



## Ananya's perspective

Whether romance or thriller, social media is going to be a prevalent character in movies going forward, says actor Ananya Panday

LEISURE | P2



## Trump in Pennsylvania

Former US President Donald Trump with Elon Musk by his side addresses supporters at the same place where an assassination attempt was made on him

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## FPIs spooked

Foreign investors turn net sellers offloading shares worth ₹27,142 crore in just the first 3 days of October

BUSINESS | P11



## India trounce Bangla

Helped by solid batting and bowling, India trounce Bangladesh by 7 wickets to go one up in the 3-game T20I series

SPORTS | P12



**PRIZED WICKET:** India's women cricketers celebrate the dismissal of Pakistan's captain Fatima Sana during their T20 World Cup game Sunday. India won the match by six wickets P-12 PFI PHOTO

# Another rape in Rourkela

Rourkela, it seems is turning into a safe haven for sex-related crimes, with reports of rape and sexual assault surfacing regularly. The latest case is that of a minor girl who was being molested and raped by her 'paternal uncle' for two years

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Oct 6:** There seems to be no end in cases of crime against women, especially rape, in the Steel City. Another shocking incident surfaced Sunday when a POCSO case was registered at the Raghunathpalli police station here following a complaint by the family of a minor girl. In the complaint, it has been alleged that victim had been repeatedly raped by her 'paternal uncle'.

The accused has been identified as Rajan Srivastav who works for a finance firm. He has fled from the locality and police have formed three teams to nab him. Speaking about the case, SDPO Zone 3 Upasana Padhi said, "A case has been registered under the POCSO Act at the Raghunathpalli PS. Padhi also stated that the accused used to frequently visit the house of the victim as he was well-known to entire family.



5 CASES OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN ROURKELA IN LAST 15 DAYS  
AMONG THOSE HELD, 2 TEACHERS BOOKED FOR BEHAVING INAPPROPRIATELY WITH STUDENTS

The victim's family is shocked at the turn of events. "He used to visit our house regularly and was more like a family member," said a relative of the victim. Sources meanwhile stated that the accused had been sexually molesting and raping the girl for the past two years. However, recently she mustered the courage to inform her family about the ordeal which she had been going through following which the complaint was lodged. This is the fifth case of rape and sexual assault reported

# Odia man killed in Kerala explosion

AGENCIES

**Kochi, Oct 6:** An Odia worker died, and three others sustained injuries in a blast at a company which produces animal fat-based products in Edayar near Kalamassery, police said here Sunday. The victim identified as Vikram Pradhan (45) and the three injured are all from Odisha, police said and added all of them hail from Siriki village in G Udayagiri block of Kandhamal district.

The injured persons have been admitted to the Government Medical College at Kalamassery. Hospital authorities said two workers have sustained 35 per cent and 25 per cent burns respectively. Both are currently receiving treatment in the intensive care unit of the burn ward, the hospital said in a statement. Another worker was admitted to the emergency department for examination and was discharged after treatment.

Preliminary reports suggest that the blast occurred due to a fault with the safety valve of a mini boiler Saturday night.



# OSSC question paper leak alleged

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, Oct 6:** Allegations of question paper leak surfaced in this district in the Statistical Assistant Examination conducted by OSSC which was held across the state Sunday. Students alleged the seal of the packet carrying the question papers was broken when it was brought to the Pragnyabharati School examination centre in Gopalgaon. Some candidates claimed that they were prevented from appearing for the exam after raising the issue of the question paper packet being opened early. The aspirants alleged that it was case of paper leak and complained to the invigilator. The latter responded stating that the packet had arrived in that manner. The candidates then wanted to check the CCTV footage. It showed that the seal had been opened at 9.30am despite the examination scheduled to start at 10.30am. The candidates alleged that when they wanted to inform the police, they were detained in a room.

## BRIEFS

### 19 dead in Israeli airstrike on mosque

**Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip):** An apparent Israeli airstrike early Sunday killed at least 19 people in central Gaza, Palestinian medical officials said. The airstrike came on the first anniversary of the Hamas attack on Israel in which they took a large number of hostages. The strike hit a mosque sheltering displaced people near the al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in the town of Deir al-Balah, the hospital said in a statement.

### Exams cancelled

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) has cancelled the written examination of Optional Subjects (Paper-I and Paper-II) for recruitment to the post of Post Graduate Teachers in Physics, Mathematics and Odia due to 'unavoidable circumstances', the commission said in a notification. The exams were scheduled for Sunday. No fresh dates have been declared for the exams by OPSC.

# 24-HR BUS STRIKE IN 14 DISTRICTS



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, Oct 6:** Private bus operators in 14 districts of Odisha announced a 24-hour strike beginning Monday evening, opposing buses being run under state government-run LACCMI scheme to connect blocks to district headquarters. The strike will begin at 6.00pm Monday and continue till 6.00pm Tuesday in 14 districts in western and southern Odisha, Kalahandi Private Bus Owners' Association president Prabodh Rath informed. At least 25 private bus owners' associations will join the strike, Rath added. "We don't want to create problems for

commuters. However, for our livelihood we have called the strike opposing the state government's decision to run LACCMI buses from blocks to district headquarters," Rath stated. Western and Southern Odisha Private Bus Owner's Association convenor Pravin Khamari said although initially LACCMI buses were meant to run between panchayats and blocks, on the contrary, they were running services between blocks and district headquarters and that too at subsidised fares. "The private buses which have valid route permits are facing acute financial losses because of it," Khamari pointed out. He added that if the government does not act even after the strike, the agitation will be intensified. The strike is likely to affect bus services in Kalahandi, Nuapada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Kandhamal, Sundargarh and Deogarh during the festive season. Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena meanwhile said in Bhubaneswar that the state government was committed to providing affordable bus services to the people. He said a meeting has been convened with representatives of bus operators Monday morning to discuss their issues.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We lie all the time during poll campaigning. Can't we lie about the results too?

# Biohacking couple plans to defy lifespan

BIOHACKING INVOLVES MAKING INCREMENTAL CHANGES TO BODY, DIET AND LIFESTYLE TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

AGENCIES

**New York, Oct 6:** A couple from the Midwest, Kayla Barnes-Lentz, 33, and her husband Warren Lentz, 36, are determined to push the boundaries of human lifespan, aiming to live well beyond 100 years. According to a report in the *New York Post*, the couple has adopted a rigorous biohacking routine, aspiring to reach the age of 150. Kayla is the co-owner of a precision health and longevity clinic in Cleveland while Warren is the chief revenue officer at a marketing agency. They have built their lifestyle around maximising health and wellness and believe that it will help them far exceed the average American lifespan of 76 years. "We love to set the tone for our day by optimising our mind and body," Kayla was quoted as saying. Their mornings begin with pulsed electromagnetic field therapy, using a clini-



cal-grade device they have at home. This is followed by a workout and a morning walk to soak up early sunlight, which they consider essential for well-being. Throughout the day, they incorpo-

rate various health technologies, such as a 'Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber' and 'NanoVi', a device designed to aid cell repair. Warren, who sometimes works from home, also takes cold plunges in the afternoon. Their evenings focus on relaxation and recovery, starting with an organic meal prepared by Kayla, followed by a long walk through nearby hills. As sunset nears, they engage in a sauna session and switch their home lighting to red lights, syncing their environment with their natural circadian rhythms. By 9.00pm, the couple is in bed, ensuring they get a full night's rest. The couple is also preparing for parenthood, with Kayla sharing that she has been 'optimising' her body for years in anticipation of having children. "We know that the mother and father's health impacts the health of the children," Kayla explained. "Hence we are preparing for it," she added.

**DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024**  
CLIMATE CHANGE : BUILDING RESILIENCE

**DHARITRI CLIMATE GRANT**

Inviting young people and youth organisations of Odisha deeply engaged in climate action with local communities.

Kindly send us entries of your work with simple bio description (250-300 words) and 4 high resolution photos/ a video of your climate action activities to get a chance to win the Dharitri Climate Grant.

You can also nominate someone else by following the same process.

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.

Chosen entries will also get invited to attend the Conclave with young climate warriors and experts in the field.

Last Date of Entry : 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Please send details to : [dharitriyouthconclave@gmail.com](mailto:dharitriyouthconclave@gmail.com)

Visit : [www.dharitriyouthconclave.com](http://www.dharitriyouthconclave.com) for details

**APPLY NOW**

<https://tinyurl.com/38cd8uz>

Climate Grant Award Date : 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

# leisure

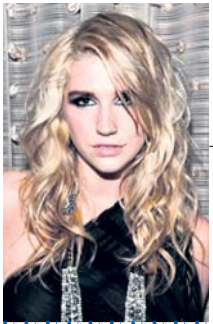


## AL PACINO 'DIDN'T HAVE A PULSE' AFTER COVID-19

Hollywood superstar Al Pacino, who is known for *Scarface*, *The Godfather*, *House of Gucci* and others, once had a brush with death. While speaking about his upcoming memoir, *Sonny Boy*, the actor, 84, recalled how he technically died while ill with Covid-19 during the pandemic, which he writes about in the book.

## KESHA BLAMES TAYLOR SWIFT FOR HER BREAKUP

Singer Kesha's former beau broke up with her when she refused to take him to a party thrown by Grammy-winner Taylor Swift because she knew he was just interested in her for her celebrity connections. Kesha is currently single and quite happy going on dates by herself.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
You are a touchy one. People will rub you the wrong way today. But remember that getting needlessly annoyed will bring nothing but more complications. Contemplate in seclusion about the root cause of the problem. Ganesh's hint? It is closer than you imagine.

**TAURUS**  
This day, you will be able to express and communicate your ideas and feelings very convincingly, assures Ganesh. All those to whom you come in contact with you today will be clear, and appreciative about whatever you tell them. At work your superiors are likely to be responsive and helpful.

**GEMINI**  
Your sensitive and emotional nature will prove to be a problem for you. Hence you need to control your emotions. Tread carefully when it comes to personal relationships. You need to wait for a better time before you think of proposing to that special someone, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
You will be in a joyous mood. You will be de-lighted in whatever task you do. Financial matters will confound you, with even a petty issue causing tension. Ganesh says it will be a colourful day, with happy tidings.

**LEO**  
Talk of being busy! It seems like today, you shall take the cake, and perhaps, be the icing on it as well, says Ganesh. It is likely that the day is going to be very hectic for you in terms of work and business. You may be engaged in official conversations and dealings. Also, don't be surprised to find yourself in meetings as you attempt to take stock of your business situation.

**VIRGO**  
You will spend most of today in the company of family and friends, says Ganesh. Students may focus on upcoming examinations and will learn to balance study and leisure time, in equal measure. It is a good day to buy real estate. Overall, a day to lie low and let your mind run free in its pursuit of pleasure.

**LIBRA**  
Today is the day when you seem to agree with everything that people say, without striking even a note of criticism. It's just one of those days when you are amazed by all things around you. Such an elastic approach will enable you to be reasonable in your views and sensible in your ways.

**SCORPIO**  
It may have been on the cards for long and finally, you may end up buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle or a palatial house of your dreams today. In addition, your generous mood may also egg you on to buy an expensive gift for your life partner.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Round and round they tumble, the wheels of life, smoothly gliding into a routine. You may spend your day in discontent due to the rut of regular activities. Sadly, there is little hope or adventure Ganesh foresees that might make this day worthwhile for you.

**CAPRICORN**  
The day calls for making amends and undoing the damage done to relationships, so you will most likely focus on improving rapport with relatives and peers, says Ganesh. But despite your affable approach, family feud may occur. Keeping obnoxious neighbours at bay will save you some trouble.

**AQUARIUS**  
You may fall in love today! If single, romance colours your day with a rainbow. If married, you may enjoy a quiet but romantic evening with your spouse. Ganesh says that if nothing else, it's a good time to pour over your photo albums and float in nostalgia.

**PISCES**  
You will be treading new ground at work. Exciting as that sounds, it merely means you will have to do a lot of travelling today. You will also find yourself swamped with drafting new business proposals, holding meetings, or otherwise networking over the phone.

## Ananya bats for tech-related genre

**New Delhi:** Whether romance or thriller, social media is going to be a prevalent character in movies going forward, says actor Ananya Panday who has emerged as the go-to actor to tell stories rooted in modern technology with *CTRL*, *Call Me Bae* and *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*.

In the Vikramaditya Motwane-directed *CTRL*, where a story unfolds entirely through various screens, Panday plays Nella, a social media influencer whose life comes crashing down when she enlists the help of an AI to erase her cheating ex from her digital life.

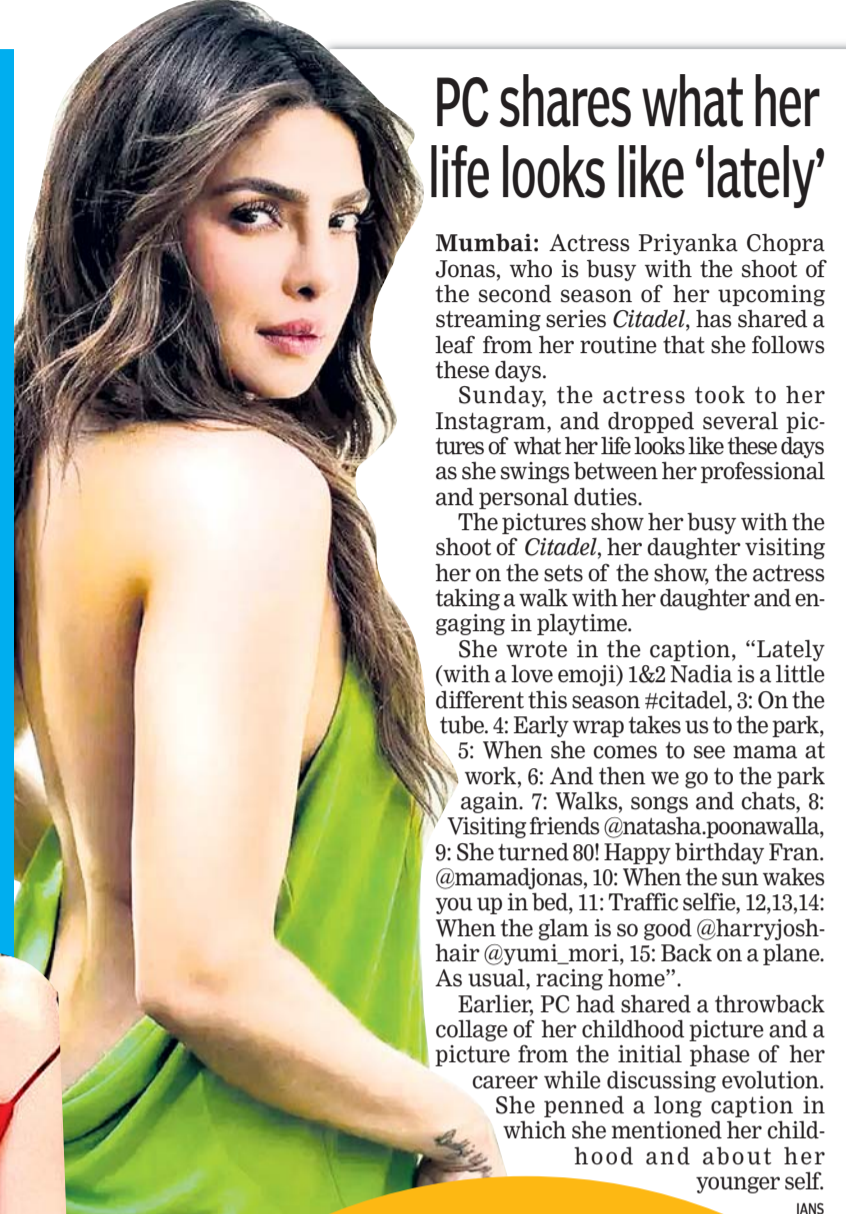
The actor said the timing of the release of her three projects, where her characters' digital life play a key role in the narrative, makes it seem like they have a connection but she didn't think about it while signing them.

"I feel like it is the time that we're living in. It is the generation that we're living in where technology is such a big part of all of our lives. Being a part of Gen Z, these stories are relatable for me. It's something that is just starting to happen. In the romantic genre or in the thriller genre, it will be a prevalent character. I feel like it is something that exists. It'll be hard to tell a story where there isn't some effect or some social media. It will be in many more stories going forward," she told PTI in an interview.

Asked whether working on *CTRL* made her cautious about the perils of hyper-connectivity, Panday said some habits are hard to break. The film, however, has made her more aware about her online activity.

*CTRL* started streaming on Netflix from October 4 and Panday has used her Instagram account, where she has over 25 million followers, to promote the film. Before that came her web series debut *Call Me Bae* on Prime Video.

PTI



## PC shares what her life looks like 'lately'

**Mumbai:** Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who is busy with the shoot of the second season of her upcoming streaming series *Citadel*, has shared a leaf from her routine that she follows these days.

Sunday, the actress took to her Instagram, and dropped several pictures of what her life looks like these days as she swings between her professional and personal duties.

The pictures show her busy with the shoot of *Citadel*, her daughter visiting her on the sets of the show, the actress taking a walk with her daughter and engaging in playtime.

She wrote in the caption, "Lately (with a love emoji) 1&2 Nadia is a little different this season #citadel, 3: On the tube, 4: Early wrap takes us to the park, 5: When she comes to see mama at work, 6: And then we go to the park again, 7: Walks, songs and chats, 8: Visiting friends @natasha.poonawalla, 9: She turned 80! Happy birthday Fran. @mamadjonas, 10: When the sun wakes you up in bed, 11: Traffic selfie, 12,13,14: When the glam is so good @harryjosh-hair@yumi\_mori, 15: Back on a plane. As usual, racing home".

Earlier, PC had shared a throwback collage of her childhood picture and a picture from the initial phase of her career while discussing evolution.

She penned a long caption in which she mentioned her childhood and about her younger self.

IANS



## Tahira reflects on her 'hair' journey

**Mumbai:** Director Tahira Kashyap, who is also the wife of Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana, recently walked the ramp three times for celebrity designer Manish Malhotra at a fashion event in the city. The first time, she sported a completely bald look, the second with a little hair, and the third with dense hair. Tahira shared that her hair has helped her understand the deeper nuances of vanity, beauty, and perception.

