing that she believes is relatively clear compared to other language but could still be confusing. "It would obviously help everybody try to be on the same spectrum and make sure everything's able to be used by the consumers, or if not it's just a waste of money," Acosta said.



I have been around 27-28 years, and I want to work another 28 years, if possible, but that means I cannot burn myself out. I don't want any of our people to burn themselves out

SRISHAR VEMBU | CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, ZOHO

IPO FRENZY CONTINUES

As Indian stock markets continue to show robust growth, a record 15 companies registered their initial public offering (IPO) documents with the Securities and Exchange Board of India on the last day of September. This took the total filings for the month to 41 which is the highest-ever IPO document filing in a single month. In the first half of this year, over 5,450 firms have been listed across the world, in which India's share was about 25%



of the day quote

With India firmly positioned at the centre of global occupiers' strategies, we foresee sustained growth ahead, further cementing its role as a leading office space destination

SHESH RAO PAPIKAR | FOUNDER & CEO, BHIVE GROUP

Institutional flows in Indian realty remain consistent, indicating sustained investor confidence. The investors are well diversified between global and domestic capital

PIYUSH GUPTA | MD, CAPITAL MARKETS & INVESTMENT SERVICES, COLLIER'S INDIA

We have strong branch expansion plans...this would be mainly focused on emerging areas. A lot of residential colonies are not covered by us. Around 600 branches is something we are planning in the current year

CS SETTY | CHAIRMAN, SBI

Investors richer by ₹110.57L-cr so far in '24

Analysts attributed the sharp rally in the markets to robust domestic liquidity along with strong fundamentals of the Indian economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Investors' wealth surged by a whopping ₹110.57 lakh crore so far this year, driven by a remarkable rally in the stock market, where the benchmark indices shattered many records.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms soared ₹110,57,617.4 crore to ₹4,74,86,463.65 crore (\$5.67 trillion) so far this year. The market valuation of all listed firms at the BSE hit an all-time high of ₹477.93 lakh crore September 27.

The BSE Sensex jumped 12,026.03 points or 16.64 per cent so far in 2024, giving handsome returns to investors. The benchmark scaled its all-time peak of 85,978.25 on September 27, this year, breaching many milestones.

"One of the key highlights of this year is the robust domestic liquidity, driven by record inflows into the mutual fund industry," said Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Despite selling pressure from

FII (Foreign Institutional Investors), the Indian equity markets reached record highs, delivering solid gains, he said.

"Notably, the midcap and smallcap indices outperformed and several stocks turned into multibaggers, rewarding retail investors handsomely," Meena added.

At the beginning of the year, the BSE Sensex was at 72,271.94 level and the benchmark gauge is now at 84,266.29.

Overall, 2024 has been an outstanding year for retail investors, marked by strong market performance, especially in midcaps and smallcaps, backed by domestic liquidity and resilience in the face of FII outflows, he said.

The BSE midcap gauge has surged 12,645.24 points or 34.32 per cent so far this year, while the smallcap index soared 14,777.09 points or 34.62 per cent.

"The sharp rally in recent weeks was the outcome of Fed rate cut and hopes that RBI would also follow suit in its policy meeting," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta

D-ST'S RECORD-BREAKING RALLY



■ Sensex jumped 16.64% so far in 2024; all-time peak of 85,978.25 Sept 27

■ Mcap of all listed firms at the BSE hit an all-time high of ₹477.93L-cr Sept 27

■ In 2023, the BSE benchmark had jumped 11,399.52 points or 18.73 per cent

One of the key highlights of this year is the robust domestic liquidity, driven by record inflows into the mutual fund industry

SANTOSH MEENA | HEAD OF RESEARCH, SWASTIKA INVESTMART

Equities Ltd, said.

The 30-share BSE benchmark ended above the 83,000-level for the first time September 17. It ended above the historic 84,000-mark for first time September 20. The benchmark finished above the 85,000-level September 25.

