

## to end standoff

Beijing: China Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh. "Over a recent period of time, China and India have kept close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues related to the China-India border," Chinese Foreign Ministry

# **AHEAD OF CYCLONE**

Two days before Dana's anticipated landfall on the coasts of Odisha, the pre-shocks of the cyclone was felt across households *Tuesday as the already soaring* vegetable prices went through the roof at major markets owing to panic buving by consumers. The situation has only been precipitated by television news channels and various online platforms blaring 24X7 cyclone updates. Prices of staple potato and onion have skyrocketed, while vegetables have become dearer by ₹10-20 per kg. With the government occupied with evacuation and relief measures, black marketeers and hoarders are having a field day by cashing in on the fear psychosis. If the administration fails to act now, the consumer is certain

to face the worst in the aftermath

of the cyclonic storm which is

expected to cause widespread dis-

ruption and devastation.

PNN & AGENCIES



#### cyclone makes landfall.

sumable items.

Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra warned that strong action will be taken against traders, who will indulge in black marketing and illegal hoarding of essential con-

Meanwhile, Kabiraj Swain,

spected some stockists and

warned them to stick to the max-

imum retail price." He appealed

to consumers not to panic as

there is ample stock of veggies.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Mumbai, Oct 22: Nearly 80 domestic and international flights received bomb threats in less than 24 hours that later turned out to be hoaxes, keeping thousands of passengers and security agencies on tenterhooks.

The estimated losses incurred

by airlines due to the disrup-



New Delhi: An e-mail was received threatening to blow up three CRPF schools in Delhi and Hyderabad. and two Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)

spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing here. Lin was asked for a response to Monday's Indian announcement about reaching an agreement to end the over fouryear long military standoff. **P**8

#### **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



Now that everything is fine in our country and there's hardly any news, let's launch an international channel

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BULLION	SILVER	₹ 99,543		₹2,095

#### WEATHER

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	33.1°⊂ 24.0°⊂ 76%

the price of potato has increased from ₹30 per kg Monday to ₹50 Tuesday. The price of onion has also increased to ₹60 per kg from ₹40 in the market, which is one of the largest vegetable markets in Odisha

Tomato is being sold for ₹80 to ₹100 in the local markets here, recording a rise of ₹10 as compared to Monday's price, traders said. The price of other vegetables like beans, brinjal, ladyfinger and cauliflower has also increased by ₹10 to ₹20 per kg.

There was a huge rush in the vegetable markets as consumers Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The wanted to store sufficient quanprices of vegetables including potities of vegetables especially potato and onion in view of the tato and onion increased in markets Tuesday as consumers recyclone, which is expected to hit sorted to panic buying amid the state's coast by October 25. 'We don't know how the mar-IMD's prediction of a cvclone ket will be after the cyclone hits

hitting the Odisha coast. At Chhatra Bazaar in Cuttack,

the state. If the supply chain is dis-

president of Unit I Vegetable Traders' Association in Bhubaneswar, said, "There was rupted, it may lead to further in an increase by ₹10 to ₹15 in the crease in the price. So, I bought sufficient quantity of potato and prices of potato, onion, tomato and other vegetables. We inonion for my family," said Nibedita

Behera, a housewife from Cuttack. Local vendors have attributed the price hike to scarcity of potato-laden trucks and the anticipation of further disruptions if the

#### DANA: EVACUATION BEGINS

A s the state braces for severe cyclonic storm Dana, the government Tuesday started evacuating people and decided to close educational institutions in vulnerable areas. According to plans, over 10 lakh people from 3,000 villages in 14 districts will be shifted to relief camps. A depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a deep depression Tuesday evening and is likely to become a severe cyclonic storm and cross the Odisha-West Bengal coasts in the early hours of October 25 with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph. IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that the entire eastern coast from Puri to Sagar Island in West Bengal is likely to be impacted. CM Mohan Charan Majhi urged all MLAs to coordinate with the administration in rescue and relief operations. "Fifty-one ODRAF and 178 Fire Services teams have so far been deployed in the vulnerable districts, while 20 NDRF teams have been mobilised," an official said. All educational institutions including schools, colleges and universities will remain closed in 14 districts from October 23 to 25. MORE P3

tions would be around ₹600 crore. according to two former airline officials.

On Tuesday alone, around 50 flights, including 13 each of IndiGo and Air India received bomb threats. Akasa Air got the threats for over 12 flights and as many as 11 flights of Vistara also received the threats, the sources in the know said.

Around 30 flights of IndiGo, Air India and Vistara got bomb threats Monday night, they added.

In nine days, more than 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats, mostly through social media, that also forced the diversion of some of the international flights.

On average, disruption to a domestic flight would cost around ₹1.5 crore while the expenses would be around ₹5-5.5 crore for an international flight, an official, who has worked in the finance department of a domestic airline, told PTI.

within the forces' office premises in other cities, officials sources said Tuesday, adding it turned out to be a hoax. The schools were checked by anti-sabotage teams and nothing suspicious was found, they said, adding classes were conducted smoothly Tuesday. The three CRPF schools include two in Delhi (Rohini and Dwarka), one in Hyderabad (Telangana); while the two Kendriya Vidyalayas are within the paramilitary forces' office premises at Panchkula (Haryana) and Rampur (Uttar Pradesh).

lation shows that the average cost of disruption caused to domestic and international flights would be around ₹3.5 crore, and for more than 170 flights, the total expenses or loss for the airlines would be around ₹600 crore.

The figures are broad based since many other factors like narrow-body and wide-body planes, and duration of a flight also need to be taken into consideration.

A back-of-the-envelope calcu-

## Fake court busted in Gujarat; 'judge' arrested

#### AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, Oct 22: After fake toll plaza, government offices and hospitals, the police in Gujarat have uncovered a nefarious scheme orchestrated by a man masquerading as a judge in his own fake tribunal and passing 'judgements' since 2019 especially in land deals in Gandhinagar area. Morris Samuel Christian, since arrested, is accused of orchestrating a deception that fooled many into believing they were in a legitimate court.

Police said Christian, the mastermind behind this elaborate ruse, wielded his gavel to pass judgments in favour of his clients, all within the fabricated walls of his office. The bogus tribunal, reminiscent of a real courtroom, worked undetected for years, with its roots tracing back to as early as 2019.

Initial probe suggested that Christian preyed on unsuspecting individuals entangled in land disputes, promising swift resolutions in exchange for hefty fees. By assuming the role of a judge, he exploited the vulnerable, manipulating the course of justice for personal gain.

The elaborate charade involved Christian's associates posing as court personnel, creating a façade of authenticity to dupe his clients. The elaborate theatrics, complete with a mock courtroom setting in Gandhinagar, lent an air of legitimacy to his



#### deceitful proceedings.

In 2019, Christian passed an order in favour of his client using the same modus operandi. The case was pertaining to a

government land under the district Collector while his client had staked claim on it and wanted to add his name in revenue records related to the plot in question lo-

cated in Paldi area, a police release said Monday.

Without an authority or order issued by any court under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Christian told his client he has been appointed as the "official arbitrator" by the government.