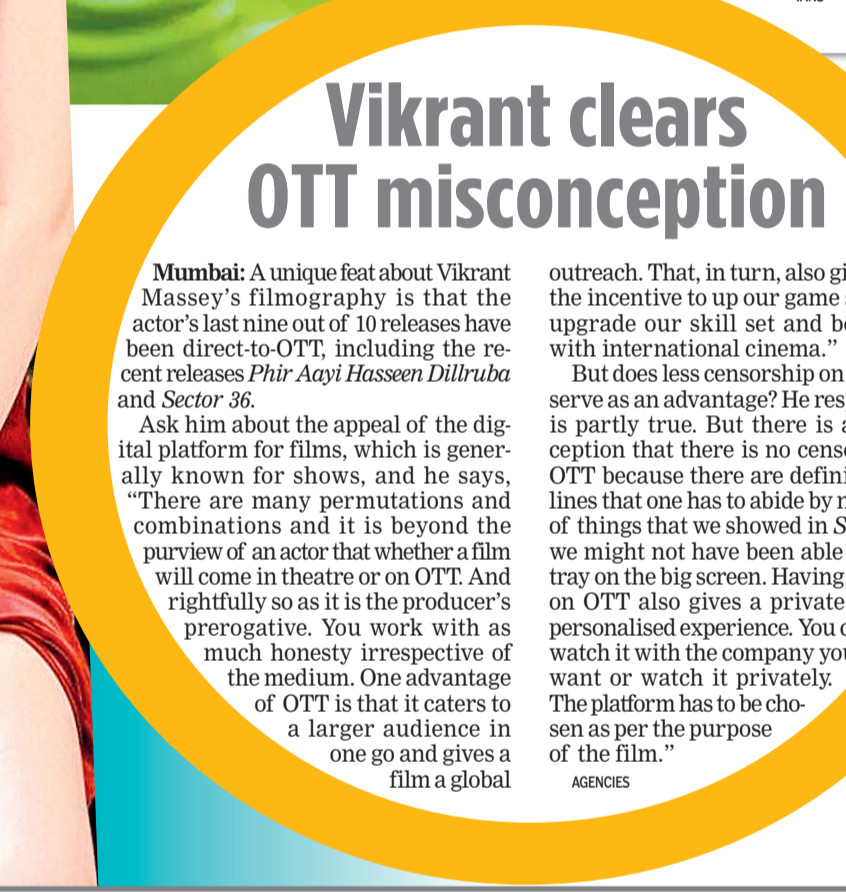
Tahira told IANS, "My hair journey has been incredibly transformative. It's taught me so much about vanity, beauty, and, most importantly, perception and perspective, showing me that nothing can be put in a box".

She continued, "I went through three distinct looks when I went bald, losing my hair not by choice, but I chose to embrace the bald look, and I genuinely liked how I looked. It really challenged conventional ideas of beauty, and, to be honest, I felt beautiful in that phase, too".

She further mentioned that her hair is a reflection of her journey. She shared, "As my hair started growing back into a short crop, and eventually became long again, I loved that look just as much. I've since chopped it back, and I realise that my hair, in its various stages, has been a reflection of my personal journey".

In 2018, Tahira was diagnosed with stage 0 breast cancer. In 2019, she underwent a mastectomy.

IANS



## Vikrant clears OTT misconception

**Mumbai:** A unique feat about Vikrant Massey's filmography is that the actor's last nine out of 10 releases have been direct-to-OTT, including the recent releases *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba* and *Sector 36*.

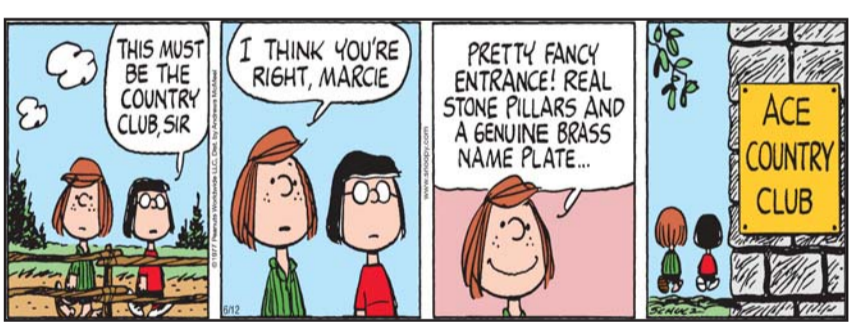
Ask him about the appeal of the digital platform for films, which is generally known for shows, and he says, "There are many permutations and combinations and it is beyond the purview of an actor that whether a film will come in theatre or on OTT. And rightfully so as it is the producer's prerogative. You work with as much honesty irrespective of the medium. One advantage of OTT is that it caters to a larger audience in one go and gives a film a global

outreach. That, in turn, also gives us the incentive to up our game so as to upgrade our skill set and be at par with international cinema."

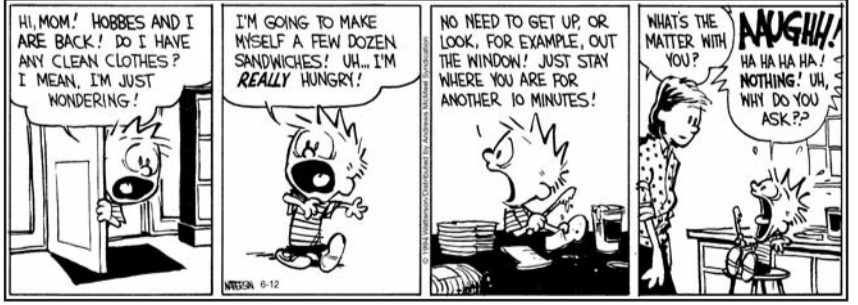
But does less censorship on OTT also serve as an advantage? He responds, "It is partly true. But there is a misconception that there is no censorship on OTT because there are definite guidelines that one has to abide by now. A lot of things that we showed in *Sector 36*, we might not have been able to portray on the big screen. Having a film on OTT also gives a private and personalised experience. You can watch it with the company you want or watch it privately. The platform has to be chosen as per the purpose of the film."

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

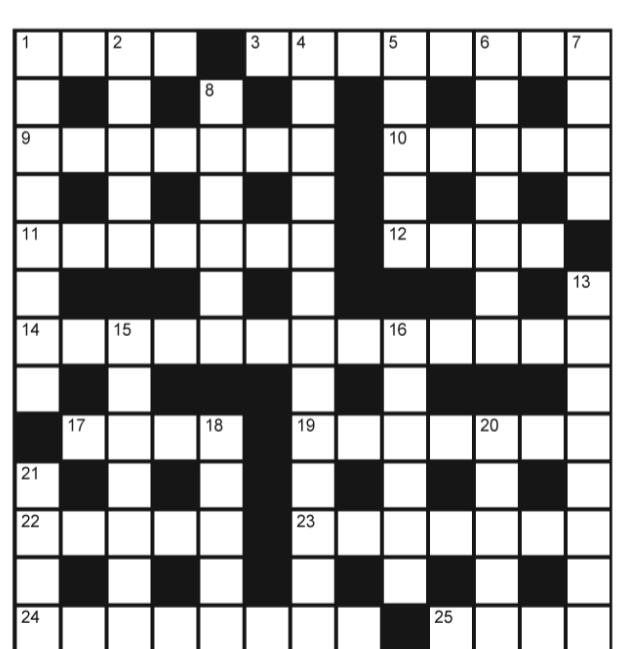


### BREVITY



### FUN post

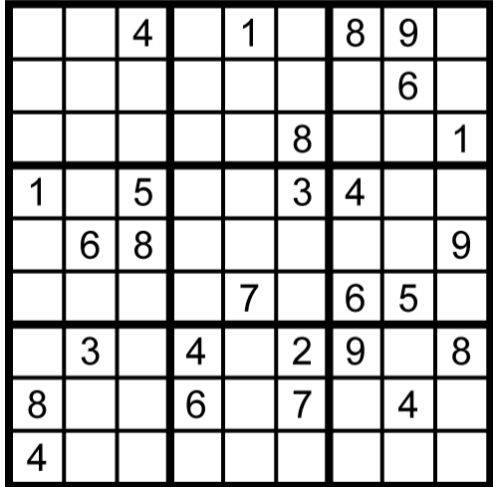
### CROSSWORD



- Across**  
1 Initial stake  
3 Recipe measurement  
9 Any dramatic scene  
10 Egyptian water lily  
11 Great virtuosity  
12 Slender bluish-green fish  
14 Greenish vine fruit (8,5)  
17 Words to Brutus (2,2)
- Down**  
19 Female deity  
22 Emulate Cicero  
23 Overshadow  
24 Shangri-la  
25 "Woe is me!"
- Across**  
8 The beast's fairy tale partner  
13 Raki and Pernod flavouring  
15 Words to a cheat: "That's \_\_\_!" (3,4)  
16 Olympic prizes  
18 Flip over  
20 Kick out  
21 Petite marmite, e.g.

### 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.

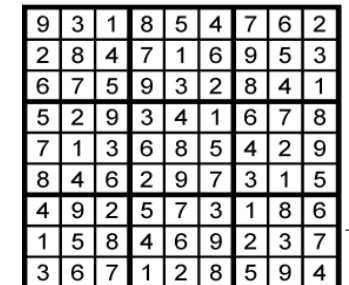


### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



The busy Link Road in Cuttack plunges into darkness as streetlights go off ahead of the festive season, Sunday

# downtown

## Cong for spl session on SC mineral tax order

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** The state Congress has demanded a special session of Odisha Assembly over power of the states to levy royalty on extraction of minerals from their land as the Supreme Court has rejected the Centre's review petition recently.

Former Union minister and senior Congress leader Srikrant Kumar Jena made several suggestions to the state government which include a special session of the Assembly, scrapping of Orissa Rural Infrastructure and Socio-Economic Development (ORISED) Act, 2004 and introduction of a fresh Bill in the larger interest of the state and its people.

In a letter, Jena said that the Supreme Court, in its landmark decision October 4, 2024, had rejected the Union government's review petition upholding its own judgements July 25, and August 14, 2024.

The Supreme Court dismissed petitions seeking review of its 8:1 majority verdict upholding the power of the states to levy royalty on extraction of minerals



from their lands and allowed them to tax the lands that comprise mines and quarries.

The rulings of the SC allow mineral bearing states to levy taxes and cess on minerals and mineral-bearing lands. This will undoubtedly bring much-needed economic relief to Odisha, which has long struggled with poverty and underdevelopment, Jena said.

"In light of this, I call on the Odisha government to urgently act on the following suggestions including withdrawal of the petition on Orissa Rural Infrastructure and Socio Economic Development (ORISED) Act 2004 pending in the Supreme Court challenging

Orissa High court ruling of 2005, scrapping the ORISED Act of 2004, introduction of a new Bill in the Assembly and call the special session of Assembly for a detailed discussion as this will be a roadmap for the socio-economic development of the state," he mentioned.

The former Union minister said the new Bill can include several important provisions to better serve the interests of Odisha, which was completely ignored in the ORISED Act of 2004.

He also said that a committee of experts should be formed to determine the market value of minerals. This committee must be chaired by a High Court

judge, to ensure transparency and fairness in the valuation process. The committee will assess the true market value of minerals based on quality, demand and location advantages and ensure that Odisha receives a fair share of the wealth from its mineral resources.

He also demanded removal of the ceiling of 20 per cent tax on minerals as mentioned in ORISED Act 2004.

Jena also said that bauxite and chromite are in abundance in Odisha. The state should take the locational and qualitative advantage of these specifically located minerals and fix cess at 50 per cent of the market value.

Also, 50 per cent of the collected cess and taxes from the minerals and mineral bearing lands should be spent in that respective area and in those particular districts.

"I hope the Chief Minister will take note of my suggestions and act immediately in the best interest of the state and its people. Implementing these changes will ensure that Odisha fully benefits from its rich mineral resources," the letter read.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Odisha Road Safety Policy soon

THE STATE GOVT PLANS TO CONSTRUCT 75,000 KM OF WORLD-CLASS ROADS IN 5 YEARS TO ENHANCE COMMUTER EXPERIENCE AND SAFETY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** The state government will soon come up with the Odisha State Road Policy (OSRP) under which a target has been set to construct 75,000 km world-class roads in the next five years with a view to improve commuter experience and ensure their safety.

For the purpose, a preparatory meeting was held recently at the Conference Hall of the Lok Seva Bhavan under the chairmanship of the Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg where a presentation of the various aspects of OSRP-2024 was made by the Works department.

Discussions were held over a range of issues including reinforcing the state's road infrastructure and its enhancement from traffic point of view, an SOP for inter-departmental transfer of particular roads from one agency to another for traffic regulations, creation of funds for maintenance of roads and ensuring road safety.

As per the plans, of the 75,000 km proposed roads, the maxi-



imum of 30,000 km will be assigned to the Rural Development department, 22,800 km to Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department and 15,000 km to Works department.

Besides, the Water Resources Department will be given the task of constructing 5,000 km of roads, while the Housing and Urban Development department will construct 1,200 km roads. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will build another 1,000 km roads.

According to the ambitious plan, old roads and the bridges connecting those will be developed, while primary focus would be laid on road safety by identifying the 'black spots'. Moreover, the Transport de-

partment will be constructing truck terminals with provisions of allied amenities.

For smooth execution of the plan, line departments such as Works, Rural Development, Housing and Urban Development, NHAI and Water resources, among others, have been assigned their specific mandate.

Sources said according to yet-to-be-released policy, the state highways will be of at least four-lane, while major and minor district roads will be of two-lanes. Moreover, two-lane service roads will be constructed alongside six-lane roads in mining and industrial areas with additional Utility Corridors for underground drainage and telephone lines.

At the meeting, discussions were also held on preparing blueprints for the construction of roads in district and block headquarters, important tourist places, mining and industrial areas, municipal as well as railway stations. It was also decided to form a committee to supervise the formulation and implementation of the new policy.

## Locals block NH-16 as man killed in mishap

The spot at Palasuni has become a death trap in the absence of a foot over bridge, say protestors



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Vehicular movement on NH-16 at Palasuni came to a grinding halt for over half an hour Sunday morning after a 38-year-old man was mowed down by a speeding truck as angry locals blocked the arterial road, connecting Cuttack, demanding the construction of a foot over bridge (FOB) which has been pending since long.

The deceased was identified as Bula Sethi who worked as a daily wage laborer at a factory in Mancheswar Industrial Estate.

The Mancheswar police said the incident occurred at around 9 am when Bula was crossing the road. He narrowly ducked a speeding car before coming under a speeding truck. He had suffered deep injuries in the accident and bled profusely. Police reached the spot and sent the injured to Capital Hospital where doctors declared him 'brought dead'.

The driver of the truck sped off after the accident. Police said efforts are being made to nab him.

An officer at the police station said that the body of the victim has been sent for post-mortem which will ascertain the exact cause of death. He said the deceased's family has been informed about the incident.

The police will hand over the body to them after due verification, he added.

Following the incident, large number of locals gathered on the spot and staged a roadblock alleging that the spot has become a death trap in the absence of an FOB. This is forcing pedestrians to cross the road by braving the dangerously driven vehicles, they said. Following intervention by police, the situation was brought under control and the crowd dispersed.

It may be noted that the Ministry of Railways had sanctioned the construction of an FOB near Palasuni area in June this year to facilitate smooth vehicular traffic management on the busy stretch of highway. The announcement was made following wide-spread public outrage over the inordinate delay in the construction of the FOB.

Abhiram Upadhyaya, who commutes daily on the road to his office at Phulnakhara, said unlike other major arterial roads on the City outskirts, the stretch between Rasulgarh and Phulnakhara is dotted with abrupt diversions which force vehicles to cut lanes from all sides.

"This makes driving not only bumpy, but also risky. Pedestrians and two-wheeler riders are at the greater risk of accidents," he said.

## CM to attend meet on Maoist menace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Sunday left for New Delhi on a three-day official visit.

Majhi is scheduled to attend a review meeting on Maoist-related issues organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs Monday morning, officials said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the meeting with the Chief Ministers of Left-wing extremism (LWE) affected states at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

In addition to Majhi, Chief Ministers from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are expected to participate in the meeting.

The CM is scheduled to return Tuesday.



According to sources, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania are expected to attend the LWE meeting. Five Union ministers of the departments closely involved with providing development support to the LWE-affected states will also attend the meeting.

The Deputy National Security Advisor and senior officers from Centre, states and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) will also participate in the deliberations, said sources.



SCINTILLATING SHOW: Artistes perform during a cultural programme 'Nritya Mohini' organised by Sai Aradhana Dance Academy at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar Sunday

## Favouritism alleged in BMC vehicle tender process

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Vehicle Owners' Association has raised serious objections to the new unitary tender system for hiring vehicles alleging favouritism and corruption in the process under which a single player is engaged for renting out all categories of vehicles.

The civic body however, has claimed that the new system would ensure transparency and avert corruption unlike the earlier system under which no tenders were floated.

The association has alleged that the new system is a design by BMC deputy commissioner

(vehicle) to benefit a particular firm and to mint money in the process.

The decision has hit the livelihoods of hundreds of vehicle owners who were dependent on BMC, the association members said. They also alleged that under the new system, the conditions are so harsh that they failed to participate in the bidding process.

Stating that the BMC is shelling out twice the amount it was paying to vendors under the old system, the association claimed the civic body has conveniently forgotten to pay their bills worth around ₹5 crore, pending since 2022. Despite several reminders, the BMC is not clearing the bills



and is taking several alibis, they alleged.

The association members had been engaging their vehicles like cars, tippers, JCB machines and buses with BMC without any tenders since 2009-

The vehicle owners' association has alleged that the new system is a design by BMC deputy commissioner (vehicle) to benefit a particular firm and mint money in the process

10. However, they have not received any work order since 2022, they alleged.

Earlier, the daily rental for a hyva (a heavy vehicle) was pegged at ₹3,000, but the civic body has decided to dole out ₹8,400 for the same vehicle to the new player. Similarly, the

civic body was earlier paying ₹2,600 for tippers which has now gone up to ₹7,200 and for JCB machines to ₹1,500, instead of the earlier ₹1,300. Likewise, TATA Ace vehicle charges have gone up to ₹1,800 from ₹1,000, they said.

The association members wondered how a tender would lead to escalation of charges instead of a reduction in it.

The vendors had staged an agitation at the BMC office here, Saturday, and submitted a memorandum to the Mayor and Commissioner.

Alleging favouritism in the tender system, association member Dibyalochan Sahu said, "We are unable to participate in the bidding as they have set the annual turnover criteria at

₹8 crore. In this backdrop, the rationale behind hiring vehicles at double the rentals raises a stink."

Sahu demanded immediate cancellation of the tender and payment of their dues at the new rates.

When asked, Deputy Mayor Ashok Lenka said, "There was massive corruption in the old system under which no tender was floated for hiring of vehicles. So, we decided to introduce open bidding system in order to ensure transparency. However, the agitating vendors neither participated in the tender nor did they object to it then. And, now they are making baseless allegations."

BMC Commissioner Rajesh Pravakar Patil, however, feigned ignorance about the issue.

## Govt regularises 9,200 jr teachers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** The state government regularised the services of 9,200 junior teachers engaged in primary and upper primary schools under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, according to an official document.

The School and Mass Education (S&ME) department communicated the decision to the Director of Elementary Education Saturday.

