

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



## BJP hat-trick in Haryana J&K backs NC-Congress



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini greets supporters after winning the Assembly elections from Ladwa constituency, at Ladwa, in Kurukshetra district, Tuesday

As said by this newspaper Saturday, exit polls proved wrong, and pollsters bit the dust, when the BJP registered its hat-trick win in Haryana by bagging 48 seats in the 90-member House, while the Congress had to be contended with 37 seats in the state polls results of which were declared Tuesday. On the other hand, people in J&K delivered a clear message to the saffron party by rejecting its plank of Article 370 abrogation, and backed the NC-Congress combine which is now all set to form the government



J&K National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah during the counting of votes in Srinagar, Tuesday

### GOVT RAISES GRATUITY LIMIT TO ₹20 LAKH

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday raised the gratuity limit for government employees from ₹15 lakh to ₹20 lakh. "The raise applies to the Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity (DCRG) and is effective retroactively from January 1, 2024, for all regular state government employees," according to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office. The decision follows requests from various service associations in the state for an increase in the DCRG ceiling. The move aligns with the Central government's recent adjustment to the retirement and death gratuity under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021, which also took effect from January 1, 2024.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Oct 8:** Bucking anti-incumbency, the ruling BJP pulled off a hat-trick of wins in Haryana to retain power and halt Congress' comeback attempt in the Assembly elections, results of which were announced Tuesday. While the BJP ended up with its best-ever haul of 48 seats, 11 more than the Congress, parties like the JJP and the AAP were decimated and the INLD managed to win just two seats. Proving wrong exit polls which predicted a comfortable Congress win, the BJP will be forming government in Haryana for the third consecutive term. The party had contested 89 of the 90 seats. It did not contest Sirsa seat, from where its ally Gopal Kanda was a sitting MLA, though Kanda lost his seat. The Congress also contested 89 seats leaving Bhiwani constituency for the CPI (M). Three Independents also tasted

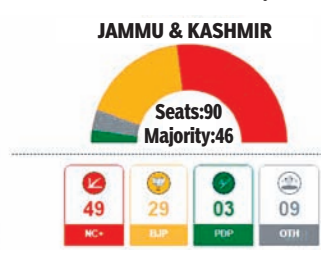
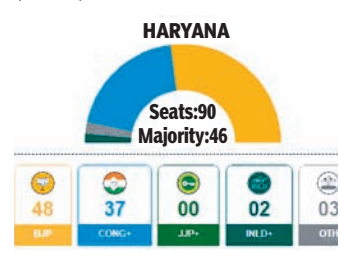
**KEY WINNERS**  
**Nayab Singh Saini** (BJP)  
**Bhupinder Singh Hooda** (Cong)  
**Anil Vij** (BJP)  
**Arjun Chautala** (IND)  
**Vinesh Phogat** (Cong)

**KEY LOSERS**  
**Abhay Singh Chautala** (IND)  
**Dushyant Chautala** (JJP)  
**Gian Chand Gupta** (BJP)  
**Anurag Dhanda** (AAP)  
**Ranjit Chautala** (HLP)

win. Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the win saying it was due to good-governance that all communities voted for the BJP. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge termed the Haryana results "unexpected" and said his party will assess the people's mandate. Among prominent candidates who won included Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini (Ladwa), Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda (Garhi Sampla-Kiloi), BJP's Anil Vij (Ambala Cantt),

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar/Jammu, Oct 8:** The INDIA bloc is poised to form the first elected government in Jammu and Kashmir, having secured a victory in the Assembly elections by securing 49 out of 90 seats on which polls were held for the first time since the abrogation of Article 370 five years ago. The National Conference (NC), the oldest regional party in J&K, emerged as the clear frontrunner, winning 42 seats and falling just six seats short of a majority of its own. Meanwhile, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] managed to secure the single seat allotted to it under the seat-sharing agreement, while the Congress party won six seats, with five of those in the Kashmir valley.



- KEY WINNERS**  
**Omar Abdullah** (NC)  
**Tariq Hamid Karra** (Cong)  
**Waheed Para** (PDP)  
**Devender Rana** (BJP)
- KEY LOSERS**  
**Muzaffar Hussain Baig** (IND)  
**Tara Chand** (Cong)  
**Raman Bhalla** (PCC)  
**Vaqr Rsool Wani** (PCC)  
**Nasir Aslam Wani** (NC)

The Congress also faced a decline, securing only six seats -- down from 12 seats a decade ago -- with a corresponding drop in vote share from 18 per cent to approximately 12 per cent.

**ODISHA'S FIRST NATIONAL LEAGUE CRICKET TEAM**

**Odisha Kheliba Duniya Dekhiba**

ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ତ୍ର ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ  
ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ତ୍ର ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ

**ଶ୍ରୀମନ୍ତ୍ର ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ** ଜି କରକମଳରେ

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ଆମ ସରକାର



# leisure



## AL PACINO SPLITS FROM GIRLFRIEND ALFALLAH

Hollywood legend Al Pacino (84) has ended his relationship with film producer Noor Alfallah(31). The couple, who had a significant age gap, seemed to grow closer during the pandemic, even welcoming their son Roman into the world in June 2023, reports *Mirror UK*.

## WILL SMITH, MICHAEL BAY EYEING TO REUNITE

Hollywood star Will Smith, and director Michael Bay, who rocked the box office with their movie *Bad Boys*, are planning to reunite with yet another movie. Titled *Fast and Loose*, the movie is being produced by Netflix.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Your work and family will vie with each other for your attention. Merry-making will seem a good idea in the evening. Your desire for fame and fortune will meet with success shortly, maybe even today! Ganesha showers his blessings on you.

**TAURUS**  
As a manager, you may be able to outclass your colleagues by a great margin, predicts Ganesha. You will soften your approach with time and move towards a more democratic style of decision-making rather than the arbitrary protocol that you are used to. With this, you will taste success and prove your mettle in adverse situations, feels Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
Your business rivals may compete with you in sales and deals today, warns Ganesha. Care and concern must be the two watchwords in all your dealings. Hostility may come in the way of love. Those spurned in previous romantic liaisons may get a chance to pen a new love story, says Ganesha.

**CANCER**  
Today, you may have to do a lot of multi-tasking at work, predicts Ganesha. And you are likely to do it with the dexterity of a juggler. You will finish your pending tasks with ease. You will make seemingly impossible tasks look as simple as blinking.

**LEO**  
Get ready to bask in applause. Well, not literally, but Ganesha does foresee you getting that long due recognition today for all the hard work you've put at your workplace. This goes hand-in-hand with the support of your colleagues and the good wishes of your seniors, especially if it is some new project that you are undertaking.

**VIRGO**  
A single-headed mission to be the master of your destiny will drive you ahead. Your management skills will be immaculate, and the fire to succeed will get you up and running. Your skill in the managerial post will be accentuated by your quick decision-making and superior analytical ability, says Ganesha.

**LIBRA**  
Wedding bells are ringing, and you are about to get very lucky! Ganesha foresees a plethora of marriage proposals coming your way on this day full of special occasions, as you turn up your charisma and sweep the enthralled opposite sex off their feet with your charm. You may end up spending quite a bit on fun and entertainment, but it's all for a good cause. All things will fall into place as per planetary plans.

**SCORPIO**  
Friends in influential positions will be of much help today. You may plunge into a new business venture without much ado. Appreciation for your abilities and efforts will fly in thick and fast. Your reputation is sky-rocketing among the opposite sex.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Running helter-skelter and muddling of affairs is on the menu. Expect not to find even a moment's peace. But take a break, says Ganesha. And dive right back in the chaos and make the most of it.

**CAPRICORN**  
Impulsiveness, which is not really your trait, will be very evident in whatever work you do today, says Ganesha. Money matters will keep you preoccupied for major part of the day, but ironically, your otherwise methodical approach to everything will go for a toss. You will splurge in the second half of the day, and it will be more than what your means can afford.

**AQUARIUS**  
Lady Luck gazes lovingly upon you today! Bosses are pleased, colleagues are happy, and this makes work seem like leisure. You may want to get in touch with old friends who have moved far away. What are you waiting for, asks Ganesha, in this age of communication?

**PISCES**  
A good day for those looking for romantic liaisons, says Ganesha. You will seek the company of your sweetheart to fight feelings of solitude and boredom today. Those who are single ought to strike gold, considering how Lady Luck will be grinning at the efforts you make to win over your love.

### NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

# Nithya, Rishab take home top honours

THREE-TIME NATIONAL AWARD WINNING ACTOR MITHUN CHAKRABORTY WAS CONFERRED WITH PRESTIGIOUS DADA SAHEB PHALKE AWARD FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN CINEMA



Murmu presented the prestigious awards, including the Dadasaheb Phalke Award to veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty.

The event was broadcast live on YouTube through the Doodardshan channel. *KGF Chapter 2* took home the award for Best Kannada Film and Best Action Direction, while *Kantara* earned Rishab Shetty the

Best Actor in a Leading Role honour. Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's *Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva* also scored big, winning Best Male Playback Singer for Arijit Singh, Best Film in the AVGC category (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comic), and Best VFX Film.

After receiving the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, *The Disco Dancer* actor de-



livered a speech. Reflecting on his younger days, Mithun shared that after winning his first National Film Award for *Mrigayaa* (1976), directed by Mrinal Sen, he began to believe he was as talented as Al Pacino.

He humorously noted that it took a slap from a producer to bring him back to reality and remind him that he was not Al Pacino.



Among other prominent personalities who received the honour included Nithya Menen and Manasi Parekh (Joint Best Actress for *Thiruchitrabalam* and *Kutch Express*), Sooraj Barjatya (Best Director for *Uunchai*), Karan Johar (Best Film in Animation and Visual Effects), Neena Gupta (Best Supporting Actress for *Uunchai*).

## Best Odia Film award for Daman

Bhubaneswar: Director Vishal Mourya and producer Deependra Samal received the award for Best Odia Film for their movie *Daman* at the 70th National Film Awards, Tuesday.



Congratulating the team Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said, "Best wishes to the team of *Daman*, which bagged the Best Odia Film honour at the 70th National Film Awards. The success at the national level will surely encourage the cinema of the states in the days to come."

Movie's lead actor Babushaan Mohanty, in his reaction, shared, "This day will always

be special. *Daman* at the 70th National Film awards. Thank you Odisha for the love and blessings... Jai Jagannath"

*DAMaN*, abbreviation for *Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakarana* (Malaria eradication in inaccessible areas), is a 2022 Indian Odia-language adventure drama film and helmed by director duo Vishal Mourya and Debi Prasad Lenka. P.M.N

## Sonakshi all praise for OTT medium

Mumbai: Actress Sonakshi Sinha, who was recently seen in the streaming movie *Kakuda*, has said that the medium of OTT allows actors to explore their characters in depth.

Sonakshi has done 2 OTT shows so far, a rustic and rooted *Dahaad* and a period drama *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar* in which she got to be the quintessential Sanjay Leela Bhansali heroine.

She also got feted with the Best Actress award for her stellar performance in *Heeramandi* recently at an awards function.

The actress said, "The fact that I've won this award two years in a row, first for *Dahaad* and now for *Heeramandi*, is truly humbling. It's a testament to the kind of diverse and strong roles that the OTT space is now offering to actors. Each project gives me the chance to explore something new and push boundaries."

She also shared her experience of working on both OTT and the big screen, as she shared, "OTT is truly a game-changer at the moment. The roles offered on OTT are more complex, layered, and challenging in ways that commercial films don't always allow."

"The big screen is more about entertaining a larger audience, while I feel that OTT offers more room to explore characters in depth," she added.

AGENCIES



## Kriti advocates gender equality

New Delhi: Championing the cause of women empowerment and gender equality was Kriti Sanon who joined the 50th anniversary celebration of UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities) India Monday.

The actress was appreciated for her role in *Mimi*, for which she also won the National Award, and while addressing the gathering, Natalia Kanem, Executive Director, UNFPA, said, "It is a pleasure to have Kriti Sanon with us today as we celebrate 50 years of UNFPA India."

Kriti, your voice and work make such a difference in advancing the issues that are important to women and young people. Kriti chooses roles that reflect strong female characters. One example of that is *Mimi* and through that film she brings attention to the emotional and complex journey of surrogate motherhood focussing on choices around surrogacy. It is a story that we really don't hear enough about - women's reproductive health, life-changing and challenging decisions that women make each and every day. This movie gets people thinking."

Kriti shared, "I almost got emotional hearing so much about myself. But today is not about me, it is about UNFPA and the amazing work that they have done in India. I am really happy to be here and I hope to be a small part of this big change that you are bringing about."

The actress also attended a panel discussion on gender equality and women empowerment.

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

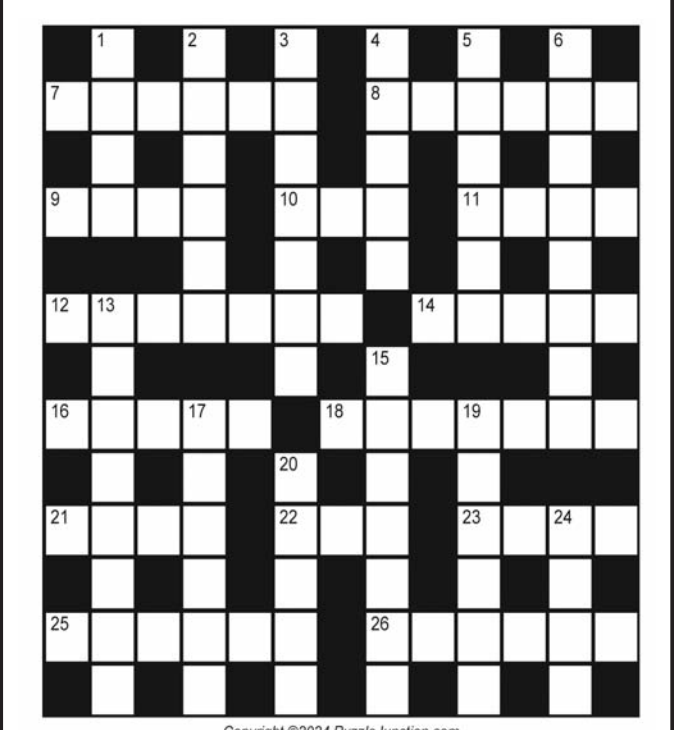


### BREVITY



### FUN post

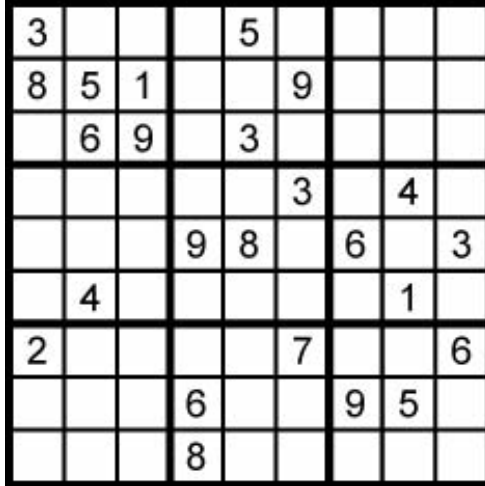
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Sweet-talk
  - 8 Shallots
  - 9 Island south of Borneo
  - 10 Barley bristle
  - 11 Apple leftover
  - 12 Infernal
  - 14 Ice cream flavour
  - 16 Molten rock
  - 18 Wodehouse's Bertie
  - 21 Cancún coin
  - 22 Greek consonant
  - 23 Hebrides isle
  - 25 Shoot for
  - 26 Duty-free
  - 4 Beagle
  - 5 Go 'round and 'round
  - 6 Gain
  - 13 Cross over
  - 15 Diadem
  - 17 Nearsighted
  - 19 Modus operandi
  - 20 Salad oil holder
  - 24 Pound sounds
- Down
- 1 Rum-soaked cake
  - 2 Tedious
  - 3 Vacation

### 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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## New recruits pilots of progress: Majhi



GOVT PLANS TO FILL 1.5 LAKH POSITIONS DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, SAYS THE CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday handed over appointment letters to 282 new recruits for various departments during a special event here while describing them as 'pilots of progress' for Odisha's growth engine.

lots of the progress for the state's growth engine."

The CM urged them to work diligently for the successful implementation of various government schemes aimed at public welfare.

Stressing that his government is committed to building a developed Odisha, Majhi emphasised the crucial role the employees play in every initiative and scheme.

He noted that the appointment letters represent not just a government job but a golden opportunity to work directly with the public. "Be committed to the religion of humanity. Strive towards improving yourself and engage in nation-building," he advised.

The Chief Minister also highlighted ongoing reforms in the power sector, mentioning three key initiatives - Mukhyamantri Shakti Vikas

scheme, Odisha Distribution System Improvement scheme and Odisha Power Transmission System Improvement scheme, with a total of ₹2,366 crore allocated for the year.

Furthermore, he announced that the state government is expanding health services and is committed to providing quality healthcare to all, from rural to urban areas. The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana will soon be implemented across the state, he added.

Majhi also remarked on the significant role of the OMC in the state's economic progress, stating that the state is poised to become the preferred choice for investors in the industrial sector. He concluded by announcing the BJP government's plan to fill 1.5 lakh positions over the next five years.

## Tight security in twin cities for Durga Puja

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday made elaborate security and traffic arrangements to ensure smooth Durga Puja in the twin cities.

According to the twin city police, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack will have 187 and 166 Durga Puja pandals, respectively, this year.

Ten additional DCPs or ASPs will be deployed to oversee the arrangements in the Capital city. "As many as 22 deputy superintendents of police (DSPs), 45 inspectors, 200 sub-inspectors (SIs)/ assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs), 35 traffic havildars and 85 training constables will be deployed to maintain law and order, and traffic flow during Durga Puja festivities under Bhubaneswar UPD," they said.