The conman then initiated fake proceedings at his 'court' and passed an order in favour of his client, directing the Collector to add his client's name in the revenue records of that land, the release said. To implement the order, Christian, through another lawyer, filed an appeal in the City Civil Court and attached the fraudulent order

passed by him. The court registrar, Hardik Desai, recently found out that Christian is neither an arbitrator nor is the order of the tribunal genuine.

Following his complaint, the Karanj police here lodged an FIR under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 170 (pretending to hold any office as a public servant) and 419 (cheating by personation).

The conman was arrested for allegedly cheating people by posing as a judge of an arbitral tribunal and passing favourable 🛁 orders claiming he has been appointed as an arbitrator by a competent court to adjudicate legal disputes, the release said. The accused is already facing

a cheating complaint filed at thecity's Maninagar police station in 2015, it added.













elsure

#### **SELENA GOMEZ 'BLACKED OUT' DURING EMILIA PEREZ AUDITION**

Actress-singer Selena Gomez has admitted that she 'blacked out' during one of her auditions. The singer shared that it happened during the audition for a part in Oscar-tipped operatic musical Emilia Perez.

#### **HARVEY WEINSTEIN HAS BONE MARROW CANCER**

**Disgraced movie producer Harvey Weinstein** is diagnosed with bone marrow cancer. According to NBC News, Weinstein has chronic myeloid leukemia, a form of bone marrow cancer, reports variety.com.



#### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust 🙇 FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181 ARIES

> A tough, action-packed day ahead! There may be differ-ence of opinions with friends over triv ial matters, but you will thrive on it. But all pending work will be completed. much to your relief. It's a promising and optimistic day, says Ganesha!

#### TAURUS

Today, you may have something at the back of your mind that will grip you with its complexity, says Ganesha. Speak freely as your words are capable of mak ing a great impact on others. You may not be willing to confront unpleasant situations today. Don't worry, the stars seem in your fayour, predicts Ganesha

#### GEMINI

You are extremely competitive. And it doesn't matter how far behind the competition is. So today, you will continue your usual quest for getting better. You won't have it any other way as you despise mediocrity. You will find yourself in the company of like-minded people who will inspire you to study new subjects.

#### 

Today is a good day for you. However, don't expect a windfall. It is just one of those days when you will be in a good mood, irrespective of your problems, if any. You will treat your subordinates well, and they will show their appreciation

#### **LEO**

Che Guevara may not hold the beacon any more, and the best of the Beatles are long gone. But your desire to revolutionise the world is as strong as ever, sees Ganesha. The best ideas are the ones that come suddenly and subconsciously. So, always carry a pen and paper with you, you may need them to note down ideas that you generate over the course of the day. Remember, ideas have a tender cy to wane with the same speed with which they wax.

#### VIRGO

Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening cautions Ganesha

#### LIBRA

Gear up to play the peace

## Ekta, mom summoned by police in POCSO case

case registered against them

over the alleged obscene por-

notice had been issued to them

to face the investigation. They

were asked to appear before

the police Thursday, the offi-

Entertainment Ltd, meanwhile,

stated that any references to the

engagement of minors by the

Media

company are

incorrect.

trayal of

minor girls

during a web

series, an of-

A case was

ficial said.

registered

mother-

against the

daughter duo

last week on

a court's

order and a

cial said Tuesday.

ALT Digital

Mumbai: Filmmaker Ekta According to the statement, Kapoor and her mother, Shobha issued on behalf of Alt Balaji Kapoor, have been asked to ap-Telefilm Limited, Shobha and pear before Mumbai Police Ekta are "not involved" in daily October 24 in connection with operations. Separate teams are a POCSO (Protection of involved in content strategy, Children from Sexual Offences) it said.

The FIR was registered against Ekta, Shobha, and

Balaii Telefilms Limited in connection with the alleged streaming of inappropriate scenes involving minor

girls in an episode of the ALT Balaji's web series Gandi Baat. The case is related to the Season 6 of the web series. According to the com-

plainant, who is a resident of Borivli in Mumbai, obscene scenes of minor girls were streamed between February and April 2021 in one of the episodes, the official said. PTI



Mumbai: Kriti Sanon has come a long way as she completed wumbal: NEW Salion has come a long way as she completed a decade in her acting journey. The actor recently recalled her showed recomined as Tricor Shroff's having' after her a uecaue in ner acting journey. The actor recently recalled how she was recognised as 'Tiger Shroff's heroine' after her dobut Wind: film Warecent: Write in or interview with now sne was recognised as a ger Shron Sheronie and her debut Hindi film Heropanti. Kriti, in an interview with a uebut minut min *neroputut.* Kritt, in an interview with a news portal said that it took her years to get rid of the

The actress, while reflecting on her acting career stated label.

the actress, while reflecting on her acting career stated that, "It didn't take me that many years to get my first brock. At the time of Hereport, they ab people brow break. At the time of Heropanti, though people knew Dreak. At the time of ther opartit, though people knew Tiger and that the movie marked his launch, the director and producer treated the movie as launching two new faces. I got the quintessential Bollywood heroine moment too, with songs and

verything. She further said, "However, for a while after that, people referred to me as 'the one who ap-

peared in Tiger Shroff's movie.' When you are not from the industry (film family), it takes longer for you to etch you name and face into the minds of people. At that point the kids of Ashwiny Iver Tiwari, who later directed Bareilly Ki Barfi, used to call me 'Tiger didi.' Those were the instances when I realised I would have to work doubly hard to get people to

recognise me and know me for who I am." AGENCIES

## Kareena's love for K-drama

Mumbai: Showbiz diva Kareena Kapoor Khan, also known as Bebo among her fans, has expressed her desire to explore Korean dramas and said that they are hugely popular.

Asked about going global, the Jab We Met actress, during an event at Delhi said, "The world is coming closer. Everyone's coming together. So much connectivity

through events, films, OTT platforms... I mean definitely an international collaboration with an Indian or an American actor who

knows a Korean film. Language is not a barrier... I am a huge fan of Mervl Streep. I

"I would love to explore Korean dramas because the world is watching their series and films. So hugely popul lar," she said.

About collaborations, she went on to heap praise on Punjabi singing sensation Diljit Dosanjh and confessed she is a big fan of him.

Talking about the food, Kareena said she is "very unapologetic about it".

"Gobsmacking food in Delhi and the whole world knows that I am crazy about food and I am very unapologetic about it. I love ch

SHE CLIMBED THE

REE 50 SHE COULD

JUMP ON HER!

THEY'RE ALL JUST

JEALOUS

### Kritika bats for artisans

Mumbai: Actress Kritika Kamra has now ventured into the world of helping revive local arts and helping local artisan communities from Madhya Pradesh. She said that she has immense respect for the artisans who Chanderi keep craft alive.

Kritika said: "Chanderi has always been known for its exquisite handloom art, and growing up in this town, I have immense respect for the artisans who keep this craft alive.'

ers local artisans from her hometown of Chanderi.

with my mother was a way to honor that tradition while also giving back to our community."

Kritika was visiting Chanderi where she realised the hard work of these artisans and wanted to do something to extend support to them.

"We wanted to create a platform where these talented artisans can showcase their work to the world. It's more than just a business for us—it's a way to empower our people by providing them with opportunities and a sense of pride in their craft. Through this initiative, Kritika aims to celebrate the rich heritage of Chanderi while also supporting the local economy.