On Saturday, the state government gave appointment letters to 16,009 newly recruited junior teachers in primary and upper primary schools

As per the career advancement policy of the teachers, the junior teachers (schematic), also called Siksha Sahayaks and junior teachers (contractual), have been regularised against the post of Level-V (A) of the elementary teachers cadre after completion of six years of continuous and satisfactory service, the department said.

In no case, untrained junior teachers and those who have not qualified for the Odisha Teachers' Eligibility Test (OTET) will be regularised, it said.

On Saturday, the state government also gave appointment letters to 16,009 newly recruited junior teachers in primary and upper primary schools under various schemes.

Chief Minister Mohan Majhi handed over some of the appointment letters during a function at Kalinga Stadium here in the presence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

# City pandals all set to pull crowd in style

ISHA opens silk saree store in City

**A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPECTED TO HOP THE POPULAR PANDALS AND CATCH A GLIMPSE OF MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURES ALONG WITH BEAUTIFUL IDOLS OF GODDESS DURGA**



PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

The BMC has also constructed five temporary water bodies for immersion.

Meanwhile, amid preparations, heavy rains lashed the City Sunday bringing down an under-construction pandal (light gate) at Rasulgarh Square.

The Rasulgarh Durga Puja committee is coming up with a replica of Gujarat's famous Swaminarayan temple which will be 80-foot-high and 120-foot-wide.

As many as 171 pandals will come up in the City this year. Puja organisers are competing among themselves to catch more eyeballs and enlist increased footfall of visitors by creating replicas of world famous monuments.

A number of prominent pandals, including at Saheed Nagar, Nayapalli, Bomikhal and Jharpada, are going to appear



Saheed Nagar

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** As the vibrant festival of Durga Puja is drawing near, preparations are in full swing at various puja pandals in the City. Artisans are working overtime to finish their theme-based structures as the countdown has begun for the autumn fest.

In view of the BMC guidelines, the pandals are going to be managed through eco-friendly methods. The organisers have ensured that no plastic materials are allowed inside the pandals and dustbins placed nearby.

To ensure cleanliness, garbage collection vehicles will operate twice a day. Information centres will be set up at all puja locations.



Bomikhal

splendid and impressive with the organisers spending lakhs of rupees on decoration.

Bomikhal Durga Puja Committee is erecting the replica of Punjab's Jagatjit Palace. Jagatjit Palace was the residence of the erstwhile Maharaja of the State of Kapurthala. Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, said a member Biswanath Jena. He said that 45 artisans from West Bengal are busy preparing the 80x120 structure which is scheduled to be completed before Sasthi.

Saheed Nagar Durga Puja Committee, this year, is not just focused on particular iconic or landmark building or structure but is taking inspiration from several places such as Disney Castle, Arabic Nights and Hindus temples.

Committee secretary Sachinanda Nayak said that unlike other pandals, we tried to combine different structures giving it a distinctive look.

Similarly Nayapalli Durga Puja committee is focusing on eco-friendliness. The 140-ft wide and 80ft high mandap is designed with eco-friendly materials such as Terracotta and bamboo, said committee member Chittraranjan Behera.

Baramunda Puja Commtee, in its 25th year of celebration, is erecting 65-ftX 120-ft structure on the theme of Umed Bhawan Palace, Kotah, Rajasthan, said committee president Ram Chandra Ransingh. Similarly, Old Station Bazaar Durga Puja Committee is preparing Cambodia Vishnu Temple's replica.



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Indian Silk House Agencies (ISHA), a leading retail chain, renowned for its wide collection of sarees from different regions, recently inaugurated its new store in Capital city.

Speaking on the occasion, ISHA director Pratibha Dudhuria said, "With a legacy of 50-years, Indian Silk House Agencies is the largest silk saree retail chain in Eastern India. After winning the hearts of saree lovers in Bengal, we are excited to bring the charm of Bengal's rich cultural heritage and the diverse beauty of sarees from across India to Bhubaneswar."

The store offers a wide array of hand-woven sarees, from Bengal's intricate Baluchari to Southern Kanjeevarams and Northern Banarasi. The expansion marks the brand's continued growth, with the aim of creating a cultural bridge through sarees while staying true to its Bengal roots.

## PURI STREET VENDORS' REHABILITATION

# H&UD Principal Secy takes stock of project

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** In a significant visit aimed at addressing the concerns of displaced street vendors, Housing and Urban Development principal secretary Usha Padhee visited Puri to assess the progress of the rehabilitation efforts for street vendors evicted from Bada Danda.

Padhee toured the vending zone currently under development in the vicinity of the Shree Setu area. During her assessment, she directed department officials to take necessary measures to ensure the completion of the project, paying special attention to the needs of the displaced vendors.

During the visit, Padhee was briefed on the status of the vending zone project by officials from the Puri Municipality, including



the Additional District Magistrate of Puri and other key personnel. Padhee acknowledged vendors' dissatisfaction over delays in their rehabilitation.

Later she held a meeting with the district Collector Sidhartha Shankar Swain, SP Vinit Agrawal, ADM Kailash Chandra

Naik, Executive Officer of the Puri Municipality Abhimanyu Nayak and other department officials. The discussion focused on expediting the rehabilitation process and addressing the grievances of the affected shopkeepers, who have been awaiting proper resettlement.

The discussion focused on expediting the rehabilitation process and addressing the grievances of the affected shopkeepers

According to officials, the development of dedicated vending zones is a key part of the government's broader urban development to support street vendors' livelihood.

Padhee's also comes at a crucial time as discontent continues to rise among the displaced shopkeepers.

"The government is keen to resolve the issue promptly and equitably, ensuring that the affected communities are adequately supported," officials added.



**Budding Talent:** Students draw sketches during an inter-school competition organised by Beautiful Minds Youth Mentoring foundation at Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

## WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.5°C	32.6°C
Min Temp	26.9°C	26.0°C
Humidity	82%	95%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

**FORECAST**  
Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder/lightning

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri Chittraranjan Debata, resident of At - Salipur, PO - Salipur, Dist. - Cuttack declares that on Dt. 01.04.2024 while shifting my residence my original sale deed No. 3178 of 1997 dated 04.09.1997 bearing Plot No. - 672, Mahanadivihar, drawing No. - 175/85 in Sector - 1, Measuring Area 2700 sqft. has been lost somewhere. If someone misuse the same sale deed I will not held any responsible.

# OES hosts seminar on natural heritage

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Orissa Environmental Society (OES) organised a seminar 'Safeguarding our natural heritage' during the wildlife week celebration here Sunday.

The programme was organised under the chairmanship of the OES president Sundara Narayana Patro. Scientist-C and head of the Regional Museum of Natural History here Gaurav joined as the chief speaker.

**By teaching individuals about the importance of ecosystems and the threats they face, we can inspire action and foster a culture of conservation**

GAURAV I HEAD, REGIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, BHUBANESWAR

Gaurav explained that our traditional methods of conservation are very much significant, and education and awareness are vital components for safeguarding our natural heritage. "By teaching individuals about the importance of ecosystems and the threats they face, we can inspire action and foster a culture of conservation," he said.



**OES president Sundara Narayana Patro emphasised on understanding the intricacies of natural ecosystems and biodiversity conservation**

He further emphasised that engaging with local communities, educational institutions and other organisations can amplify these efforts, creating a unified front in the battle against environmental degradation.

Speaking on the occasion, Patro emphasised to understand the intricacies of natural ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, in addition to enhancing political commitment for the cause. OES secretary Jayakrushna Panigrahi remarked that by prioritising conservation and fostering a deep respect for nature, we can protect the irreplaceable treasures of our planet for the future generations.

Joining the event, former PCCF Bijay Ketan Patnaik discussed how over-exploitation of the biological resources causes hindrance in natural heritage conservation. "One of the primary threats to our natural heritage at the present juncture is climate change, which leads to habitat loss, altered weather patterns, and increased frequency of natural disasters," Patnaik said.

"To combat these effects, it is crucial to adopt sustainable practices in agriculture, industry, and urban development. This involves reducing pollution, conserving water, reducing carbon footprints and combating climate change," he added.

## 2 involved in temple theft case arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** The Commissionerate Police Sunday arrested two brothers for allegedly looting artefacts from a temple, worth several lakhs, under Balipatana police station limits.

Over 100 bronze, silver and gold artefacts, and a two-wheeler have been recovered from the duo, said a cop at Balipatna police station.

DCP Bhubaneswar Pinak Mishra said the accused were identified as Barada Prasad Acharya, 31, and Annada Acharya, 26, native of Jagatsinghpur district.

Interrogations have revealed the duo was involved in over a dozen of temple theft cases in Jagatsinghpur district. The local police stations have been informed about the incident for further questioning, the cops said.

DCP Mishra said the duo has confessed that they robbed the valuable artefacts from the temple in the wee hours of Saturday.

The Balipatna police has booked the duo under Sections 331 (4) (house trespassing) and 305 (house theft) of BNS, and produced them before a local court Sunday.

## CM urged to protect Olive Ridley turtle breeding site

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Young conservationist and founder of Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust Soumya Ranjan Biswal urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to take immediate action in order to protect critically vulnerable Olive Ridley sea turtle breeding site at Devi River Mouth.

A Limca Book of Records holder for his efforts in sea turtle conservation and spreading awareness, Biswal has garnered global recognition for his community-led initiatives, focused on preserving marine life, mangroves, and enhancing coastal climate resilience.

In his appeal, Biswal emphasised that despite relentless efforts from dedicated young conservationists, systemic failures and negligence by various government departments threatens the survival of the vital nesting site.

He pointed out that the Supreme Court's interim orders from 2003, aimed at protecting Olive Ridley turtles, have been largely ignored at the designated site, resulting in catastrophic losses. "Over the past decade, we have witnessed the tragic



deaths of nearly 20,000 Olive Ridley turtles," Biswal said.

"These losses are suppressed by local authorities, yet the ecological damage is undeniable, compromising the oceanic health of Odisha, a region already prone to disasters," he added.

The ongoing trawling activities near the Devi Mouth not only lead to direct turtle deaths but also disrupt their mating, nesting, and breeding due to light and sound pollution. Although the Forest department has been supportive by conducting coastal patrols, these efforts have not been sufficient to stop illegal fishing activities that continue to pose a significant threat, Biswal said.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Babuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-909090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics-9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

# Maintenance issues plague Mo Bus service in Rourkela



## COMMUTERS SUFFER DUE TO FREQUENT BREAKDOWNS AND CANCELLATION OF BUSES

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

**Rourkela, Oct 6:** Lack of maintenance has hit 'Mo Bus' service in the Steel City hard.

Commuters are at the receiving end of the situation as breakdown and cancellation of these public transport buses have become a regular affair of late, and there seems to be no immediate respite to their woes in sight.

"I frequently travel to Bonai by 'Mo Bus' for my official engagements, and therefore, bought the monthly pass. Last month, the 8am bus broke down on three occasions and arrived late a few more times," said Rourkela resident Susant Biswal.

Similar complaints are also surfacing from different routes frequently. The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT)-managed 'Mo Bus' touches different destinations in and around the Steel City and is a hit among commuters who completely depend on it for their daily travel. "I prefer 'Mo Bus' for daily commute to college as it is both comfortable and quite punctual. However, nowadays the frequency of cancellations has gone up. What I hear from the bus staff the next day is that the vehicle broke down due to poor maintenance," said a college-going girl from Nuagaon, which is nearly 12 km away from Rourkela.

"First the new government changed the colour of the vehicles and is now probably planning to completely stop this service. We are not very hopeful about the future of 'Mo Bus' service," said some passengers.

Investigations with the bus staff revealed that there are se-

rious maintenance issues due to which buses are getting cancelled. "Go the depot, you will find a few buses standing on rims because there is no tire available," said a driver. Another one said, "Many buses suffer from acceleration issues." The driver of an air-conditioned 'Mo Bus' said, "The AC doesn't cool the vehicle properly. They took away the compressor for maintenance and the bus remained stranded for more than seven days."

Meanwhile, attempts to photograph the rickety buses at Kalunga depot were met with resistance. A couple of burly-looking men warned this correspondent to delete the photographs in intimidating voice and asked to vacate the place immediately.

One of them, however said, "You will find a few buses here at any point of time and the rest are running on the road." Meanwhile, the supervisor of the depot, Sudhansu Lenka, did not comment on the matter.

Dhiren Senapaty, BJP's state spokesperson, said, "There is nothing to worry. The state government is going to place order for a large number of electric buses and they are going to strengthen the existing public transport system."

It is pertinent to mention that the CRUT had launched 'Mo Bus' service in Rourkela ahead of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup-2023. Former chief minister Naveen Patnaik had flagged off the first 'Mo Bus' fleet January 5, 2023 in the Steel City.



**PUJA PREP:** Artisans apply primer to clay idols ahead of Durga Puja at MV-79 village in Malkangiri district, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# 17 BU students face music for ragging

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, Oct 6:** Berhampur University has taken action against 17 post-graduate (PG) students for allegedly ragging their juniors, officials said Sunday.

Four of the accused students were asked to vacate their hostel rooms, while 13 others were fined ₹1,000 each, said Vice-Chancellor Geetanjali Dash.

The action was taken after an investigation was conducted by the anti-ragging committee into the incident that happened September 21, she said.



In a complaint to the UGC, some first-year PG students alleged that their seniors came to their hostel room at about 11pm on that day, and continued asking them various details in the

name of introduction and did not let them sleep.

However, they did not name the senior students in the complaint, officials said. The varsity swung into action after the UGC forwarded the complaint.

"The UGC had asked the varsity to inquire into the matter and furnish an action taken report. We have already reported the action taken to the UGC," said the VC.

"We have also sensitised students about the consequences of ragging, and warned them not to indulge in such activities on the campus," she said.

# Antique idols theft: 3 siblings, mother held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jagatsinghpur, Oct 6:** Police arrested four members of a family – three siblings and their mother – for their involvement in a series of antique idol thefts and seized a large number of brass idols and items from their possession, informed Jagatsinghpur SP Bhawani Shankar Udgata at a press conference held at the district police office Sunday.

The three arrested brothers have been identified as Sarada Prasad Acharya, 38, Barada Prasad Acharya alias Raja, 29, and Annada Prasad Acharya alias Bindha, 25.

According to information received, the police was under pressure due to frequent thefts of antique idols and brass articles from various temples in Jagatsinghpur and other districts.

Acting on a tip-off, police first arrested Sarada from Salajang Malitota under Jagatsinghpur po-



lice station and after further investigation the mystery surrounding the thefts began to unravel. The involvement of Sarada's two younger brothers in the temple thefts has also come to light. The two younger brothers used to reside in another house at Chadheigaon near Malitota. It has also been revealed through the investigation that their mother, who

lived with Sarada in Malitota, was involved in hiding the stolen items.

Both Sarada and his mother were arrested by the Jagatsinghpur police and were presented in court Sunday. Meanwhile, Barada and Annada were arrested by the Ballianta police under the Cuttack Bhubaneswar Commissionerate Police in connection with case number 432/24. Following the ar-

rest of all three brothers and their mother, a large number of brass idols and items were seized. These included brass idols of Mahavir, Ram-Sita, Jagannath, bells, lamps, stands, and various temple utensils, along with household items like gas cylinders, stoves, and kitchenware. Additionally, weapons such as swords, axes, cleavers, and chains were also seized.

During the press conference, the SP stated that efforts would be intensified to prevent thefts, dacoity, looting, and other crimes in the future. District-wide operations would be strengthened, and all efforts would be made to restore public trust in law enforcement. Present at the press conference were Additional SP Amarendra Panda, Jagatsinghpur SDPO Rashmirekha Sahu, Jagatsinghpur IIC Gokul Ranjan Dash, along with Additional IIC Tapan Kumar Nahak and Investigating Officer ASI Biswajit Bardhan.

# Show-cause notice to 6 contractors for delay in road construction work



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chhatrapur, Oct 6:** The Additional Chief Engineer of the Rural Works Division Ganjam-1, based in Berhampur, has issued show-cause notices to six contractors over inordinate delay in the road construction. The contractors have been asked to explain why actions under contract clause 2(B)(i) along with fines should not be enforced.

Several road construction projects being carried out by the contractors under the Rural Development department in Ganjam district are incomplete. In fact, work on many of these projects has not even begun despite the contract periods having ended. Some contractors stopped the work midway and are no longer to be found.

Despite repeated issuance of show-cause notices from the department, no effective results have been seen. This issue has been observed in projects under both Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY).

According to available information, the road construction work from RD road to Kaurijhar via Tentulipalli was to be completed by October 9, but only 24.52 per cent of the work has been done so far. Similarly, the road construction from Mangala Thakurani Temple to Gopakuda near NH-16 was supposed to be finished by August 6, but only 21.57 per cent of the work has been completed.

Moreover, the Badapalli to Mareinuaagon road was to be completed by August 19, but only 39.20 per cent of the work has been finished till date. The Balukeshwarpur to Batagaon road project was contracted to be completed by August 9, but only 30.8 per cent of the work has been done. The Biripur to Kendubadi via Punijama-Brahmadevi road project is targeted to be completed by January 26, 2025, but only 30.8 per cent of the work has been finished so far. The Kumbhiura Khani road project is to be completed by December 5 as per contract, but as of now, only 29.18 per cent of the road work has been done.

# Sexagenarian held for raping minor girl

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Oct 6:** Police arrested a 60-year-old man Sunday for allegedly raping a minor girl in Mangalpur police station area in this district. The accused has been identified as Rabinarayan Sahu, a shopkeeper in the same village.

As per a complaint lodged at the Mangalpur PS by the Class IX student's family members, the victim had gone to Rabinarayan's shop Sunday morning to purchase chili powder. However, taking advantage of the situation, the shopkeeper dragged her forcefully inside the shop and raped her.

As the girl did not return home for long, her family members visited the shop to enquire about her. There they found the minor girl lying unconscious on the floor.



After returning home, the victim narrated her ordeal to the family members, who then went to the Mangalpur police station and registered a complaint of rape against the shopkeeper.

Acting on the complaint, the police started an investigation into the crime and nabbed Rabinarayan. The accused will be forwarded to the court after his medical examination, the police said.

# Khandewal visits model ESI Hospital

**Rourkela:** Lok Sabha MP and member of ESI board Praveen Khandewal visited the ESI model hospital here and took stock of the health facility. He was accompanied by Raghunathpalli MLA Durgacharan Tanty, Bonai MLA Laxman Munda, BJP's state spokesperson Dhiren Senapaty and other local leaders. Khandewal enquired about the problems and issues affecting the functioning of the hospital. Dr Jayanti Behera, the superintendent of the model hospital, gave a presentation for the ESI board member. Khandewal assured that all the issues in the hospital would be solved. "With the clarion call from PM Narendra Modi, the health services for the working class or those who are dependent on this hospital will be sorted out soon," he said. He further informed that all the posts will be filled up soon, so that no patient will go back without getting treatment.