As many as 38 platoons of force, two Special Tactical Units (STUs), two ODRAF units, two units of bomb disposal squads and 10 points of static VHF among other personnel will be deployed.

Similarly, one SP, seven additional SPs, 39 DSPs or ACPs or Additional Commissioners, and 60 inspectors will oversee the security and traffic arrangements in Cuttack UPD.

"These apart, 350 SIs/ASIs, 55 havildars, 100 traffic constables, 64 platoons of force, two STUs, one ODRAF unit, one bomb disposal squad, 80 points of static VHF, 100 manpower sets, six platoons of CRPF, three platoons of RAF, one unit of anti-terror squad and 400 home guards are among those to be deployed in Cuttack," they added.

Moreover, special arrangements have been made in civil cloth to prevent incidents of snatching, hooliganism, and other crimes like eve-teasing.

## Over 1cr women registered under Subhadra: Deputy CM

BHUBANESWAR: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida Tuesday said more than 1 crore women have registered themselves under Subhadra Yojana, a financial assistance scheme launched by the BJP government in the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the ambitious women-centric scheme September 17, and on that day, the first instalment of ₹5,000 was sent directly to the bank accounts of around 25.11 lakh beneficiaries. "Over one crore women have already come forward and registered themselves to get benefits of the Subhadra Yojana, which has created a history in Odisha," the deputy CM said. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi would release the first instalment to another 35 lakh women October 9 at Baripada in Mayurbhanj district, said Parida, who is in charge of the Women and Child Development department. Subhadra Yojana, the financial assistance scheme named after the sister of Lord Jagannath, was one of the major promises made by the BJP for women in its election manifesto in Odisha. The party came to power in June.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## SOP soon on behaviour with Defence personnel at PS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Oct 8: The state government Tuesday informed the Orissa High Court that the Home department will soon frame a standard operating procedure (SOP) on appropriate behaviour with Defence personnel at police stations.

This was conveyed through an affidavit by senior IPS officer Dayal Gangwar, who was previously instructed by the High Court to submit a report following a recent incident at Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar.

In early September, there was widespread outrage after an Army officer and his female

The HC expressed satisfaction with the steps taken by the state government in relation to the incident involving the Army officer

friend were allegedly assaulted by police officers inside Bharatpur police station when they went to lodge a complaint about a road rage incident.

During a hearing related to this matter, the High Court expressed concern over the violation of Supreme Court guidelines regarding installation of CCTVs at police stations.

In response, Gangwar appeared before the court and said measures were being taken to install CCTV cameras in all police stations across the state, with com-

pletion expected within 15 days.

He also mentioned that the state government is working on two new video management systems (VMS) that would allow the DGP and all 32 district police chiefs to monitor CCTV footage at police stations.

The HC expressed satisfaction with the steps taken by the state government in relation to the incident involving the Army officer and adjourned the matter to be heard again next month.

Meanwhile, the state government has instituted a Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the incident, transferred the police investigation to the Crime Branch, and suspended at least five police personnel involved in the case.

## Sarangti takes charge as OPSC chairman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Former Director General of Police (DGP) Arun Kumar Sarangti Tuesday assumed charge as the chairperson of the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) in Cuttack.

He took on this new role a day after offering voluntary retirement from the Indian Police Service (IPS), having last served as the director of the Biju Patnaik State Police Academy.

Sarangti was appointed the OPSC chairperson by the state government in September.

"My priority will be maintaining transparency in the conduct of examinations for recruitment to various government jobs. I will miss the uniform a lot," the 1990-batch IPS officer told reporters.

## Fake note dealers eye festive rush

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 8: At a time when the recent instances of police busting adulterated milk and ghee units have earned a bad name for the Silver City, counterfeit currency note mafia targeting the festive season to earn fast bucks has come as a double whammy.

According to sources, Durga puja is celebrated here with great pomp and gaiety every year when business houses make huge transactions - worth hundreds of crores. Taking the advantage of the festive rush and an apparent scope for circulation of fake notes, the

mafia elements are planning to launch counterfeit notes worth cores in the puja market.

As per reports, the fake note rackets are targeting small and makeshift shops here if a recent case of seizure of counterfeit notes from an eatery in Jagatpur area here is any indication. Sources said a few fake note brokers, in the guise of builders, had visited the restaurant and were trying to convince people to accept and circulate the counterfeit notes.

One such plot was foiled by Jagatpur police recently. Sources said a person,

who identified himself as a real estate dealer, had taken ₹1.60 lakh from a resident of Jagatpur on the pretext of buying him a piece of land. When the dealer could not arrange the landed plot, the Jagatpur resident wanted his money back. However, instead of repaying the money, the conman was instigating people of Jagatpur area to help him circulate fake currency notes, saying that this would earn them quick bucks.

On being informed, the police detained the broker and are interrogating him to get further leads in this connection.

## ML pioneers win Physics Nobel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stockholm, Oct 8: Two pioneers of artificial intelligence (AI) - John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton - won the Nobel Prize in Physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning (ML) that is revolutionising the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.

Hinton, who is known as the Godfather of AI, is a citizen of Canada and Britain who works at the University of Toronto and Hopfield is an American working at Princeton.

"This year's two Nobel Laureates in Physics have used tools from Physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today's powerful machine learning," the Nobel committee said in a press release.

Ellen Moons, a member of the Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the two laureates "used fundamental concepts from statistical physics to design artificial neural networks that function as associative memories and find patterns in large data sets." She said that such networks have been used to ad-



John Hopfield



Geoffrey Hinton

vance research in Physics and "have also become part of our daily lives, for instance in facial recognition and language translation."

While the committee honoured the science behind ML and AI, Moons also mentioned its flipside, saying that "while machine learning has enormous benefits, its rapid development has also raised concerns about our future. Collectively, humans carry the responsibility for using this new technology in a safe and ethical way for the greatest benefit of humankind."

Hinton shares those concerns. He quit a role at Google so he could more freely speak about the dangers of the technology he helped create.

Tuesday, he said he was shocked at the honour.

"I'm flabbergasted. I had no idea this would happen," he said when reached by the Nobel committee on the phone. Hinton predicted that AI will end up having a 'huge influence' on civilization, bringing improvements in productivity and health care.

"It would be comparable with the Industrial Revolution," he said in the open call with reporters and the officials from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. "Instead of exceeding people in physical strength, it's going to exceed people in intellectual ability. We have no experience of what it's like to have things smarter than us. And it's

going to be wonderful in many respects," Hinton said. "But we also have to worry about a number of possible bad consequences, particularly the threat of these things getting out of control."

Six days of Nobel announcements opened Monday with Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun winning the medicine prize for their discovery of tiny bits of genetic material that serve as on and off switches inside cells that help control what the cells do and when they do it. If scientists can better understand how they work and how to manipulate them, it could one day lead to powerful treatments for diseases like cancer.

The Physics prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish Kronor (USD 1 million) from a bequest left by the award's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The laureates are invited to receive their awards at ceremonies December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

Nobel announcements will continue with the chemistry prize Wednesday and literature Thursday. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics award October 14.

Advertisement for Rangilo Raas event at Crystal Crown Hotel & Convention. Features KANIKA KAPOOR, RUPALI JAGGA, MADHAVAS ROCK BAND, and KISNA CO-SPONSOR. Includes ticket information and venue details.



# 87pc parents in favour of tech integration in schools

THE SURVEY REVEALS 58.33% OF PARENTS HAVE POSITIVE AWARENESS OF NEP 2020, WHILE 41.67% LACK AWARENESS OR HOLD NEGATIVE VIEWS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** At least 87 per cent parents support technology integration in schools, recognising its potential to enhance learning while only 28 per cent of them prefer strict usage for educational purposes, according to a new survey.

The first edition of "All India Parent Survey 2024 - Parents Attitude and Perception towards the Indian School Education Landscape" conducted by K-12 Techno Services, an education service provider, found that an overwhelming majority of parents (94 per cent) positively acknowledge the importance of teaching life skills at an early age and its benefits for a child's overall development.

The report, which gathered insights from over 3,000 parents of children from multiple educational boards (ICSE, CBSE, IB, state-level boards) across re-

gions, delved into crucial observations and trends in their quest for the ultimate school going experience.

"A promising 87 per cent of parents support technology integration in schools, recognising its potential to enhance learning. However, home management strategies vary widely. While 46 per cent allow moderate usage, others range from strict educational-only use (28 pc) to unrestricted access (6 pc)," the survey report said.

"To balance screen time, most parents (57 pc) encourage non-screen activities, with others explaining risks or setting explicit limits," it added.

The survey reveals 58.33 per cent of parents have positive awareness of NEP 2020, while 41.67 per cent lack awareness or hold negative views.

"Activity-Based Learning (60.47 per cent) and Skill-Based Learning (53.44 per cent) are the

most recognized aspects. However, 21.12 per cent of parents are unaware of any specific aspects, indicating a need for improved communication about the policy's details and benefits," the report said.

"The survey further indicates a substantial awareness of the Right To Education (RTE) Act, with 71.24 pc of parents familiar with this fundamental right. However, 28.76 pc of parents remain unaware, highlighting the need for continued efforts to educate and inform about this crucial legislation in Indian education," it added.

While 46 per cent parents allow moderate usage, others range from strict educational-only use (28 per cent) to unrestricted access (6 per cent). To balance screen time, most parents (57 per cent) encourage non-screen activities, with others explaining risks or setting explicit limits.

"The survey reveals a mismatch between parents, communication preferences and schools' practices. While 74 per cent of parents prefer weekly or monthly updates, 40 per cent of schools communicate daily," it said.

The parents strongly favour WhatsApp messages (50 per cent) and Parent-Teacher Meetings (28 per cent), yet schools primarily use PTMs (31 per cent), parent portals (22 per cent) and WhatsApp/SMS (22 per cent).

"This discrepancy highlights an opportunity for schools to align their communication strategies with parental preferences," the report said.

# Govt launches Gramodaya scheme

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The state government Tuesday initiated a special scheme called "Gramodaya" to address the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) menace in the state.

According to official sources, the initiative will implement various schemes in a saturation mode in 583 villages across ten Naxal-affected districts.

A state-level monitoring committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary, will oversee the implementation of the scheme. Monitoring will also be conducted at the district and block levels to ensure effective execution.

The identified villages are located in the districts of Bargarh, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Boudh, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, and Rayagada.

The programme intends to



deliver the full benefits of all government schemes to these villages by coordinating efforts from all state government departments in a convergence mode.

The scheme has two main components—ensuring 100 per cent coverage of all government

schemes at the village/community level, and ensuring 100 per cent coverage of all schemes at the individual/household level.

All departments of the state government will work together in convergence to implement the schemes in a saturation mode. The Panchayati Raj and

Drinking Water department will act as the nodal department for this initiative.

To ensure proper implementation, an LWE dashboard will be developed for real-time monitoring.

The committee will include district-level officials, led by the district Collector; for the purpose. Similarly, at the block level, the committee will comprise block-level officials and will be chaired by the Block Development Officer.

Special awareness campaigns, Gram Sabhas, grievance hearings, and outreach activities will be conducted to facilitate the implementation of the initiative at the grassroots level.

A collaborative effort involving government agencies and the local community will be ensured for the effective implementation of the initiative, according to official sources.

# OUTR observes 3rd Foundation Day



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) observed its third Foundation Day here Tuesday.

Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain graced the occasion as chief guest. Ekamra-Bhubaneswar MLA

Babu Singh was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Swain said that OUTR should focus on applying engineering knowledge for the welfare of the society. There is a need to introduce new courses in new technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and data science, he added.

Singh talked about the state

government's efforts towards taking the university at the highest level in the county. He also assured financial help and cooperation to the university.

University VC Bibhuti Bhushan Biswal, while presiding over the event, narrated the history of the institute and spoke about the new branch and e-Masters course.

He also presented the requirements and suggestions for improvement in the technical department of the institute.

A programme was organised by the university to reward the students, faculty and staff for their success and contribution towards the university.

On the occasion, OUTR Fine, OUTR Community E-Bike sharing station and OUTR-Siemens COE Digital Manufacturing were inaugurated. University registrar Renu Prabha Nayak was present at the event.

# Three-day event by Rangilo Raas in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** Brace up for a thrilling Navratri season, as Rangilo Raas brings a spectacular three-day extravaganza to Crystal Crown from October 9 to 11. This much-anticipated event promises to be the biggest and most luxurious Navratri gathering in the state, as it features performances by Bollywood icons.

The event will kick off with a high-energy performance by playback singer Rupali Jagga, followed by a mesmerising night with the popular Kanika Kapoor, and will conclude by Madhavas Rock Band. Each evening promises a unique experience, packed with music, dance and celebration.

Security and comfort are top priorities, with arrangements made to ensure a seamless and memorable experience for all attendees, said a release by Rangilo Raas.

Apart from the entertainment, guests will indulge in lavish culinary delights with a variety of food options available to complement the festive atmosphere. Tickets start at ₹1,000, and bookings can be made through BookMyShow or by contacting 8926263199, 892653199, or 6370700972.



MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	25,013.15	↑ 217.40
NIFTY	81,634.81	↑ 584.81
DOLLAR	84.03	↓ ₹0.02
EURO	92.31	↓ ₹0.60
GOLD	₹75,075	↓ ₹970
SILVER	₹ 88,702	↓ ₹3,655

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.8°C	32.2°C
Min Temp	25.3°C	24.5°C
Humidity	88%	88%
Rainfall	10.8	Nil
FORECAST		
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY WITH ONE OR TWO SPELLS OF RAIN		

# Bakul Foundation's act of generosity on Daan Utsav

**Bhubaneswar:** Bakul Foundation, in collaboration with Barbeque Nation restaurant at Gajapati Nagar here treated around 100 children from nearby slums to a lavish buffet as part of Daan Utsav celebration Tuesday. Children from local slums, such as Shanti Nagar, Raj Kumar Basti, Baya Baba Basti, and Rickshaw Colony, who are regular visitors to the Bakul Library, were taken for a dine-in experience at the restaurant. The Commissionerate Police helped with the logistical support for children's transportation. Sujit Mahapatra, founder of Bakul Foundation expressed the significance of the event and said, "This was a reward for the children's dedication to learning. The joy of seeing them so happy is indescribable." Shruuti Kanungo who volunteered for the event added, "I had coordinated the 'Day of Service' for 600 volunteers earlier, but today's event gave me pure bliss seeing the children's happiness." Daan Utsav is being celebrated nationwide from October 2 to 8.

# ECoR holds state-level Rovers & Rangers meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Bharat Scouts and Guides hosted state-level Rovers and Rangers meet at its state headquarters here, Tuesday. The event brought together volunteers from all corners of ECoR, including participants from the Khurda Road, Sambalpur, and Waltair divisions, as well as teams from the headquarters, Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop, and Puri Unit.

Key highlight of the event were the Nukkad Natak performances by the volunteers, aimed at raising public awareness on crucial issues, including cleanliness and the fight against corruption. With the help of en-



gaging street plays, volunteers successfully conveyed important messages to the public, emphasising the need to maintain cleanliness in daily life and to actively stand against corruption in all forms.

The event was graced by ECoR general manager Parmeshwar Funkwal, who praised the efforts of the volunteers and their

dedication to social causes.

Speaking on the occasion, Funkwal encouraged the Rovers and Rangers to continue their commendable work and assured them of ECoR's ongoing support for future initiatives. He highlighted the importance of youth involvement in nation-building and advised them to take more proactive steps in con-

tributing towards a cleaner and more transparent society.

Rovers and Rangers, through their dedicated service and community-oriented initiatives, continue to play a pivotal role in promoting the values of the Bharat Scouts and Guides within ECoR, an official said.

The state-level meet is not only a platform for skill development but also an opportunity for volunteers to strengthen their commitment to community services and nation-building, he said.

Notably, the initiative aligns with ECoR's broader mission to support social causes and engage with the community in meaningful ways, further adding its reputation as a responsible and socially conscious organisation.

# Conservation efforts by OMBADC in Mayurbhanj dist

The public limited government company is actively engaged in addressing challenges related to rainwater conservation and soil erosion

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mayurbhanj, Oct 8:** Climate change poses significant challenge worldwide. Erratic rainfall patterns and population growth are leading to increased utilisation of groundwater.

The issue had led to more attention and call for efforts on finding sustainable solutions, particularly for rainwater preservation and groundwater recharge.

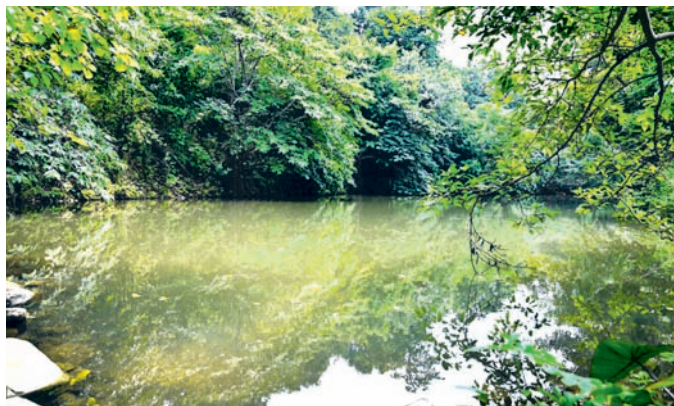
Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) is actively supporting

the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department in implementing various projects for rain and groundwater conservation in the mineral rich Mayurbhanj.

Mayurbhanj, state's largest district by area, is surrounded by lush forests and hills. Strategically constructed dams are instrumental in conserving rainwater, flowing from the hills, benefiting both wildlife and local villagers who rely on the stored water for agricultural purposes.