"Global markets, despite ongoing geopolitical tensions, have also been supportive. A significant positive trigger for emerg-

ing markets like India has been the beginning of the interest rate cut cycle in the US. This has boosted investor sentiment and liquidity flow into riskier assets. Additionally, crude oil prices remained relatively low throughout the year, despite geopolitical uncertainties, providing further support to the Indian economy by easing inflationary pressures and improving the market out-

SHORT TAKES

Adani merges arms with ANIL

New Delhi: Adani group has merged two step-down subsidiaries with green hydrogen and wind turbine manufacturing firm Adani New Industries Ltd, according to a stock exchange filing Wednesday. "Adani Infrastructure Private Limited and Mundra Solar Technology Limited stands amalgamated with Adani New Industries Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of the company," Adani Enterprises Ltd, the group's flagship firm said in the filing. Adani Infrastructure and Developers operates as a real estate company, constructing and developing thermal and solar power projects as well as providing engineering, techno-commercial, project management and control, and commissioning services. Less than three years old Mundra Solar Technology is involved in production, collection and distribution of electricity.

Record KYC forms filed in H1 of FY25

New Delhi: A record 22.98 lakh director KYC forms have been filed in the first six months of the current fiscal (FY25), exceeding the entire FY24 figures, the government informed. According to a Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) statement, it observed robust director KYC filing during FY25. From April 1 till September 30, 22.98 lakh DIR-3 KYC forms were filed, compared to 20.54 lakh forms filed during the same period last fiscal. "The filing upto September 2024 during FY25 has exceeded filing of 22.02 lakh forms during entire FY23-24," the ministry noted

EV market surges 23% in September

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: In a boost for the electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the country, the total EV registrations reached 1.59 lakh units in September — up from 1.29 lakh units in the same month last year.

According to the government's VAHAN data, EV registrations saw a significant 23 per cent increase (year-on-year). In the first half of the current fiscal, EV volumes increased 20 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Electric two-wheeler sales were 0.90 lakh units, a rise from 0.64 lakh units in the same month last year. The electric three-wheeler segment saw 0.63 lakh unit sales, compared with 0.58 lakh units in September 2023, as per the data.

Ola Electric saw a dip in sales to 24,665 units in September from 27,587 units in August. Bajaj Auto showed growth with registrations rising to 19,103 units in September (16,789 units). TVS Motor registered 18,084 units, up from 17,649 units in August.

EV firm Ather Energy saw a boost in sales, with volumes climbing to 12,676 units in September (from 10,980 units in August). Hero MotoCorp saw a decline in sales to 4,304 units (from 4,755 units).

In the electric three-wheeler segment, Mahindra Last Mile Mobility maintained its leadership with 6,087 units, followed by Bajaj Auto with 5,004 units. For the first half of the current fiscal (FY25), total EV registrations across all segments rose to 8.93 lakh units compared with 7.45 lakh units in the same period last year.

MIDDLE EAST ON BOIL

India braces for wider trade disruption

Middle East war escalation may push logistics cost



Disruptions could lead to higher shipping costs and delays. Many global supply chains depend on the stability of the Middle East. Conflict could disrupt transportation and logistics, affecting industries ranging from electronics to agriculture

AJAY SAHAI | DG, FIEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The escalation of conflict in the Middle East region is expected to push already high logistics costs besides hurting trade in sectors such as oil, electronics and agriculture, according to exporters.

They said that insurance costs for exports to the countries directly involved in the war could also go up, which will impact Indian exporters' working capital.

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) stated that the conflict is already hurting India's trade with countries like Israel, Jordan, and Lebanon.

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)

said the Iran-Israel conflict has the potential to significantly impact world trade and the global economy in several ways.

"Iran is a key player in the oil market. Any escalation in conflict could disrupt oil supplies, leading to higher prices, which would impact global economies, especially those reliant on oil imports. Oil prices have already moved up by \$4 per barrel," FIEO DG Ajay Sahai said.

Expressing concerns, he said increased tensions could destabilize the Middle East, affecting trade routes like the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the world's oil passes.