# Kin remember deceased woman through silicon statue in house



PNN & AGENCIES

**Berhampur, Oct 6:** Members of the family of a woman who died during the COVID pandemic are trying to fill the void of her absence with a silicon statue of

her in the living room of their house in Berhampur.

Businessman Prashant Kumar Nayak (52) got the life-size statue of his wife Kiran sitting on a sofa, clad in saree and wearing gold ornaments installed ear-

lier this year before the marriage of their elder daughter.

The deceased woman's younger daughter Mehak, an MBA student, takes care of the statue by regularly changing saree and ornaments.

"Killer COVID snatched my wife but when I look at this statue, I feel as if she is home, with us. She always inspired me when she was alive," Nayak said.

They married in 1997 and have three children, including two daughters and a son.

"A few days after my wife's death April 25, 2021, my children wanted a statue of her in the house so that they don't feel her absence. I promptly agreed and asked my daughters to contact a sculptor," Prashant said.

"A Bangalore-based sculptor took around a year to create the exact lookalike statue using fibre, rubber and silicon. It cost us around ₹8 lakh, including transportation cost," he said, adding that the statue was installed before his elder daughter's marriage so that relatives feel his wife's presence.

Mehak said that they had given several photographs to the sculptor for perfection and had also visited Bangalore twice and consulted with him on video calls.

"After the installation of the statue in our home, we are feeling a constant presence of our mother," she said.

# Woman's body found in creek

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rajnagar, Oct 6:** The body of a 48-year-old woman, who was missing since Saturday evening, was found floating in a creek on the backyard of her house at Gobindapur village under Bandhapada panchayat in this block of Kendrapara district Sunday morning.

The deceased was identified as Jyotsnarani Rout, wife of Achyutananda Rout of the village.

According to family members of the deceased, Jyotsnarani had gone to the creek Saturday evening to attend call of nature and did

not return home for long. Family members launched a frantic search to know her whereabouts but were unable to trace her.

However they discovered the body floating in the creek Sunday morning.

After being fished out, she was rushed to Rajnagar community health centre (CHC) where the doctor pronounced her brought dead. After post-mortem, the body was brought to the village and last rites were completed.

A case of unnatural death in this regard has been registered at Rajnagar police station. Jyotsnarani is survived by her son and daughter.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# PUTIN'S MAGIC TRICKS



The obvious response to Putin is that he is the one who crossed the red line by issuing nuclear threats. Like those commentators who see the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war as a proxy war between Russia and NATO, he would have us believe that Russia was attacked first. Can this be true?

true? Israel would say that it is just acting in self-defense in Gaza, the West Bank, in Lebanon, but much is riding on how one defines "self" here. If I occupy territory that is not mine and then proclaim it mine (like the West Bank, or parts of Ukraine), and if the people who live there resist me, am I acting in self-defense when I crush them?

This brings us back to the magician strategies of Russian state propaganda. By accusing his opponents of what he is already doing, Putin wants to divert attention from the fact that he has stolen land and declared it his own. If you accept that Crimea, Donbas, and any other area with "traditional Russian" values (perhaps the Baltic countries or Moldova?) is being threatened, or that the Ukrainian nation is some fanciful modern construct, you have fallen for Putin's trick.

Understanding Putin's sleight of hand matters for the near term, because his combination of propaganda strategies has rendered rational peace negotiations practically impossible. When the terms of negotiation have been falsified from the outset, what progress can be made? Reflecting on the perpetual calls for peace in Ukraine, Luka Lisjak Gabrijelčić of Central European University is right to caution that, "Peace is all too precious to be left to peaceniks."

Add Putin's third strategy of deception - presenting a brutal war of conquest as a defense of spiritual values - and his ledger remains almost insuperable. All our hope now resides in that "almost."

The writer, Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, is International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London and the author, most recently, of *Christian Atheism: How to Be a Real Materialist* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024).

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Slavoj Žižek

**BENEATH ALL THE TALK OF A NEW MULTIPOLAR WORLD IS AN ESCHATOLOGICAL VISION OF A TOTAL WAR TO EXTINCTION BETWEEN TWO OPPOSITES**

Sometimes listen to podcasts about the secrets behind the best-known magic tricks (the three-shell game, mentalism, levitation), and after reading recent news from Russia, I saw an analogy to how Russian propaganda has achieved the seemingly impossible. Defying common sense, the Kremlin continues to proclaim with a straight face that its attack on Ukraine was an act of self-defense.

Most magic tricks combine two strategies, one to produce the desired effect, and another to distract the audience from what is really going on. Russia is doing the same with recent statements that are clearly designed to raise regional tensions around Ukraine. First, the Russian government approved a list of 47 foreign states and territories whose neoliberal attitudes supposedly threaten people with "traditional Russian spiritual and moral values." Those on the list are now officially designated as "enemy states." Gone is any pretense of supporting a "multipolar" world. If you do not share Russia's values, you are the enemy.

Among those who apparently share Russia's values are North Korea, Afghanistan, and Iran. The common element across these regimes is that they regard the European Enlightenment as the ultimate evil. The conflict is thus elevated to a metaphysical-religious level, and whenever religion enters directly into politics, the threat of deadly violence is never far behind. Beneath all the talk of a new multipolar world is an eschatological vision of a total war to extinction between two opposites.

Hence, soon after releasing his "enemies list," Putin declared a new nuclear doctrine that expands "the category of states and military alliances in relation to which nuclear deterrence is carried out." In a pointed warning to the West, he announced that any attack on Russia by a non-nuclear state that is backed by a nuclear-

armed one would be considered a "joint attack." Moreover, the Kremlin reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to an attack on Belarus, which forms part of its "Union State." In other words, any case where an enemy "creates critical danger to our sovereignty" is a potential casus belli for a nuclear conflict.

Such statements cannot but make us nostalgic for the good old days of the Cold War, when both sides wisely avoided direct nuclear threats and announced that they would use nuclear arms only in response to a nuclear strike by the other side. Under the conditions of "mutual assured destruction," nobody dared to raise the possibility of a nuclear first strike. But now, Russia is not only asserting its right to a first strike; it is even expanding the conditions for justifying it.

Of course, an actual Russian

first strike remains unlikely. But in military matters, words are never just words. It is all too easy for one side to become trapped by its own rhetoric. After thousands of pagers exploded in Lebanon, Iran's delegate to the United Nations said that Israel had again "crossed a red line." But at a time when "red lines" are being crossed regularly, such statements can only make the situation more dangerous. After all, there must be real red lines somewhere, but they may not be well understood, implying that we will not know where they lie until they have been crossed.

The obvious response to Putin is that he is the one who crossed the red line by issuing nuclear threats. Like those commentators who see the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war as a proxy war between Russia and NATO, he would have us believe that Russia was attacked first. Can this be

## A Year Later

Nothing, not even the darkest falsehood can stop the ultimate triumph of Truth.

THE MOTHER



Exactly a year ago on this day, Hamas militants unleashed their reign of terror on Israel, setting in motion one of the deadliest conflicts the troubled region of the Middle East has witnessed in its long chequered history.

What Israel did to Gaza in the aftermath of the Hamas attack is there for the whole world to see. The relentless bombing of Gaza by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has resulted in nearly 42,000 Palestinian deaths, with women and children being the worst sufferers, like every other war in history. The United Nations reports that 1.9 million Gazans, representing 90 per cent of the enclave's total population, have been displaced, while the World Bank estimates that over 60 per cent of residential buildings in Gaza have been destroyed. With this scale of destruction, Gaza seems to have turned into a ghost city.

Even as the pounding of Gaza continued, Israel opened another front in the war in Lebanon, where Iran's powerful proxy Hezbollah holds sway. Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon have resulted in the deaths of over 1,000 people and injured more than 6,000 in less than three weeks. According to UN estimates, over 1 million people have been displaced in that country.

A year into the war, Hamas' military strength has been severely diminished and its remaining fighters are now taking refuge in an underground hideout. Hezbollah, on the other hand, appears to be struggling in the aftermath of the loss of its leadership with the assassination of its secretary-general Hassan Nassrallah in a daring IDF operation. Though Nassrallah's killing led to widespread anger in Iran and it launched a barrage of 180 missiles on Israel, the strikes caused little damage to Israel as its robust air defence system neutralised most of the missiles.

Following 7 October, 2023 Hezbollah initiated attacks on Israel in solidarity with Hamas. Iran had then anticipated that these assaults, along with the looming threat of a regional conflict, would generate international pressure on Israel to reach a settlement allowing Hamas to stay in Gaza. However, this outcome has not materialised, and as Israel shifts its focus northward, the Iranian proxy is facing severe deterioration. The growing prospects of an Israeli ground invasion suggest that Hezbollah may be forced to withdraw from certain areas of Lebanon. While the Iranians will make every effort to restore its strength, Hezbollah is likely to remain a weakened player in the regional landscape for the time being.

The war may have played havoc with the lives of millions of civilians but it has changed the fortunes of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, allowing him to hold onto power despite his unpopularity among a major section of the Israeli population. Considered a pariah a year ago, Netanyahu was widely disliked in his own country and derided by some commentators as the worst prime minister in the country's history. Tens of thousands hit the streets in Tel Aviv protesting against his leadership. Yet, Netanyahu persevered, and a year later, even his harshest critics in Israel are praising him for decapitating Hezbollah's leadership.

The future course of the war now depends on how Israel responds to Iran's missile attacks. While Netanyahu and the IDF have been insisting that Iran will have to pay a heavy price for its misadventure, the remarks of US President Joe Biden that the US doesn't support an Israeli retaliatory attack on Iranian nuclear facilities and the arrival of the Commander of the US CentCom General Michael E Kurilla in Israel kind of reassures the world that this conflict may not get any more uglier. However, every war has its own dynamics. And as the English poet Geoffrey Chaucer writes: "Things happen, as they do in war."

### WISDOM CORNER

Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.

STEPHEN HAWKING

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.

MAYA ANGELOU

The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want and if they can't find them, make them.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1571: Allied Christian forces defeated the Ottoman Turks during a naval engagement at the Battle of Lepanto.
- 1780: American forces defeated British loyalists at the Battle of Kings Mountain during the American Revolution.
- 1949: German Democratic Republic proclaimed. On this day in 1949, a constitution went into effect in the Soviet occupation zone of Germany that formed the country of East Germany, which existed alongside West Germany until 1990, when the two Germanys reunited.
- 1959: People on Earth get the first glimpse of the dark side of the Moon. Soviet spacecraft Luna 3 took pictures of the far side of the Moon. The images sent by the probe covered about 70% of the far side of Earth's natural satellite and they were instrumental in helping astronomers make the first atlas of the dark side of the Moon. The far or dark side of the Moon is the side of the Moon that cannot be seen from Earth because of the way the Moon orbits around the Earth and rotate on its own axis. Due to lunar libration, people on Earth can see about 59% of the Moon over time.
- 1971: The American crime thriller *The French Connection*, directed by William Friedkin and starring Gene Hackman, had its world premieres in New York City and Los Angeles; the movie, which won the Oscar for best picture, is especially known for featuring one of the most exciting and iconic car chases in cinematic history.
- 1985: Members of the Palestine Liberation Front, a small faction headed by Abu Abbas within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), hijacked an Italian cruise ship, the *Achille Lauro*.

### LOL

#### STOPPED DRINKING

A juggler, driving to his next performance, was stopped by the police. "What are those knives doing in your car?" asked the officer. "I juggle them in my act." "Oh yeah?" says the cop. "Let's see you do it." So the juggler starts tossing and juggling the knives.



A guy driving by sees this and says, "Wow, am I glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're making you do now!"

### SPECTRUM CAPITAL MARKETS

## Fortunes lost in stocks crash



Shivaji Sarkar

**RISING CRUDE PRICES, ANALYSTS FEAR, COULD FORCE THE RBI TO HOLD ITS KEY POLICY RATES LONGER THAN EXPECTED EVEN AS THE US FEDERAL RESERVE CUT RATES RECENTLY**

The Indian stock market is crashing again, perhaps on artificial resuscitation and gasping. The pressure is building. As per the Buffett indicator, India's stocks value crossed way past its historical average of 0.83 and is hovering above 1.4, indicating that the market is significantly overvalued. This was estimated almost at the end of last week. Many columns, including this, had indicated that a bubble was building up. A rise to 85000 plus of Sensex looked unreal. The total losses in a week may cross ₹13 lakh crore. In just four trading sessions since 1 October, Sensex dropped over 3,300 points as FIIs pulled out nearly ₹32,000 crore from Dalal-Street.

China's market appeal and growing fears over the Iran-Israel conflict have spooked global investors. With concerns over high valuations even as retail investors remain confident across price points, there is rising uncertainty about a potential market crash during the festive season. The market has come down

to a three-week low amid Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir elections. Apparently though there is no direct connection, but political uncertainties make investors cling to their purses. The oil surge, from around \$70 a barrel to \$75 and rupee's slip by 15 paise, stated to be worst in two months are major shocks, while after the US rate hike, it was expected to strengthen.

The added loss of deposits in banks, though figuratively, is being tried to be projected as credit level having gone up. It is not replenished by the average depositors. Market experts say when a government deducts the inflation-related part of income, the tax base, real taxable income decreases while nominal taxable income states the same. This leads to higher deficits and reduced government revenue. In turn, this causes investors to lose confidence, which can cause stock prices to drop sharply and potentially cause a stock market crash. For quite sometime, brokerages and analysts have been ramming home the key point

that over-exuberance, euphemism for greed, has been driving up Indian equities. All traditional metrics such as the price-earnings ratio and revenue and profitability indicate that prices are blinking red and may snap at the slightest touch.

The latest World Bank Business 2024 report has expressed concern over the principle of "ease of doing business," which, it says, means dumping of costs on the buyers. The healthy business concept would be in the interest of the consumers and the global business community.

The stock market is no indicator for the health of the economy, but it is a way to siphon off large funds. Foreign institutional investors are earning huge profits both as they invest and withdraw from the markets. Whether it is bull or bear they are usually the gainers.

The price-to-earnings ratio has reached the highest in Indian markets. It indicates overvaluation. The benchmarks Nifty and Sensex logged their biggest

decline in two months of over 2 per cent as FIIs sold ₹15,243 crore worth of shares in a single day with the India Vix (volatility index) surging to close 13.17, the biggest jump in two months. A rise in Vix implies greater uncertainty while a fall suggests confidence.

Rising crude prices, analysts fear, could force the Reserve Bank of India to hold its key policy rates at which it lends to banks longer than expected even as the US Federal Reserve cut rates recently. Inflationary trends have been continuing. With the global and domestic uncertainties, imports becoming expensive, India may not be able to check the prices.

The October-7-9, Monetary Policy Committee meeting, which was expected to cut rates may have to take harsher decision. It may have to go beyond rate cut to stabilise the domestic market. The pressure is building in India's stock markets. It has triggered recession fears. Hope it does not go to a red alert.

INFA

### Discriminatory practice

Sir, A three-member bench of the Supreme Court gave a landmark verdict on a PIL filed by a woman journalist, ordering all states and Union Territories to make urgent amendments to the prison manual to remove caste-based discrimination and division of labour in jails. Sukanya, a journalist, prepared a research report in 2020. Examples from three major states, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, were frequently mentioned. The court considered it a blatant violation of Article 15 of the Constitution. The court concluded that it is unfair to assign kitchen and cleaning duties based on caste. Giving culinary jobs to prisoners from upper castes and cleaning jobs to lower caste convicts violates constitutional provisions. This promotes caste inequality in jails. The court ruled that dividing work based on caste is consistent with colonial ideology, which cannot be retained in an Independent India. The court ruled that the jail manual is blatantly discriminatory. It further stated that including facts about caste in the manual is unconstitutional. It is worth noting that the Home Ministry issued a notification in February, stating that this discrimination is prohibited.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

### Critical collaboration

Sir, India and the US have recently signed an MoU aimed at strengthening the supply chain for critical minerals, a strategic move in response to China's increasing control over these essential resources. These minerals are crucial for industries like semiconductors, electric vehicles, and clean energy, making this collaboration vital for both nations. By working together, India and the US aim to build more resilient and diversified supply chains, reducing their reliance on a single dominant player in the market, which is currently China. The agreement focuses on several key areas: exploration, extraction, processing, refining, recycling, and recovery of critical minerals. This holistic approach will not only boost the supply chain but also set new benchmarks for how critical minerals are handled at various stages of their lifecycle. By prioritising recycling and recovery, the MoU emphasises the need for sustainable practices, which could help reduce environmental impacts while maintaining a steady supply of resources for growing industries.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

BYPOLLS TO 10 ASSEMBLY SEATS

# INDIA bloc's first major test in UP

SP, CONG LEADERS SAY THEIR AIM IS TO DEFEAT THE BJP, AND THEY ARE CONFIDENT THEY WOULD CONTEST THE BYPOLLS TOGETHER



The Assembly seats where bypolls are due are: Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), Karhal (Mainpuri), Milkipur (Ayodhya), Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar), Ghaziabad, Majhawan (Mirzapur), Sishamau (Kanpur city), Khair (Aligarh), Phulpur (Prayagraj) and Kundarki (Moradabad)

Lucknow, Oct 6: Bypolls to 10 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh will be a litmus test for the INDIA bloc's unity after the group's success in the recent Lok Sabha polls when they won more than 40 seats, significantly contributing to the BJP's failure to win a simple majority in parliament.

However, the two INDIA bloc allies in Uttar Pradesh -- Samajwadi Party and Congress -- have not been able to firm-up a seat-sharing pact for the bypolls even though the Congress has staked claims to contest five of the 10 seats, a proposition the SP may not agree with. Leaders from both the parties say their aim is to defeat the BJP, and they are confident they would contest the bypolls together.

Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai told PTI, "The party is holding 'Samvidhan Bachao Sammelan' (save Constitution

conferences) on all 10 Assembly seats that are going to polls. Two such conferences have already been held. We have appointed in-charges and observers on all the 10 seats and ground work is on."

The Assembly seats where bypolls are due are: Katehari (Ambedkar Nagar), Karhal (Mainpuri), Milkipur (Ayodhya), Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar), Ghaziabad, Majhawan (Mirzapur), Sishamau (Kanpur city), Khair (Aligarh), Phulpur (Prayagraj) and Kundarki (Moradabad). Nine of these seats

fell vacant after their MLAs were elected as MPs in the Lok Sabha polls, while bypolls are being held on the Sishamau seat due to the disqualification of SP MLA Irfan Solanki, who was convicted in a criminal case.

Asked if he hopes the alliance will continue in these bypolls, Rai said, "Yes. We will contest in alliance. The aim of both the Congress and the SP is to defeat the BJP." "We have given a proposal to contest five Assembly seats -- Majhwa (Mirzapur), Phulpur (Allahabad), Ghaziabad,

Khair (Aligarh) and Meerapur (Muzaffarnagar) to our leadership. These seats are those, where BJP candidates had won," Rai said.