"Previously, rainwater from nearby hills flooded our village, causing hardship. Thanks to the construction of a dam supported by OMBADC, we now conserve that water and use it to grow crops, which provide us with a livelihood option," says Jharana Mahanta, a resident of Kantasala, Badampahar, Mayurbhanj.

Various initiatives have been



undertaken towards groundwater recharge and soil erosion control in the district. The water harvesting structures constructed with financial support from OMBADC include loose boulder check dams, wire mesh loose boulder check dams, graded bunds, sub-surface dykes, per-

colation pits, staggered trenches, earthen bunds, and stone bunding.

"The forests are rich in precious medicinal plants. However, water scarcity hindered tree growth, severely impacting the livelihoods of those dependent on the forests. With the con-

struction of dams and other projects, the trees are now thriving, allowing people to collect forest produce and earn a decent income", said Upendranath Mahanta, a local resident.

Community-led initiatives are also underway to establish nurseries and undertake afforestation programmes aimed at environmental protection and green belt development in mining areas.

Notably, under the forest division of Rairangpur, Karanjia, and Baripada, 83.33 lakh saplings have been planted till date. With OMBADC's assistance, under the Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development of the state government, various projects such as farm ponds and water harvesting structures are being constructed.

These initiatives aim to address declining groundwater

levels while aiding soil conservation and providing livelihood for local communities.

Badampahar Forest Division ranger Satyabrata Pattanaik noted, "Previously, rainfall triggered soil erosion in Mayurbhanj's forests, leading to deforestation. However, with OMBADC's intervention, various projects have been implemented to combat soil erosion and conserve rainwater while safeguarding the forest. The move ultimately supports sustainable livelihoods for local villagers."

OMBADC plays a pivotal role in consolidating water resources, controlling soil erosion, and promoting greenery in the tribal majority district. The focus remains on maintaining equilibrium among water, land, and forest resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods for the local population.

## 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, Bapuji 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-9090090404, 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.



# Opium farmers switch to dignified alternatives



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Oct 8:** Gone are the days when farmers of several villages adjoining Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district were living in constant fear of police crackdown on their illegal opium cultivation as they, with the help of the district administration, have got a new lease of life after pursuing cultivation of alternative crops.

Reports said the farmers never had a normal life as they always feared that police might swoop on them for the illegal opium cultivation. Time has changed. The farmers who were once unaware of the illegalities of opium cultivation have managed to shun it due to sustained efforts of the district administration.

By withdrawing the farmers from opium cultivation, the district administration not only could put a check on illegal opium trade in the district, but also freed many people of the hazards of substance abuse.

Reports said that opium was cultivated in large tracts of land

in Gudugudia, Barehipani and Astakuanar panchayats adjoining Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary under Jashipur block. The cultivation was carried out on several thousands of acres spread over 14 villages including Asanbani, Jajagada, Jhatipani, Chakundakacha, Saruda, Budhabalanga, Kukurabhuka and Khejuri in these panchayats.

Significantly, opium cultivation was carried out in guise of poppy seeds.

The opium traders and smugglers used to lure the gullible forest dwellers with money to take up opium cultivation. On being informed, forest, excise and police personnel conducted raids in intervals and destroyed opium plants worth over Rs 100 crore. The rapid spread of opium cultivation in the area has sparked concern across the state.

The district administration conducted a probe and the then district Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde interacted with the people, urging them to shun the illegal cultivation. Shinde, instead of taking any repressive measures against the

gullible farmers, launched efforts to help them join the mainstream.

Agriculture secretary Subham Saxena also visited the area and met the people.

Officials of Forest, Excise and Fisheries departments visited various villages and explained the ill-effects of opium cultivation to the gullible villagers. Replacing the large-scale cultivation of opium was no small feat as switching to alternative livelihoods and alternative forms of agriculture required substantial investments.

Agriculture and horticulture officials also met the people and assured them of government help if they take up cultivation of cash and other crops like turmeric, pineapple, raggi, strawberry, litchi and ginger.

The villagers were included in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and provided all help to take up cultivation of cash and other crops.

People were seen taking active interest in these crops and have also started it on their lands. Residents have expressed happiness over the noble initiative of the district administration.

When contacted, district Collector Hema Kanta Say said that people will be encouraged to take up cultivation of aromatic paddy, sweet corn and other alternative crops in coming days.

They will be supplied with the quality seeds and provided proper training to start the cultivation, the Collector added.



**CURBING WATER POLLUTION:** Labourers engaged by the district administration working on an artificial pond on Mahanadi riverbed for immersion of Durga and other idols during the festive season in Sambalpur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

## Ganjam girl sets herself on fire, dies

AGENCIES

**Berhampur, Oct 8:** A 20-year-old girl, who allegedly set herself on fire because of alleged torture by her father and stepmother, died during treatment at a hospital in Ganjam district Tuesday, police said.

Rani Pradhan, a final year undergraduate student from Kukudakhandi village under Berhampur Sadar police station, set herself on fire by pouring petrol near Panchayat Samiti office Monday afternoon, they said. SP Sarvana Vivek M said she suffered 90 per cent burn injuries and was undergoing treatment at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital where she died. Initial inquiry has revealed that she took the step as her father and stepmother allegedly tortured her, police said. Her mother died when she was just three years old, following which her father married another woman.

## Female jumbo rescued from abandoned well

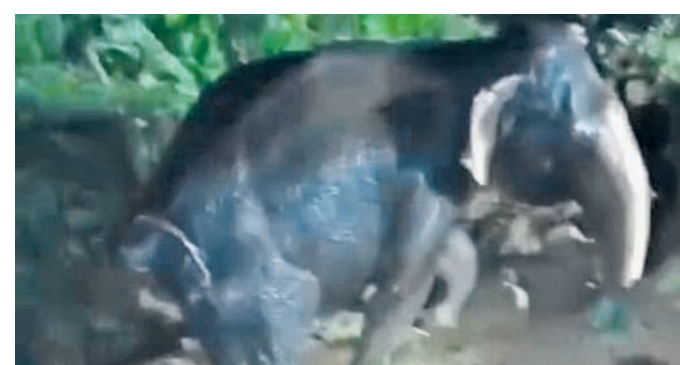
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 8:** Forest officials rescued a female elephant from an abandoned well from Patakhal village under Bimala forest section and Telkoi forest range in this district, late Monday night.

The 17-year-old mammal, which was part of a 10-member herd, fell into an abandoned well when the villagers tried to drive away the herd.

The incident occurred when the villagers were tipped off about the arrival of the elephant herd at midnight. They woke up and drove away the elephant herd. And, in the process, the female jumbo fell into an abandoned well belonging to late Trilochan Nayak. The other elephants of the herd tried to rescue the animal but in vain.

Later, the villagers informed the forest personnel at around 3:30 am after which a few forest



officials rushed to the spot and poured water into the well. They also dug up the soil around the well with the help of heavy earth moving equipment.

Later, the elephant was rescued safely from the well. It was seen running towards the forest following its rescue.

Villagers were also present during the rescue operation and assisted the forest personnel without going back to sleep.

Reports said that a total of 24 elephants are moving in the forests under Telkoi forest range.

When contacted, divisional forest officer (DFO) Dhanraj HD informed the media about the safe rescue of the animal which is now moving in the forest with other members of the herd.

## Firecrackers worth ₹18 lakh destroyed



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Oct 8:** Personnel from the Plant Site police station have seized firecrackers worth Rs 18 lakh from two businessmen here. They had illegally stored the firecrackers keeping in mind the upcoming festive season. The firecrackers were consigned to flames Monday evening by police personnel in presence of a magistrate. It was like a mini-Deepavali festival when the seized crackers were lighted. Along with the police, the local bystanders also enjoyed the scene.

The two businessmen, identified as Ajaya Kumar Gupta and Bikash Agarwal, have been detained by the police under the Explosive Act. Police said they did not have the requisite licence to store the firecrackers.

SDPO Zone 1 Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra informed that police had seized the huge quantity of fire crackers Saturday. "We had information that the businessmen had stored the crackers at Bondamunda and near the Plant Site locality. So, we conducted a raid and found those in their possession. As they could not produce any valid documents for storing firecrackers we seized those and detained them," Mohapatra informed.

"The raids will continue as these are very dangerous items and cannot be stored without proper license. Also they have to be kept in a proper storage place, not just anywhere. We have designated 8-10 places where firecrackers can be stored and sold. Anyone violating the rules will face disciplinary action," Mohapatra added.

## Teen gets 20-yr RI for kidnap, rape

AGENCIES

**Balasure, Oct 8:** A court in Balasure district Tuesday convicted a 19-year-old youth on charges of kidnapping and raping a minor girl and sentenced him to 20 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) along with a fine of Rs 6,000.

Balasure Special Judge POC SO Ranjan Kumar Sutar pronounced the judgement after convicting Sukuar Singh from Madhupuria village, under Berhampur (Nilgiri) police station limits, for sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl after kidnapping her. The victim's parents had filed a complaint April 7.

The court also ordered two-year RI in case the convict fails to pay the fine.

According to the prosecution, Singh kidnapped the girl while she was attending an opera and held her captive at various locations in Mayurbhanj, including Udala and Kaptipada, where the crime was committed.

"The court pronounced the judgement after examining 15 witnesses and 22 exhibits," Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda said.



## Awareness programme held on World Cerebral Palsy Day

**Kendrapara:** Aiming to spread awareness on the interventional role of therapy, "Punarbas" Sunday organised awareness-cum-sensitisation programme on the occasion of World Cerebral Palsy Day which is celebrated October 6. In the first session, physio-therapist Rachita Jena and occupational therapist Gunjansmita Behera made two presentations on the topic. Jena presented one paper on cerebral palsy dissecting the causes and prognosis and another on rehabilitation challenges and therapeutic intervention. The meeting was conducted by the founder-cum-advisor of the organisation Biraja Routray. On this occasion, District Child Welfare Committee Chairman Swagatika Patra joined as the chief guest. Among others, district child protection officer Bijaya Ketan Sahoo, former district social security officer Pravash Chandra Das and noted social worker Biraja Prasad Pati appreciated the role, contribution and supreme sacrifices by parents of children suffering from Cerebral Palsy. Emphasising the importance of awareness in preventing the various causes of this devastating type of disability they reiterated the vital role of awareness programmes in block and GP levels in order to reach out to the rural community. In the interactive session, mothers of cerebral palsy children narrated their untold stories of struggle, helplessness, difficulties and hope in nurturing their differently-abled children.

**OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, CHAMPUA**  
AT/P.O.: Champua, Dist.: Keonjhar, PIN - 758041 (Odisha)  
E-Mail: ori-champua@nic.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-Procurement**  
Bid ID No. TCN No. 2 - Champua/2024-25

No. I-227: The Block Development Officer, Champua on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Online percentage rate tender through e-procurement to be received in online mode or the works detailed in the Annexure to this Bid Notice.

Name of Work	: Civil Construction Works
No. of Works	: 1 (One) No.
Estimated Cost	: Rs. 16.92 Lakhs
Tender Paper Cost	: Mentioned in Annexure - 1 of Tender Call Notice
Period of Completion	: 06 (Six) Calendar Months
Availability of Bid Documents	: From 09.10.2024 to 24.10.2024 during office hours in Website: ( <a href="http://www.tenderorissa.gov.in">www.tenderorissa.gov.in</a> )
Period of receipt of Bid through online	: From 09.10.2024 to 24.10.2024 through online
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Documents	: At 11.00 A.M. on 25.10.2024 in the office chamber of the Block Development Officer, Champua
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Documents	: At 11.00 A.M. on 25.10.2024 in the office chamber of the Block Development Officer, Champua
Date of Lottery	: At 11.00 A.M. on 28.10.2024 in the office chamber of the Block Development Officer, Champua
Name and Address of the OIT	: Block Development Officer, Champua, AT/P.O.: Champua, P.S.: Champua, Dist.: Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Sd/- Sri Raja Ranjit Pratap Bal, OAS  
Block Development Officer, Champua

OIPR-19121/11/0002/2425

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS**

Tender Notice No. PCMM/EP/2024-25/121, Date : 03.10.2024

TENDER NO. 08243512, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM : PRE PRINTED UTS TICKETS, QUANTITY : AS PER TS

Tender Opening Date : dt. 17.10.2024.

Regarding detailed notice, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and [www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in)

Principal Chief Materials Manager/  
PR-602/P/24-25 Bhubaneswar

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

Tender No. eT-M-MP-CD-PUI-28-2024

**NAME OF WORK: OUTSOURCING OF STAFF FOR ENGAGEMENT OF DIFFERENT NON-CORE MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AT COACHING DEPOT, PURI FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.**

Advertised Value : ₹1,32,07,379.86, EMD : ₹2,16,000/-, Cost of Tender Document : ₹5,900/-, Period of Completion: 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date : 10.10.2024

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1300 Hrs. of 24.10.2024.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-Tender documents and corrigendum is available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Sr. Divl. Mechanical Engineer/  
PR-608/P/24-25 Khurda Road

## Conditional bail for ex-MP's brother

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Barbil, Oct 8:** The court of Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC) here in Keonjhar district granted conditional bail Tuesday to Anuprash Mohanty, the brother of actor and former MP Anubhav Mohanty after he surrendered on the direction of Orissa High Court in a cheque bounce case, Tuesday.

Sources said Anuprash was accused in a cheque bounce case in 2018. Since he didn't appear in the JMFC court, the latter issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against him. Anuprash moved the HC against JMFC court order. The HC heard the matter and directed Anuprash to surrender before the JMFC court by October 8.

Left with no option, Anuprash surrendered before the JMFC court here Tuesday which gave him conditional bail.

## Life term for wife killer



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 8:** District sessions judge Ashok Kumar Panda Tuesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment after convicting him of killing his wife brutally. The convict was identified as Dilip Bentkar, 44, of Gopinathpur Sahi in Rausian under Sadar block and the deceased as Sabita Bentkar, 38, his wife. The court has also slapped a penalty of Rs 5,000 on him, apart from the punish-

ment. In case of defaulting on payment of penalty, the convict has to undergo an additional one month of rigorous imprisonment, the judge observed while delivering the order.

The court also directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to provide financial assistance to the three children who have been abandoned and orphaned after the death of their mother while father would be in jail, public prosecutor Pradeep Kumar Das said. The judge pronounced the order after examining the statements of 11 witnesses, three eye-witnesses and the final chargesheet submitted by the police in the case, the public prosecutor said.

According to the case diary, the incident occurred when Dilip Bentkar beat up his wife Sabita Bentkar following a heated argument over a domestic dispute January 6, 2021 evening. Enraged, Dilip killed Sabita by hitting her head with a brick near the puja mandap in the village. On receiving a complaint from the deceased's brother Madhusudan Bentkar, police registered a murder case and arrested Dilip, who was then lodged in Keonjhar district jail.

**Canara Bank** REGIONAL OFFICE, CUTTACK  
Shreeji Complex, Cuttack Town, Unit No.: 17, Machhua Bazar, Behind Pataloons, Cuttack-753001

**DEMAND NOTICE**  
Notice issued under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the CANARA Bank as Secured Creditor against the Borrower & Guarantor of its following branch, details of which are mentioned in the table below.

CUTTACK NANDISAHU BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/ Mortgagee/Co-Borrower/Guarantor / A/C. No.	(A) Loan / Limit Sanctioned (B) Date of NPA (C) Date of Demand Notice	Total Liabilities due on specified date	Description of the property mortgaged to the bank
<b>Borrower/Mortgagor:</b> Mrs. Chinmayi Pal, W/o.: Prana Krushna Jena, At: Kandarpur Duladei Road, PO.: Kalyani Nagar, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, PIN-753013 / <b>Co-Borrower/ Guarantor:</b> Mr. Pranakrushna Jena, S/o.: Baishnab Charan Jena, At/PO.: Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar, Odisha, PIN-758035 / <b>A/C. No.: 164001525461 (MORTGAGE LOAN)</b>	(A) ₹11,00,000/- (B) 16.07.2024 (C) 19.09.2024	₹9,58,101.02 as on 19.09.2024 plus interest & Cost thereon	EMT of Land and Building situated at Dist/DSRO/ Tahasil: Cuttack, P.S.: Madhupatana, P.S. No.: 09, Mouza: Cuttack Sahara Unit No.: 30, Kandarpur, Mutation Khata No.: 299/129, Plot No.: 68/1210, Area: Ac.0.032 Dec and Plot No.: 71/1211, Area: Ac.0.009 Dec, Total Area: Ac.0.041 Dec, which Corresponds to Hal Khata No.: 203, Plot No.: 68, Area: Ac.0.085 Dec, and Plot No.: 71, Area: Ac.0.009 Dec., KISSAM: Homestead, in the name of Mrs. Chinmayi Pal, Bounded by North: Ismail Road, South: Plot No.: 70, East: Ismail Road, West: Rest Part of Plot No.: 68

You, the above Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor have committed default in repayment of loan as mentioned in above table with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our branch as mentioned above. The bank had issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. Due to irregularity in repayment of outstanding dues, the debt has been classified as Non-Performing Asset. By this notice you are hereby called upon to discharge the entire liabilities as on date with future interest thereon in the above account to us as secured creditor, within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which we shall be constrained to exercise all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above Security Interest Act-2002. You are required to note that in terms of Sec.13 (13) of the said Security Interest Act, you shall not, after receipt of this notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, any of the secured assets above referred to without prior written consent of our Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of the injunction/restraint as provided under the said Security Interest Act-2002 is an offence. This notice is issued without prejudice to any other rights available to our Bank under the above Security Interest Act-2002 and / or any other law in force. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the Act and/or other law in force. Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further default action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence. In case the borrower / guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely, a) Take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset. b) Take over the management of the business of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset. Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the borrower is held as security for the debt. Provided further that where the management of whole of the business of part of the business is severable, that secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Place: Cuttack, Date: 08.10.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer, Canara Bank



FOCUS WORLD POST DAY

# THE POSTAL EVOLUTION



Despite significant transformations in communication and logistics, postal networks continue to play a vital role, but face unprecedented challenges in today's digital world

and Inter-operability through NEFT, India Post has digitised the Post Office Small Savings Scheme. India Post has also launched parcel tracking systems and online platforms like Dak Mitra, enabling customers to book parcels, track shipments, and access postal services from their mobile devices. Facilities like Real Time Delivery Update, electronic clearance of letter boxes, Automated Mail Processing Centres, Radio Frequency Identification, Click N Book etc. have accelerated the digital movement of mail services of India Post. In India, the growth of platforms like Flipkart and Amazon has been a boon for India Post, which has become a vital partner in last-mile delivery, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. As a result, parcel volumes at India Post have surged, increasing by 33% in 2021 as more people shop online.

service, which allows customers to digitally preview their incoming mail, have helped USPS remain relevant in the digital age. The rise of online shopping has caused parcel volumes of Royal Mail to increase by 31% in 2021, while letter volumes declined by 20%. To cope with this shift, Royal Mail has heavily invested in automation and digital services. Japan Post has also felt the pressure of declining traditional services with decrease by 10% annually since 2016, leading the postal service to focus on the growing e-commerce sector. Japan Post has partnered with major e-commerce platforms like Rakuten to streamline logistics and expand its parcel delivery services. Cutting-edge robotic sorting systems and digital platforms have been introduced to increase efficiency, signalling a strong commitment to modernisation. Similar efforts are being made by postal networks like La Poste in France and Swiss Post, both of which have expanded their digital banking services to keep pace with the demand for online financial services. This move aligns with the UPU's vision of postal networks serving as key drivers of digital inclusion.