She said: "Starting this initiative

handle a 'Brady Bunch' hasn't gone unnoticed. So expect to be put in charge of handling disputes among your subordinates at work today, hints Ganesha. Research work may slow to a crawl today, but the offshoot is that it's an auspicious day to enter into new contracts.

#### SCORPIO

Work pressure will keep on mounting today, predicts Ganesha. But you shall handle it with great style all thanks to your nationce But keep a watch on the radar and learn how to spot stress early and then act on it as quickly as you can.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

Your ship may be rocked by stormy controversies today. Ganesha advises you to steer clear of people looking to give you a niece of their mind. The storm looks to ease away if you lend a patient ear to all such elements, and try and accommo date their views.

#### CAPRICORN

You will starve for some free time, but will find it difficult to steal even a minute from your busy schedule, even if it is for unwinding your overworked soul, says Ganesha. In times like these, one can hardly think straight, let alone be innovative. You will, however, work your way out by prioritising matters.

#### 

Your ideas are bang on target today! Everything you touch turns into gold. You have it in you to make it big, and the time is now. When the going gets tough, the tough get going - you've heard this before, now it's time for some action, says Ganesha.

#### **PISCES**

Stabbing with a pen is so much more satisfying than slicing with a sword. With these lofty ideals in mind, you will launch an assault upon your unsuspecting prey with your lethal presentation skills, eliciting cries of sheer ecstasy and tremendous applause



PEANUTS

LOOK

MRS.NELSON

IS CLIMBING

A TREE!

**CALVIN AND HOBBES** 

WANT TO SEE SOMETHING

COOL ? I'VE GOT A BABY

would love to stand in a frame with her.' She then went on to express

her desire to work in K-dramas

I WAS WRONG.

, OR MAKE I

SWING FROM

bhature, aloo paranthas.. biryani of course, I am a Kapoor," she concluded. IANS



FUN

Together with her mother, Kritika has started a fashion initiative that empow-

#### 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.

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AVER

E Y E G R I L L

EGA SURY

TTLE

### HANGING BY WITH MY SEE? SEE? A THREAD. BREVITY

SHE'S CLIMBING

A TREE TO GET AWAY FROM MRS

BARTLEY ...

AND I CAN

THE WAY AROUND

TURN IT ALL







I THINK I'M STROGANOFF TO HANDLE IT.

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CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKI





downtown

#### TWIN CITY COPS PUT ON ALERT AS 'DANA' NEARS COAST

Ahead of the impending cyclone, twin city Police Commissioner Sunil Dev Datta Singh Tuesday chaired a preparatory meeting attended by the inspectors under Bhubaneswar and Cuttack UPD, and directed them to ensure the stock of necessary equipment to tackle exigencies, if any, arising out of the impact of 'Dana'. Singh asked the cops to ensure stock of equipment like ropes, tree-cutters, fire extinguishers and torches in order to handle mishaps. He asked police officers to not avail any holiday until the cyclone is over. The police commissioner, through a videoconferencing, said inspectors have been instructed to keep ready alternative plans to rescue stranded citizens. The police stations under which there are many low-lying areas and potholes have been kept on alert, and IICs have been asked to prepare rescue plans before the cyclone strikes.



### **800 RELIEF SHELTERS READY TO HOUSE EVACUATED PEOPLE ECoR** cancels

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: As the well-marked low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression Tuesday and moved towards the eastern coast with the likelihood of turning into a severe cyclonic storm, the state government has kept ready around 800 cyclone shelters for people who will be evacuated from vulnerable areas.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari Tuesday said officials have so far visited 250 cyclone relief centres where people will be housed after evacuation.

Food, water, medicine, elec tricity and other essentials have been kept in readiness for the people to be evacuated due to the impending cyclone, he said.

Apart from 800 cyclone shell ters, the minister said an additional 500 temporary shelters have been made ready including schools and colleges. The officials at the ground level have been instructed to make arrange ments for women in cyclone shel ters where women police will be deployed, he said

He said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has stressed on 100 per cent evacuation of people from vulnerable areas to ensure "zero casualty" in the impend ing cyclone. The minister said the government has also prepared a list of pregnant women who are expected to deliver in a fortnight. All those women are being shifted to the nearby hospitals in order to avoid any difficulty during the calamity.

Replying to a question on willingness of the people to shift to cyclone shelters, the minister said that some people are reluctant to vacate their houses for the reasons of theft. Police have been directed to intensify patrolling in villages where people will be evacuated to cyclone shelters, he said

Asked about the situation if the cyclone changes its track as forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the minister said the state government has also studied that aspect. "In the past it has



been noticed that cyclones change their anticipated tracks. Therefore, keeping in view the possibilities of re-curve, the state government has already identified certain places and made equal arrangements at vulnerable places. A red alert has been issued for nine districts and orange warning for heavy rain in some districts. Therefore, there

should be no fear in this regard," the minister said. The state government has already ordered closure of schools in Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore,



Food, water, medicine, electricity and other essentials have been kept in readiness for the people to be evacuated due to the impending cyclone

An additional 500 temporary shelters, including schools and colleges, have been kept ready

Keeping in view the possibilities of re-curve, the state government has already identified certain places and made adequate arrangements at vulnerable places

Expectant mothers are being shifted to nearby hospitals in order to avoid any difficulty during the calamity

so far been deployed in vulner-

have reached Bhubaneswar from

minister said districts have been

heavy to very heavy rain and

wind has been issued for

Balasore, Mayurbhanj,

Kendrapara,

Bhadrak,

Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Angul Khurda, Nayagarh and Cuttack able locations. Similarly, 20 districts for three days from National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been mo-Wednesday, as a precautionary measure against the cyclone, an bilised, while five such teams official said. Bathinda Tuesday night. The

The state government has also cancelled the leave of all staffers from October 23 to 25. In a letter to all the departments, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Deoranjan Kumar Singh has asked them to remain prepared to tackle the challenges of the impending calamity.

Pujari said 51 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, and 218 Fire Services teams have

### Coordinate cyclone rescue operations: CM to MLAs

hief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi urged all MLAs to visit respective constituencies and coordinate rescue operations at the ground level ahead of impending cyclone 'Dana', official sources said. Tuesday

The CM said all the legislators cutting across parties should try their best to stay with the people. IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that the entire eastern coast-from Odisha's Puri to West Bengal's Sagar Island - is likely to be impacted by the impending cyclone. A depression over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and cross the Odisha-West Bengal coasts between Puri and Sagar Island in the early hours of October 25 with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph, according to the IMD.

Taking to X, Majhi said, "It is essential that all the MLAs should remain present in their respective constituencies in order to coordinate with the administration for relief and rescue operations being done in view of the cyclone and heavy rainfall situation.

He directed the state administration to ensure 100 per cent evacuation of people from the vulnerable areas. As per the IMD

Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Cuttack October 24 and Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak and Keonjhar October 25.

As per the state's advisory tourists in Puri have already started leaving the pilgrim town Tuesday. This apart, the Puri district administration was discouraging tourists from visiting the town from Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Health Services Director Bijay Kumar Mohapatra said that the government has suspended the leaves of the health service providers.