In the 2022 Assembly polls, Sisamau, Katehari, Karhal, Milkipur and Kundarki seats were won by the SP; while Phulpur, Ghaziabad, Majhawan and Kahir elected BJP MLAs. The Meerapur seat was held by the RLD.

When asked whether his party had any talks with the SP in this regard, Rai said, "A meeting was held in which it was discussed. We have told the leadership and our UP in-charge Avinash Pande about it." Asked specifically whether he sees the alliance continuing in the bypolls, Rai said, "Yes, 100 per cent. Ummid nahi, pucca hai (it's just a hope, but a certainty)."

In the Lok Sabha polls held in April-May, INDIA bloc partners Samajwadi Party won 37 seats while Congress got six. The BJP had won 33 seats (down from 62 in 2019) while its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and Apna Dal (Sonelal) got two and one seat respectively.

The Azad Samaj Party had won one seat.

When PTI asked about the bypolls, SP chief spokesperson and National Secretary Rajendra Chowdhury said, "We are fully prepared for the polls. The INDIA bloc will win all the 10 seats."

The dates of by-elections have not been announced yet.

# 2nd edition of Wayanad Lit Fest to be held in December

In light of the recent landslides in Wayanad, this year's festival may also serve as a source of solace for the local community

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), Oct 6: The second edition of the Wayanad Literature Festival (WLF), India's first and the largest rurally-held literature festival organised in a grama panchayat, will be held at Mananthavady here in December.

The festival will be held in Wayanad this year from December 27 to 29 and will bring together writers, cultural figures, filmmakers, artists, and academicians from all over the world, the event organisers said in a release.

This year's list of speakers include Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy, retired Supreme Court judge Justice J Chelameswar, Shyam Divan, John Keay, Christophe Jaffrelot, Amitava Kumar, Caroline Buckee, Sara Joseph, and K Satchidanandan, the release said.

A significant highlight of this year's event will be an international academic conference which, in the context of the devastating landslide in Wayanad that killed over 200 people, will



A committee comprising 101 representatives from various sections of Wayanad society are organising the festival

discusses issues like climate change, livelihood rights of farmers and indigenous people etc, it said.

"Resilience, expression, representation - three phrases encompass the crux of the Wayanad Literature Festival," Festival Director Vinod K Jose is quoted as having said in the release.

Beyond the literary and academic aspects, the festival will offer a rich cultural experience.

"An All India Arts and Crafts Fair, Film Festival, Book Fair, Food Fair, Farmers Market, Heritage Walk, Art Biennale, Children's Arena, Chess Tournament, Master Classes in Fashion, Photography, and Entrepreneurship, along with Kerala's Best College Magazine Award and Photography Award, are some of the highlights of the festival," it said.

WLF curator Joseph K Job said, according to the release, that the festival aims to dispel the misconception that the region is completely devastated by the recent calamities.

"By showcasing Wayanad's enduring beauty and resilience, the festival seeks to revitalize the tourism sector, boost the local economy, and restore the region's lost glory," he said.

# CM Yogi unveils Mahakumbh logo

The logo symbolises religious and economic prosperity, with the depiction of the Amrit Kalash, a sacred vessel from the mythological ocean churning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj (UP), Oct 6: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Sunday unveiled the new multi-coloured logo for Mahakumbh 2025 at an event here, an official statement issued in Lucknow said.

The logo symbolises religious and economic prosperity, with the depiction of the Amrit Kalash, a sacred vessel from the mythological ocean churning.

The design features a temple, a seer, an urn, the Akshayvat tree and an image of Lord Hanuman, representing the confluence of nature and humanity in the Sanatan civilization.

It also embodies the continuous flow of self-awareness and public welfare, serving as an inspirational emblem for Mahakumbh 2025.

Kumbh Mela, recognized by the UNESCO as an 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity,' is regarded as the world's largest peaceful gathering of pilgrims.

With the motto "Sarvasiddhipradah Kumbhah" (Kumbh bestows all types of spiritual powers), the Maha Kumbh stands as a profound symbol of spiritual significance, it said.

The logo for Maha Kumbh, one of the largest festivals globally, has been crafted to reflect its diverse and far-reaching impact, capturing both its spiritual

essence and cultural grandeur, the statement said.

Sadhus and saints from all sects across the country participate in the Maha Kumbh in large numbers, symbolized in the logo by a sadhu blowing a conch.

Additionally, two sadhus are depicted in a posture of salutation, reflecting the deep reverence of the event.

The logo also incorporates key religious sites along the banks of Sangamnagari and represents various traditions of Sanatan Dharma.

The Amrit Kalash featured in the design holds profound symbolism: its mouth represents Lord Vishnu, the neck signifies Rudra, the base symbolizes Brahma, the middle part embodies all goddesses, and the water within represents the entire ocean.

The Maha Kumbh is a significant social and religious festival that brings together devotees from around the world.

As the event is held in Prayagraj, the logo prominently features the city's most sacred site -- the Triveni Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers. A live satellite image of the Sangam is clearly visible in the design, symbolizing the eternal flow of these rivers.

This inclusion highlights the spiritual and geographical importance of Prayagraj in the Maha Kumbh's rich tradition.



People cross the muddy Sangam area after the water level of River Ganga receded, in Prayagraj, UP

PTI PHOTO

# Villagers kill sixth wolf in Bahraich

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), Oct 6: The last one of the pack of six wolves that had created terror in Mahsi tehsil has been killed by the locals in Tamachpur village of this district, officials Sunday said.

The wolf killed late Saturday night under the Ramgaon police station area is a female and not lame as suspected earlier, they said. The wolf's body has been sent for post-mortem, the officials said.

"Late Saturday night we got information that people had killed a wolf in Tamachpur village under Ramgaon police station of Mahsi tehsil. When we reached there, we found the dead wolf and the bodies of a goat. There were injury marks on the wolf's body and it was bleeding," Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ajit Pratap Singh told PTI.

"On closer inspection, we found that the dead wolf was an adult female. When we inquired, we found out that the wolf had



entered the inhabited area and was carrying away a goat. On the way, the villagers surrounded and killed it. The dead wolf has been brought to the range office for post-mortem," he added.

When asked whether the killed female wolf was lame or not, the DFO said that "there was never a 'lame wolf' in the pack of man-eating wolves".

Some villagers of Tamachpur village told reporters that the wolf had tried to attack an innocent child sleeping next to his mother in the courtyard of a house in the village, but on hearing the mother's screams, the wolf ran away and attacked a goat there.

Later, the villagers surrounded the wolf and beat it to death, they said.

## AMID FISH MORTALITY CRISIS

# CMFRI breeds Giant Trevally with high survival rates

With the successful breeding of Giant Trevally, CMFRI hopes to provide an effective climate change adaptation farming solution for Kerala's brackish water fish farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 6: Kerala, increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts, has seen its brackish water fish farmers suffer significant losses due to a sudden decline in water salinity caused by flash floods.

In response, a Central government institute has successfully bred seedlings of Giant Trevally, which has a high survival rate in very low salinity, offering a potential lifeline for struggling aquaculture in the region.

The Breeding Centre of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Vizhinjam, which has primarily focused on breeding Silver Pompano, among other fish varieties, has artificially bred seedlings of Giant Trevally and will be selling them to fish farm-

ers in Kerala and neighbouring states.

Giant Trevally, a fish with a highly predatory nature, can reach lengths of up to six feet and weights of 80 kg when fully grown. This single-boned fish, which lacks muscle connecting the bones, has significant commercial value worldwide and can fetch over Rs 500 per kilogram.

The scientists at CMFRI, Vizhinjam, told PTI that brackish water fish farmers in Kerala have been contacting them because they regularly lose the fish they cultivate during the sudden, torrential rains that the state has been experiencing in recent years, a visible effect of climate change.

"Giant Trevally is a very tasty fish and always has high commercial demand. We have observed that Giant Trevally can survive in waters with very low salinity compared to Silver Pompano," Dr B Santhosh, head of the CMFRI Vizhinjam centre, told PTI.

Most of the approximately 10,000 brackish water fish farmers in Kerala have primarily been farming commercially viable Pearl Spot fish and Silver Pompano. However, Silver Pompano mortality has increased



due to the unpredictable weather and sudden reduction in salinity of the waters in Kerala's backwaters.

"Our goal was to breed a fish variety that could survive in waters with very low salinity and grow reasonably well in a shorter duration. Giant Trevally can grow quickly, and we hope it will allow farmers to harvest the fish twice a year," said Ambareesh P Gopi, the scientist leading the breeding of sea fish varieties at the CMFRI Vizhinjam centre.

The brooding pair of these fish was caught as juveniles from the Ashtamudi Backwaters in Kollam and then nurtured in special tanks.

The CMFRI Vizhinjam centre also breeds other fish varieties, such as Emperor Fish and Cobia, which are purely sea fish

that cannot survive in brackish waters. These fish varieties are mostly purchased by fish farmers based in states like Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

"They have the option of placing cages in the sea to grow them. Emperor fish are not bred anywhere else in India, and Cobia is a highly commercial fish that can grow very quickly," Santhosh said.

The centre is also breeding various types of marine ornamental fish, as marine aquariums are becoming increasingly popular among pet lovers.

With the successful breeding of Giant Trevally, CMFRI hopes to provide an effective climate change adaptation farming solution for Kerala's brackish water fish farmers.

Brackish water refers to water

The CMFRI Vizhinjam centre also breeds other fish varieties, such as Emperor Fish and Cobia, which are purely sea fish that cannot survive in brackish waters

These fish varieties are mostly purchased by fish farmers based in states like Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu

The centre is also breeding various types of marine ornamental fish, as marine aquariums are becoming increasingly popular among pet lovers

that has a higher salinity than freshwater but lower salinity than seawater. This type of water supports a unique ecosystem and is home to various species of plants and animals that are adapted to its intermediate salinity.

"We have managed to obtain 1.5 lakh seedlings, and we hope to increase that to 3 to 4 lakhs per breeding cycle. We currently have a survival rate of about 15 to 20 per cent, which is very healthy," Gopi said.

The Vizhinjam CMFRI centre produces about 3 to 4 lakhs of Silver Pompano seedlings per month for farmers in Kerala and neighbouring states.

## of the day quote

Demographic, connectivity and AI will change the global order

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) located in Mohaan, Almora, Uttarakhand was established in 1978 by the Central and state governments together

PRİYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

Unfortunately, under BJP rule, this harmony is under attack. The BJP is deliberately stoking communal tensions, with a former RSS leader provoking Christians and Sangh organisations calling for an economic boycott of Muslims

RAHUL GANDHI | LOP IN THE LS

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 killed as dumper rams bikes in Dausa

**Jaipur:** A dumper rammed into three motorcycles in Dausa district of Rajasthan, killing five people and injuring 10 others Sunday, police said. The incident took place in Lalsot at around 11.30 am, SHO of Lalsot police station Mahavir Singh said, adding initial investigation found that the dumper hit the motorcycles after its brakes failed. The injured have been admitted to a hospital. The SHO said four people including an unidentified woman died on the spot while Revad Mal Mahawar died during treatment in Dausa. He said that after the postmortem, the bodies were handed over to their family members.

### 2 missing kids found dead

**Jaisalmer:** The bodies of two missing children were found inside the water tank of an unoccupied house near their home in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer, police said Sunday. The parents of Adil (6) and Hasnain (7), Babar Magra area residents, filed a complaint Saturday after the children went missing, they said. During search, their bodies were found inside the water tank of an empty house Saturday night, Kotwali SHO Sawai Singh said, adding that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem.

### 67.90 per cent voter turnout in Haryana

**Chandigarh:** Haryana has recorded a voter turnout of 67.90 per cent with Ellenabad assembly seat in Haryana district witnessing the highest polling percentage at over 80 per cent, according to the updated figures of the Election Commission Sunday. The polling for the 90-member state assembly was held Saturday. In the 2019 Assembly polls, the state had recorded 68.31 per cent turnout while in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections for 10 seats, the percentage was 64.8. Poll panel data available at 11:55 pm Saturday showed the turnout was 66.96 per cent.

### BJP leader booked

**Pauri (Uttarakhand):** BJP leader Lakhpat Singh Bhandari has been booked here for allegedly trying to disrupt communal harmony with his "objectionable" remarks on 'love jihad', police said Sunday. While addressing an event in Srinagar October 2, the party's Pauri Garhwal unit vice-president allegedly made comments warning people of a particular community to stay away from 'love jihad' or their 'eyes would be gouged out and shops burned down'.



The victory of Congress in the Haryana Assembly elections, as predicted by exit polls, should be viewed as a defeat of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

LALU PRASAD | RJD PRESIDENT

## 4 GET LIFE TERM

A court has sentenced four persons to life imprisonment for killing a man who was a witness in a case related to the poisoning of a pond that led to the death of a large number of fish



# Wangchuk begins hunger strike

The climate activist, who led a march to Delhi demanding sixth schedule status for Ladakh, said they were assured of a meeting with top leadership -- President, prime minister, or home minister -- but they have not yet been given an appointment, forcing them to sit on fast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



on the basis of the assurance that we would get an appointment from the Home Ministry to meet the country's senior leaders. We just want to meet our politicians, get assurance and return to Ladakh," Wangchuk told PTI.

"We were told that we would be given appointments with the President, PM and home minister by October 4. We even called off a 'jan sabha' (public meeting) that we were to hold at Rajghat because we did not want any clash," he said. Wangchuk said, "We just wanted assurance from our leaders and then return to Ladakh. However, it was not carried out after we vacated Rajghat and put an end to our hunger strike. So, we were forced to once again observe a hunger strike." He said when police told them that protest at Jantar Mantar is allowed only between 10 am to 5 pm, they were ready for it.

"We even said we can sit at Jantar Mantar from 10 am to 5 pm and then we'll relocate to a designated place but they rejected that as well... We asked them to give us any place that they find appropriate but we were not given any venue."

Wangchuk said that he and several protesters walked over 1,000 km over 32 days to Delhi to meet the country's leadership, he said. "Many padyatris have left, but still there are many, including women, old people and-

mer soldiers, who want to meet the leaders." Asserting that the Gandhian protest would continue, he said, "We are following the path shown by Gandhi and we will continue our peaceful protest. We are sitting on a fast."

Around 18 people, including Wangchuk, sat close to the gate of the Ladakh Bhawan, singing the Hindi version of 'We Shall Overcome' and raised slogans such as 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Jai Ladakh' and 'Save Ladakh, Save Himalaya'. Wangchuk took to Sunday morning 'X' to say that they have been denied permission to sit on a fast at Jantar Mantar. "Another rejection, another frustration. Finally this morning we got this rejection letter for the officially designated place for protests," Wangchuk said. The climate activist led the 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra', which began in Leh a month ago.

The march was organised by Leh Apex Body, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has been spearheading an agitation for the last four years seeking statehood for Ladakh, its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, a public service commission for Ladakh, and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts. A majority of the protesters Saturday returned to Ladakh while the remaining stayed back to join Wangchuk for the fast.

## AMETHI MURDER CASE

### Prime accused shifted to district jail in Raebareli

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Raebareli (UP), Oct 6:** Chandan Verma, accused of killing a Dalit family in Amethi, has been shifted to the district jail here, officials said Sunday.

National Commission for Scheduled Castes member Love Kush Kumar took information about the incident from District Magistrate Harshita Mathur and Superintendent of Police Yashveer Singh. After the meeting, Kumar told reporters the incident is unfortunate. He also gave a clean chit to the police stating that there was no negligence on their part. "The police took immediate action and arrested the accused. There was no negligence at any level," he added.



Kumar later visited Sudamapur village and met the victim's family members.

He said that he talked to the victim's family and the police has taken appropriate action in the case.

"The culprit has been sent to jail. The chief minister has also announced to provide the benefits of Awas Yojana, Antyodaya. Soon the benefits will be available. The police administration has been told to provide security to the victim's family. No untoward incident should happen to them," he said. Verma (35), who was arrested Friday, was shot by the police Saturday while they were trying to recover the pistol he allegedly used in the killing.

# 7 killed in fire at Mumbai building



CM Shinde visited the site and met family members of the victims. Later, talking to reporters, he said the incident was very unfortunate. The cost of treatment of the injured persons will be borne by the government

The Chief Minister announced a high-level probe in the incident and a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the kin of the deceased

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 6:** Seven persons, including three minors, were killed after a fire broke out in a double-storey shop-cum-residential structure in Mumbai Sunday morning, a fire official said.

The incident took place at 5.20 am at Siddharth Colony in Chembur area, he said. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde later visited the site. He announced a high-level probe into the incident and a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the kin of the deceased.

The ground floor of the structure was used as a shop and the upper floor as residence, an official said.

The blaze was confined to the electric wiring and installations in the shop at the ground floor and spread to the upper floor, he said, adding it was a 'level-one' fire. Seven persons were injured in the incident. They were taken to the Rajawadi Hospital where all of them were declared brought

dead, the official said.

Fire engines, water tankers and other assistance were rushed to the spot and the blaze was doused by 9.15 am, the official said.

The deceased have been identified as Paris Gupta (7), Manju Prem Gupta (30), Anita Gupta (39), Prem Gupta (30), Narendra Gupta (10), Vidhi Chediram Gupta (15) and Gitadevi Dharamdev Gupta (60), he said.

CM Shinde visited the site and met family members of the victims. Later, talking to reporters, he said the incident was very unfortunate.

The Chief Minister announced a high-level probe in the incident and a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the kin of the deceased. The cost of treatment of the injured persons will be borne by the government, he said. If the slum rehabilitation work has run into hurdles, the issues would be looked into, he added. The CM was accompanied by Union minister Ramdas Athawale.

## SNIPPETS

### Two stranded foreign mountaineers rescued

**Gopeshwar:** Two foreign women mountaineers, who were stranded at a height of 6,015 metres on way to the Chaukhamba III peak in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, were rescued Sunday morning, the District Disaster Management Centre here said. The mountaineers -- Michelle Theresa Dvorak from the USA and Fay Jane Manners from the United Kingdom -- were stranded since October 3. Both are safe despite their ordeal lasting three days. Though looking somewhat tired, the experienced mountaineers wore a smile when they were brought to the Jyotirmath (Joshiyath) helipad by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel Sunday morning.

### Delhi HC to hear Umar Khalid's bail plea today

**New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court will Monday hear the bail plea of former JNU student Umar Khalid in a UAPA case related to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the communal riots here in February 2020. The bail pleas by other co-accused in the case -- student activist Sharjeel Imam and Gulfisha Fatima, 'United Against Hate' founder Khalid Saifi and others -- are also listed for fresh hearing before a bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur. The cases were earlier before a bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait but the judge was recently transferred to the Madhya Pradesh High Court as its Chief Justice.