The global boom in online retail, expected to generate \$6.3 trillion in sales by 2024, has created immense demand for parcel delivery services. As a result, parcels now account for over

60% of postal revenue worldwide, a dramatic shift from just 20% two decades ago. This transformation reflects the evolving role of postal networks, from communication enablers to logistics giants.

Despite these encouraging developments, postal networks face significant challenges in adapting to the digital age. The shift from physical to digital communication has eroded the core revenue of many postal services, forcing them to invest heavily in new technologies, automation, and workforce training. The competition from private logistics companies and tech giants further complicates the situation, as they often have more resources and flexibility to adapt quickly. Nevertheless, the opportunities for postal networks in the digital age are immense. As e-commerce continues to grow, the demand for efficient and reliable logistics services will only increase. Postal systems, with their established infrastructure and trusted brands, are well-positioned to seize this opportunity. By embracing digital innovation, focusing on customer-centric solutions, and expanding their service offerings, postal networks can continue to play a vital role in global trade and communication.

Reflecting on the UPU's 150-year journey, Director General Masahiko Metoki highlighted the resilience and adaptability of postal systems worldwide. The challenges facing postal services today are significant, but the potential for transformation is equally great. Postal networks are no longer just about delivering letters; they are evolving into comprehensive service providers, offering everything from financial services to digital solutions. As the UPU marks this milestone anniversary, the future of the postal network lies in its ability to continue connecting people, not just through physical mail but through digital platforms that meet the needs of a rapidly changing world.

The writer is General Secretary, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, Odisha State Coordination Committee.

As the Universal Postal Union (UPU) celebrates 150 years of existence on 9 October, its Director General, Masahiko Metoki, emphasised the organisation's enduring mission: connecting people through reliable postal services. Despite significant transformations in communication and logistics, postal networks continue to play a vital role, but face unprecedented challenges in today's digital world. From the first letter that travelled across borders to today's complex global logistics network, the postal systems worldwide are striving hard to stay relevant in an era dominated by digital technology and rapid e-commerce growth. It is clear that traditional postal services are at a turning point. Physical mail volumes, once the foundation of postal revenue, have plummeted across the globe. The decline in letter mail—accelerated by the rise of digital communication technologies like email and instant messaging—has led to a fundamental shift in how postal networks operate. According to UPU reports, global mail volumes have dropped by over 45% since 2007, as consumers and businesses move away from paper communication. Yet, as Metoki pointed out in his anniversary address, postal networks are not obsolete; they are evolving. The challenge now lies in reimagining their role to meet modern needs.

Illustratively, India Post, the largest postal network in the world having its extensive network of over 1.65 lakh post offices, has experienced this decline firsthand. In the early 2000s, India Post handled nearly 16 billion pieces of mail annually. By 2021, that number had fallen below 3 billion, a stark reflection of the digital age. Recognising the need to adapt, India Post has embraced digital banking, e-commerce partnerships, and online service platforms. Its India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) offers digital financial services, reaching even the remotest parts of the country. With introduction of Core Banking Solution having eBanking, Mobile Banking, ATM, ePass Book, ECS facility



Bruhaspati Samal

THE GLOBAL BOOM IN ONLINE RETAIL, EXPECTED TO GENERATE \$6.3 TRILLION IN SALES BY 2024, HAS CREATED IMMENSE DEMAND FOR PARCEL DELIVERY SERVICES

## Mixed Fortunes

True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become.

SRI AUROBINDO



The National Conference-Congress alliance will form the government after winning a comfortable majority in the Jammu and Kashmir elections, while the BJP defied all pollsters and bounced back in Haryana creating history of sorts by retaining power for the third consecutive time. The election results declared 8 October come as a morale booster for the BJP whose confidence was low after failing to secure even the basic 272 seats in the recent Lok Sabha polls. This makes the party to be so jubilant that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has been maintaining a low profile since the loss of face in the general elections, celebrated the victory by addressing party workers at the BJP headquarters in an apparent show of return of confidence. But, despite the victory in Haryana, the BJP has suffered a major setback in Jammu and Kashmir after having abrogated Article 370. This was an integral part of the BJP's original favourite political agenda. But, all its efforts to dismember the state and establish its control over it have met with resounding failure exemplified in the day's election outcome. The National Conference, known as the largest pro India regional party, has formed an alliance with the Congress and made restoration of J&K's status that existed before the repeal of Article 370 its main poll plank. That battle cry seems to have yielded handsome dividends in the Valley. The BJP win in the Jammu region was entirely expected.

It was an irony of fate that the Congress had begun celebration in the morning expecting victory in Haryana after early trends showed it was doing well. As the day progressed, it became clear that the BJP was all set to retain power for a historic third term in a row. Despite forecasts of a sweeping victory for the Congress, the BJP was on the way to improving its 2019 performance, when it secured 40 seats in alliance with the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP).

It was over-confidence and infighting that proved the Congress' undoing in Haryana. Its better performance in the LS polls and the BJP top leadership going on the backfoot since then infused so much false hope and confidence in the Congress that the state leadership decided not to accommodate other Opposition parties including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The bloated ego of its leadership was so obvious that it eroded people's faith. The refusal of the state unit to enter into a seat sharing arrangement with the AAP as favoured by Rahul Gandhi eventually split anti-BJP votes. The internal dissension in the Congress also cost it dearly.

On the other hand, the BJP went ahead with its task of consolidating its voter base silently and relentlessly polarising votes between the Jats accounting for about 25 per cent of the state's population and non-Jats and OBC voters constituting 75 per cent of the people. It was virtually a do or die for the BJP to refurbish the image of the party and its mascot PM Modi after the Lok Sabha polls. It pulled out all stops to win the election holding nearly 50 rallies, many of which addressed by the PM and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, against the Congress' 75.

It was a much needed victory in Haryana for the BJP that is likely to rejuvenate the party rank and file in the ensuing crucial Assembly elections in Maharashtra. The defeat in Jammu and Kashmir will, however, be the bitterest pill it will have to swallow. Time will tell whether the NC-Congress can achieve its goals in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir where the Lt Governor holds great powers vested in him by the Constitution to put roadblocks to the plans of the ruling alliance.

Results of these two states should convince the BJP top leadership that their 'One Nation One Vote' idea might not be all that bright. Any ruling party might have temporary setbacks but it also needs intermittent morale boosters to hold the cadres together. Multiple elections may well be the only method to put healing balm on defeated organizations.

### WISDOM CORNER

The sage does not hoard. The more he helps others, the more he benefits himself. The more he gives to others, the more he gets himself. The Way of Heaven does one good but never does one harm. The Way of the sage is to act but not to compete.

LAO TZU

The nature of the human mind is such that unless it is stimulated by images of things acting upon it from without, all remembrance of them passes easily away.

GALILEO GALILEI

To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.

CONFUCIUS

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1874: Universal Postal Union created. The precursor the Universal Postal Union, a specialized agency of the United Nations, was formed after 22 countries signed the Treaty of Bern. The treaty regulated international mail and postage. 4 years later, in 1878, the union changed its name to the Universal Postal Union to reflect the growing international membership of the group.

1888: Built between 1848 and 1884 and dedicated in 1885, the Washington Monument—a marble-faced granite obelisk that honours the first U.S. president, George Washington—opened to the public in Washington, D.C.

1936: The Boulder Dam (later called Hoover Dam), on the Arizona-Nevada border, began generating electricity for such areas as Los Angeles, which celebrated with a parade.

1962: Ugandan gained independence from British rule. The country had become a British protectorate in 1894, 32 years after the first European, British John Hanning Speke set foot in the country. Milton Obote became the first prime minister of an independent Uganda.

1970: Khmer Republic established. The Khmer Republic was formally established under the leadership of General Lon Nol and Prince Sisowath Sirik Matak. These two leaders took power earlier in took power in a coup against Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

1986: Phantom of Opera makes its theatrical debut. The musical written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Richard Stilgoe opened at Her Majesty's Theatre in London's West End. The plot of the musical was inspired by French author Gaston Leroux's novel Le Fantôme de l'Opéra, which follows the life of Erik or the Phantom, a disfigured musical genius. The musical is the longest running show on Broadway.

### LOL

#### Watermelons

A farmer in the country has a watermelon patch and upon inspection he discovers that some of the local kids have been helping themselves to a feast. The farmer thinks of ways to discourage this profit-eating situation. So he puts up a sign that reads: "WARNING! ONE OF THESE



WATERMELONS CONTAINS CYANIDE!"

He smiled smugly as he watched the kids run off the next night without eating any of his melons. The farmer returns to the watermelon patch a week later to discover that none of the watermelons have been eaten, but finds another sign that reads: "NOW THERE ARE TWO!"

### IN JEST THIS

## Please trust me, boss – I'm really sick



Melvin Durai

IT'S BETTER TO BE HEALTHY, SHOW UP FOR WORK AND WATCH THE MATCHES ON YOUR PHONE

Being sick and having to call off work is never fun, even when you're sick during the World Cup. It's better to be healthy, show up for work and watch the matches on your phone. But what happens when you've called off sick and you hear a knock on your door? Do you answer it?

I never do. If I'm lying in bed, trying to get some rest, the last thing I need is to have a conversation with a stranger at my door. But what if it's my boss checking up on me?

Well, he would never do that. And if he did, I'd be pretty upset. If my boss showed up at my doorstep, he'd be crossing the work-home boundary, and I'd have no choice but to ask him to GTFO (go to fancy office).

Thankfully, this is not a scenario I'll have to encounter because I do not work for Elon Musk, the richest man in the world. Musk, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX and owner of X, does

not believe in workers' rights, so it shouldn't be surprising to hear what's happening at Tesla's gigafactory in Germany. According to German media, bosses have visited the homes of at least 30 employees to make sure they were really sick.

"We wanted to appeal to the work ethic of the workforce," André Thierig, manager of the gigafactory, told DPA, the German press agency.

The factory employs 12,000 people, but this past August, the rate of people calling off sick was 17 per cent, much higher than the 5 per cent average in Germany's auto industry. Thierig and other bosses were concerned that workers were exploiting the German social system, which gives workers up to six weeks of paid sick leave. (No wonder so many people are immigrating to Germany.)

So what happened when Tesla managers visited the houses of absent employees? According to the

German newspaper Handelsblatt, some employees slammed doors on them and threatened to call the police. I don't know what the police could have done.

Employee: "Officer, I'd like to report my boss for visiting me while I'm sick."

Officer: "You have a boss who cares enough to visit you while you're sick? That's not a crime."

Employee: "But he didn't bring flowers and a 'get well' card. He brought a thermometer to take my temperature!"

It's not just Tesla that subjects its sick employees to extra surveillance. On a Reddit forum, employees in India responded to the Tesla news by sharing stories of skeptical bosses. "I just remember when I fell down stairs and sprained my ankles badly," one person wrote. "I was advised (to wear) a cast for two weeks and took leave for the same time. I was forced to submit photos of my cast, although I had submitted the doctor's note." (At least the boss

didn't ask for the X-ray!)

Another Reddit user described how a friend who worked for a Hyderabad firm was once admitted to the hospital for heat stroke and hooked to an IV for fluids. "The guy couldn't even open his eyes properly," the user wrote. "His manager and another senior from the office visited him in the hospital and they had the audacity to ask him when he can complete the reports because the deadlines were approaching!" (As long as you're not dead, you can meet a deadline.)

One woman, whose home was just five minutes from her workplace, described how her employer visited her when she called off sick with a slight fever. "He dropped by with meds and breakfast (dosa)," she wrote. "I don't mind the gesture but it made it painfully clear that I'll not be able to take casual leaves there."

Dosa sounds good, but if my boss wants to give me some, he'd better use Swiggy.

### Green Antarctica

Sir, Images of some regions of Antarctica's ice landscape turning green definitely rings an alarm bell to the whole globe and gives a grim message alerting mankind to watch where we are heading to. This dramatic transformation, with its icy landscape increasingly turning green reveals that the rate of this change has accelerated by over 30 per cent in recent years. Scientists and environmentalists say that this "greening" of the Antarctic peninsula, highlights the urgent consequences of a warming period. A study made between 1986 and 2021 by researchers has revealed that an increase in the vegetation cover across the Antarctic peninsula has soared from less than one square kilometre to nearly 12 square kilometres within a period of 35 years which according to the global clock is a short period. As writer journalist Tishani Doshi in her popular travelogue to Antarctica stated how little changes in the environment can have big repercussions this dramatic change is not good for the blue planet's future. Global players, state heads and the whole of global community must come together and chalk out urgent measures to check this because if this is kept unchecked it will only end up in an apocalypse.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

### Pioneers of microRNA

Sir, Kudos to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for their incredible work in discovering microRNAs and their pivotal role in gene regulation! Their innovative research has fundamentally changed our understanding of how genes interact and function within cells. It's impressive to see how their findings from the 1990s have evolved into a powerful tool for potential therapies targeting diseases like cancer and heart disease. Their journey, starting with humble beginnings in roundworm studies, highlights the beauty of scientific exploration and perseverance. By revealing the intricate mechanisms of microRNAs, they have opened up a new frontier in molecular medicine, paving the way for exciting advancements in treatment strategies. We deeply appreciate their commitment to advancing scientific knowledge and improving human health. Their legacy will undoubtedly inspire future generations of researchers to explore the complexities of genetics and seek innovative solutions to challenging medical conditions.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

## 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

OrissaPOST

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# Maldives Prez Muizzu bowled over by 'mesmerising' Taj Mahal

Muizzu also visited Shilpgram, an open air crafts village where he was greeted by a performance by artistes from the Braj region before leaving for the airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agra, Oct 8:** Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed visited the Taj Mahal Tuesday and found hard to find words to describe the 17th century monument's architectural marvel.

"It is tough to describe this mausoleum's beauty as words simply cannot do it justice. This mesmerising intricacy and attention to detail is a testament to love and architectural excellence," Muizzu, who is in India on a four-day bilateral visit, wrote in the visitors' book.

After being welcomed by Uttar Pradesh Minister Yogendra Upadhyay on behalf of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the airport, the visiting president was accorded a warm welcome at the Taj Mahal. The president and the first lady, who were presented a replica of Taj Mahal by Upadhyay, also posed for photographs with the grand monument on the backdrop.

"On behalf of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, I welcomed and received the President of Republic of Maldives, Mohamed



It is tough to describe this mausoleum's beauty as words simply cannot do it justice. This mesmerising intricacy and attention to detail is a testament to love and architectural excellence

MOHAMED MUIZZU | PRESIDENT, MALDIVES

Muizzu, and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed at the technical airport of Agra. After the airport, they headed to Taj Mahal where they were mesmerised by the beauty of the seven wonders of the world," said Upadhyay.

"He and his team expressed deep interest in the history of the Taj Mahal and explored the monument with deep interest. I wished for the prosperity and well-being of residents of Maldives on behalf of Yogi Adityanath on his arrival to India. He too wished for the well-being of the people of Uttar Pradesh," he added. Rajeev

Singh, a tour guide, told PTI that the visiting president "asked about the inlay work at the Taj Mahal" and also inquired about gardens of the Taj Mahal.

"Besides, he had shown interest in the fountains of the Taj Mahal premises and asked 'how do they run till yet?' He also asked about the stones on the surface of the white marble mausoleum, reflecting like glasses when sun rays falling on the mausoleum during his visit. He also expressed interest in the history of the monument," he said.

Taj Mahal remained closed for public from 8 am to 10 am due to Muizzu's visit, said an official from the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). The booking offices were closed for two hours before the monument was closed.

Muizzu also visited Shilpgram, an open air crafts village where he was greeted by a performance by artistes from the Braj region before leaving for the airport.

# 75 quick response vehicles to tackle fires

HELD EVERY 12 YEARS, THE MAHA KUMBH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FROM JANUARY 14 TO FEBRUARY 26, 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Prayagraj (UP), Oct 8:** Seventy five quick response vehicles, with fire-extinguishing capacities 20 times more effective than normal vehicles, will be used for the first time to tackle fire incidents during the Maha Kumbh Mela in January 2025.