Essential medicines like anti snake venom, fever, diarrhoea and other common diseases are kept in readiness in cyclone shel-

forecast. 14 districts are likely to be affected by the impending storm and heavy rainfall.

Meanwhile, the state government assigned six IAS officers the responsibility to supervise the rescue and relief operations in as many districts.

While Minor Minerals Director K Sudarshan Chakravarthy will oversee the arrangements in Balasore, R&DM department Additional Secretary Trilochan Majhi will supervise the operations in Bhadrak. Likewise. Tourism department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Balwant Singh has been deployed in Puri, PR&DW department Director-cum-Additional Secretary Vineet Bharadwaj in Mayurbhanj, OAVS State Project Director Yamini Sarangi in Jagatsinghpur and Toursim Director Samarth Verma in

ters where people are kept after evacuation. This apart, provision of safe drinking water is made for the people keeping view the possible spread of waterborne diseases in the possible cyclone-affected areas.

Kendrapara.

The Energy department has made arrangements to ensure supply of electricity immediately after the cyclone, said the department secretary Hemant Sharma. Urban Development department secretary Usha Padhee has directed the department officials and civic bodies to take measures against water-logging and ensure supply of safe drinking water to the people in all places.

#### 198 trains POST NEWS NETWORK Bhubaneswar. Oct 22: In view

of the impending cyclone 'Dana', East Coast Railway (ECoR) is proactively preparing to mitigate potential impacts on train services and to ensure safety and security of passengers. The ECoR has cancelled at least 198 trains for safety reasons.

ECoR has activated a roundthe-clock disaster management cell at Rail Sadan and divisional headquarters in Khurda Road. Visakhapatnam and Sambalpur. These teams would work for early restoration of train services and railway infrastructure that are likely to be affected by the impending storm.

ECoR General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal chaired a preparatory meeting and advised all the principal heads of the departments of ECoR and Divisional Railway managers to take necessary steps for ensuring zero risk to passengers. He emphasised on deployment of special teams for early restoration of tracks, signal ing system and electrification etc., to ensure quick restoration of the train services after the cyclone.

ECoR has positioned specialised teams for swift restoration of tracks, signaling systems, and electrification processes. In the event of power outage, diesel locomotives will be on standby mode to ensure continued train operations.

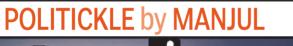
Emergency control rooms are operational around the clock, equipped with satellite phones to maintain communication during the crisis. With a red alert issued for coastal areas. ECoR is closely monitoring conditions the stations all at between Bhubaneswar and

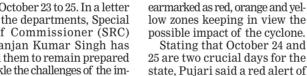
Visakhapatnam. "In light of the cyclone threat, ECoR had to take the difficult decision to cancel around 198 train services," Funkwal said.

These adjustments are nec essary to minimise risks and ensure the safety of passengers.

Passengers are encouraged to stay informed by checking for up dates through official channels.

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN** 







#### 'Dana': Tiger reserve, nat'l park shut Lalit Das OSSSC new chairman AGENCIES

#### AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Former IPS officer Lalit Das has been appointed as chairman of the Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC), an official statement said, Tuesday.

Retired IAS officer Uddhaba Chandra Majhi and former OAS officer Saroj Kumar Mishra were named members of the OSSSC, which started functioning from November 2012, it said.

The commission was formed to regulate the method of recruitment in all Group C civil posts and services under different district offices of the state government, officials said.

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The state government Tuesday announced the closure of two of its ecological hotspots - Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district and Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) in Kendrapara district - in view of an impending severe cyclonic storm 'Dana'.

Both the Mayurbhanj and Kendrapara districts have been identified as 'Red Zone' as the IMD forecast a severe cyclonic storm will cross the east coast between October 24 night and 25 morning. These two districts could bear the brunt of the calamity, officials said.

The Forest department has announced that the BNP and STR will remain closed to visitors and tourists from October 23 to October 25.

According to BNP authorities, the date of reopening will be decided keeping in view the prevailing situ-

ation in the areas.

The cyclonic storm is likely to hit the coast during the night of October 24 or morning of October 25.

According to the forecast, the cyclone is likely to trigger heavy to extremely heavy rain accompanied by high-velocity wind of 100 to 110 kilometres per hour.

"This is to inform all the visitors or tourists that Similipal Tiger Reserve will remain closed for them from October 23 to 25 due to a possible cyclone storm likely to hit Odisha," an official notification said, adding that there will be no entry or exit from the Tiger Reserve for visitors or tourist vehicles during this period. "The Tiger Reserve will be reopened after assessment of the situation," the notification said.

As per the forecast made by the IMD, the cyclone is likely to cross between Puri in Odisha and Sagar Island in West Bengal.

#### <u>REGIONAL MEDIA</u>

**Odisha Edition** 

A Conclave by

#### **Editors Guild of India**

in association with Press Club of Odisha

26 October, 2024 9:30 AM -3 PM Master Canteen Chhak, Bhubaneswar

Welcome Address Mr. Tathagata Satpathy (Chairman, Press Club of Odisha)

**Keynote Address** 

Mr. N Ram (Former Editor-in-Chief, The Hindu)

Challenges for Journalists in a State

Mr. Tapan Mishra (Samaja) Ms. Tanaya Patnaik (Sambad) Mr. Gopal Mohapatra (Prameya) Moderator: Mr. Ruben Banerjee (EGI)

Journalism in the **Digital Era** 

Mr. Navin Das (Nirbhay) Mr. Jajati Karan (Ommcom News)

Mr. Manoranjan Mishra (Newsroom) Moderator: Mr. Sandeep Sahu (Senior Journalist)

Media Studies and Journalism

in Indian Education

Journalists

Dr. Achyuta Samanta (Founder KIIT University, KISS foundation)

Media Laws, New Criminal Laws, and the Challenges for Discussion Independent

Special Address Justice Ananga Patnaik (Former Judge, Supreme court)

Mr. Sanjay Hegde (Advocate, Supreme Court) Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta (Senior journalist, writer) Moderator: Mr. Anant Nath (President, Editors Guild of India)







## downtown

ation

## **Odisha bags best state in 5th National Water Awards**

water conservation and rain-

water harvesting structures,

10,800 reuse and recharge struc-

The state has completed 68,700

watershed development and

21,000 wastewater treatment

plants and renovated 11,000 tra-

To encourage states and peo-

ple to adopt the best water usage

practices, the 1st National Water

Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2018,

were given for the years 2019,

(MHA) and a total of 686 appli-

cations were received.

ditional water bodies.

2020 and 2022.

pandemic.

committee.



tures

President Droupdi Murmu, while lauding Odisha, underscores the need for immediate and collective efforts in water conservation across various sectors

#### PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar. Oct 22: Odisha was conferred with the 5th National Water Award (NWA) by the Ministry of Jal Shakti as the state secured first rank in the best state category among all states and UTs for its exemplary work in the field of water conservation and management.

On behalf of the state, Development Commissioner Anu Garg received the award from President Droupadi Murmu in an event held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi Tuesday.

According to a press state ment issued by the ministry, the state, the first winner in the state category, has made exem plary strides in water conservation by creating about 53,000 egories have been selected for the 5th NWA, 2023.

The awards, were presented in nine categories, including best state, best district, best village panchayat, best urban local body (ULB), best school or college, best industry, best water user association, best institution (other than school or college) and best civil society.