Anil's Reliance forays into Bhutan

New Delhi: Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group Wednesday announced its foray into Bhutan and said it will set up 1,270 megawatt solar and hydroelectric projects in the Himalayan Kingdom. It "entered into a strategic partnership agreement with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd (DHI), the commercial and investment arm of the Royal Government of Bhutan, to undertake various initiatives aimed at bolstering investment in the renewable and green energy landscape of Bhutan," the group said in a statement. The partnership between Reliance Group and Druk Holding will focus on green energy generation, specifically solar and hydropower initiatives, while also exploring innovative green technologies.



Rajan against excluding food inflation while setting benchmark interest rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Amid suggestions for excluding food inflation while setting benchmark interest rates, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has said that he is against excluding food prices from headline inflation, as it would erode the 'great faith' of people in the central bank, which has been mandated by the government to keep inflation in check.

Rajan further said it is best that inflation target a basket which is what the consumer consumes because that affects the consumers perception of inflation and ultimately inflationary expectations.

"When I came into office, we were still targeting PPI (producer price index). Now that has no bearing to what the average consumer faces. So, when the RBI says inflation is low, look at PPI, but if the consumer is facing something very different, then they do not really believe that inflation is down," he told PTI.

Rajan was responding to a question on suggestions made in the Economic Survey 2023-24 for excluding food inflation while setting benchmark interest rates. "So, if you leave out some of the most important parts of inflation and tell them, inflation is

now extended to Lebanon, Syria, and is indirectly impacting Jordan and Iran.

Key regional players like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar have thus far remained uninvolved in the conflict.

India's major items of exports to Middle East countries include basmati rice, man-made yarn, fabrics, gems and jewellery cotton yarn, and fabrics.

India is Israel's second-largest trading partner in Asia.

Though the bilateral merchandise trade is dominated mainly by diamonds, petroleum products, and chemicals, recent years have witnessed an increase in trade in areas such as electronic machinery and high-tech products, communications systems, and medical equipment.

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) suggested that India's branding strategy should focus on three pillars - brand high quality products; improve product quality for less than best products, do not focus on branding; and actions to improve product quality.

"India can take several actions to naturally improve its branding. Consistent product quality and reliability should be a priority. For instance, the Indian pharmaceutical industry has gained global trust through its production of high-quality generic drugs. To protect this reputation, India must enforce strict actions against substandard suppliers," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.



Govt mulls scheme for 'made in India' label

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: The government is discussing a proposal to formulate a scheme for the 'made in India' label with a view to promote brand India in the global markets, an official said.

The official said that a high-level committee is examining the details of the scheme.

The objective is to create a strong brand identity for India, similar to how 'made in Japan' or 'made in Switzerland' evokes about specific images and qualities.

"That we want for India also," the official said, adding for instance, "When we think of Switzerland, we often think of their watches, chocolates, and banking systems."



"We are having discussions on how we can do that. Do we make this scheme for specific sectors like textiles, where we have strength in that. So we are looking into such things," the official added.

According to experts, quality consciousness is key to promote Brand India.

The government at present has India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) to promote and create international awareness about the 'made in India' label in overseas markets and to facilitate dissemination of knowledge of Indian products and services. It is a trust established by the Department of Commerce.

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AI Express-AIX Connect merger complete

THE MERGER SETS NEW BENCHMARK FOR FUTURE AIRLINE CONSOLIDATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 2: Marking a significant consolidation in the Indian airline space, Air India Group Tuesday completed the merger of low-cost carrier AIX Connect with Air India Express and the merged entity's fleet is expected to cross 100 planes by the end of March next year.

The merger -- completed in less than a year, will see the entity operating under the name 'Air India Express' and airline code 'IX' -- and Air India chief Campbell Wilson described the completion of the integration as an "important milestone" in the transformation journey.

Aviation regulator DGCA said the merger of AIX Connect with Air India Express sets a new benchmark for future airline consolidation in the country. "Effective October 1, 2024, all



Our rigorous review ensures that this merger serves the public interest by fostering safe air operations while enhancing the overall travel experience for consumers

VIKRAM DEV DUTT | CHIEF, DGCA

aircraft of AIX Connect have been transferred seamlessly onto the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) of AIX, ensuring that airline operations of the combined entity continue without disruption to ensure a safe and smooth passenger experience," DGCA said in a release.