Director General of Police (DGP) (Fire) Avinash Chandra said these small-sized vehicles, with a capacity of one ton, can easily access narrow areas.

Though equipped with a 100 litre tank, it can extinguish a raging fire that would normally require 2,000 litres of water, Chandra said.

Additionally, the vehicles will be equipped with tools for breaking, cutting, lifting, drilling and first aid, he said.

The DGP said that fire fighting boats, stationed in the Sangam area, will also be deployed for the first time.

These boats can extinguish fires up to 300 to 400 metres using river water, especially if there is a fire in the tents located along the river bank, Candra said.

"The department is purchasing six such boats. Along with this, all-terrain fire fighting vehicles capable of moving on sand



will also be used," he added. He said that this time 135 fire fighting motorcycles have been

purchased for the Maha Kumbh Mela which will also be deployed in the fair.

"Our target is a response time of 2 to 3 minutes. That is, the work of extinguishing the fire should start within two to three minutes of the fire breaking out," Chandra said.

He said that preventive measures are also being taken to avoid fire incidents, for which the Fire department will coordinate with the Electricity department from the very beginning.

Personnel from the Fire department will be involved during the electrification of the tents and an inspection team will ensure that the electrical work has been done properly, he added.

Forty fire stations and 20 temporary fire posts are being set up for the event, along with 50 watch towers, from which any smoke sightings will be immediately reported to the control room, he said.

## UP GOVT LAUNCHES 'KUMBH SUMMIT'

In the run-up to the Maha Kumbh scheduled to be held in Prayagraj next year, the Uttar Pradesh government Tuesday launched a 'Kumbh Summit' to be held across all 18 divisions of the state. The event commenced in Lucknow and will conclude in Prayagraj December 14. Held every 12 years, the Maha Kumbh is scheduled to take place from January 14 to February 26, 2025. Speaking to reporters here, Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said the summit will feature a wide array of events, including 'Bal-Yuva' Kumbh, 'Kala-Sanskriti' Kumbh, 'Kavi' Kumbh, and 'Bhakti' Kumbh. Local artists and schoolchildren from across the state will participate in the summit which will provide them a platform to showcase their talents and engage in the cultural celebrations. Singh said the Secondary and Higher Education departments are coordinating to make the schoolchildren aware of the traditions of Kumbh. As part of the summit, a roadshow titled 'Kumbh Abhinandan' started from the GPO Park in Lucknow and would culminate at Marine Drive in the evening after travelling through Gomti Ghat via Sikandar Bagh Marg. While the Lalit Kala Akademi will oversee the painting and photography competitions to be held during the summit, the Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi will handle the music and dance competitions. Cultural and spiritual heritage exhibitions will be organised by the state Archaeology Department, UP State Archives, and UP Museum Directorate as part of the summit. Similarly, the Bharatendu Natya Academy will host drama competitions, while the Tribal and Folk Art Culture Institute will hold folk art and rangoli competitions. A quiz will also be held on the cultural and spiritual significance of Maha Kumbh. In Varanasi, the summit will be held at the Banaras Hindu University October 14-15, while it will conclude at the North Central Zone Cultural Centre in Prayagraj December 14.

# Peacock sighting at 6,500 feet in Uttarakhand unusual: Experts

The bird was spotted twice in the forests of Bageshwar district in the state, far above its usual lower altitude habitat, suggesting possible climate change effects



The peacock falls into the generalist species of bird that is not so selective or choosy about its habitat

Though, traditionally a lowland bird, it has been found at higher than normal elevations in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh also

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun/Pithoragarh, Oct 8:** Wildlife experts have interpreted the sighting of a lowland bird like the peacock at a height of 6,500 feet in Uttarakhand as an unusual development caused by ecological changes in the Himalayan region due to increased human activity.

The bird was spotted twice in the forests of Bageshwar district in the state. It was first seen in the Kafilaigair forest range in April and then in Kathayatar forest October 5, a senior official said.

"It is surprising that the peacock which is usually found at an elevation of 1,600 feet has been sighted at an altitude of 6,500 feet. It is due to ecological changes that have started affecting wildlife migration," Dhyansingh Karayat, a forest official in Bageshwar forest division said Monday.

Senior scientist of Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) Dr Suresh Kumar said though such sightings are not common they should not baffle wildlife experts.

The peacock falls into the generalist species of bird that is not

so selective or choosy about its habitat. Though, traditionally a lowland bird, it has been found at higher than normal elevations in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh also, Kumar said.

One reason may be that even the hill regions are no longer as cold as they used to be and the peacock finds the climate in higher altitudes conducive enough for habitation, he said. "Increased human activity like farming and expanding human settlements in the higher reaches of the mountains have led to warmer conditions at higher altitudes which may have led to this altitudinal migration of the peacock. But it may be a seasonal shift too," Kumar told PTI.

"With the onset of winter, it will get colder in the hills and the lowland bird may retreat to its original habitat conditions," he said. When asked whether it reflects a habitat-shifting tendency among peacocks in general, Kumar said it would be premature to draw a conclusion like that with just two sightings.

However, if such sightings become more frequent, it would definitely reflect a general tendency among peacocks to shift habitat, he said.

# U'khand authorities raze 'illegal' structure built by godman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun, Oct 8:** Authorities have demolished a structure allegedly built illegally by a self-styled godman at a height of over 14,500 feet on Sunderdhunga Glacier along the banks of a Devi Kund, sacred pond, in Uttarakhand's Bageshwar district.

Kapkot SDM Anurag Arya said a combined team of the police, SDRF and forest personnel undertook a two-day trek to the temple through a tough terrain and razed the structure Saturday.

The Sunderdhunga Glacier falls under the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site where any unauthorised construction is strictly prohibited. The SDM clarified the structure was not a temple as reported by a section of the media but a simple one-room structure. It had been erected quietly by the self-styled godman Chaitanya Akash after convincing residents of nearby villages that he had received a divine order to do so in a dream, Arya told PTI.



Military personnel of India and Kazakhstan during the 8th edition of India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise 'KAZIND', in Uttarakhand

PTI PHOTO

## AGAINST ALL ODDS

# Rescued mountaineers endure 72 hours of hunger, cold

A French mountaineering team on a separate expedition to the same peak helped locate Dvoark and Manners by providing coordinates to the rescue team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** Just a few hundred meters from realising their dream of conquering the formidable Chaukhamba III peak in Uttarakhand's Chamoli, mountaineers Michelle Theresa Dvoark and Manners by providing coordinates to the rescue team.

With almost no food or water, the duo endured two nights and three days in harsh conditions before being rescued. "We ate our only energy bar on the first day. After that, there was nothing," a visibly dehydrated Dvoark recalled.

The rescue mission, which began with the efforts of the



Indian Air Force (IAF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) of Uttarakhand, was a race against time. Dense fog and adverse weather conditions only intensified the challenge.

A French mountaineering team on a separate expedition to the same peak helped locate Dvoark and Manners by providing coordinates to the rescue team. Their input proved crucial to the success of the operation.

On the second day of their ordeal, Dvoark and Manners managed to scrape together dehydrated food and mixed it with ice. "Without a stove and water, it was challenging to survive," Manners

said. "Immediately after we lost the bag, we realised that going further up or down was not possible. We had to wait for help."

"It has been our dream to set a record by climbing the Chaukhamba peak which is known for its steep terrain. Unfortunately, we were stranded and had to return from just a few hundred metres from our destination," Dvoark said.

Pinning hopes on rescue to come sooner or later, they waited in the freezing conditions of the mountain, believed to be one of the steepest climbs.

"Twice, we saw helicopters passing overhead, searching for

- The rescue mission, which began with the efforts of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) of Uttarakhand, was a race against time

- Dense fog and adverse weather conditions only intensified the challenge

- The joint rescue operation, carried out by trained mountaineers from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and supported by IAF helicopters, culminated in their safe evacuation on the morning of October 6

us. We shouted and jumped, hoping they would see us, but they passed by. It made us feel like the rescue was slipping away," Manners recalled.

At night, they shared a single sleeping bag to keep warm and survive the unforgiving cold. The temperature would drop to minus 15 degrees Celsius. "We fought hypothermia," he said.

"As experienced mountaineers, we were not scared at first. We knew our skills would help us fight to survive, but as time passed,

tension gripped us," Dvoark added. The joint rescue operation, carried out by trained mountaineers from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and supported by IAF helicopters, culminated in their safe evacuation on the morning of October 6.

When help finally arrived, Dvoark described the moment as surreal. "It felt overwhelming. I rarely cry, but I had tears in my eyes," she said.

At night, as they lay down against the vast white mountains under an endless starry sky, Dvoark thought of her family. "It pained my heart to think of the worst," she recalled.

Despite the ordeal, both women remained optimistic after the rescue. With smiles on their faces, they shared their first wish - to enjoy their favourite Indian dishes before heading home. "As women mountaineers, we do not want our experience to discourage people from trying this sport, especially women travellers. This kind of situation can happen anywhere to anyone, but it should not stop you from experiencing the beauty of the mountains," Dvoark said.



# national



Sometimes Rahul takes his team to agricultural fields and clicks photos and asks (photographers) about the best angle for coming in the frame. Sometimes, he eats jalebis, but people know who is doing the real work for them

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION MINISTER

## NORTHEAST MONSOON TO HIT TN BY OCT 17

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that the Northeast Monsoon is expected to begin by the third week of October, more precisely October 17. The weather department has also predicted that the northern districts of the state are likely to receive normal or above-normal rainfall



## of the day quote

Bhau Beej will be celebrated in November. Anticipating the imposition of the election code at that time, the government is crediting the Ladki Bahin scheme instalments for October and November in advance

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA DY CM

People in Maharashtra are ready for a change and to bring in a new government. We will soon release our manifesto. Our morale is upbeat. The current regime (in Maharashtra) is not a people's government but came into existence by defections

RAMESH CHENNITHALA | SENIOR CONG LEADER

People rejected Congress on the development issue and the language they used. The lotus (BJP symbol) will bloom for the third time in Haryana

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

# 50 sr docs of RG Kar resign

The development came in the wake of the indefinite hunger strike being conducted by seven junior doctors in the heart of the city and a symbolic 12-hour fast being held in solidarity by their peers across medical colleges of West Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 8: Nearly 50 senior doctors of RG Kar hospital Tuesday tendered their resignations in a mark of solidarity with medics who have been on fast-unto-death since October 5 demanding justice for the institution's rape and murder victim. Shortly after the development, a section of senior doctors from other medical colleges in West Bengal said they too could follow suit. "We would be forced to give a state-wide call to all senior doctors in government hospitals to put in their papers if the government keeps dragging its feet on the just and pertinent demands of the junior doctors who are sitting in protest. This would be a move in solidarity with our



Junior doctors along with others participate in a mega rally

doctors to remain "active stakeholders" in the state healthcare system and maintained there were no differences between the agitating doctors and the government in terms of developing infrastructure and scaling up security in medical colleges of the state. Unimpressed, the protesting doctors have put forward a 10-point demand before the government seeking immediate action and are continuing their fast-unto-death protest. Their demands include removal of the state health secretary, appointment of male and female police personnel in medical college campuses instead of civic volunteers, filling up of vacancies

doctors to remain "active stakeholders" in the state healthcare system and maintained there were no differences between the agitating doctors and the government in terms of developing infrastructure and scaling up security in medical colleges of the state. Unimpressed, the protesting doctors have put forward a 10-point demand before the government seeking immediate action and are continuing their fast-unto-death protest. Their demands include removal of the state health secretary, appointment of male and female police personnel in medical college campuses instead of civic volunteers, filling up of vacancies

## Doctors hold rallies

Kolkata: Agitating junior doctors, along with their senior counterparts, staged two rallies Tuesday evening to show solidarity for their colleagues who are on a 'fast-unto-death' demanding justice for a murdered woman medic from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Senior doctors from various medical colleges and hospitals, both state-run and private, joined the rallies to support their junior colleagues. One rally commenced at Kolkata Medical College and Hospital, while the other started from SSKM Hospital.

for doctors, nurses and healthcare workers, holding student elections and recognition of Resident Doctors Associations, inquiries into alleged irregularities of the state medical council and setting up of college-level inquiry committees to punish those involved in the persisting 'threat syndicate'. The decision to resign en masse at RG Kar hospital was taken at a meeting of the heads of various departments of the state-run institution on Tuesday morning, sources said. "This has been decided at today's meeting of the HoDs. All 50 senior doctors of our hospital have signed their resignation letters.

# Wangchuk continues indefinite hunger strike



Wangchuk, who is spearheading an agitation for Ladakh's Sixth Schedule status, had started his fast Sunday afternoon

According to the protesters, they have not been approached by any government representative so far

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk Tuesday continued his indefinite hunger strike at Delhi's Ladakh Bhawan along with his supporters and appealed that the Centre should resume talks on their demands. Wangchuk, who is spearheading an agitation for Ladakh's Sixth Schedule status, had started his fast Sunday afternoon. According to the protesters, they have not been approached by any government representative so far. "This is the third day of the fast... We still hope our leaders will give us time. Even now we are 25 people sitting on hunger strike," Wangchuk told PTI.

Wangchuk, along with others from Ladakh, has been sitting close to the gate of Ladakh Bhawan. Mehdi, one of the activists who is sitting on fast with Wangchuk, said that a medical tests of the protesters was done on Tuesday morning and many had low blood pressure. "We are sitting here in 40 degrees (Celsius)... It is the third day, we have been sleeping here in the open," Mehdi told PTI. "There are old people sitting here as well, some have diabetes, blood pressure issues. But we are not going to leave until our demand is met," he said. Liyaqat, who is also participating in the hunger strike, said the people from Ladakh are not being allowed inside to meet them. "People from Ladakh are not being allowed to come inside Ladakh Bhawan. This morning, some students had come to meet Sonam Wangchuk, but they were not allowed inside," Liyaqat said. "It is very sad that this is happening in a democracy, we are not allowed to express our pain," he added.

Wangchuk and his supporters marched to Delhi from Leh to press their demand and were detained at the capital's Singhu border September 30. The 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra' is being spearheaded by the Leh Apex Body (LAB). The protesters were released by the Delhi Police on the night of October 2.

Wangchuk and his supporters marched to Delhi from Leh to press their demand and were detained at the capital's Singhu border September 30. The 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra' is being spearheaded by the Leh Apex Body (LAB). The protesters were released by the Delhi Police on the night of October 2.

## X POST OF THE DAY

It is a myth that an average Indian is poor. The top Indians who hobnob with politicians are putting Russian Billionaires to shame. Add black money, you get a fairly big upper middle class that pays no tax. A seemingly poor Indian doesn't really need to work. They can survive on government rations. They have a lot of free time. The only truly poor person in India is a white collared job doer. They are time poor, energy poor, money poor. Despite working 12 hours, the facilities they get is close to 0. And, they are taxed even when they die.

@AKSHAT\_WORLD

## LDF, UDF face-off in Kerala Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 8: The ruling LDF and the Opposition UDF engaged in an intense verbal duel in the state Assembly Tuesday over the meeting between ADGP Ajithkumar and RSS leaders, and the CM's alleged remarks against Malappuram district. The Congress and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), the prominent UDF partners, vehemently attacked the Left government, accusing it of protecting the IPS officer, a close confidant of CM Vijayan, despite grave charges.

They also accused the CM of tarnishing the image of the Muslim-dominated northern district by repeating the "political narrative" of Sangh Parivar against it. The CPI(M)-led government, however, outrightly rejected the charges and said they have taken the "most appropriate action" against the officer considering the charges against him. It claimed that the UDF, with the support of a section of the media, has been trying to defame the CM through various baseless allegations. The LDF government and the CM came under attack in the House during a discussion on an adjournment motion moved by UDF legislator N Samsudheen (IUML) over the controversial meetings between the ADGP and a few senior RSS leaders.

Earlier in the day, the CM agreed to take up the motion for discussion, but the Speaker, A N Shamseer, later informed the house that Vijayan could not participate in it as a doctor advised him to take complete voice rest due to a severe throat infection.



Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel during the 92nd Annual Day celebrations of IAF, at Air Force Station in Tambaram, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

# Patanjali University receives A+ grade from NAAC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Haridwar, Oct 8: University of Patanjali has been awarded A+ grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The grade points obtained by the institution are the highest among yoga universities at the national level.

Addressing the university officials, teachers, and staff following the NAAC announcement, the Chancellor of university Swami Ramdev said that the establishment of University of Patanjali aims to contribute towards a strong and self-reliant India.

In this era of development, there is a need for young leaders who can positively impact society, confront the challenges of



the future, and contribute to national progress, he said. He added that the university's educational activities aim to create leaders who not only lead at the national level but also globally, with deep-rooted Indian values. On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Patanjali Acharya Balkrishna

In the same vein, Dr NP Singh, IAS (Retd.), Executive Chairman of the Bhartiya Shiksha Board, stated that the goal of higher educational institutions on a global scale is to cultivate young personalities who are responsible and productive citizens and valuable assets for the nation and the world.

University of Patanjali stands as an exemplary institution in shaping such ideal personalities. Prof Dr Srinivas Varkhedi, Vice-Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, expressed that although the university genuinely meets the criteria for NAAC's A++ grade, first-time evaluations usually include minor deductions, which is why the university has received an A+ grade.

## MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

# ED questions Azharuddin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 8: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday questioned former Indian cricket team captain and Congress leader Mohammed Azharuddin in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association, official sources said.

The federal agency recorded his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. The 61-year-old former Member of Parliament was first asked to depose before the agency October 3 but he sought deferment of the notice and asked for a fresh date.