Odisha was followed by Uttar Pradesh, while Gujarat and Puducherry shared the third place. Speaking on the occasion,

President Murmu voiced serious concerns about the alarming depletion and pollution of groundwater as she stressed the vital role of collective responsibility in preserving water resources.

Lauding Odisha, Muru underscored the need for immediate and collective efforts to safeguard water supplies.

Award was launched by the "Groundwater is being rapwhile the second, third, and idly depleted and pollution is fourth National Water Awards making the situation worse," Murmu said during her address while conferring the National

The awards were not given in Water Awards. Murmu praised the National the year 2021 due to the Covid Water Awards as a commend-For the year 2023, the 5th able initiative, aimed at pro-National Water Awards was moting awareness and recognising excellence in water launched October 13, 2023, on

the Rashtriva Puraskar Portal of conservation efforts across varthe Ministry of Home Affairs ious sectors. Garg, while accepting the award, attributed the success to The applications were scrutijoint efforts by Department of Water Resources (DoWR) officers, engineers and all those as-

nised and evaluated by a jury Based on the reports, a total of sociated with execution of dif-38 winners, including joint winferent schemes and programmes ners, covering nine different catof DoWR.



REMEMBERING THE LEGEND: Padma Shri Mamang Dai delivers the 1st Jayanta Mahapatra Memorial Lecture organised by Ketaki Foundation at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. Notable writer Devdas Chhotray and Ketaki Foundation trustee Rabindra K Swain were present on the dais

## FAO launches GEF 7 FOLUR

ପ୍ରଥମ ଜୟନ୍ତ ମହାପାତ୍ର ସ୍ଥାରକୀ ବକ୍ତୃତାମାଳା

**FIRST JAYANTA MAHAPATRA** 

**MEMORIAL LECTURE 2024** 

TOBER

OF HONOUR

Chhotr

6.00 PM 2

Geeta Govinda

SPEAKER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), conducted a one-day state inception workshop for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 7-cycle project titled 'Promotion of Sustainable Food Systems in India through Transforming Rice-Wheat Systems in Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh' at the Krushi Bhawan here.

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo graced the event as chief guest and highlighted the strong alignment between the GEF-funded project and state government's priority on promoting sustainable agriculture.

Other attendees included Agriculture and Farmers' **Empowerment and Handloom** and Textiles and Handicrafts department principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee and Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development director Nikhil Pavan Kalyan.

Deo noted that the project's objectives and strategies closely align with the state's vision for a sustainable more resilient and food- and nutrition-secure

Kolkata airport gears up to tackle cyclonic storm

Kolkata: Authorities of the Kolkata

airport have started preparations to tackle any situation arising out of a

possible cyclonic storm that could hit



Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo greets FAO representative Takayuki Hagiwara

future.

FAO representative Takayuki Hagiwara highlighted the project's innovative approach, focusing on embedding sustainable farming practices, in collaboratively managed landscapes to preserve ecosystem services and global environmental values. He assured attendees of FAO's close coordination with the state government to achieve project outcomes successfully.

In Odisha, the project aims to promote sustainable rice farming, conserve soil and water resources, improve farmers' resilience to climate challenges, and enhance their access to markets and technology. The project will be implemented in Ganiam and Kalahandi.

Officials from various departments, including the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), FAO regional and country office staff, and other public and private stakeholders joined the programme. The primary goal of the workshop was to foster a shared understanding of the project's goals and objectives in the state.

The five-year (2023-2028) GEF 7 FOLUR Impact Programme seeks to accelerate country's transition towards a new model of sustainable agriculture, promote healthy landscapes and ecosystems, and deliver multiple global environmental benefits.

#### **Evacuate people from** low-lying areas: BMC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: A coordination meeting was organised by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) here Tuesday to deal with imminent cyclone 'Dana'. The meeting, chaired hv BMC Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, attended by Additional Commissioner Shubhendu Kumar Sahu, City Engineer Vilas Kumar Behera and Zonal Commissioner Kailash Chandra Das among others.

Keeping in views the weather forecast of heavy rains accompanying the cyclone, Patil asked officials to evacuate the people from low-lying areas in the City and shift them to various shelters. All zonal commissioners have been instructed to make arrangements for shelters in various schools and Kalyan mandaps with food, drink

and medicine facilities. The Commissioner suggested that all departmental officers should coordinate and work harmoniously at the right time to deal with any situation. 24-hour control room at the BMC headquarters will be operational from Wednesday for emergency assistance. Officers of various departments including Fire, health, WATCO, TPCODL, National Highwavs Authority and ODRAF were present on the occasion.



REGALING POSE: Artistes perform during 8th Gurupoojan Utsav organised by Angika Dance Academy at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

ernment has enforced new

amendments to the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities

(RPwD) rules, which aims to

streamline the application

process for disability certifi-

cates and Unique Disability

Identity (UDID) Cards to im-

prove accessibility and provide

more efficient services for per-

viduals with specified disabil-

ities can apply for disability

certificates and UDID cards

through the UDID Portal, sub-

mitting applications to their

district medical authorities or

medical facilities where they

The amendments also intro-

duce color-coded UDID cards.

signifying different levels of

disability: White for disabili-

ties below 40 per cent, Yellow for

are undergoing treatment.

Under the new rules, indi-

sons with disabilities

#### CLASSIFIED

#### LOST

#### ଦସ୍ତାବିଜ ନିଖୋଜ

ଆମ୍କେ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ତମାଳ ରାଉତ, ବୟସ ୩୩ ବର୍ଷ ସ୍ଥାମୀ ରଜନୀକାନ୍ତ ମହାନ୍ତି, ଗାମ ଗଦାଶିଳା, ଥାନା ସଦର, କିଲ୍ଲା : ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳ ଏତତଦ୍ୱାରା କଣାଉଅଛି ଯେ, ମୁଁ ଢେଙ୍କାନାଳ ସହର ଟାଉନ ଥାନା ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ କୟଗୋପାଳ ସାହିର ଗଣେଶ୍ୱର ମିଶ୍ରଙ୍କ ପୁଅ ଶଶୀଭୂଷଣ ମିଶ୍ରଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ଏକ ପଟ୍ଟା ଏବଂ କବଲା ଗ୍ରହଣ କରି ନିଜ ଘରକୁ ଫେରୃଥିବାବେଳେ କୌଣସି ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଏହା ଭୁଲବଶତଃ ହଳି ଯାଇଛି । ଏହି କବଲା ହାଲ ଖାତ ନଂ ୧୩/୧୬ ଏବଂ ହାଲ ପ୍ଲଟ ନଂ ୧୯/୮୬ ଓଡାପଡା ତହସିଲ ଅଧିନସ୍ଥ ନିଳାୟରପୁର ଶାସନ ଡିହର ବୋଲି କଣାପଡିଛି । ସନ୍ଦେହ କରାଯାଉଅଛି ଯେ, ଏହା ବସରେ ରହିଯାଇଥାଇପାରେ। ଏହାକୁ ନେଇ ସଦରଥାନାରେ ତମାଳ ଲିଖିତ ଭାବରେ ସଦରଥାନାରେ ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରିବା ପରେ ଥାନାରେ ଜିଡି କେସ ନଂ ୧୭/୨୪ରେ ମାମଲା ରୁଜ୍ଜୁ କରାଯାଇଛି। ସଦର ଥାନାରେ ଦସ୍ତାବିଜ ନିଖୋଜ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରାଯାଇଛି ଯାହା ଭବିଷ୍ୟତରେ କାମରେ ଆସିବ ବୋଲି ଜଣାଇଛନ୍ତି ।

## Centre enforces new amendments to RPwD

#### AGENCIES

40 to 79 per cent and Blue for those with 80 per cent or higher New Delhi, Oct 22: The govdisability.