Both airlines are part of Tata Group, which will also be merging Vistara with Air India next month. The merged entity's fleet, which currently stands at 88 planes, is expected to cross 100 aircraft by the end of this financial year.

"The number of routes AIX op-

India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets

erates has risen from 74 to 171, and passenger carriage has increased by over 400 per cent since the takeover of Air India by Tata Group in early 2022." Air India Group said in a release.

The merger involved the harmonisation of operational manuals across the two low-cost carriers and, the transfer of aircraft, besides operational, safety and maintenance approvals.

Wilson said the integration of AIX Connect with Air India Express is an important milestone in Air India's Vihaan.ai transformation journey and that the merged entity will cater to the growing demand for air travel around India and in the region.

Sarfaraz smashes historic double ton

Lucknow: The legend of Sarfaraz Khan as a domestic doyen is growing from strength to strength as his authoritative double hundred for Mumbai not only put Rest of India under immediate pressure in the ongoing Irani Cup but will also keep the seasoned KL Rahul on toes when the Indian team embarks on the Test tour of Australia next month. Sarfaraz (221 batting, 276 balls) became the first ever cricketer to score an Irani Cup double hundred for Mumbai, with the 42-time champions reaching 536 for 9 at the end of the second day. Wasim Jaffer (Vidarbha), Ravi Shastri, Praveen Amre and Yashasvi Jaiswal (all for Rest of India) are double centuries in the Irani Cup. He played 160 dot balls but still maintained a 80 percent strike-rate, largely due to his 25 boundaries and four sixes. Rahul, who got back his middle-order slot from Sarfaraz, did well in Kanpur but the team management and even the Karnataka batter knows that the stockily built Mumbaier is breathing down his neck.

Neeraj to part ways with coach Bartonietz

NEW DELHI: The hugely successful partnership between star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and his long-time coach Klaus Bartonietz of Germany is set to end after five years of working together. The 75-year-old Bartonietz has cited his age and family commitments to part ways with Chopra. "He (Bartonietz) is 75 and he now wants to be with his family and does not want too much travel also," an official of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) told PTI. "It is not that Neeraj wants to end the association, it is Bartonietz who has expressed his inability to continue as his (Neeraj's) coach," he added. The 26-year-old Chopra has been working with Bartonietz, who is a biomechanics expert but doubled up as Chopra's coach, since 2019.

Mohun Bagan to skip Iran travel over unrest

NEW DELHI: Mohun Bagan Super Giant will not travel to Iran for an AFC Champions League Two fixture against Tractor SC, the Asian Football Confederation said Tuesday, amid security concerns in the region. The Indian Super League side were set to meet Persian Gulf Pro League team Tractor SC in their Group A match on Wednesday in Tabriz, in the northwestern region of Iran. The AFC said it would refer the matter to relevant AFC committees for review. India media reported that the team could face a fine and a possible ban from the Champions League Two competition. Players and coaches reportedly voiced concerns over security. Iran fired ballistic missiles at Israel Tuesday in retaliation for the Israeli campaign against Tehran's Hezbollah allies in Lebanon. Israel vowed "consequences" for the attack.

Nagal crashes out

SHANGHAI: Indian tennis ace Sumit Nagal's campaign in the Shanghai Masters ended in a first-round exit after he suffered a 6-3, 6-3 defeat to China's Wu Yibing here Wednesday. The 27-year-old, who has been in the news recently due to his dispute with the All India Tennis Association (AITA) regarding his participation in the Davis Cup fixture against Sweden, went down in straight sets leading to his second straight first-round elimination. In August, he had crashed out of the US Open in the first round after losing to Tallon Griekspoor of the Netherlands. Nagal, who had been battling a back injury, was accused of demanding an annual fee of \$50,000 by the AITA to represent India in the Davis Cup tie but the country's top singles player defended himself, saying it is "standard practice" for athletes across the world to be paid for their services.