The agency subsequently issued him fresh summons to appear October 8. Dressed in a white kurta-pyjama, Azharuddin reached the ED office on Fateh Maidan Road around 11 am. He was accompanied by his legal team.

The ED had conducted searches in connection with the irregularities in November last year. Azharuddin's role during his tenure as the HCA president is under the scanner of the agency, the sources had said.

There was no immediate response from the former Indian skipper, who unsuccessfully contested the Telangana Assembly polls held last year.

# Men, women need different foods for breakfast: Study

WHILE MEN ARE KNOWN TO DERIVE ENERGY FROM METABOLISM OF CARBOHYDRATES, WOMEN ARE KNOWN TO OBTAIN ENERGY FROM METABOLISM OF FAT, RESULTING IN SIGNIFICANT SEX-SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES ACROSS METABOLIC STATES SUCH AS FASTING AND FEEDING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 8: For losing weight, breakfasts should be high-carb for men and high-fat for women, suggested researchers, who created mathematical models depicting men's and women's metabolisms. They showed that metabolic processes in men responded better to a meal high on carbohydrates like oats and grains, while those in women responded better to a meal high on fat such as omelettes and avocados. While men are known to derive energy from metabolism of carbohydrates, women are known to obtain energy from metabolism of fat, resulting in significant sex-specific differences across metabolic states such as fasting and feeding.



"Since women have more body fat on average than men, you would think that they would burn less fat for energy, but they don't," said Anita Layton, a professor of applied mathematics,

University of Waterloo, Canada, and co-author of the study published in the journal Computers in Biology and Medicine. "The results of the model suggest that women store more fat

immediately after a meal but also burn more fat during a fast," Layton said. For their analysis, the researchers used techniques of computational biology -- it makes use of computers and statistics to understand biological systems.

The team created a model depicting human food intake and comprising varied parts of one's body -- adipose tissue (body tissue containing stored fat) and organs such as liver, heart and brain.

They also modelled the metabolic response to consuming meals containing both carbohydrates and fat immediately after eating and during short-term fasting. The model was tailored to represent the metabolic state of a healthy young adult man or woman.

The model's predictions of sex-specific differences in metabolism were more pronounced during short-term fasting, the researchers said. Further, the increased reliance of women on burning fat comes from sex-specific differences in liver and adipose tissue, they added.

Specifically, they found that a woman's liver diverts more glycerol (formed from burning fat) than a man's liver towards gluconeogenesis -- a metabolic process that produces glucose from non-carbohydrate sources, such as glycerol, and vital for maintaining blood sugar levels.

"Whether attempting to lose weight, maintain weight, or just keep up your energy, understanding your diet's impact on your metabolism is important," Layton said.



# national



**The peaceful conclusion of the participative electoral process in Jammu and Kashmir is a triumph of the democratic spirit and a testament to the resilience of the people of the Union Territory**  
RAJIV KUMAR | CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

## PDP DIDN'T LOSE BECAUSE OF ALLIANCE WITH BJP: ILTIJA

PDP leader Iltija Mufti, who lost in her electoral debut from Bijbehara seat in south Kashmir, Tuesday denied that her party lost because of alliance with the BJP and said there was assault on the PDP. She said multiple factors led to her defeat at the hands of National Conference (NC) leader Bashir Ahmad Veeri. Iltija, daughter of PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, said she took a risk which did not pay off



Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) supporters celebrate as the party leads amid the counting of votes  
PTI PHOTO



BJP workers celebrate the party's victory in the Haryana Assembly elections in Dehradun  
PTI PHOTO



AAP candidate Mehraj Malik talks to the media after he won from Doda Assembly seat  
PTI PHOTO



BJP candidate and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini celebrates with supporters after his victory from Ladwa constituency in the Haryana Assembly elections  
PTI PHOTO

# Exit polls get it wrong yet again

THE RESULTS OF THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SHOWED THAT BJP IS SET TO FORM THE GOVERNMENT FOR A RECORD THIRD CONSECUTIVE TERM IN HARYANA AND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE-CONGRESS ALLIANCE COMFORTABLY COMING TO POWER IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** Exit polls, which had given a clear majority to Congress in Haryana and an edge to National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir, appear to have failed to feel the pulse of the voters once again.

The results of the Assembly elections showed that BJP was set to form the government for a record third consecutive term in Haryana and the National Conference-Congress alliance

comfortably coming to power in Jammu and Kashmir: Virtually all exit polls had forecast more than 50 seats for the Congress in the 90-member Haryana assembly and showed the BJP struggling to cross the 30-figure mark. C-Voter-India Today exit polls had pegged the Congress at 50-58 seats and the BJP at 20-28, the Republic Bharat-Matrise had predicted 55-62 seats for the Congress and 18-24 for the BJP. As the results trickled in, the BJP had won 48 seats in the 90-

member Assembly, while the Congress was restricted to 37 seats.

The C-Voter-India Today exit poll had given 40-48 seats to the National Conference-Congress alliance, with the regional outfit getting 33 seats, and the BJP was forecast to win 27-32 seats. The Republic-Gulistan poll had given 28-30 seats to the National Conference, 3-6 seats to the Congress, and 28-30 seats to the BJP. The Peoples' Pulse had predicted 33-35 seats to the National Conference, 13-15 seats to the

Congress and 23-27 seats to the BJP. The actual results had the National Conference winning 42 seats, while the Congress managed to win six seats. The CPI (M), also a part of the alliance, emerged victorious in one seat. Earlier this year, several exit polls had predicted a massive victory BJP in the Lok Sabha elections, giving the ruling party seats in excess of 350 in the 543-member House. The BJP managed to win 240 seats in the Lok Sabha elections, and 293 along with its allies.

## Cong performance below mark in Jammu region

**JAMMU:** The individual performance of the Congress in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls has hit an all-time low as only one of its 29 candidates managed to win in the Jammu region, while its prominent leaders including two working presidents lost the elections. The Congress, however, said the result in Jammu region was not in accordance with the party's expectations and a detailed feedback would be sought on the debacle. The Congress was fighting the elections in a pre-poll alliance with National Conference (NC) and had fielded 32 candidates, mostly in Jammu region, compared to 51 by the regional party. In the Jammu region, the Congress has managed to win only the Rajouri seat as against a total of five seats in 2014. The Congress's Iftikar Ahmed defeated his nearest rival, BJP's Vibodh Gupta, by a margin of 1,404 votes after securing 28,923 votes. However, the Congress managed to win five seats in Kashmir where Pradesh Congress president Tariq Hameed Karra won from Central Shalteng, AICC general secretary and former minister G A Mir from Dooru, Irfan Hafiz Lone from Wagoora-Kreeri, former minister Peerzada Mohammad Syed from Anantnag and former MLA Nizam-uddin Bhat in Bandipora.

## J&K POLLS PM compliments NC for its victory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Oct 8:** Rising above party politics, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Tuesday took the lead in complimenting the NC for its victory in the J&K Legislative Assembly polls.

PM Modi said on his widely followed X-post page immediately after all the results for the 90 Assembly seats were declared by the ECI, "I would like to compliment JKNC for their commendable performance in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections." PM Modi said he was proud of the BJP's performance in the J&K polls.



"I am proud of the BJP's performance in Jammu and Kashmir. I thank all those who have voted for our Party and placed their trust in us. I assure the people that we will keep working for the welfare of Jammu and Kashmir. I also appreciate the industrious efforts of our Karyakartas," PM Modi said in another post. PM Modi expressed satisfaction at the restoration of complete democracy in J&K after Article 370 was abrogated by the country's Parliament August 5, 2019.

# Can't accept Haryana verdict, says Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** The Congress Tuesday said it cannot accept the Haryana Assembly polls verdict as there were "serious issues" about the integrity of the counting process and functioning of the EVMs in some districts, and asserted that it would take up the matter with the Election Commission.

Alleging a conspiracy, the Opposition party said that in Haryana "democracy had lost and establishment had won". Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the result of Haryana was unexpected and the party is assessing the public mandate. "We thank the people of Haryana for voting for the Congress party. Our hardworking workers need not feel disappointed. Our fight against dictatorship is a long one," he added.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here along with AICC media and publicity department head Pawan Kherra, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Serious questions have been raised by our candidates. We will bring it to the notice of the Election Commission."

Ramesh said the results in Haryana are "totally unexpected,

completely surprising and counter-intuitive". They go against ground reality, against what the people of Haryana had made their mind up for which was for change and transformation, he added.

Kherra alleged that complaints had been received from Hisar, Mahendragarh and Panipat that there were electronic voting machines (EVMs) with 99 per cent battery on which the BJP won while units with 60-70 per cent battery saw the Congress win.

"There are serious questions about the instruments of the system, namely the EVMs and also the extraordinary pressure on local administration officials. It is a double engine pressure of the state government and the Centre."

"There was an environment in which people have lost by 200 votes, 300 votes, 50 votes, people who had healthy leading margins have ended up losing by 100-200 votes. This can be explained only by manipulation and pressure," Ramesh said.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission sources rejected claims by Congress leaders of alleged tampering of EVMs in some Haryana seats where machines with varying battery strength gave out different results.

# (Win)esh Phogat: From mat to Haryana Assembly

Phogat, the cynosure of many an eye in the run-up to the Haryana elections, won her debut election from Julana with a margin of 6,015 votes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** If resolve had a face, Vinesh Phogat would certainly bear close resemblance to it, if not be it.

A veteran on the wrestling mat, an icon whose Olympic dream was shattered more than once by cruel twists of fate, a fierce voice that stood up to the establishment and now Congress' newly elected legislator in the Haryana Assembly.

Phogat, the cynosure of many an eye in the run-up to the Haryana elections, won her debut election from Julana with a margin of 6,015 votes. It was a tough morning with the 30-year-old at several points trailing or neck and neck with her BJP rival Yogesh Kumar. But the pint-sized dynamo from Charkhi Dadri won the day, no small feat and a victory she will savour for a long time.

For once, it seemed, enough was enough for the young woman. Enough to beat a four-way contest, to take back a seat the Congress had not won since 2005 and to become the first woman wrestler to win an election in the state.

The former grappler is living a life so engrossing it wouldn't be a surprise if she soon becomes an inspiration for a mega-budget Bollywood biopic. A little over a month ago, she did what many had been expecting for months, embraced politics



as a Congress candidate from Julana for the Haryana Assembly polls. The party was tipped to uproot the rul-

ing BJP, which was facing 10 years of anti-incumbency. That hasn't happened of course with the BJP winning or ahead

in 48 of the 90 seats and the Congress trailing at 37. None of it has been easy. But Phogat hasn't known it any other way ever since she was a child. How could she, when life just wouldn't give her a break.

She endured the pain of losing her father as a nine-year-old, and found solace in wrestling, a sport that almost broke her physically and mentally before she finally gave up, conceding that she couldn't fight it anymore. By withdrawing from the mat, she saved the fight for a different turf and this time, Phogat managed to turn the corner.

From disqualification for being 100gm over ahead of her 50kg Olympic final, she is now a winning heavyweight in the political arena.

The tears she shed mourning the heartbreak in Paris long made way for a radiant smile as she campaigned through the length and breadth of Julana, assuring people that she was going to be their steady companion.

That smile widened into a grin as results came out. She had rallied, not for the first time in her life, to beat competition.

It was a far cry from the broken and battered woman who saw her sporting dreams perish in Paris. But she would always be counted among India's finest athletes never to have medalled at an Olympics.

# AAP draws a blank in Haryana elections

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 8:** The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which ran a high voltage campaign in Haryana and projected Arvind Kejriwal as the "son of the soil", drew a blank in the elections, though the party hoped to get a foothold in the state after coming to power in neighbouring Delhi and Punjab.

The AAP contested 89 of the 90 seats after failing to stitch an alliance with the Congress.

The elections revealed significant shift in vote shares among various parties as compared to the 2019 elections. The AAP garnered a total vote share of 1.79 per cent, which was less than the votes secured by the Bahujan Samaj Party (1.82 per cent).

Party candidates lost deposits in all the constituencies they fought. Observers said

the AAP's campaign, for most part, was hit due to the absence of its key face, Kejriwal. However, after Kejriwal was released on bail (in the Delhi liquor policy case) September 13, the party's campaign gained steam.

In 2019, the AAP had lost all the 46 seats it contested in the state and received a vote share of less than 1%.

In fact, since its poll debut in 2014, AAP has failed to open its account in any of the Assembly elections or the Lok Sabha polls in Haryana.

In a veiled dig at Kejriwal, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal accused the former Chief Minister of "betraying" the INDIA bloc and cutting the votes of the Congress.

Kejriwal meanwhile, said that the "biggest lesson" from Haryana is that one should never be "overconfident" in the elections





# international



**We can never forget the nightmare of that day. The October 7 attack would never have happened if I was President**  
DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, US

## 2ND WARMEST SEPTEMBER

Last month was the second-warmest September ever registered globally in an exceptional year, the EU climate monitor Copernicus said



### of the day quote

Relations between the two countries (Bangladesh-India) must be very close. There can be no alternative to this. They need this, we need this. This is essential from any angle, whether it's about economics, security or water

MUHAMMAD YUNUS | INTERIM LEADER, BANGLADESH

As Russia and North Korea have signed a mutual treaty akin to a military alliance, the possibility of such deployment (deployment of members of North Korea's regular armed forces into Ukraine) is highly likely

KIM YONG-HYUN | DEFENCE MINISTER, SOUTH KOREA

There are a lot of mis-and disinformation being pushed out there by the former president about what is available, particularly to the survivors of Helene. It's extraordinarily irresponsible. It's about him. It's not about you

KAMALA HARRIS | DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, US

## Hezbollah leader's successors killed: Israel

Hashem Safieddine, Nasrallah's successor, has not been heard from publicly since another airstrike last week

REUTERS

Jerusalem, Oct 8: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday Israeli airstrikes had killed two successors to Hezbollah's slain leader, as Israel expanded its offensive against the Iran-backed group with a fourth army division deployed into south Lebanon.

"We've degraded Hezbollah's capabilities. We took out thousands of terrorists, including (Hassan) Nasrallah himself and Nasrallah's replacement, and the replacement of the replacement," Netanyahu said, without naming the latter two.

Earlier Tuesday, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Hashem Safieddine, the man expected to succeed Nasrallah, had probably been "eliminated". It was not immediately clear whom Netanyahu meant by the "replacement of the replacement".

Safieddine has not been heard from publicly since another airstrike late last week, part of an escalating Israeli offensive after a year of border clashes with a major foe that has been clashing with Israel along the border in support of Palestinian militants fighting Israel in Gaza.

"Today, Hezbollah is weaker than it has been for many, many



**We've degraded Hezbollah's capabilities. We took out thousands of terrorists, including (Hassan) Nasrallah himself and Nasrallah's replacement, and the replacement of the replacement**  
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

years," Netanyahu added in reference to the most formidably armed of Iran's proxy forces across the Middle East.

The heightened regional tensions kindled a year ago by Palestinian armed group Hamas' attack from Gaza on southern Israel have escalated in recent weeks to engulf Lebanon.

On October 1, Iran, sponsor of both Hezbollah and Hamas, fired

missiles at Israel. On Tuesday, Iran warned Israel not to follow through on threats of retaliation. Its foreign minister said any attack on Iran's infrastructure would be avenged.

### FOURTH ISRAELI ARMY DIVISION IN LEBANON

The Israeli military said it had sent the 146th Division into south Lebanon, the first reserve division to have been deployed over the border, and was extending ground operations against Hezbollah from southeast Lebanon into its southwest.

A military statement did not specify how many soldiers were now inside Lebanon. But the military had previously announced that three other army divisions were operating there, meaning that thousands of soldiers were likely on

### Hezbollah backs ceasefire efforts

Hezbollah left the door open to a negotiated ceasefire Tuesday after Israeli forces made new incursions in Lebanon. In a televised speech, Hezbollah deputy leader Naim Qassem, said he supported attempts to secure a truce, and for the first time did not mention the end of war in Gaza as a pre-condition to halting combat on the Lebanon-Israel border. Qassem said Hezbollah supported attempts by Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally, to secure a halt to fighting, which has escalated in recent weeks with the Israeli ground incursions and the killing of top Hezbollah leaders. "We support the political activity being led by Berri under the title of a ceasefire," Qassem said in his 30-minute televised address.

Lebanese soil.

The Israeli military announced October 1 that ground forces had entered Lebanon, initially with commando units that were then followed by regular armoured units and infantry units.

## Russia, Iran on mission to cause mayhem: MI5



ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 8: Britain is facing a "staggering rise" in attempts at assassination, sabotage and other crimes on UK soil by Russia and Iran, as the two states recruit criminals to "do their dirty work," the head of the UK's domestic intelligence agency said Tuesday.

MI5 Director General Ken McCallum said his agents and police have tackled 20 "potentially lethal" plots backed by Iran since 2022 and warned that it could expand its targets in the UK if conflicts in the Middle East deepen.

The spy chief said if the crisis escalates with Israel launching a major attack in response to Iran's recent missile barrage, there is the risk "of an increase in, or broadening of, Iranian state aggression in the UK"

In a rare public speech setting out the major threats to the UK from both states and militant groups, McCallum argued that hostile states, radicalized individuals and a revived Islamic State group have combined to create "the most complex and interconnected threat environment we've ever seen."

McCallum said there also is a risk that Israel's conflicts with Iran-backed militant groups, Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in

Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen, could trigger attacks in the UK, though so far the crisis has not translated "at scale into terrorist violence" in Britain.

The number of state-threat investigations undertaken by MI5 has risen by 48% in the past year, with Iran, Russia and China the main perpetrators, McCallum told journalists at the UK's counterterrorism command center in London.