### Delhi Police recover cocaine worth ₹10cr

**New Delhi:** An investigation into a ₹5,620-crore drug seizure, one of the biggest drug busts ever seen in the national capital, led the Delhi Police Special Cell to the recovery of cocaine worth ₹10 crore from Punjab's Amritsar. Earlier in the day, the police said they had arrested a person in connection with the new seizure. However, sources later clarified no fresh arrests were made today and that raids are being conducted across the country based on information revealed by those already arrested. The Special Cell October 2 seized over 560 kilograms of cocaine and 40 kilograms of hydroponic marijuana estimated to be worth around ₹5,620 crore. Along with the seizure, Delhi residents Tushar Goyal (40), Himanshu Kumar (27) and Aurangzeb Siddiqui (23) and Bharat Kumar Jain (48) of Mumbai were arrested the same day.



A farmer inspects damaged crops after heavy rainfall at a village near Amritsar, Punjab

PTI PHOTO

### Local AAP leader shot at in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Oct 6:** Shiromani Akali Dal leaders Vardev Singh Noni Mann, his brother Nardev Singh Bobby Mann and 15-20 unidentified persons were booked for attempt to murder in connection with an attack on a local AAP leader in Punjab's Fazilka district, police said Sunday.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Mandeep Singh Brar was shot at outside the office of block development and panchayat officer in Fazilka's Jalalabad area Saturday, they said. Brar, who is the candidate for the post of Sarpanch from Muhammad Wala village, sustained a bullet injury in his chest. He was rushed to the Civil Hospital in Jalalabad but later shifted to Ludhiana.

AAP MLA from Jalalabad Jagdeep Kamboj alleged that Shiromani Akali Dal leader Vardev Singh Noni Mann allegedly fired at Brar. The FIR was lodged on a complaint filed by Gurpreet Singh, who has filed his nomination for the post of Sarpanch of village Chak Suhelewalwa.

# Sustained rise in antimicrobial resistance in India: ICMR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Two topmost pathogens responsible for causing bloodstream infections (BSIs), the most common hospital-acquired infection, have been found to be resistant to the antibiotic imipenem among ICU patients, an ICMR study has found.

These two pathogens are Klebsiella pneumoniae and Acinetobacter baumannii. Besides, two other pathogens Staphylococcus aureus and Enterococcus faecium causing BSIs were resistant to the antibiotics oxacillin and vancomycin, respectively, the study stated.

Normally these antibiotics work on patients not suffering from BSIs. Bacteria Acinetobacter spp was the most



common pathogen responsible for ventilator associated pneumonia, according to the ICMR's annual report 2023 which provides comprehensive details of bloodstream infections (BSIs), urinary tract infections (UTIs)

and ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) reported from January 2023 to December 2023 from a network of 39 hospitals across India.

The network hospitals in this report are part of the ICMR's

AMR network and hospitals that have voluntarily joined the network, said senior ICMR scientist Dr Kamini Walia, who led the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) study. A high rate of resistance was seen among UTI causing E. coli and Klebsiella pneumoniae and Acinetobacter baumannii against antibiotics carbapenem, fluoroquinolones and third generation cephalosporins, Dr Walia said.

Any infection, which develops after 48 hours of admission of a patient in the hospital, is called healthcare-associated infection, she explained. Hospitals

must invest in prevention of infections in hospital settings.

Antibiotics like piperacillin-tazobactam and carbapenems which are used for treating blood infections caused by E. coli bacteria have been found to be more resistant among OPD, ICU and ward patients over the last seven years.

In Acinetobacter baumannii, one of main pathogens of the hospital acquired infections such as Pneumonia, there is no significant change in the susceptibility trends to all the tested antibiotics compared to 2022. Resistance to carbapenems in Acinetobacter baumannii was

recorded as 88 per cent in the year 2023, limiting the availability of available treatment options, Dr Walia said.

Resistance to carbapenem was observed in all the isolates of the OPD, ward and ICU but highest resistance was reported in ICU patients, she said. It was close to 72 per cent to make it the most effective antibiotic in terms of susceptibility after colistin antibiotic for A. baumannii.

Colistin is the last resort the antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections which have acquired resistance to other antibiotics.

As reported in previous years' reports, fungal pathogens like C. tropicalis and C. albicans were found to be leading causes of candidemia, a type of fungal bloodstream infection in hospitalised patients the current year.

Bacteria Acinetobacter spp was the most common pathogen responsible for ventilator associated pneumonia



of the day quote

We have decided that we will work with the Bengaluru Airport Authority and try to take the station all the way as close to the departure and arrival (of the airport) as possible. We will start the discussions

Those who are coming and giving speeches are trying to use you as a protective shield to safeguard their farmhouses. They are not speaking for your interests

They (opposition) got so frustrated that they dragged my wife, who had never entered politics or stepped out of her house (in public life), on the road. You need to ask (opposition) this question whether this is justified

POST OF THE DAY

#Chennai: Massive crowd at Velachery MRTS railway station to catch a train to reach Marina to watch the Indian Air Force's Air show. Commuters said they expected S Rly to operate more trains. There was heavy traffic on Velachery Tambaram main road too

SHORT TAKES

Ramlila actor dies on stage

New Delhi: A 56-year-old man died after he suffered a heart attack on stage while performing the role of Lord Rama at a Ramlila in Vishwakarma Nagar of Shahdara, police Sunday said.

10 kids drown

Sasaram/Katihar: At least 10 children drowned while bathing in Bihar's Rohtas and Katihar districts Sunday, officials said. One child was missing while another was rescued by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in Rohtas, they said.

Flight diverted

New Delhi: An Air India flight from Delhi to London was diverted to Copenhagen Sunday due to a medical emergency, according to an airline official.

Kejriwal dares Modi to provide free electricity

ADDRESSING A PUBLIC GATHERING AT 'JANTA KI ADALAT', KEJRIWAL ACCUSED THE BJP'S 'DOUBLE ENGINE' GOVERNMENTS OF FAILING IN STATES AND PREDICTED THE PARTY'S OUSTER FROM HARYANA AND JAMMU AND KASHMIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal Sunday challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide free electricity in the 22 BJP-ruled states before the Delhi Assembly elections and promised to campaign for the saffron party if this demand is fulfilled.

Kejriwal dared the BJP to hold the Delhi Assembly elections along with those in Jharkhand and Maharashtra in November and said the AAP is ready for it. Addressing a public gathering at 'Janta Ki Adalat', Kejriwal accused the BJP's "double engine" governments of failing in states and predicted the party's ouster from Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.

"Double engine governments mean inflation, corruption, and unemployment," he said, adding, "the exit polls show that the BJP's double engine governments will soon collapse in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir." During his speech, Kejriwal held a packet containing six 'revris' (sweets) and said that each "revri" symbolised the six free services provided by his government - free elec-



tricity, water, bus rides for women, pilgrimage for the elderly, healthcare, and education. He announced that the same packets would be distributed to the public and urged them to treat it as "prasad".

"When you return home, perform 'puja' with this and share it with others," he told the gathering. "If by mistake you vote for the BJP, all your six benefits will vanish," the former Chief Minister warned and alleged that if the BJP comes to power, services such as the DTC, government schools, and hospitals would be handed over to private entities.

Kejriwal claimed the BJP government has failed in Haryana, saying, "No one in Haryana is letting them enter their villages. People are resisting them."

He also described the BJP's handling of the Manipur situation as disastrous, accusing them of allowing the state to burn for seven years under their rule.

The AAP supremo labelled the BJP's "double engine" model as "double loot and double corruption" and also accused it of being anti-poor while citing the removal of bus marshals and

Firstly, the BJP MLAs were not ready to come to meet the LG, but we managed to get them with us somehow. But even after coming here, they have not asked the LG to sign the cabinet note even a single time

ATISHI | CM, DELHI

JUNIOR DOCTORS CONTINUE STRIKE

Agitating junior doctors demanding justice for the deceased woman medic of the Kar Medical College and Hospital and workplace safety continued their hunger strike until death Sunday in the central part of the city's Dharmatala area



SC: Removal of women elected representative can't be treated lightly

The Bench termed the matter as a classic case where the residents of the village could not reconcile with the fact that a woman was elected to the office of the sarpanch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: Removal of an elected public representative should not be treated lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas, the Supreme Court has said as it set aside an order for removal of a woman sarpanch in a Maharashtra village.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan termed the matter as a classic case where the residents of the village could not reconcile with the fact that a woman was elected to the office of the sarpanch.

The top court observed that it was a case where villagers were unable to come to terms with the reality that a female sarpanch would make decisions on their behalf and that they would have to abide by her directions.

"This scenario gets further exacerbated when we as a country are attempting to realise the progressive goal of gender parity and women empowerment across all spheres, including public offices and most importantly adequate women representative in elected bodies, such instances at the grass-root level cast a heavy shadow on any headway that we may have achieved," the bench observed in its September 27 order.

Underscoring that it must be acknowledged that these women, who succeed in occupying such public offices, do so only after significant struggle, the bench said,



"All that we would like to reiterate is that the matter of removal of an elected public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas".

The bench was dealing with a plea of Manish Ravindra Panpatil, an elected sarpanch of gram panchayat, Vichkheda situated in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. She was ordered to be removed from her post after a complaint by fellow villagers that she was allegedly residing with her mother-in-law in a house constructed on government land.

The allegation was denied by Panpatil, who claimed she does not reside in that particular dwelling, and that she lives separately with her husband and children in a rented accommodation.

However, without appropriately verifying these facts and on the basis of "bald statements", the Collector concerned passed an order disqualifying her from continuing as sarpanch.

The bench noted that the villagers grasped at straws in their bid to evict Panpatil from her position and their cause was perhaps aided by the mechanical and summary orders passed by government authorities at various levels.

Gujarat ATS busts MD drug-making factory in Bhopal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 6: Authorities have seized mephedrone (MD) drug valued at ₹1,814 crore and its raw materials from a factory on the outskirts of Madhya Pradesh capital Bhopal and arrested two persons in this connection, officials said Sunday.

Total 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, was seized in the raid and search operation carried out jointly by the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Delhi, at the factory located in Bagroda industrial estate near Bhopal Saturday, they said. This is the largest illegal factory ever busted by the Gujarat ATS. The unit had the capacity to manufacture 25 kg of MD drug per day, the ATS said in a statement.

A process was underway to manufacture a large amount of the contraband when the raid was carried out, it said.

During the operation, authorities seized 907.09 kg of mephedrone, both in solid and liquid forms, with an estimated value of ₹1,814.18 crore in the international market, the ATS said.



Two persons, identified as Amit Chaturvedi (57) and Sanyal Prakash Bane (40), were arrested during the raid, it said. During their preliminary interrogation, it came to light that Bane was earlier arrested in 2017 in a MD drug seizure case at Amboli in Maharashtra and served five years in jail.

Muizzu visits India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

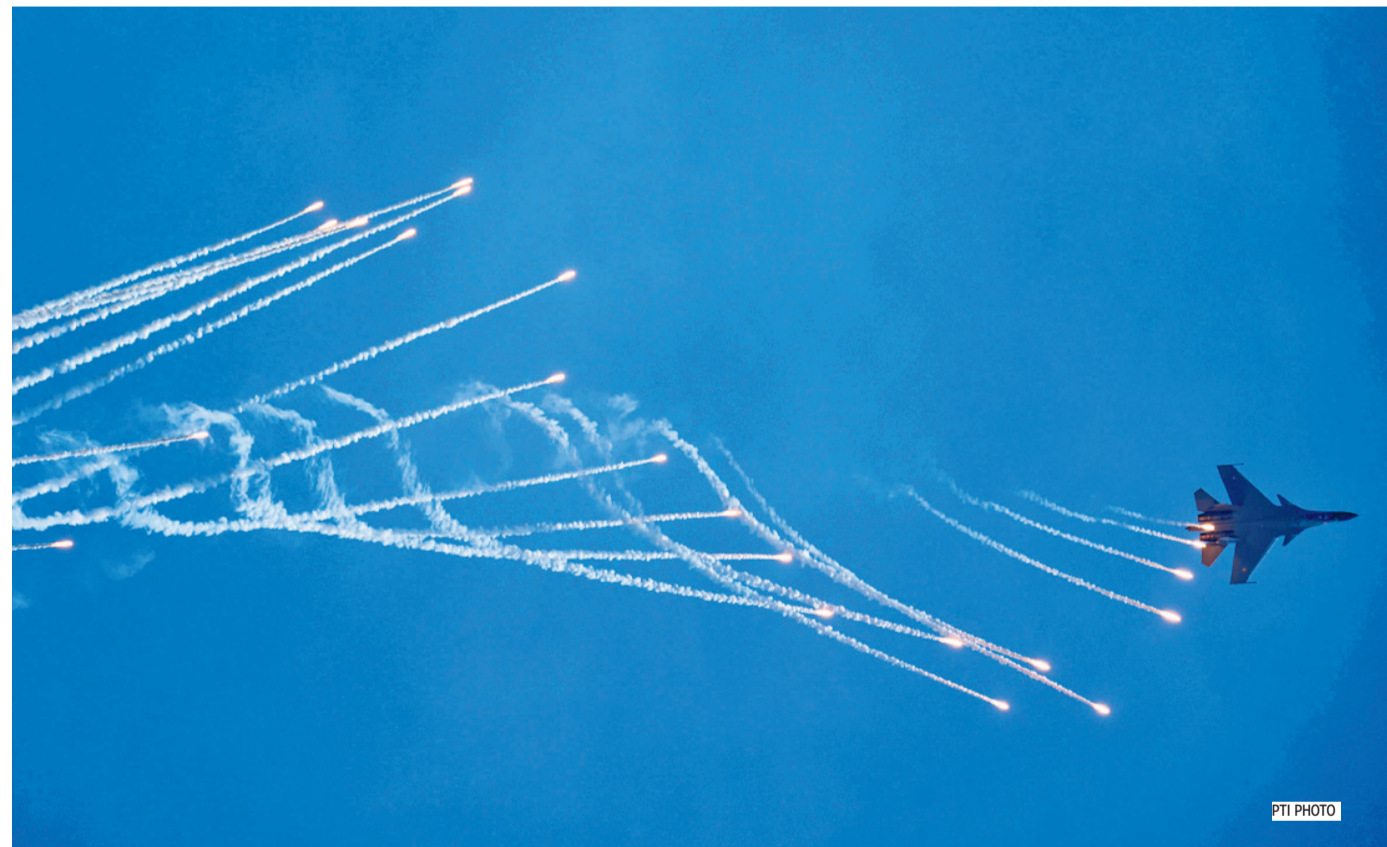
During his visit, Muizzu will hold discussions with Modi on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest

New Delhi, Oct 6: Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu arrived here Sunday for a four-day state visit to reset the strained ties with India amid a looming economic crisis in the island nation.

Muizzu will meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday after which India is expected to announce pacts in the infrastructure sector to strengthen the bilateral relationship. Muizzu, who will be in India till Thursday, will also visit Mumbai and Bengaluru to attend business events. External Affairs Minister

S Jaishankar called on Muizzu and expressed confidence that his talks with Prime Minister Modi Monday will give "new impetus" to "our friendly ties". "Pleased to call on President Muizzu today at the start of his State Visit to India. "Confident that his talks with PM Modi tomorrow will give a new impetus to our friendly ties," Jaishankar said on X.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office in November. Muizzu won the presidential election last year on the 'India out' campaign and asked New Delhi to withdraw its military personnel posted in the archipelago nation by May this year.



A Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) releases flares during an air show on the 92nd Indian Air Force Day, at the Marina Beach, in Chennai

'CBI, ED, police don't arrest through video calls'

Terming it a scam, the federal cyber security agency cautioned people against falling victim to such crimes committed using the Internet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 6: The CBI, police, customs, ED or judges do not arrest people through video calls, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) said in a public advisory issued in view of the rising cases of 'digital arrest' crimes in the country.

Terming it a scam, the federal cyber security agency cautioned people against falling victim to such crimes committed using the Internet.

"Don't Panic, Stay Alert. CBI/Police/Custom/ED/Judges DO NOT arrest you on video call," stated the advisory issued Saturday.



The advisory depicted the logos of social media platforms like WhatsApp and Skype to showcase that calls for such scams are

made using such platforms. These social media platforms have said in the past that they are coordinating with cyber secu-

"Don't Panic, Stay Alert. CBI/Police/Custom/ED/Judges DO NOT arrest you on video call," stated the advisory issued

rity agencies of the government to provide users enhanced safety against such crimes.

The I4C urged people to report such crimes at the central helpline number 1930 or the website - www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Digital arrest is the name given to a cyber crime technique where fraudsters send an SMS or make video calls to a person

posing as law enforcement agency officials fraudulently claiming that the individual or his close family members have been caught by a government investigative agency in a criminal activity like drugs trafficking or money laundering.

The cyber criminal subsequently confines the person to their premises by asking them to keep their mobile phone cameras on as part of a 'digital arrest' and then seek money through online transfer to bail the victim out of this situation.

A good number of these new-age cyber crimes are virtually reported every day from various parts of the country.

Mamata calls for capital punishment for rape

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Sunday directed the police to register the alleged rape-murder case of a 10-year-old girl in South 24 Parganas district under the POCSO Act, and ensure that the culprits get capital punishment within three months. Banerjee, while speaking at the Kolkata Police Body Guard Lines after virtually inaugurating several Durga Pujas, asserted that crime has no colour, caste or religion. "In West Bengal, we have three cases where capital punishment has been given. I want the police to register the Kulti case under the POCSO Act and ensure that the culprits get capital punishment within three months... Crime is crime; there is no religion or caste. Strong action should be taken against the criminals," the Chief Minister said.

# international



They demonstrate what Ukrainians are capable of when they have enough weapons and sufficient range. We will keep convincing our partners that our drones alone are not enough. More decisive steps are needed and the end of this war will be closer

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

## POPE NAMES NEW CARDINALS

Pope Francis named 21 new cardinals Sunday, significantly increasing the size of the College of Cardinals and further cementing his mark on the group of prelates who will one day elect his successor



### of the day quote

The UN, in a way, is like an old company, not entirely keeping up with the market but occupying the space

JAISHANKAR | MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

It is time for the release of the hostages. Time to silence the guns. Time to stop the suffering that has engulfed the region. Time for peace, international law and justice

ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Jaishankar's visit is of multilateral nature, nevertheless it may help ease tensions between the two neighbouring countries

KHURSHED MAHMOOD KASURI | FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER, PAKISTAN

# Gaza war's 1st anniv: Thousands protest around globe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Oct 6: Police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse violent demonstrators in Rome as tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters took to the streets in major European cities and around the globe Saturday to call for a cease-fire on the first anniversary of the Hamas attacks on Israel.