Additionally, the new rules ensure that medical authorities must issue disability certificates and UDID cards within three months of a diagnosis.

If an application remains unresolved for over two years, it will be deemed inactive and the applicants will need to reapply. Permanent certificates will be issued for those with irreversible disabilities, while timelimited certificates will be granted to individuals whose conditions may improve. The Central government in-

troduced these amendments after reviewing public feedback, with the aim of simplifying the process for obtaining official disability documentation

Earlier in July, the government had sought suggestions from stakeholders on the matter

coastal areas of West Bengal and Odisha October 25, a senior official said Tuesday. The standard operating procedures such as inspection of the airport infrastructure and the drainage system, checking and servicing of all installations are being carried out, he said. "I am also scheduled to hold a meeting with various stakeholders at the airport soon," Director of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Pravat Ranjan Beuria, told PTI. A wellmarked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression Tuesday, as it rolled towards the eastern coast with the likelihood of turning into a severe cyclonic storm, the IMD said.The depression is likely to further intensify into a cyclonic storm by October 23 and a severe cyclonic storm by October 25, it said. "We are expecting heavy rainfall, which may cause inundation in and around the airport premises. We are working closely with the state government to handle the situation." Beuria said Asked about the possible impact on flight operations, he said it will depend on the situation after the cvclone makes landfall. "For the moment, the airport officials are following the standard operating procedures." he added

## Nat'l workshop on customary mode of dispute resolution

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Participants from ten PESA states attended a two-day national workshop on customary mode of dispute resolution in PESA area, organised by SIRD and PR, with the collaboration of Ministry of Panchayati Raj here Tuesday. The workshop was inaugurated by Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik

The minister emphasised the importance of integrating traditional practices with formal governance to ensure justice at the grassroots level. The event will provide a platform for exchanging knowledge and best practices to promote indigenous approaches for dispute resolution in tribal areas, he said.

PESA also known as Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 aims to extend provisions of the 73rd constitutional amendment to scheduled areas in the country PESA has been implemented in ten states, including Odisha.

Speaking at the workshop, Naik said, "Odisha is distinc-



tive among Indian states and Union Territories due to its vibrant and diverse tribal population, offering a broad socioeconomic landscape. Approximately 45 per cent of the state is covered under Scheduled area. These areas are predominantly inhabited by tribal communities.

Out of 30, 13 districts, 119 blocks and 1926 Gram Panchayats are under the designated PESA area.

Naik said, "Customary modes of dispute resolution are traditional mechanisms used by indigenous and tribal communities to resolve conflicts based on their customs, norms, and so-

cial structures. These systems emphasise consensus, community harmony, and restorative justice rather than punitive measures.

Naik, further stressed, "Customary modes of dispute are resolved within the village through community-led processes, emphasising participation, cultural values, consensus, and reconciliation, ensuring quick, accessible, and harmonious solutions. It provides quicker solutions, prioritising not only conflict resolution but also preserving social harmony, fostering fraternity, and strengthening brotherhood within the community."

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## state

## 2 Tadoba tigers identified for relocation to Similipal

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandrapur (Maha), Oct 22: Authorities have identified two tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra and started the process to capture the two felines for relocation to the Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR), an official said Tuesday.

**OrissaPOST** 

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 23 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given the nod to the proposal for translocation of two felines from the TATR to the STR in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, TATR field director Jitendra Ramgaokar said.

A high-level meeting of authorities of both the tiger reserves was recently held to prepare an action plan for the relocation of the big cats.

In order to supplement the big cat population, the STR had put forth the demand for two tigers before the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest,



NTCA and other agencies. The

move will go a long way in im-

proving the genetic diversity of

the closed tiger population in

STR which at present has around

STR authorities got the necessary

permission for the relocation of

tigers from TATR and a team

comprising STR field director

Prakash Chandra Gogineni and

other Forest officials reached

reserve have been identified.

Twenty five officials from both

TATR in this connection. "Two tigers from the Tadoba

Following the demand, the

27 tigers and 12 cubs.

the reserves have already launched the field work to observe the movement of the two tigers and the pattern of their activities," he said. The capture of non-trouble-

some tigers is a big task and officials are on the field to work on the project. After the two tigers are captured, they will be shifted to the STR, Ramgaokar said.

To support the translocation and supplementation project, a separate team of frontline staff and officials from STR is also undergoing training at Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in Maharashtra. There are nearly 100 tigers in

TATR. Sources said TATR has been chosen for the purpose as tigers from this landscape are said to have some genetic similarities with those of Similipal.

The state government has plans to bring five tigers -- three for Debrigarh and two for Similipal -- from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, respectively.

**CYCLONE DANA** 



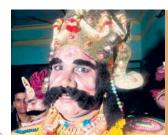
FIGHT FOR LIFE: Despite old-age, two frail tribal widows of Thakurdihi under Banspal block sell sal leaves and tooth sticks in Keonjhar town Tuesday to earn a livelihood

#### Dhanu Jatra's Kansa fame suspended from govt job over bribery

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Oct 22: The district administration Tuesday suspended Hrusikesh Bhoi, a hearse driver at the district headquarters hospital here on charge of demanding bribe to transport the body of a deceased.

Bhoi, who is well-known for his portraval of King Kansa's character during the famous Dhanu Jatra in Bargarh, has been suspended by the district health department for allegedly demanding ₹3,000 from the deceased's family to transport the body from Bargarh District Headquarters Hospital to Badasahajbahal village in Gaisilat block



Following the allegation, Nirupama Sarangi, Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of Bargarh, lodged a complaint. A criminal case (322/24) under section 308(2) of BNS has been reg-

**BHITARKANIKA HAS** WITHSTOOD THE **ONSLAUGHT OF SEVERAL CYCLONES IN THE PAST** 

**INCLUDING THE 1999 OCTOBER SUPER** CYCLONE

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Oct 22: With the IMD indicating that a severe cyclonic storm will cross the Odisha coast near Bhitarkanika National Park, locals Tuesday exuded optimism that the rich mangrove forest cover would become a saviour for them once more.

The park had withstood the onslaught of several cyclones in the past including the 1999 October Super Cyclone.

We are quite hopeful that the well-protected mangrove cover here will ensure the safety of humans, flora and fauna as these species are gifted with capacity to withstand high wind velocity," Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division, Sudarshan tective barrier against cyclones



the national park. Though there are no definite

signs of a cyclone striking the region, the people here hope that the forest cover will protect them with minimal damage as had been the case in the past. "We pray that the forest withstands the onslaught this time

also," said Kamalakanta Nayak of Talchua village. The lush green luxuriant mangrove cover often acts as a pro-

and tidal surges. It is because

We are a bit scared. Still, we are hopeful that the mangrove may save us again. The coastal woodland has the capacity to withstand the wind velocity up to 200 kilometres per hour PRADIP DAS | RESIDENT, DANGAMAL

the national park were also saved as the mangrove cover acted as a buffer zone in protecting the human settlements, Yadav added.