He said MI5 and the police have responded to 20 potentially lethal Iran-backed plots since January 2022, an increase of a third on the figure of 15 the government gave at the end of January.

McCallum said Russia's military intelligence agency was trying to use "arson, sabotage and more" to create "mayhem" on the streets of Britain and other European countries.

Both Russia and Iran often turn to criminals, "from international drug traffickers to low-level crooks," to carry out attacks, he said.

Britain is not alone in pointing a finger at Moscow and Tehran. Germany has arrested several people for allegedly spying or planning attacks on behalf of Russia. In May, Sweden's domestic security agency accused Iran of using criminal networks to target Israeli or Jewish interests in the Scandinavian country.

**The number of state-threat investigations undertaken by MI5 has risen by 48% in the past year, with Iran, Russia and China the main perpetrators**

### SHORT TAKES

#### School bus fire: Mass cremation in Thailand

LAN SAK: Mourners wept and monks prayed at a cremation ceremony Tuesday in a small town in central Thailand for 23 young students and teachers who died in last week's bus fire on a school field trip. A large cremation site was set up close to the temple in Lan Sak town whose compound hosts the school that was attended by the victims. Several furnaces with tall chimneys were erected, with floral adornments placed in front of them. Six teachers and 39 elementary and junior high school students were on the bus when it caught fire October 1.

#### India sends help to flood-hit Nepal

KATHMANDU: The Indian Embassy here handed over the first consignment of emergency relief materials, including sleeping bags, blankets and tarpaulin sheets, to authorities in flood-struck Nepal, according to an official statement. The 4.2 tonnes of aid supplies handed over Monday were for families affected by the recent inundation in Nepal, the Indian Embassy said in a press release. Days of relentless downpours late last month triggered widespread floods and landslides, leaving more than 240 people dead across the Himalayan nation.

### Philippines, China trade blame in latest SCS spat

REUTERS

Beijing, Oct 8: The Philippines accused China's coast guard Tuesday of firing water cannon at government ships taking supplies to fishermen at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, but Beijing said its "control measures" followed the boats' intrusions in its waters.

The incident was the two countries' latest run-in regarding the Scarborough shoal, a fishing ground within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone that China claims as its territory.

"We urge the Philippines to immediately cease its violations," Liu Dejun, a spokesperson for China's coast guard, said in a statement. Two Philippine ships "invaded the waters" near Scarborough Shoal, it added, prompting what the Chinese side called "control measures".

The Philippine fisheries bureau said its vessels were on a routine mission to resupply fishermen when three Chinese coast guard (CCG) ships and a People's Liberation Army-Navy vessel approached at close distance and shadowed their movement.

"The CCG vessels attempted to impede the mission but were unsuccessful," it said in a statement. "The CCG vessels also opened and directed their water cannons, but this failed to reach the Philippine civilian boats."

The Philippine vessels were the Datu Cabaylo and the Datu Sunday, it added.

### SNIPPETS

#### UK sanctions Russia for using chemical weapons

LONDON: The UK government has said new sanctions have been imposed against Russian troops involved in the use of "inhumane" chemical weapons on the battlefield in Ukraine, in flagrant disregard for the Chemical Weapons Convention and serious violation of international law. The UK government imposed the sanctions Tuesday. Among those sanctioned include the Radiological, Chemical and Biological Defence (RCBR) Troops of the Russian Armed Forces and its leader Igor Kirillov, responsible for helping deploy the "barbaric weapons". The UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said Kirillov has also been a significant mouthpiece for Kremlin disinformation, spreading lies to mask Russia's shameful and dangerous behaviour. "The UK will not sit idly by whilst (Russian President) Putin and his mafia state ride roughshod over international law, including the Chemical Weapons Convention. I have made it my personal mission to challenge this malign activity, and I will not back down," said UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

#### SL min defends govt's move to allow Chinese military ship

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath Tuesday defended the government's move to allow a Chinese military training ship to arrive in Colombo, saying the decision falls within the framework of the country's diplomatic engagements and such visits "pose no threat". He was responding to a question on the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy training warship "Po Lang" which arrived at the port of Colombo Tuesday "as part of an ocean-going voyage aimed at enhancing the professional capabilities of midshipmen and conducting naval exchanges with other countries," said a statement. Herath, also the Cabinet Spokesman, said Sri Lanka maintains balanced diplomatic relations with all countries. He said the government's decision to allow the Chinese military training vessel to visit Sri Lanka falls within the framework of the country's diplomatic engagements. "We are happy to allow military training ships. They pose no threat," Herath said. "We have seen military ships arriving from Germany and the US".

## Osama bin Laden's son ordered to leave France

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, Oct 8: French authorities have ordered Omar bin Laden, a son of dead Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, to leave the country over posts on social media, France's interior minister announced Tuesday.

Born in Saudi Arabia, where he spent his early years, Omar bin Laden, 43, has also lived in Sudan and Afghanistan. He left his father at the age of 19 and eventually settled in Normandy in northern France in 2016, taking up painting.

France's new interior minister, Bruno Retailleau, said on X (former Twitter) that Omar bin Laden had lived in the depart-



ment of Orne in Normandy as a spouse of a British national.

The minister said that the jihadist's son "posted comments on his social networks in 2023 that advocated terrorism."

"As a result, the prefect of Orne issued an order to leave French territory," Retailleau said. "The courts have confirmed the legality of this decision taken in the interests of national security," he added.

The interior minister also said he had signed off on a ban preventing Omar bin Laden "to return to France for any reason whatsoever."

He did not provide further details and it was not clear if Omar bin Laden had already left France.

Omar bin Laden's marriage to British woman Jane Felix-Browne, a grandmother who had been divorced five times previously and over two decades his senior, had caused considerable media interest when it was confirmed in 2007.

After marriage she took on the Muslim name of Zaina Mohammed. Omar bin Laden sought to live in the UK, but his

bid was rejected by the British authorities.

Osama bin Laden, himself the son of a hugely wealthy Saudi construction magnate, is believed to have had some two dozen children.

US Special Forces killed the Al-Qaeda founder in Pakistan in 2011. Retailleau has vowed to bring "order" on immigration and crime, insisting that "the rule of law is neither intangible nor sacred."

His appointment as France's top cop is emblematic of the rightward shift of the government under new Prime Minister Michel Barnier following this summer's legislative elections that resulted in a hung Parliament.

### Pakistan PM warns Khan's party ahead of SCO Summit



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 8: Ahead of the SCO meeting, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday said former premier Imran Khan's party will not be allowed to repeat the 2014 sit-in that had prompted cancellation of the Chinese President's visit then.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Head of States' Summit is to take place October 15 and 16 here.

Khan, who has been incarcerated at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for more than a year, had called his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to hold a rally at D-Chowk here demanding his release and independence of the judiciary.

The national capital's D-Chowk is the same venue where the PTI had organised a sit-in for 126 days in 2014, prompting Chinese President Xi Jinping to postpone his visit.

Pakistan is hosting the SCO meeting and comprehensive arrangements have been made for it, Sharif said and also added that the Chinese Premier would also be paying a bilateral visit to Pakistan.

Slamming the Opposition party, Sharif said that the PTI had done nothing except to create chaos and divide the nation. "Neither did the party bring back money to the country while it was not in power nor did it end corruption, claims that were part of its election manifesto."

## From Bolivia to Indonesia, deforestation continues apace

IN 2023, 3.7 MILLION HECTARES OF TROPICAL PRIMARY FOREST, PARTICULARLY CARBON RICH AND ECOLOGICALLY BIODIVERSE ENVIRONMENTS, DISAPPEARED

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Paris, Oct 8: Deforestation continued last year at a rate far beyond pledges to end the practice by 2030, according to a major study published Tuesday.

Forests nearly the size of Ireland were lost in 2023, according to two dozen research organisations, NGOs and advocacy groups, with 15.7 million acres of trees felled and burned.

This "significantly exceeded" level that would have kept the world on track to eliminate deforestation by the end of the decade, a commitment made in 2021 by more than 140 leaders.

Forests are home to 80 percent of the world's terrestrial plant and animal species and crucial for regulating water cycles and sequestering CO2, the main greenhouse gas responsible for global warming.

"Globally, deforestation has gotten worse, not better, since

the beginning of the decade," said Ivan Palmegiani, a biodiversity and land use consultant at Climate Focus and lead author of the "Forest Declaration Assessment" report.

"We're only six years away from a critical global deadline to end deforestation, and forests continue to be chopped down, degraded, and set ablaze at alarming rates."

In 2023, 3.7 million hectares of tropical primary forest, particularly carbon rich and ecologically biodiverse environments, disappeared, a figure that should have fallen significantly to meet the 2030 objective.

### Soya and nickel

In high-risk regions, researchers pointed to backsliding in Bolivia and in Indonesia. The report said there was an "alarming rise" in deforestation in Bolivia, which jumped 351 percent between 2015 and 2023.

The "trend shows no sign of



abating", it added, with forests largely cleared for agriculture, notably for soya but also beef and sugar.

In Indonesia, deforestation slumped between 2020-2022 but started rising sharply last year. Ironically, that is partly down

to demand for materials often seen as eco-friendly, such as viscose for clothing, and a surge in nickel mining for electric vehicle batteries and renewable energy technologies.

There was better news from Brazil.

### While Brazil remains the country with the highest deforestation rates in the world, the situation has significantly improved in the Amazon

While it remains the country with the highest deforestation rates in the world, it has made key progress.

The situation has significantly improved in the Amazon, which has benefited from protective measures put in place by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

However, in the Cerrado, a key tropical savannah below the Amazon, deforestation has increased.

### Degraded forests

The report also highlights the role of logging, road building and fires in forest degradation,

when land is damaged but not razed entirely.

In 2022, the last year data was available, a forest area twice the size of Germany was degraded.

Erin Matson, senior consultant at Climate Focus, and co-author of the report, said "strong policies and strong enforcement" were needed.

"To meet global forest protection targets, we must make forest protection immune to political and economic whims," she said.

The report comes in the wake of the European Commission's proposal last week to postpone by a year (to the end of 2025) the entry into force of its anti-deforestation law, despite protests from NGOs.

"We have to fundamentally rethink our relationship with consumption and our models of production to shift away from reliance on over-exploiting natural resources," said Matson.





I have seen that at many petrol pumps, the washrooms are locked. It is mandatory for petrol pumps on highways to keep washrooms clean and open for public use. Failure to do so can lead to closure of petrol pumps  
**NITIN GADKARI** | UNION MINISTER

## SAMSUNG TOPS CHART

Samsung topped the chart in smartphone segment by clocking 20 per cent market share in volume terms during the first phase of festive season sale, semiconductor information platform Tech Insights said Tuesday. "Samsung led the smartphone sales volume with a 20 per cent market share followed by Apple in the first wave of the festive season," Tech Insight said in a blog.



## of the day quote

Indian regulators, and the way in which they are functioning, have actually brought greater transparency to the system



**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

India's growing economy and evolving consumer behaviour create a perfect opportunity for us to reintroduce our products. Many households still lack essential appliances, and this market gap, combined with rising consumer aspirations, positions us to make a substantial impact



**HS BHATIA** | MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DAEWOO INDIA

Nokia has committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions globally by 2040. Our innovative technologies will not only enhance the overall performance of communications networks but also significantly help reduce their energy consumption, contributing to the energy efficiency targets of our customers



**TARUN CHHABRA** | HEAD OF MOBILE NETWORKS AT NOKIA, INDIA

# Stock markets end 6-day slide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 8:** Stock markets snapped the six-day losing run Tuesday with benchmark Sensex climbing nearly 585 points on the back of value buying in blue-chips like HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 584.81 points or 0.72 per cent to close at 81,634.81. During the day, it surged 713.28 points or 0.88 per cent to hit an intraday high of 81,763.28.

The NSE Nifty rose 217.40 points or 0.88 per cent to 25,013.15. It jumped 248.25 points or 1 per cent to hit a high of 25,044.

From the Sensex pack, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones, Mahindra & Mahindra, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major gainers.

In contrast, Tata Steel, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Tata Motors and Tata Consultancy Services were among the laggards.

"After sessions of corrections, India is getting some support at the level of 25,800 for Nifty50. Good state election result for the ruling party, contrary to the exit polls, has brought some optimism in the domestic market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Market participants also kept a close eye on the RBI's monetary policy to be announced Wednesday. The reconstituted



Stock	Change
ADANI PORTS	+4.76%
M&M	+3.42%
RELIANCE	+2.01%
HDFC BANK	+1.95%
LT	+1.83%

Stock	Change
TATA STEEL	-2.89%
TITAN	-2.59%
BAJAJ FINSERV	-2.27%
JSW STEEL	-1.98%
BAJAJ FINANCE	-1.12%

rate-setting panel of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) started deliberations on the next bi-monthly monetary policy on Monday. 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 since reduced the interest rates.

"RBI policy outcome, though no cut is expected, a plausible change in stance to neutral is anticipated. And investors are likely to focus on the upcoming Q2 results where earnings are

likely to improve marginally on a QoQ basis," Nair added.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.86 per cent and smallcap index soared 2.44 per cent.

Sector-wise, services surged by 3.25 per cent, while services jumped by 3.25 per cent, Capital Goods by 2.82 per cent, Industrials by 2.81 per cent, Power by 2.44 per cent, and Telecommunication by 2.35 per cent.

Metal is the only index which ended lower.

Market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped by ₹7.51 lakh crore to ₹ 4,59,50,926.21 crore

# AMCs look to launch higher risk products

REUTERS



**Mumbai, Oct 8:** Top Indian and global asset managers are firming up plans to launch higher risk investment products, after the country's markets regulator allowed fund houses to offer investors such options.

Last month, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) allowed asset management firms to offer riskier strategies, such as long-short equity and derivative-based plans. These options will require a minimum investment of 1 million rupees (\$11,939.59) and will be offered to investors who can take on higher risk.

Five asset managers, which hold a combined 25% of assets under management (AUM) in India's mutual fund industry, said they expect to launch such investment options in the next six-eight months, according to executives at these firms.

"We have three-four strategies in the works and will figure out which is best suited basis market feedback. Strategies such as long-short equity are in discussion," said Swarup Mohanty, CEO of Mirae Asset Investment Managers, a unit of South Korea's Mirae Asset Financial Group. Presently, alternate invest-

ment funds (AIF) offer such higher risk investment plans but the minimum investment size is 10 million rupees. These funds are subject to fewer regulatory requirements.

The new investment options offered by mutual funds will be similar to those offered by hedge funds, but will still need to follow strict risk disclosure requirements and investment limits.

Derivatives exposure has to be limited to 25% of the fund's assets, SEBI said last month. The regulator is yet to announce final guidelines for investment caps and risk disclosures.

The global hedge fund market was estimated at \$5 trillion in 2023, according to Global Markets Insights.

As of April 2024, portfolio managers in India managed 33.65 trillion rupees in assets and AIFs managed 11.3 trillion rupees.

Foreign asset managers will have an initial advantage and can leverage learnings from international markets but expertise will develop with time across the industry, said Sundeep Sikka, CEO of Nippon India, a unit of Japan's Nippon Life Insurance Co.

## SHORT TAKES

### PepsiCo's 2-digit revenue growth

**New Delhi:** Global food & beverages major PepsiCo Tuesday said it has registered a double-digit organic revenue growth in India for the third quarter of 2024. Highlighting India's role, PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Ramon Laguarta, in an investor's call, said: "There are pockets of strength in International, Southeast Asia and India markets that are growing nicely." PepsiCo has reported a high-single-digit growth in its beverage unit volume and Convenient foods unit volume from the Indian market. "For the third quarter, developing and emerging markets such as India, Egypt, Turkey, Poland, and Vietnam each delivered double-digit organic revenue growth," according to the earning statement from PepsiCo.

### NSDL gets Sebi nod to float IPO

**New Delhi:** Leading depository National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) has received Sebi's go-ahead to launch its initial public offering (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed Tuesday. Apart from NSDL, Standard Glass Lining Technology and Zinka Logistics Solutions received Sebi's go-ahead to raise funds through initial share sales. NSDL's proposed IPO is a complete offer for sale (OFS) of more than 5.72 crore equity shares by shareholders, including National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), State Bank of India (SBI), and HDFC Bank, as per the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The clearance from the Sebi came more than a year after the company submitted its preliminary IPO to the regulator in July 2023.

### Tata Technologies, BMW form JV

**Mumbai:** Tata Technologies and BMW Group Tuesday announced the official launch of their joint venture, BMW TechWorks India, which will innovate automotive software, including software defined vehicles and digital transformation solutions for business IT. With the final signing of the contracts and the approval of the authorities, the JV will commence operations with 100 employees across key technology hubs in Pune, Bengaluru, and Chennai, the two partners announced at an event here. The 50:50 JV is set to scale rapidly, targeting a four-digit workforce by the end of 2025, with a strong emphasis on attracting India's top engineering talent.

# Hyundai to launch \$3bln IPO next week



REUTERS

**New Delhi/Hong Kong, Oct 8:** Hyundai Motor India's IPO will open next week for subscriptions and will likely be priced in the range of 1,865 to 1,960 rupees (\$22 to \$23) per share, sources said Tuesday, valuing the automaker at up to \$19 billion in the country's biggest stock offering this year.

The India IPO will be Hyundai's first stock market listing outside South Korea. In India, it will also mark the first carmaker to go public in two decades since Maruti Suzuki in 2003, and comes just after Indian stock markets touched record highs and saw many companies making debuts.

The \$3 billion IPO will open for subscriptions for big institutional investors on Oct. 14, and invite bids from retail and other categories during Oct. 15-17, said three sources with direct knowl-

edge, who declined to be named as the discussions are confidential.