Babar quits again

New Delhi: Babar Azam's resignation as white-ball captain for a second time in less than a year not only marked the end of a time for underwhelming results under him but also highlighted the "captaincy roulette" within Pakistan cricket. After stepping down as captain from all formats following Pakistan's exit at the Men's ODI World Cup in India last year, Babar was again made Pakistan's captain for the T20I and ODI sides earlier this year. In his absence, Shaheen Shah Afridi, the T20I captain, was sacked after Pakistan lost the series 4-1 to New Zealand in the shortest format. Pakistan could have separate cricket captains in all three formats, given the heavy schedule of the side and the pressure it could put on one white-ball skipper, according to sources.

Women's T20 World Cup

Rivals aim to end Oz's dominance



Australia's dominance in the global showpiece has been unrivalled with the team winning the last three editions of the tournament

from Down Under remains invincible. With Meg Lanning walking into the sunset following the triumph in South Africa about 18 months ago, Alyssa Healy has been handed captaincy to maintain Australia's supremacy in global events. Healy would like to lead from the front but if she is not able to, she can rely on the squad full of match winners including Ellyse Perry, Ashleigh Gardner and Grace Harris. Witnessing the pace duo of Tayla Vlaeminck and Darcie Brown in operation will also be exciting. Australia have been clubbed in Group A alongside India, Pakistan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka while Group B has England, South Africa, West Indies, Bangladesh and Scotland. Top two teams from each group qualify for the semifinals.

England show ominous form England, who won the inaugural edition in 2009 before losing three finals to Australia, will take a lot of confidence from the series win against their main rival during the Women's Ashes last year. The pitches in the UAE are expected to favour the spinners, bringing England's trump card the Sophie Ecclestone into play. She will be supported by Sarah Glenn and Charlie Dean.

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 2: The likes of India, England and South Africa will strive to end Australia's unrivalled dominance in the Women's T20 World Cup, beginning with a double header in Sharjah Thursday.

Bangladesh will take on Scotland in the tournament opener in an afternoon fixture followed by a clash between Asian teams Pakistan and Sri Lanka later in the day at Sharjah. Political unrest in Bangladesh forced the International Cricket Council to shift the 10-team event to the UAE back in August.

Australia the team to beat again Australia will be the team to beat once again, having won the last three editions and overall six out of the nine editions staged thus far. England, India and South Africa have repeatedly shown that the Australian fortress can be breached but when it comes to World Cup events, the team

India gear up to take on New Zealand in a Group A match Friday

Every game in the World Cup is important, and you have to give your 100 per cent in each one. New Zealand and Sri Lanka are strong teams, but with Australia, you know you can't afford to make mistakes. You have to bring your best game on that particular day to get the better of them

SMRITI MANDHANA | VC, INDIA

Veteran Nat-Sciver Brunt will provide the X-factor in the batting department. Opener Maia Bouchier will be one of the World Cup debutants to watch out for. England will be supremely confident about their chances this time around, having white-washed Pakistan and New Zealand in the summer.

Can India go all the way this time? Another team who always challenges Australia but has hitherto not able to cross the final hurdle is India. The Harmanpreet-Kaur led side has lost two big T20 finals to Australia — the Commonwealth Games in 2022 and T20 World Cup in 2020. India go into the event hav-

ing not got a lot of game time following their surprising loss to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final. The team has worked extensively on its fitness and fielding, hoping it will make a big difference to its World Cup campaign. The conditions could favour a spin-heavy India. In the batting department, the onus will be on openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana while Harmanpreet and Richa Ghosh will be expected to hit the sixes in the middle and death overs. Harmanpreet, who has led the team since the 2018 T20 World Cup, will be under tremendous pressure this time around as another loss could bring an end to her captaincy tenure.