Jagatsinghpur and Puri are also home to mangroves, otherwise known as coastal woodland.

While 82 square km area in Bhitarkanika is densely mangrove-infested, 95 square km area has moderate mangrove forest.

The coastal patches spread across 672 square km were declared as the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary in 1975. The core area of the sanctuary, with an area of 145 sq km, got the

Baitarani Basin Chief Villagers pin hope on Mangrove cover Engr under Vig lens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 22: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday conducted raids and unearthed property worth crores in the possession of Baitarani Basin Chief Engineer Kailash Chandra Sahu.

During the simultaneous house searches in 10 places, the Vigilance detected one threestoreyed building, three flats and 28 plots in possession of Sahu. He has a cash deposit of ₹42,80,058 and owns one fourwheeler and three two-wheelers.

During the raids, the Vigilance department officials found a three-storied residential building measuring area around 8,821 so ft under Mrutyunjaypur mouza in Jajpur district in Sahu's name. He has a flat in Jagannath Mansion Apartment at Bhoi Nagar in Bhubaneswar, another

NITR SAC holds event for World Food Day

Technical Wing.

district.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 22: The Student

Activity Centre (SAC) of NIT

Rourkela is the student's body

which organises different kinds

of activities, both academic and

non-academic. An event 'Right

tainable practices within the food industry, calling for collective efforts to secure a healthier and more sustainable future.

in Dharma Heaven apartment at

Mangalaghat in Puri district, a

flat and a shop in Jagabandhu

Bhawan at Dolipur in Jajpur

He owns 28 valuable plots in-

cluding one in Cuttack, four in

Khurda and 23 in Jajpur. Official

sources said the measurement

and valuation and assessment of

the building, flats and plots are

being carried out by the Vigilance

Sabyasachi Mishra, HoD, Food Process Engineering, along with Rama Chandra Pradhan, associate dean of academics (PG & Research), and Vivek Kambhampati, faculty advisor of the food tech society, highlighted the significance of celebrating World Food Day. The students were encouraged to raise awareness and engage in discussions about food security and sustainability Madhuresh Dwivedi delivered the vote of thanks.

istered against Hrushikesh at the Bhatli police station. The CDMO initially served a show cause notice to Bhoi and formed an inquiry committee following the approval of the District Collector.

Bhoi was suspended on basis of the report of the committee, said Sarangi.

With the 10-day Dhanu Jatra festival set to begin January 3, people are eagerly waiting for the committee's decision on whether Hrushikesh will be allowed to reprise his role as Kansa in what is considered the world's biggest open-air theatre.

Gopinath Yadav said.

According to the Met office. a of the mangroves that the coastal depression over the east-central hamlets lying on the fringes of the national park could not be im-Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic pacted by cyclones in the past. In storm and cross the Odisha-West the 1999 Super Cyclone, the area Bengal coasts in the early hours was saved as the trees bore the onslaught of gusty wind, offiof October 25 with a wind speed cials said. of 100-110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph.

Mangrove trees with their in-"We are a bit scared. Still, we tricate root system stabilise the are hopeful that the mangrove coastline, reducing erosion from may save us again. The coastal storm surges, currents, waves, woodland has the capacity to and tides, said the DFO. The flora and fauna of the withstand the wind velocity up

to 200 kilometres per hour," said park were unharmed in the recent Amphan cyclone. The vil-Pradip Das, a resident of Dangamal village lying close to lages on the close periphery of

Bhitarkanika is one of the richest storehouses of mangrove genes. Researchers have come across 11 of the 70 mangrove species, which were at elevated threat of extinction in the world. in Bhitarkanika.

Odisha is endowed with a reserve of a mangrove forest area of 231 square kilometres with a major chunk lying in Bhitarkanika. It stands second only to Sundarbans in West Bengal.

Besides Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara, the districts of Balasore. Bhadrak, National Park tag in September 1998

The park is famous for its lush-green mangroves, migrating birds and turtles, estuarine crocodiles and countless creeks.

The rich biodiversity of Bhitarkanika serves as a sanctuary for leopard, wild boar, jungle cat, fishing cat, hyena, sambar, striped palm squirrel and gangetic dolphin while the reptiles found comprise turtles including Olive Ridley sea turtle. crocodile, lizard, water monitors, python, and king cobra. Around 166 species of birds have been spotted in the park.

OIPR-13159/11/0023/2425

to Food for a Better Life and Better Future' was organised at the PP Auditorium of the institute by the food tech society to mark the World Food Day 2024, in collaboration with the Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (AFSTI) Rourkela Chapter under the Department of Food Process Engineering. The event consisted of a range of engaging activities that promoted awareness and discussion on food security and sustainability.

Chief Guest Amit Agarwal, CEO of Grihashti Udyog emphasised the importance of sus-



## WINGED GUESTS ARRIVE AT CHILIKA LAGOON BEFORE ONSET OF WINTER

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Oct 22: Even though winter is vet to set in. winged guests have started to arrive at Chilika lake, the biggest waterfowl habitat in the country, an official said Tuesday.

The migratory birds have already started to arrive at the lake from the first week of the current month, which is the usual time of their arrival, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chilika Wildlife Division, Amlan Nayak said Tuesday. Their arrival was continuing daily, he said.

Migratory birds of different species like northern pintail, Eurasian wigeon, gadwall, blacktailed gadwall, northern shoveller, greater flamingo, common sandpiper, common coot, mongolian plover, common snipe, black winged stilt, etc have already swooped down in the lake, Nayak said.

The DFO said the arrival of migratory birds at the lake is as usual, even though the day temperature in and around the blue la-



goon was hovering at 32 to 35 degrees Celsius at present.

The onset of winter and some other causes in their native places might have forced the birds to fly to Chilika, he added.

Several birds are also seen flying in the sky near Chilika without settling on the lake. They might land once the water level recedes in the lake, Nayak said, adding, "We expected their number might be in large by the end of the current month."

The winged guests mostly from beyond the Himalayas in Northern Eurasia, Caspian region, Siberia,

Kazakh, Lake Baikal and remote areas of Russia and neighbouring countries visit the Chilika lake every winter and start their homeward journey before the onset of summer in the second week of March.

In the last winter, a total of 11,37,759 birds of 187 species visited Chilika and the majority of them settled in the Nalabana sanctuary area inside the lake.

To prevent bird poaching in the lake during the period, the wildlife division has set up 21 temporary camps in the lake. They have also hired around a dozen boats for paThe arrival of migratory birds at the lake is as usual, even thoug the day temperature in and around the blue lagoon was hovering at 32 to 35 degrees Celsius at present

onset of winter and some other causes in their native places might have forced the birds to fly to Chilika

o prevent bird poaching in the lake during the period, the ildlife division has set up 21 temporary camps in the lake which nave started functioning from Oct 1

trolling in the lake. Besides, they have decided to keep surveillance through drones like the previous vear.