Huge rallies were held in several European cities, with gatherings expected to continue over the weekend.

In Rome, several thousand demonstrators peacefully Saturday afternoon until a smaller group tried to push the rally toward the center of the city, in spite of a ban by local authorities who refused to authorize protests, citing



security concerns.

Some protesters, dressed in black and with their faces covered threw stones, bottles and paper bombs at the police, who responded with tear gas and water cannons, eventually dispersing the crowd. At least 30 law enforcement officers and

three demonstrators were injured in the clashes, local media reported.

The rally in Rome had been calm earlier, with people chanting "Free Palestine, Free Lebanon," waving Palestinian flags and holding banners calling for an immediate stop to

Rallies were also planned in several other cities in the United States as well as in other parts of the world, including Denmark, Switzerland, South Africa and India

the conflict.

In London, thousands marched through the capital to Downing Street amid a heavy police presence. The atmosphere was tense as pro-Palestinian protesters and counterdemonstrators, some holding Israeli flags, passed one another. Scuffles broke out as police officers pushed back activists trying to get past a cordon.

At least 17 people were arrested on suspicion of public order offenses, supporting a proscribed organization and assault, London's Metropolitan Police said.

In the northern German city of Hamburg, about 950 people staged a peaceful demonstration with many waving Palestinian and Lebanese flags or chanting "Stop the Genocide," the DPA news agency reported, citing a count by police. Two smaller pro-Israeli counter-demonstrations took place without incident, it said.

Several thousand protesters gathered peacefully at Paris' Republique Plaza in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese people. Many were waving Palestinian flags while holding posters reading "stop

the genocide," "free Palestine," and "hands off Lebanon."

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators also gathered at New York's Times Square to call for a cease-fire, chanting "Gaza!" to a drum-beat. Some wore keffiyeh scarves, waved Palestinian and Lebanese flags and held a large cardboard image of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with red paint symbolizing blood across his face.

Rallies were also planned in several other cities in the United States as well as in other parts of the world, including Denmark, Switzerland, South Africa and India. In the Philippines, dozens of left-wing activists protested near the US Embassy in Manila, where police prevented them from getting closer to the seaside compound.

## HEAVIEST BOMBARDMENT SO FAR

# Israeli strikes batter Beirut

Lebanese worldwide fear for their homeland, loved ones as violence escalates

REUTERS

Beirut, Oct 6: Israeli air attacks battered Beirut's southern suburbs overnight and early Sunday, the most intense bombardment of the Lebanese capital since Israel sharply escalated its campaign against Iran-backed group Hezbollah last month.

During the night, the blasts sent booms across Beirut and sparked flashes of red and white for nearly 30 minutes visible from several kilometres away.

It was the single biggest attack of Israel's assault on Beirut so far, witnesses and military analysts on local TV channels said.

On Sunday a grey haze hung over the city and rubble was strewn across streets in the southern suburbs, while smoke columns rose over the area.

"Last night was the most violence of all the previous nights. Buildings were shaking around us and at first I thought it was an earthquake. There were dozens of strikes, we couldn't count them all and the sounds



were deafening," said Hanan Abdullah, a resident of the Burj al-Barajneh area in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Videos posted on social media showed fresh damage to the highway that runs from Beirut airport through its southern suburbs into downtown.

Israel said its air force had "conducted a series of targeted strikes on a number of weapons storage facilities and terrorist infrastructure sites belonging to the Hezbollah terrorist organiza-

tion in the area of Beirut". Lebanese authorities did not immediately say what the missiles had hit or what damage they caused.

The target of Israel's airstrikes across Lebanon and its ground invasion in the south of the country is the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, Iran's chief ally in the region. The assault has killed hundreds of people including civilians and has displaced 1.2 million, Lebanese officials say. For days Israel has bombed

## Netanyahu slams Macron

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron called for a halt on arms deliveries to Israel for use in Gaza, provoking a sharp response from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Macron also criticised Netanyahu's decision to send troops into ground operations in Lebanon. "I think that today, the priority is that we return to a political solution, that we stop delivering weapons to fight in Gaza," Macron told French broadcaster France Inter. His comments brought a swift response from Netanyahu. "As Israel fights the forces of barbarism led by Iran, all civilised countries should be standing firmly by Israel's side," Netanyahu said in a statement issued by his office. "Yet, President Macron and other Western leaders are now calling for arms embargoes against Israel. Shame on them."

the Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh, considered a stronghold for Hezbollah.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

# Mystery shrouds KP CM's disappearance



Peshawar, Oct 6: The mystery around the sudden disappearance of Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur deepened Sunday after Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that he was not in the custody of any federal institution.

Gandapur went incommunicado Saturday evening from the KP House, his official residence in the national capital, where he had gone to rest after leading a protest caravan of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf from the province to Islamabad.

Naqvi said that the government was unaware of the whereabouts of the Chief Minister, who, in his words, escaped from the KP House before police reached there.

"I can confirm that he is not in the custody of any institution of the government," he told the media after offering a funeral prayer for a police official who died due to injuries sustained in clashes Saturday.

The minister said that the police were looking for the Chief Minister, who is said to be hiding at some unknown place.

According to KP government spokesman Muhammad Ali Saif, the provincial government and the Chief Minister's family were unable to contact him.

## Govt bans ethnic Pashtun party

The Pakistan government Sunday banned the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), a group which fights for the rights of ethnic Pashtuns, citing it as a threat to national security.

"The federal government having reasons to believe that the PTM is engaged in certain activities prejudicial to peace and security of the country is pleased to list the PTM in the First Schedule as a proscribed organisation," the Ministry of Interior said in a notification. The group of ethnic Pushtu-speaking activists, which is highly critical of the army, is active in the tribal region of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The ban has been placed on the group under Section 11B of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997.

Arrest of Khan's supporters Over 30 supporters of jailed former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, including lawyers, were arrested after they managed to reach historic Minare-Pakistan premises on late Saturday night demanding the release of their leader, police said Sunday.

Lahore police said it also booked over 200 PTI leaders and workers, including Khan, under terrorism charges.

Hundreds of containers were placed in different parts of Lahore, including all entry and exit points Saturday to foil the PTI's protest. The government had also deployed Rangers in Lahore.

## SHORT TAKES

### SA welcomes India's rice export move

Johannesburg: South African importers have welcomed India's decision to ease restrictions on rice exports. Last month, the Indian government withdrew a blanket ban on overseas shipments of non-basmati white rice. It imposed a floor price of \$490 per tonne and exempted the commodity from export duty. Exports of non-basmati white rice were banned from July 20, 2023, to boost domestic supply. "It's a welcoming news for all the importers like us, as South Africa imports roughly 10 million tonnes of rice every year. After Thailand and Vietnam, which account for 70 per cent of imports of rice in South Africa, India is the next biggest exporter of rice to South Africa," said Pranav Thakkar of Dev International, one of the largest importers of Indian products to South Africa.

### Rwanda begins Marburg vax

Kigali: Rwanda said Sunday it had begun administering vaccine doses against the Marburg virus to try to combat an outbreak of the Ebola-like disease in the east African country, where it has so far killed 12 people. "The vaccination is starting today immediately," Health Minister Sabin Nsanzimana said at a news conference in the capital Kigali. He said the vaccinations would focus on those "most at risk, most exposed healthcare workers working in treatment centres, in the hospitals, in ICU, in emergency, but also the close contacts of the confirmed cases." Rwanda's first outbreak of the viral hemorrhagic fever was detected in late September, with 46 cases and 12 deaths reported since then.

### Haitian PM seeks support abroad

Saint-Marc: Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille embarked on a trip to the United Arab Emirates and Kenya Saturday to seek security assistance in the aftermath of one of deadliest gang attacks in the Caribbean nation in recent years. Haiti is reeling after members of the Gran Grif gang early Thursday, killing at least 70 people, including infants, and forcing over 6,000 residents to flee. The massacre caused widespread shock even in a country that has grown accustomed to outbreaks of violence, and where the national police force is outgunned and understaffed. "As you can see, we are being attacked on several fronts," Conille said in a press conference before the trip.

# Musk endorses Trump at Pennsylvania rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 6: Former US president Donald Trump Saturday returned to Butler, a city in Pennsylvania where he narrowly escaped an assassination bid 12 weeks ago, and addressed thousands of his supporters in this key battleground state, urging them to elect him as the next President of the United States.

Trump launched a scathing attack on Harris and accused her of being a failure on multi-

ple fronts, including border security and economy. "She imposed a natural gas export ban on Pennsylvania, which is killing your energy workers and your pricing," he said.

"Kamala Harris is a radical-left Marxist. She is a woman that is not respected in Congress. She was laughed at Congress. Nobody thought she could win. They did a coup of Biden. Whether you like him or not, I am not a particularly big fan. We had a debate, and the debate



ended. And all of a sudden, they come to him, and they say, we want you out. You are not going to win the election. And he said, 'I do not want to get out,'" Trump said.

In his brief speech, Musk said this is a must-win situation for the country. "President Trump

must win to preserve the Constitution. He must win to preserve democracy in America. This is a must-win situation. So I have one ask for everyone in the audience, everyone who watches this video, everyone in the livestream. This one request is very important. Register to vote. And get everyone you know and everyone you do not know, drag them to register to vote. Then make sure they actually do vote. If they do not, this will be the last election. That is my prediction," he said.

# THE NUCLEAR ORDER IS BREAKING DOWN

The threat of nuclear war is at its highest level since the Cold War ended. This situation is largely driven by Russia's persistent nuclear threats and military exercises in the context of the Ukraine conflict, but it is not solely Russia's doing. Rising tensions in the Middle East could prompt Iran to accelerate its suspected nuclear weapons programme. Meanwhile, North Korea is actively modernising and expanding its nuclear capabilities. Additionally, if Donald Trump secures a second term, the United States might resume nuclear testing.

These developments pose a significant challenge to the institutions, rules, and taboos that have deterred the use of nuclear weapons since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. However, the decline of this nuclear order is not occurring in a vacuum. Autocratic leaders—mainly from China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia—often collaborate in their efforts to destabilise the current international framework, questioning established norms concerning human

rights, territorial integrity, and increasingly, nuclear armament. Despite the achievements of global diplomatic initiatives aimed at creating standards for nuclear weapon usage, we can no longer take for granted that these weapons will remain unused in conventional conflicts.

Norms are essentially rules of the road. They can be embodied by institutions, such as the 1968 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and the 1997 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the case of nuclear weapons. But as a "standard of appropriate behavior," norms are not always concrete. In the nuclear order, norms can prevent states from using nuclear weapons through constraining mechanisms; the so-called nuclear taboo relies on the widespread moral and political rejection of nuclear weapons to discourage their use. Norms can also compel states to abide by their treaty commitments through prescriptive mechanisms.

By now, most states have pledged to not build or test nuclear weapons. Norms against nuclear use, pro-



liferation, and testing are well established but have been historically contested, especially the norm against nuclear testing.

In the worsening security environment of recent years, international leaders and nuclear experts have suggested that all three norms could be further challenged. In October 2022, the US intelligence community estimated that the risk of nuclear use in Ukraine could rise to 50 percent—effectively a coin flip. If nuclear norms continue to break down, the world might become a much more dangerous place. More frequent nuclear testing, for example, could have devastating humanitarian and

environmental results. For a glimpse of such effects, recall that an American test in 1954 of a high-yield nuclear weapon on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands vaporised three islands, contaminated 15 more, and caused the development of thyroid tumors among the population. Amid a growing number of regional conflicts, the consequences of a world with no nuclear taboo and no norm against the use of nuclear weapons could be even more catastrophic.

The widening array of actors contesting the international order makes the preservation of norms around nuclear weapons all the more important.

Since 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping has insisted that China under his leadership is competing for the future of the international order, challenging the alliances, institutions, and principles that the United States has long relied on to shape the international system. A decade ago, Russian President Vladimir Putin also called for a new world order more aligned with Russia's interests. In August 2024, he signed a decree to "provide assistance to any foreigners who want to escape the neoliberal ideals being put forward in their countries and move to Russia." China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia are increasingly enabling one another in an "axis of upheaval." These four powers are bent on contesting all three major nuclear norms. They rely on nuclear weapons—and the spectre of those weapons—to achieve their regional and strategic aims. And all are willing to undermine the nuclear order to do so.

The nuclear order is in danger, and no country can uphold it alone. The United States should

therefore prioritise two sets of international partnerships that could enforce nuclear norms in this interconnected environment. First, Washington must expand its relationships with countries in the Global South, many of whom would be ready partners to challenge intransigence and norm contestation. Indeed, countries such as Mexico have voiced concerns about the recent erosion of the nuclear order, including the risks of nuclear use and the increasing salience of nuclear weapons. Both Xi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have sought to constrain Putin, reminding the Russian president that the use of nuclear weapons in the war in Ukraine would be unacceptable.

The threats to the nuclear order offer an opportunity for consensus building. Countries should pursue more regional engagement and dialogue and develop better understandings of different perspectives on nuclear weapons. The nuclear order is quietly breaking down, and a breach in just one of its pillars could catastrophically undermine them all.

# business

## of the day quote

I think it has been a challenging period. The festive period will define the quarter, and the third quarter will define what happens in the remaining part of the year

SAURABH VATSVA | MD, NISSAN MOTOR

Cyber criminals today are not operating manually; they are using AI to automate attacks. They are using artificial intelligence to actually conduct these attacks. It's so sophisticated in nature that the best of the best fall prey to it

SNEHA KATKAR | HEAD OF STRATEGY, QUICK HEAL

On the domestic front, the market's focus will be on the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which is scheduled to meet from October 7 to 9, 2024, with the outcome to be announced on Wednesday

PRAVESH GOUR | SENIOR TECHNICAL ANALYST, SWASTIKA INVESTMART

## SHORT TAKES

### Govt's request for major steel players

**New Delhi:** To increase the usage of available raw materials, the Ministry of Steel has directed integrated steel players to make use of iron ore fines in steel making after its beneficiation. As per sources, the ministry has also suggested that players look at options like acquiring coking coal mines abroad. This is aimed at increasing the availability of raw materials at competitive prices, they said. "It has been conveyed to them that iron reserves are limited in the country and to preserve that, players must also use low grade ore through beneficiation process. They can also look for coking coal mines outside India," the sources said. Iron ore and coking coal are the two key raw materials used for manufacturing steel through blast furnace route. While iron ore is available in abundance, for coking coal, India remains heavily dependent on imports.

### Anil's Reliance raises ₹17,600cr

**New Delhi:** Equipped with ₹17,600 crore fundraising and a zero-debt status, Anil Ambani's Reliance Group companies - Reliance Infrastructure Ltd and Reliance Power Ltd - are poised to execute their growth strategies, according to officials. In the past two weeks, both companies have announced raising ₹4,500 crore through preferential issues of equity shares and ₹7,100 crore from renowned global investment fund Varde Partners through equity-linked long-term FCCBs, having a long maturity period of 10 years and low interest rate of 5 per cent. An additional ₹6,000 crore will be raised through qualified institutional placement (QIP), with Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure each aiming for ₹3,000 crore. With resolutions in place, shareholder approvals are expected by the end of the month, officials said.

### Exicom buys Tritium

**New Delhi:** Home grown EV charging solutions firm Exicom has acquired US-based DC fast charging technology company Tritium for \$37 million, or about ₹310 crore, a senior company official said. Exicom managing director Anant Nahata told PTI that the company is setting up a manufacturing unit in Hyderabad where it will use DC (Direct Current) fast charging technology of Tritium to develop solutions for electric vehicles. The Hyderabad facility is expected to be operational by the end of 2025.



If you look at cloud services as a segment, India is one of the fastest-growing countries for Google

BIKRAM SINGH BEDI | VC AND MD, GOOGLE CLOUD

## HINDALCO, JSW STEEL IN RACE FOR COPPER MINES

Aditya Birla Group firm Hindalco Industries and Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel are in the race for two copper mines in Jharkhand which will be put on sale this month, sources said. Both mines have a combined capacity of three million tonne per annum



# India's biggest H2 blending plant starts ops

Adani Total Gas has commenced the blending of green hydrogen into the natural gas supplied for households in parts of Ahmedabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Adani group has started blending green hydrogen in natural gas that is supplied to households for cooking purposes in parts of Ahmedabad, with a view to cut emissions and meet net-zero targets.

Adani Total Gas Ltd, the group's city gas joint venture with French energy giant TotalEnergies, has started blending 2.2-2.3 per cent of green hydrogen in piped natural gas supplies in Shantigram in Ahmedabad, the firm said in a post on LinkedIn.

Hydrogen produced through clean pathways is injected into natural gas pipelines, and the resulting blends are used to generate heat and power with lower emissions than using natural gas alone.

The firm has started producing green hydrogen by using



GREEN PUSH

renewable energy sources like wind or solar power, to split water into hydrogen and oxygen through a process called electrolysis. This hydrogen is blended in natural gas that is currently piped to households for cooking purposes and industries.

"We are thrilled to announce the successful commissioning

of our Hydrogen Blending System and in-situ Hydrogen Generation at Adani Shantigram, Ahmedabad," Adani-Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) said.

"This project will provide uninterrupted hydrogen-blended natural gas to 4,000 domestic and commercial consumers."

Presently, state-owned power generator NTPC supplies green

hydrogen blended natural gas to households in Kawas in Surat district, Gujarat.

State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd is also doing a small pilot in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, to supply CNG that has been doped with grey hydrogen.

ATGL's project is the biggest so far.

The firm will slowly increase the green hydrogen blend in natural gas to 5 per cent and ultimately to 8 per cent and widen supplies beyond Shantigram to other parts of Ahmedabad and eventually across other areas where it holds a city gas license.

Hydrogen energy is a key component of the global energy transition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change. Hydrogen can be extracted from fossil fuels and biomass, from water or a mix of both. However, its high cost of production remains a challenge.

# Status-quo on interest rate likely, say experts



**RBI HAS KEPT THE REPO RATE UNCHANGED AT 6.5% SINCE FEB 2023, AND EXPERTS THINK SOME EASING COULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE IN DEC**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 6:** The Reserve Bank is unlikely to cut the benchmark interest rate in its forthcoming bi-monthly monetary policy review later in the week as retail inflation is still a cause of concern, and there is a possibility of the Middle East crisis deteriorating further, impacting crude oil and commodity prices, say experts.

Earlier this month, the government reconstituted the Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel - Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The reconstituted panel, with three newly appointed external members, will commence its maiden meeting Monday. MPC Chairman RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das will reveal the outcome of the three-day discussion Wednesday (October 9).

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo or short-term lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February 2023, and experts think some easing could only be possible in

December. The government has tasked the central bank to ensure that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

In the current context, experts feel that the RBI may not follow the US Federal Reserve, which lowered the benchmark rates by 50 basis points, and the central banks of some developed nations, which have reduced the interest rates. Further, the recent Iran-Israel imbroglio can intensify.