At the upper end of the price band, the company will roughly be valued at \$19 billion, the sources said, adding the stock is set to start trading in Mumbai Oct. 22.

Hyundai did not immediately respond to Reuters queries.

Hyundai is India's second largest automaker after Maruti and is looking to reclaim market share from domestic rivals by expanding its SUV lineup. It also plans to launch its first India-made electric vehicle early next year and introduce at least two gasoline-powered models tailored to the market starting in 2026.

Hyundai will not issue new shares in the IPO which will involve its South Korean parent selling up to 17.5% of its stake in the wholly owned unit to retail and other investors via a so-called "offer for sale" route.

# Higher inputs cost to impact FMCG players

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 8:** Leading FMCG players expect rising palm oil prices, higher input costs and increased advertising and promotion expenses to impact their margins and profits in the September quarter.

In the latest quarterly business updates, FMCG players such as Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL), Dabur and Marico have hinted at a flattish growth in their margins on a year-on-year basis as prices of copra and vegetable oil appreciated in the July-September period.

Godrej Industries Group's FMCG arm GCPL said it expects a 'flattish' earnings growth in the domestic market in the September quarter as higher palm oil prices added to input costs.

"Palm input costs have been rising since March and have risen in the high teens as of date. Management has decided not to pass on the entire cost hike to consumers in one step and decided to continue investments on the long-term growth initiatives like rural van programme, new category development etc," it said.

"As a result, the standalone EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) growth will be flattish," said GCPL which owns brands such as Good Knight, Cinthol and HIT.

However, in terms of top-line the company expects its stand-



alone business (domestic) "to perform well with high single-digit underlying volume and value growth", GCPL said.

Marico said among key inputs, copra prices rose ahead of internal forecasts and the recent import duty hike led to vegetable oil prices moving higher towards the end of the quarter. "Crude oil derivatives, however, remained range-bound. We expect gross margin to moderate on a year-on-year basis owing to partial absorption of higher input costs, as the company prioritised expanding its consumer franchise in the current demand environment," said Marico which owns popular brands like Saffola, Parachute, Livon etc.

It further added, "Consequently, we expect a moderate lag in operating profit growth vis-à-vis revenue growth on a year-on-year basis."

Dabur is working to correct the distributor inventory and on ac-

count of this, the company is expected to post a mid-single-digit decline in consolidated revenue for the quarter.

Moreover, the company which owns brands such as Dabur Amla, Dabur Vatika, and juice brand Real, has increased its spending on advertising.

"In line with our commitment to continue to invest behind our brands, the A&P investments continued during the quarter. However, as a result of lower primary sales, our profitability will be impacted during the quarter and the operating margin for the quarter is expected to decline in the range of mid to high teens due to deleveraging and continued investment behind brands," it said.

This temporary corrective action is a necessary step to strengthen the GT channel and enhance our efficiency and growth going forward, Dabur said.

Besides, FMCG companies have reported a rise in sales from alternate channels.

In the second quarter, edible oil major Adani Wilmar's revenue from alternate channels increased at a strong double-digit rate YoY, with revenue over the past 12 months exceeding ₹3,000 crore. "The e-commerce channel has seen even more rapid growth, with its revenue increasing by around four times in the last four years," it said.

Dabur has witnessed "disproportionately higher growth" in organised channels during the last few quarters as MT, e-commerce and quick commerce which has led to an increase in inventory levels in the General Trade (GT) channel impacting the distributor ROI.

"The company has taken an important strategic decision to correct distributor inventory in the GT channel and improve their ROI," it said.

# 'China oversupplying lithium to eliminate rivals'

REUTERS

**Lisbon, Oct 8:** Chinese lithium producers are flooding the global market with the critical metal and causing a 'predatory' price drop as they seek to eliminate competing projects, a senior US official said on a visit to Portugal that has ample lithium reserves.

Jose Fernandez, under secretary for economic growth, energy and the environment at the US Department of State, told a briefing late Monday that China was producing much more lithium "than the world needs today, by far".

However, the price collapse is also affecting China as it has forced Chinese companies like

battery giant CATL to suspend production at certain mines.

Europe aims to reduce its dependence on imports from China and other countries of lithium and other materials essential to the green transition.

Fernandez said the low price "constrains our ability to diversify our supply chains on a broad, global scale" and also hurts countries such as Portugal that need investment to develop these industries.

Falling prices have forced many global lithium producers to scale back production and cut jobs.

Portugal, with some 60,000 tons of known reserves, is already Europe's biggest producer



of lithium, traditionally mined for ceramics.

Along with neighbouring Spain, the country wants to take advantage of local lithium deposits, aiming to cover the entire value chain from mining and refining to cell and battery manufacturing to battery recycling.

Several mining companies in Portugal have been looking for financing, customers and suppliers to crank up projects.

"We want to help them, and we think we can... lithium mining companies, everywhere, have to survive this difficult phase that was created by predatory pricing," Fernandez said.

China's Premier Li Qiang

in June used his address at a World Economic Forum meeting in Dalian to hit back at accusations from the United States and EU that Chinese firms benefit from unfair subsidies and are poised to flood their markets with cheap green technologies.

Trade tensions intensified last Friday when the European Union said it would press ahead with hefty tariffs on China-made electric vehicles to counter what it sees as unfair Chinese subsidies, after a year-long anti-subsidy investigation. China Tuesday imposed temporary anti-dumping measures on imports of brandy from the EU.



# Eves look to increase NRR

## Crucial match for Indian team against Sri Lanka in T20 World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 8: On a sticky wicket after a mixed start to their campaign, India will look to fix their batting woes to bolster their net run rate (NRR) when they take on bottom-placed Sri Lanka in their third and penultimate Group A match of the T20 Women's World Cup here Wednesday. They have no other option, because in the last group game, they have to face Australia, the defending champions.

It has not been smooth sailing for the Indians in the showpiece event so far, having lost to New Zealand by 58 runs in their tournament-opener and then scampering home in 18.5 overs against arch rivals Pakistan while chasing a modest 105.

India's main problem in the tournament so far is the performance of their batters, especially the explosive opening combination of Shafali Verma and vice-captain Smriti Mandhana. While Shafali scored just two and 32 in the first two games, Mandhana also fared poorly managing 12 and seven runs. And it's time the duo fires in unison to ease the pressure on the middle-order.

Mandhana was the first to admit that India need to be more aggressive in their approach. "Yes, we were cautious in the game against Pakistan, but that was because we wanted to win at any cost. Now however, the time has come to up the ante. We will certainly keep the net run rate in mind when we face Sri Lanka," Mandhana said on the eve of the game against Sri Lanka.

To make matters worse for India, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who scored 15 and 29 retired hurt, is doubtful for the match against Sri Lanka after suffering a neck injury while batting against Pakistan. There was no word from the team management whether she would be fit to play. The likes of Jemimah



Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma and Richa Ghosh too need to step up with the bat and share the burden of responsibility.

While medium pacer Arundhati Reddy sparked against Pakistan with the ball, returning with figures of 3/19, she would look for more support from the likes of fellow pace colleagues Renuka Singh and Pooja Vastrakar, who didn't play the previous game because of an injury.

The Indian team rely heavily on Deepti in the spin department but she hasn't quite managed to hit her strides in the

COUNTRY	MATCHES	NRR
Australia	2	+2.524
Pakistan	2	+0.555
New Zealand	2	-0.050
India	2	-1.217
Sri Lanka	2	-1.667

tournament so far. Young off-spinner Shreyanka Patil and leg-spinner Asha Shobhana have done a decent job, picking up a few wickets.

Sri Lanka might have lost both their opening matches, but the islanders won't be an easy opponent for India, especially

after the win in the Asia Cup final in August.

India opener Shafali admitted that Sri Lanka are no longer only dependent on their skipper Chamari Athapaththu. "There was a time when Chamari was the one scoring most of the runs and taking wickets, but in the Asia Cup, her entire team performed well. They've improved a lot, which is why they won the Cup," Shafali said. "Chamari carries the pressure of being a key player, and it's inspiring to see how she handles it and performs for her country consistently," Shafali added.

# MEN AIM TO SEAL SERIES

## Dominant India start favourites against Bangladesh in 2nd T20I

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 8: India were so dominant in the first T20I against Bangladesh that the visitors are admittedly clueless about how to match the 'skills and mentality' of Suryakumar Yadav's men. The script is not expected to deviate much when the two sides clash in the second T20 International here Wednesday with the home team's young mavericks proving more than a handful for the full-strength visitors.

Bangladesh have hardly looked like the plucky opponents that they are hyped to be, but India have looked every bit the marauding force who love to intimidate on home turf.

One man who made a strong statement of intent in the Gwalior game was Sanju Samson. In the series-opener, the keeper-batter, who usually comes in the middle-order, revelled in his new role as opener and played some delightful strokes in his 19-ball 29, showcasing his ability to play freely in the power play.

Another player who shone with the ball was pacer Arshdeep Singh with three wickets in the Gwalior game. The left-arm pacer



Indian cricketers enjoy a fun moment during their practice session Tuesday

however, clarified Tuesday that he is not thinking too far ahead. Arshdeep who made his debut two years ago has already played 55 T20Is.

"I am enjoying my game and didn't even realise how these two years flew by. I just try and stay in the present, enjoy the highs and lows, that is my focus," Arshdeep said.

"My life's mantra is to enjoy the present. Today is my rest day so I will enjoy it. Kal ka Kal dekhenge (Will think about to-

morrow when it comes). The T20 World Cup is two years away, very far... I don't think much about the future," he added.

In the Gwalior game, debutant Mayank Yadav dazzled with his fiery pace, while fellow first-timer Nitish Kumar Reddy made a mark as a seam-bowling all-rounder, a rarity in Indian cricket. So after a successful start to the series, the hosts are unlikely to tinker with their playing XI after everything went their way.

## Mahmudullah set to retire from T20Is

NEW DELHI: Veteran Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah announced his retirement from T20 Internationals Tuesday. He said that the third and final match of the ongoing series against India will mark his last appearance in the format. "Yes, I'm retiring from T20Is after the last game of this series," Mahmudullah said at the pre-match press conference ahead of the second T20I against India here. The 38-year-old said that he had communicated his decision to the relevant parties prior to the series. "It was pre-decided. Before coming here, I had a chat with my family, coach captain and selectors. I conveyed my decision to the board president as well," he stated.

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## SHORT TAKES

### Indian women face Malaysia in opener

Kuala Lumpur: Two-time champions India will open their title defence against Malaysia in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) hockey tournament November 11 at Rajgir, Bihar. The tournament will feature six teams - hosts and defending champions India, China, three-time winners Korea, two-time champions Japan, Malaysia and Thailand. The final will be played November 20. India won the tournament in 2016 in Singapore before reclaiming the title in Ranchi last year. After Malaysia, the Indian women will take on Korea (November 12), followed by matches against Thailand (November 14), China (November 16) and Japan (November 17). Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said it will be a historic occasion for the state of Bihar.

### Bruzon appointed EB head coach

KOLKATA: Spanish football manager Oscar Bruzon, renowned for leading Bangladesh's outfit Bashundhara Kings to five consecutive league titles, has been appointed as the head coach of East Bengal FC, the club announced Tuesday. "I am determined to make the most of this opportunity and fully understand the goals set by the East Bengal management," said the 47-year-old in a statement issued by the club. "It's a privilege and a massive responsibility to manage a historical institution like East Bengal," he added. Bruzon's appointment comes during the international break, just two weeks before the highly-anticipated ISL derby clash October 19 against Mohun Bagan.

### Bansod stuns Yun

VANTAA (FINLAND): Rising Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod continued her impressive form this year, pulling off a stunning upset against World No. 23 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei to advance to the women's singles pre-quarterfinals of the Arctic Open Super 500 badminton tournament Tuesday. The 23-year-old southpaw showed her resilience in a hard-fought match, winning 21-19, 24-22 in 57 minutes. However, PV Sindhu, playing her first tournament after the Olympics lost to Michelle Li of Canada 10-21, 16-21.

# Women's HIL will be game-changer: Salima

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 8: Indian women's team captain Salima Tete can't wait for the upcoming Hockey India League (HIL) as she feels that the event will help shape the careers of young players and build strong bench strength for the national team. The women's event will be played at Ranchi and will feature six teams.

"I am very excited about HIL, it is restarting after seven years and with a women's league this time. The players have been discussing what a great opportunity this is for us the last few days. We will get to mingle with players from different nationalities, play with them, play against them and improve as players," Salima said in a release issued by Hockey India (HI).

"It will give youngsters who aren't a part of the senior team a chance to see the daily routines of Indian players and foreign players up close. And being in a high-performance, professional environment early in their career will do wonders for their development. I expect the HIL will



**We will get to mingle with players from different nationalities, play with them, play against them and improve as players**

SALIMA TETE

be beneficial for players who have been out of the national team as well to keep themselves sharp," Salima added.

The players' auction for the league will be held from October 13 to 15. Each franchise will build a 24-player squad, consisting of at least 16 Indian players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight international stars.

# Djokovic cruises past Cobolli

## Serbian pursuing his 100th career title at the Shanghai Masters

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shanghai, Oct 8: Pursuing a 100th career title, Novak Djokovic had an easier time in his second match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in ousting Flavio Cobolli 6-1, 6-2 here Tuesday. Djokovic finished the match with his 19th winner, placing a forehand behind the Italian who was racing back across the baseline after being pushed wide by the service.

The fourth-seeded Serb did not allow a breakpoint in the third round, after previously being stretched to two tie-breakers and saving set points against Alex Michelsen of the United States.

Djokovic, who has won four of his 99 titles in Shanghai, next faces 61st-ranked Roman Safullin who upset 13th-seeded American Frances Tiafoe 5-7, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5).

Stefanos Tsitsipas' rivalry with Daniil Medvedev will add another chapter after the Greek player beat Alexandre Muller 6-3, 7-5. The 12th-ranked Tsitsipas and the Russian former US Open champion will meet for a 14th



Novak Djokovic in action during his match Tuesday against Flavio Cobolli

time, and first in nearly a year. The fifth-ranked Medvedev has a commanding 9-4 lead in the head-to-head series, which has spilled over into a war of words off the court in the past.

"I consider him someone that I respect on the tour; much more than I did before," Tsitsipas said after the match. "We've had some heated things on the court

in the past, but I think those things have resolved themselves over time."

Tsitsipas had to wait out a two-day rain delay to play his third round match against Muller, but looked in complete control until losing his serve at 5-3 in the second set. Unperturbed the Greek broke back to love, to clinch the match and renew his

six-year rivalry with Medvedev.

No. 16-ranked Ben Shelton put away Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3, 6-4, firing eight aces and 24 winners to line up top seed Jannik Sinner in the fourth round. Seventh-ranked Taylor Fritz also advanced with ease, beating Japan's Yosuke Watanuki 6-3, 6-4, while Grigor Dimitrov, playing in his 100th Masters event, beat Alexei Popyrin 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

Gael Monfils upset 15th-ranked Ugo Humbert 7-6 (9-7), 2-6, 6-1 in an all-French match-up. The 38-year-old Monfils, ranked 46th, is the second oldest player to reach the fourth round in Shanghai, behind only Roger Federer (also 38) in 2019.

"It's never easy to play Ugo, he's really aggressive, playing fast off both wings and takes a lot of time from you," said Monfils, who plays second-seeded Carlos Alcaraz next.

In the women's segment Katerina Siniakova had a comfortable 6-3, 6-1 victory over Alexandra Eala of the Philippines to set up a second round match against defending champion Aryna Sabalenka.

# Odia athletes bag 24 medals



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 8: Odisha sportspeople continued their stellar performance on Day 2 of the 35th East Zone Junior Athletics Championship 2024 bagging 24 medals, including 10 gold, six silver and eight bronze

at the Kalinga Stadium here Tuesday.

Among the medal-winners were Pratik Maharana (boys' U-18, 200m), Dondapati Jayaram and Astik Pradhan (gold and silver respectively in the boys' U-20, 200m), Astik, Pankaj Mandal, Jasman Kujur and Bapi

Hansda (boys' U-20, 4x400m relay), P Arpita Archana (girls' U-20, javelin throw), Sunita Santa (girls' U-18, 1,000m). So far Odisha have bagged a total of 51 medals including 18 gold, 14 silver and 19 bronze in the competition.

Head coach, Athletics Project Odisha, Sanjay Garnaik said that he is very happy with the results. "I am very hopeful that we will win quite a few medals at the junior nationals," Garnaik said. "These athletes have shown that they can compete with the very best. The performance of our athletes is the result of sheer hard work," he added.

Principal Secretary, Sports and Youth Services department, Bhaskar Sarma graced the championships on the second day and greeted the athletes and encouraged them to put forward their best performances.

# BARGARH WIN SAHANI CUP



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Oct 8: Bargarh emerged champions in the 63rd Inter-District tournament for the Sahani Cup here Tuesday beating Mayurbhanj by an aggregate of 6-1 in the double leg final. In the first leg, Bargarh had defeated Mayurbhanj 3-0. In the second leg played Tuesday

they won 3-1 to completely dominate the show. Jitu Muduli (63rd), Pravat Dansena (80th) and Chandra Murmu (85th) got the goals for Bargarh, who dominated the major portion of the game. Nilesh Tigga (65th) got a consolation goal for Mayurbhanj.

Along with the trophy, Bargarh were presented with a cheque of ₹1,00,000. Mayurbhanj on the

other hand received ₹50,000 and a trophy.

Additionally Bargarh and Mayurbhanj were awarded ₹15,000 and ₹10,000 respectively from the Sahani Trust. MLAs Jayanarayan Mishra, Tankadhar Tripathy and FAO secretary Sanjay were present during the match and prize distribution ceremony.