South Africa look to go one better

South Africa rode a wave of home support to make their maiden World Cup final last year. Tasting defeat to Australia in the showpiece in Cape Town, the Proteas have been busy in their preparations to do one better. The side, now led by Laura Wolvaardt, got its revenge over the reigning champions in Canberra at the beginning of the year. However, South Africa lost that series and also went on to lose to Sri Lanka. The South African women have drawn series with Bangladesh, India, New Zealand before victory came over Pakistan earlier this month.

ICC RANKINGS Bumrah back on top

Jaiswal moves to third among batters after just 11 Tests

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: India's fast-bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has reclaimed his number one ranking in the Test bowlers' rankings, while opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and talismanic batter Virat Kohli have made big gains in the batters' rankings. Bumrah overtakes teammate and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin to claim the pole position for just the second time on the back of his six scalps picked during India's recent seven-wicket triumph over Bangladesh in Kanpur to win series 2-0. Ashwin claimed five wickets in Kanpur and is only one point behind Bumrah's rating of 870 points. In terms of batters, Jaiswal, who was adjudged Player of the Match against Bangladesh in Kanpur, reached a new career-high rating after jumping two places to third as a result of making 72 and 51 in the match. Jaiswal is now only behind England's Joe Root and New Zealand's Kane Williamson in the Test batters' rankings. Meanwhile, Kohli is back inside the top 10 after he gained six places to move to sixth place following scores of 47 and 29 not out against Bangladesh. Other movers in the bowlers' Test rankings include Mehidy

Hasan (up four spots to 18th) and veteran spinner Shakib Al Hasan (up five places to 28th) and Sri Lanka spinner Prabath Jayasuriya, reaching a new career-high rating to be at equal seventh place.

In terms of batters, in-form Sri Lanka right-hander Kamindu Mendis jumped five places to 11th position and reach a new career-high rating after scoring another century in the second Test of his side's recent series win over New Zealand.

Compatriots Dinesh Chandimal (up six spots to 20th) and Angelo Mathews (up four places to 23rd) also gain ground on the list for Test batters, while Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan (up two places to fifth) is the big mover on the Test all-rounder rankings as India's Ravindra Jadeja maintained his healthy lead on top.

In team rankings, India were in the second spot with 120 rating points, separated from leader Australia by four points, while England remained in the third place with 108 points.

Meanwhile, the Indians continued to rule the World Test Championship (WTC) table, having a point percentage of 74.24% after 11 fixtures, above second-placed Australia (62.50% in 12 Tests).



Lobera hunts 10th win as OFC face Kerala Blasters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 2: Odisha FC would look to build a winning momentum after their previous match success when they host Kerala Blasters FC in their Indian Super League outing here Thursday. OFC is coming after beating Jamshedpur FC 2-1, its opening win of the season, whereas Kerala settled for a 1-1 draw versus NorthEast United FC in Guwahati. Odisha head coach Sergio Lobera has had a great outing against the Tuskers to date, winning nine out of his 11 match against the side, possessing a success rate of 82%. As for Kerala, it has managed only a victory in their eight ISL meetings this year, having conceded goals in all of them, which will indeed be a matter of concern for their head coach Mikael Stahre. Speaking ahead of the match, Lobera conveyed gratitude towards his side for braving through difficult moments.



"I am very happy because finally, we got three very important points. And, also the atmosphere on the ground, in the stadium is amazing," he said. "Every time more supporters come here, they are pushing us in difficult moments. I am happy for these people." The two sides have clashed against each other on 23 occasions in the tournament, with Kerala winning nine times, and Odisha prevailing in seven, while seven outings resulted in a draw.