The central bank last hiked the repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then, it has held the rate at the same level.

Icra Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said that given the undershooting in the initial first quarter GDP growth

relative to the MPC's forecast and the likely sizeable undershooting in the second quarter CPI inflation print as well, "we believe a stance change to neutral may be appropriate in the October 2024 policy review".

This could be followed by a shallow rate-cutting cycle of 25 bps each in December 2024 and February 2025, she added.

"The abundant monsoon offers some insurance for crop inflation. The impact of global political developments and geopolitical uncertainty on the growth inflation dynamics remains a risk," Nayar added.

# GEOPOLITICAL JITTERS FPIs TURN SELLERS

**FOREIGN INVESTORS WITHDRAW RS 27,142CR IN THREE TRADING SESSIONS OF OCT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Foreign investors turned net sellers in October, offloading shares worth ₹27,142 crore in just the first three days of October due to intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices, and improved performance of Chinese markets.

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

Since June, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have consistently bought equities after withdrawing ₹34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, and May, data with the depositories showed.

Looking ahead, global factors like geopolitical developments and the future direction of interest rates will play a crucial role in determining the flow of foreign investments into the Indian equity markets, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

"Escalating geopolitical tensions, driven by the intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices, and the improved performance of the Chinese markets, which currently appear more attractive in terms of valuations, were the primary reasons behind the recent exodus of foreign investments from Indian equi-



Outflow came after FPI investment reached nine-month high of ₹57,724cr in Sept

Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, and May

So far this year, FPIs Invested ₹73,468cr in equities, ₹1.09L-cr in the debt market

Looking ahead, global factors like geopolitical developments and the future direction of interest rates will play a crucial role in determining the flow of foreign investments into the Indian equity markets

HIMANSHU SRIVASTAVA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, MANAGER RESEARCH, MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT RESEARCH

The Hang Seng index shot up by 26 per cent per cent in the last one month, and this bullishness is expected to continue since valuations of Chinese stocks are very low and the economy is expected to do well in response to the monetary and fiscal stimulus being implemented by the Chinese authorities, he added.

"Escalating geopolitical tensions, driven by the intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices, and the improved performance of the Chinese markets, which currently appear more attractive in terms of valuations, were the primary reasons behind the recent exodus of foreign investments from Indian equi-

ties," Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said. This, in turn, has contributed to the recent sharp correction in the Indian equity markets.

In terms of sector, massive FPIs selling in financials, especially frontline banking stocks, have made their valuations attractive. Long-term domestic investors may utilise this opportunity to buy high-quality banking stocks, Vijayakumar said.

In the debt markets, FPIs pulled out 900 crore through the General Limit and invested ₹190 crore via Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) during the period under review.

## MARKET MELTDOWN

**Mcap of nine top companies erodes ₹4.74 lakh crore**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Nine of the top-10 most valued firms together lost a whopping ₹4,74,906.18 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank taking the steepest hit, in line with weak trends in equities.

Markets faced heavy drubbing last week amid worsening tensions in the Middle East and foreign fund outflows. In a holiday-shortened week, the BSE plummeted 3,883.4 points, or 4.53 per cent.

The valuation of Reliance Industries declined ₹1,88,479.36 crore to ₹18,76,718.24 crore. HDFC Bank's market valuation slumped ₹72,919.58 crore to ₹12,64,267.35 crore.

Reliance Industries retained the title of the most-valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, SBI, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, and LIC.

# IPO market braces for brief slowdown

Two new issues targeting ₹365cr next week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** After a wave of initial public offerings (IPOs) in recent weeks, the primary market will experience a brief slowdown, with only two new public issues scheduled for the next week, aiming to raise ₹365 crore.

There were 12 IPOs in the mainboard segment and 40 in the SME (small and medium enterprise) segment in September.

IPOs scheduled for next week, beginning October 7, are Garuda



Construction and Engineering on the main board and Shiv Texchem on the SME segment.

The stock market has seen a significant correction in the equity market since the start of October amid intensifying conflict between Israel and Iran.

This month will see Hyundai Motor India Ltd, the Indian arm of South Korean automaker

Hyundai, hitting the primary market to raise around ₹25,000 crore. The company's IPO is likely to be launched October 14, according to sources.

If the offering proceeds as planned, it will surpass Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) public offering of ₹21,000 crore, becoming the largest IPO in India's history.

Despite the temporary slowdown, overall, the outlook for the IPO market is promising, with 26 firms proposing to raise ₹72,000 crore presently holding Sebi's approval while another 55 companies looking to garner about ₹89,000 crore are awaiting the regulator's clearance.

# High tax a hindrance for carbonated soft drinks segment

**INDIA HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST TAX RATES FOR CSDs AT A TOTAL TAX RATE OF 40% AS OF 2023**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Carbonated soft drinks segment in India is unable to reach its potential in terms of scale expansion due to barriers such as high taxation under the GST regime despite government's initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', according to a report by economic think tank ICRIER.

The cross-country comparative data on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) taxes collated by the World Bank shows that India has one of the highest tax rates for carbonated soft drinks (CSDs) at a total tax rate of 40 per cent as of 2023.

Over 90 per cent of countries that tax SSBs have a lower tax rate than India, as per the report titled 'Carbonated Beverages Industry in India: Tax Policy to Promote Growth, Innovation and Investment'.

"The CSD market is also changing from its traditional high sugar carbonated beverages to low-sugar and fruit-based and/or flavoured carbonated drinks to zero-sugar aerated water, catering to changes in consumers' choice for healthier options and government policies like layered-sugar-based taxes," the report said.

Producers, across the globe, are reformulating their products to meet consumer demand, and these are supported through government policies and both fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. In India too, producers are re-examining their product portfolios and coming up with products like zero-calorie, low/no sugar content.



"However, despite government initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the CSD segment is unable to reach its potential in terms of scale expansion due to barriers such as the high tax brackets and compensation cess under the GST regime, implemented since 2017," it said.

Currently, carbonated or aerated beverages are placed in the highest GST slab of 28 per cent with a compensation cess of 12

Consumers, globally and in India, are shifting towards low-sugar and no-added sugar varieties of beverages amid heightened health awareness

per cent, irrespective of their sugar or fruit content.

"The high tax of 40 per cent, irrespective of sugar content, is making it difficult for innovative firms to come up with low-sugar varieties and scale up and existing firms to invest in product reformulation," the ICRIER report said.

The Indian CSDs market is relatively small. It generated revenue worth \$18.25 billion in 2022, and grew at a CAGR of 19.8 per cent between 2017 and 2022.

Pointing out that India is one of the largest global producers of fruits such as mango, banana, guava, papaya, pomegranate, and lime, and sugar, which in some cases are used in the CSD category, the report said, "It has the potential to be used in greater capacity, if the right policies promote their uses in CSDs."

However, India is not among the top global manufacturers of CSDs, and the processing of CSD products in the country is much below its potential. The varieties are also much fewer than

is available in other developing countries such as Thailand or the Philippines, it added.

"While the Indian consumer wants to experiment with different products such as low-sugar CSDs or fruit-based CSDs, and startups are trying to come up with new products, investment, product varieties and innovation is much lower in CSDs in India," it said.

Thus, India lags behind several other developing countries in terms of the revenue generated by the CSD market. Consequently, the sector's potential to attract investment and create jobs, especially in Tier 2 and 3 cities, remains unexplored, it noted.

"This is primarily because of treatment of this sector as a high tax revenue earner previously by the states through their state excise and now by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, which has recommended a high tax and cess on CSDs," the report said.

# India keep semis hopes alive

## New-look Men in Blue dismantle Bangladesh

**WOMEN TEAM BARELY SCRAPES THROUGH AGAINST PAKISTAN**



Despite the victory, India's NRR is currently -1.217 and they remain below Pakistan, who are in third place with NRR of -0.555. India would need to beat both Australia and Sri Lanka by comfortable margins to harbour any hopes of a semi-final berth.

The running between the wickets wasn't impressive as some easy doubles and a sure triple was not even tried, probably due to sapping heat. Even as Jemimah showed some interest in pushing fielders, Shafali's poor fitness came in the way. Despite a negative net run-rate of -2.90, there was no intent shown by the Indian batters to surpass the paltry target in a good time.

**A better start with the bat would have been good, but we will take that win**

SMRITI MANDHANA | VC, INDIA

Shafali could hit only three shots to the fence in her 35-ball knock and she increased the pressure on the batting unit with the below-par effort.

As far as Jemimah was concerned, power isn't diminutive Mumbaikar's forte as she is more of a batter who relies on timing and ability to find gaps.

Once Fatima removed both Jemimah and Richa Ghosh (0) off successive deliveries, the onus was on Harmanpreet to take the team past home.

Earlier, the Indian bowling unit fired in unison against a clueless Pakistan, restricting the arch-rivals to a lowly 105 for 8.

Having conceded 160 against New Zealand on a slow track under lights in their opener, the Indian bowlers read the pitch well, and more importantly, took the pace off deliveries to make stroke-making all the more difficult.

Such was their control that Indian bowlers were able to deliver 58 dot balls.

Seamers Renuka Singh Thakur (1/23) and Arundhati Reddy (3/19) neither erred in line nor in length while off-spinners Deepti Sharma (1/24) and Shreyanka Patil (2/12) got enough grip and bounce to keep the Pakistani batters on tenterhooks.



Varun, Mayank combine to script India's thumping win over Bangladesh in T20 series opener

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Gwalior, Oct 6:** Mayank Yadav bowled with rattling pace in a promising debut while mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarty made an impressive comeback to set up India's dominating seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the series-opening T20 here Sunday. India, oozing with fresh talent, bundled out Bangladesh for a below par 127 before the batters played an array of audacious strokes to gun down the target in 11.5 overs.

The starts with the ball was rookie Mayank and Varun while sizzling cameos from Sanju Samson (29 off 19), skipper Suryakumar Yadav (29 off 14) and Hardik Pandya (39 not out off 16) ensured a breezy chase for the hosts.

A full house at the newly built Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium witnessed high quality bowling from India and

largely ordinary batting from their opponents.

All eyes were on Mayank (1/21) ever since he marked his run up before toss and the 22-year-old from Delhi did not disappoint in his first competitive game in more than five months.

Having attracted global eyeballs for consistently bowling in the 150kmph range during the IPL, Mayank was able to generate serious pace in his opening spell of 2-1-3-1. His first over was a maiden.

Having suffered a side strain shortly after a sensational IPL debut, there were question marks over his fitness in the long term but he dispelled some of those doubts Sunday.

Mayank was able to hit 145.7 kmph only in his second ball of the evening before hitting 148.7 kmph with the first ball of his second over. Varun (3/31), brought back into the team after nearly three years, troubled the Bangladesh batters who failed to read him. Among them was middle-order batter Jaker Ali who had stumps his castled with a ball that turned back in.

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh (3/14) had played his part in the powerplay by removing openers Litton Das and Parvez Hossain Emon before picking his third wicket to end Bangladesh's innings. Mehidy Hasan Miraz was the top-scorer for the visitors with 35 not out off 32 balls.

India came out to bat with uber aggressive intent with Abhishek Sharma (16 off 7) and Samson going hard from the get go. Promoted to the top of the order, Samson played a few delightful shots before falling to off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz.

Pick up shots off pacer Taskin Ahmed in the fifth over was the highlight of Suryakumar's innings. The result was a foregone conclusion when India raced to 71 for two in the powerplay. Debutant Nitish Reddy (16 not out off 15) and Hardik got the team home in a canter. Hardik went ballistic in the 12th over bowled by Taskin Ahmed to finish the game in style.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Oct 6:** Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's years of experience saved India from blushes as they huffed and puffed to a six wicket win over arch-rivals Pakistan, keeping their semi-final hopes alive in the Women's T20 World Cup, here Sunday. Indian batters made a heavy weather of a paltry 106-run tar-

get as it required a 24-ball-29 from their experienced skipper to eke out the crucial win.

Harmanpreet retired hurt when two runs were required for victory. Sajana Sajeevan, playing her first game, finished it off with a boundary.

The defensive approach by opener Shafali Verma (32 off 35 balls) and new No 3 Jemimah Rodrigues (23 off 28 balls) meant that India could not boost their

Net Run Rate (NRR) which could prove very costly in the larger context of making it to the last-four stage.

The entire Indian innings had only five boundaries and none of the top three looked like getting a move on.

The chase was not exactly a cakewalk as Smriti Mandhana (7 off 16 balls) was out early while Shafali and Jemimah concentrated on taking singles.

### SHORT TAKES

#### Boost for US cricket

**Washington:** Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has joined America's National Cricket League (NCL) ownership group, a move that is expected to give a big boost to the sport in the United States in the coming years. Cricket has been my life's greatest journey and I am pleased to join the National Cricket League at such an exciting time for the sport in the US, Tendulkar said after the NCL announced that the batting legend has joined them. The NCL's vision to create a platform for world-class cricket while inspiring a new generation of fans to resonate with me. I look forward to being part of this new initiative and witnessing the growth of cricket in the US first hand, Tendulkar said.

#### Rugby team shines

**Mumbai:** Indian women's rugby team clinched a silver after going down to Philippines 5-7 in the final of the Asia Rugby Emirates Sevens Trophy in Kathmandu. The Shikha Yadav-led side reached the summit clash after thrashing Guam 24-7 in the semifinal to top the table. In the league round, India had stamped their authority, outclassing Sri Lanka 29-10 and Indonesia 17-10. The tournament was held over Friday and Saturday. Expressing pride in the team's silver medal performance, Indian skipper Shikha said they would strive for gold in future competitions, while also thanking their coach Waisale Serevi and the support staff.

#### Diksha misses cut

**Shenzhen:** India's Diksha Dagar endured another disappointing day with a four-over 77 to miss the cut at Aramco Team Series here. After a 76 in the first round, the Indian needed a low round to make the cut, but it just did not happen as she had only one birdie against five bogeys, four of which were on the backstretch of the course. Diksha's team also finished 12th and her teammates were Moa Folke, Xinyu Cao and Ding. The highlight was Folke pulling off a hole-in-one on the Par-3 eighth hole. In the Individual competition, China's Xiyu Lin and France's Celine Boutier were tied at the top of the leaderboard on 12-under-par.

## Rohit rocks at Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Rohit Patro, a first-year student from the Mathematics Department of Central University of Odisha, Koraput, has made India, his university and his hometown Koraput proud by securing a gold medal in deadlift and a silver medal in bench press in the 120kg+ sub-junior category at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championship held in Sun City, South Africa.

Competing against top athletes like England's Will Anders and Northern Ireland's Zack Graham, Rohit's remarkable performance stood out on the global stage.

Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Odisha, Chakradhar Tripathi, congratulated Rohit for his outstanding achievements, highlighting how his success



brought pride not only to the university but also to the entire nation. "Rohit's victory is a landmark moment, not just for him but for our university, our state, and our country. His dedication and perseverance have placed him among the world's powerlifting elite. This achievement also shines a light on Koraput, a land known for its tribal heritage and scenic beauty, now recognized for producing a powerlifting champion," he said.

### HISTORIC VICTORY

## Gauff clinches China Open

AGED 20, THE SIXTH-RANKED US PLAYER BECAME THE YOUNGEST CHINA OPEN CHAMPION IN 14 YEARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Oct 6:** Coco Gauff won her second title this season with a lopsided 6-1, 6-3 victory over Karolina Muchova in the final of the China Open Sunday.

Aged 20, the sixth-ranked US player became the youngest China Open champion in 14 years. She is also the second American champion in Beijing, following Serena Williams' title runs in 2004 and 2013.

It was Gauff's eighth career title. She improved her record in four finals to 8-1 and has now a 7-0 record in hard-court finals, a feat never achieved before in the Open Era.

Gauff, who defended her Auckland title earlier this season, wasted no time and took the



opening set in just 31 minutes. She dropped just five points on her first serve, hit 24 winners and broke Muchova five times. Gauff's win in Beijing im-

proved her chances of qualifying for the WTA Finals featuring the eight top players for the third consecutive year. With her title, she will overtake Jessica

Pegula to take the No 5 spot ahead of the final WTA 1000 tournament of the season, the Wuhan Open starting Monday.

#### Shanghai Masters

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner overcame a one set deficit to rally to a 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2 win against Tomas Martin Etcheverry at the Shanghai Masters.

Fifth-ranked Daniil Medvedev also came from behind for a 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 victory against Matteo Arnaldi to book his fourth-round berth against either 12th-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas or Alexandre Muller.

Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz, who won the China Open on Wednesday for his fourth title of the year, defeated Chinese player Wu Yibing 7-6 (5), 6-3.

## Embarrassing 17-0 loss for OFC women

**ODISHA FC HAD A DREADFUL DEBUT AT THE AFC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE, CONCEDED A WHOPPING 17 GOALS AGAINST URAWA REDS**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Odisha FC began their AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25 Group Stage campaign with a

disappointing 17-0 defeat against Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies at the Thong Nhat Stadium Sunday.

The Odisha FC was in complete shock against the explosive attacking start and the

quick movement off the ball from Urawa Reds, scoring more than 5 goals in just the first 20 minutes.

Yu Endo opened the scoring for Urawa in the fifth minute,

and then Miki Ito (56', 59', 62', 90+4') scored four goals while Yuzuhiko Shiohoshi (15', 18', 30') completed her hat-trick in the first half itself. Satoko Fujisaki (9'), Ena Takatsuka (13'), Mei Shimada (17', 44') Ririka Tanno (52'), Akari Kurishima (54'), Fuka Tsunoda (68') and Ami Takeuchi (83') were the other seven scorers.

From the outset, the Japanese side demonstrated their superiority, but Shreya Hooda made several critical saves to keep the score line from escalating further.

Early on, Jennifer showcased a brilliant solo effort down the middle, though her run was ultimately halted by a Urawa defender.

Kiran Pisdia also displayed commendable performance throughout the match.

Despite their collective efforts, Odisha could not find the back of the net. They will be eager to regroup and seek redemption in their next match against Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC Wednesday.

## Manipal, Konark Suryas share points

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jodhpur, Oct 6:** Manipal Tigers and Konark Suryas Odisha were Sunday handed one point each after a scoring discrepancy was found during their match in the Legends League Cricket season three here.

Following a detailed review by the Apex Council and Event Technical Committee of the LLC,

it was confirmed that MT's final score should have been 104/8 but not 102/8 that was earlier recorded in the match held at the Barkatullah Stadium here September 20.

MT had raised concerns during the game, but the error could not be detected in time and therefore not corrected while the match was still in play, resulting in the incorrect score.

**LEGENDS LEAGUE CRICKET**

WATCH LIVE ACTION TODAY!

**INDIA CAPITALS**

VS

**BIHAR GREATS**

7:00 PM ONWARDS

Streaming on