Alcaraz tops Sinner in epic China open final

The three-hour and 21-minute battle was the longest match in the history of the ATP 500 tournament

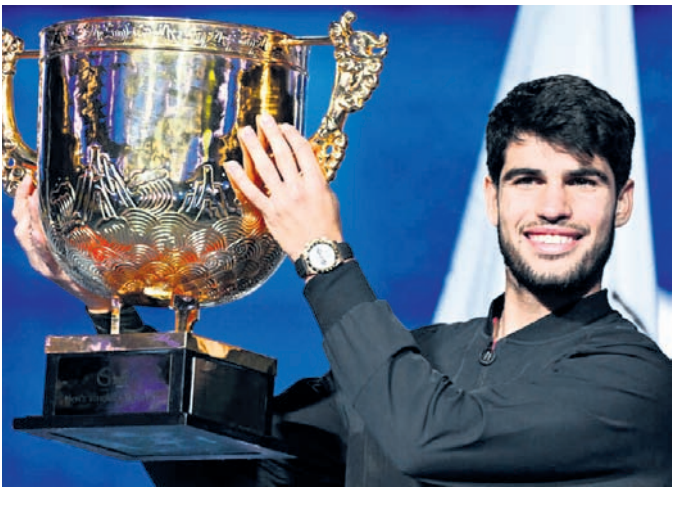
AEUTERS

Beijing, Oct 2: Carlos Alcaraz won seven straight points in the decisive tiebreaker to beat top-ranked Jannik Sinner 6-7 (6), 6-4, 7-6 (3) and win the China Open Wednesday, extending his recent mastery over his biggest rival — who is dealing with an ongoing doping case. The third-ranked Alcaraz has now won all three of his meetings with Sinner this year, having also come out on top in semifinals at Indian Wells and the French Open.

Alcaraz also ended Sinner's winning streak at 14 matches and denied the Italian three straight titles after trophies in Cincinnati and at the US Open. Sinner, who was the defending champion in Beijing, had to refocus after the World Anti-Doping Agency announced Saturday that it was appealing a decision

to clear him of wrongdoing following two positive steroid tests. Alcaraz wasted a 5-2 lead in the first set and also let Sinner get back in the third after leading 4-2 before eventually edging it out after also falling behind 3-0 in the final-set tiebreaker. Sinner and Alcaraz have accounted for all four Grand Slam titles this year between them — evenly split at two each: Sinner won the Australian Open and the US Open while Alcaraz won the French Open and Wimbledon.

Alcaraz improved to 6-4 in his career against Sinner after their 10th meeting in what has become tennis' top rivalry following the 60 matches between Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. WADA is seeking a ban of one to two years for Sinner in a case that might not be resolved before Sinner begins the defense of his Australian Open title in January.



Legends League Cricket advertisement for Mahipal Tigers vs Mumbay Knights match.

India to host inaugural Kho Kho WC in 2025

THE EVENT WILL WITNESS THE PARTICIPATION OF 24 COUNTRIES FROM SIX CONTINENTS AND WILL FEATURE 16 MEN'S AND AS MANY WOMEN'S TEAMS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 2: Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) and the International Kho Kho Federation, have announced that the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup will take place in India in 2025.

The event will witness the participation of 24 countries from 6 continents and will feature 16 men's and as many as women's teams. Ahead of the World Cup, the KKFI plans to take the sport to 200 elite schools across 10 cities to promote the sport. The federation will also run a membership drive for the school students with the aim of registering at least 50 lakh players ahead of the mega tournament. Sudhanshu Mittal, KKFI president expressed his enthusiasm



for the upcoming event, "We are incredibly excited to host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup. This tournament is not just about competition; it's about bringing nations together, promoting cultural exchange, and showcasing the beauty and intensity of Kho Kho to the world."

The tournament will feature a week-long series of matches, with top-tier athletes from across the globe demonstrating their skills, agility, and teamwork. Meanwhile, the Kho Kho World Cup aims to elevate this indigenous Indian sport to an international stage. By hosting

Our ultimate goal is to see Kho Kho recognised as an Olympic sport by 2032, and this World Cup is the first step towards that dream

SUDHANSHU MITTAL | PRESIDENT, KKFI

this landmark tournament, the KKFI aspires to secure Kho Kho's place in the Olympic Games by the 2032 edition, marking a significant milestone in the sport's history. Kho Kho has its roots in India, and the World Cup will highlight the rich cultural heritage and competitive spirit of the sport. The sport that started in the mud and now gone to the mat has a global presence with 54 countries playing the sport across the world.