The camps have already started functioning from October 1 and will continue till the end of March. With the setting up of the camps, patrolling was also intensified in the lake. The drive to create awareness among the people to prevent bird poaching was also launched in the vulnerable areas, said the Forest official.

Email: purim.hud@nic.in NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Identification No.P.M.01/2024-25 Notice No.8694, Dated 19,10,24 No.C-805:1.Type of Work: Civil Work. 2. Total No. of works: 50 nos. of Individual Works. 3. Estimate Cost: Rs.254487/- to Rs.2550902/-. 4. Period of Completion: 45 to 120 Days. 5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal: From 03 P.M. of 23.10.2024 to 05 P.M. of 11.11.2024. 6. Last date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal: upto 05 P.M. of 11.11.2024. 7. Date of Opening of bid 11 A.M. of dtd.12.11.2024. 8. Name & address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Officer, Puri Municipality, Puri. Further detail can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

Sd./- Executive Officer

Puri Municipality, Puri

CONTRACT MEDICAL PRA	NGAGEMENT OF FULL TIME ACTITIONER (CMP) (GDMO)
AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL, MAI	NCHESWAR, BHUBANESWAR
Employment Notice No. 02/2024-Med/M	MCS/CMP (GDMO), Date : 16.10.2024
Venue of "Walk-in-Interview"	Date, Reporting time and time of "Walk-in-Interview"
Office of the Dy. Chief Personnel Officer/Gazetted, 2nd Floor, South Block, Rail Sadan, Bhubaneswar- 751017.	12.11.2024 at 9.30 AM and Walk-in- Interview will be started at 1100 hrs. onwards after completion of certificate verification.
Remuneration, Period of engaged detailed terms & conditions,	tional Qualification / Eligibility, Age, ment, Application Format & other please refer to website www. in → Recruitment Info → Walk-in-



## power post

'ith this year's

global summits on

(COP16), climate

biodiversity

change (COP29), and deserti-

fication (COP16) fast ap-

raged across Brazil, South

Africa, and Colombia, while

droughts have pushed people

into food insecurity this year

If the scale and speed of our

response to climate change are

inadequate to the threat, this

new normal will get only worse,

jeopardizing hard-won devel-

opment gains in low- and mid-

dle-income countries. In addi-

tion to curbing emissions from

burning fossil fuels, one of the

biggest priorities must be to

protect and conserve the world's

Tropical forests store signif

icant amounts of carbon, and

their demise would result in a

massive 1° Celsius increase in

global average temperatures,

not to mention the loss of un-

told biodiversity and the de-

pletion of ecosystem services

such as atmospheric rivers that

supply water to food crops

around the world. Scientists

warn that the degradation of

several of these forests is ap-

proaching a tipping point where

the remaining forest will be un-

able to sustain itself or recover.

NGOs are stepping up to pro-

tect and preserve the world's

forests from devastation. But we

will need a combination of eco-

nomic and environmental so-

lutions to address the complex,

rapidly changing factors driv-

Fortunately, such solutions

are at hand. In Brazil, President

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's ad-

ministration has already sig-

nificantly curbed deforesta-

ing illegal deforestation.

Individuals, countries, and

remaining tropical forests.

in Africa.

#### FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

**A NEW PARADIGM** 

The highest aim of the aesthetic being is to find the Divine through beauty; the highest Art is that which by an inspired use of significant and interpretative form unseals the door of the spirit **SRI AUROBINDO** 



## **Putin's BRICS Show**

n paper the BRICS summit being held in Kazan, Russia, from 22 October to 24 October aims at strengthening multilateralism for "just" global development and security. But, in reality it is a great opportunity for Russian President Vladimir Putin, locked in a prolonged war with Ukraine, to showcase that he is not as isolated in the international community as the West wants the world to believe. His objective may run counter to the ostensible efforts of China, India, Brazil and the Arab world to find a way to end the war in Ukraine. Putin seems to be too eager to use the rising clout of the BRICS group, which now accounts for 45 per cent of the world's population and 35 per cent of its economy, for his own security. The fact that China accounts for over half of BRICS' economic strength bolsters Putin's hope to achieve his goal in Ukraine because of his bonhomie with Chinese President Xi Jinping

The West has called Putin a pariah since he invaded Ukraine and imposed tough sanctions on Russia intended to isolate the country's economy from global markets. Hosting the BRICS summit in this backdrop helps Putin fend off the pressure being put by the West. He is greeting 20 heads of state, including Xi, Narendra Modi and Iranian President Masoud Pezesh. This is one of the large-scale foreign policy events ever in Russia

The loud and clear message that Putin is sending out to the world, especially the West, is that attempts to isolate Russia and severely cripple its economy through sanctions have failed since he has so many friends across the globe forming the BRICS bloc. This grouping is often described as a counterweight to the Western-led world and the G7 countries as it has expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia, too, has been invited to join. Russian officials have even indicated that another 30 countries want to join BRICS or seek closer ties with the bloc. Some of these nations will take part in the summit.

But, the real aim of Putin is to convince BRICS members to find an alternative to the dollar for global payments. The Russian economy is facing multitude of problems primarily due to the payment crisis in its cross-border trade and payment made in the US dollar which is the main currency in the global market. Russia's main interest lies in breaking the dominance of the US dollar. It wants BRICS countries to create an alternative trade mechanism and cross-border settlement system that does not involve the dollar, the euro or any of the G7 currencies. If it succeeds in the endeavour; the sanctions imposed by the US-led West could be greatly neutralised.

However, it is easier said than done. The roadblock to this ambitious project of Putin is that many members of the BRICS grouping are keen on maintaining good and stable political and economic relations with the West. As such they are unlikely to take any decisive step in evolving an alternative system of payment curbing the control of dollars.

China too can ill afford to antagonize or even ignore the affluent West since most of its high end products are consumed there, not in Africa, South America or even Asia. India too is a low end product market for China. Also, unlike Russia which has got embroiled in a seemingly unending war with Ukraine in which it has failed to make much headway, China can be seen as a clever nation interested in exploiting global markets and winning economic battles, rather than fighting actual wars using guns and bullets. This focus of China might, eventually, manifest to make it discreetly distance itself from the current Russian aim. If that happens sooner than later, Putin could very well be dethroned from his position of power.

There are other problems afflicting the BRICS bloc that prevent it from becoming a really effective global grouping. There are internal conflicts among the member countries that defy solutions. For example, the relations between China and India often get strained over border disputes and encroachment of territories, this notwithstanding the latest understanding between the two countries which has now stipulated India to withdraw beyond the pre-Galwan conflict LAC. There is also tension between two of the newest members, Egypt and Ethiopia, while Shi'ite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia have long been regional rivals despite recent thaw in their relations.

However, the importance of BRICS is slowly, but steadily rising because of super-power rivalry. If developed countries stick together for their mutual interests under US leadership, third world countries could possibly want Russia to be on their side to safeguard their interests. How

Fernando Haddad **IN ADDITION TO** 

**CURBING FROM BURNING FOSSIL FUELS** 

WORLD'S **FORESTS** 



Ajay Banga &

**EMISSIONS ONE OF THE** BIGGEST **PRIORITIES MUST BE TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE** 

REMAINING **TROPICAL** 



Forests are vital not just for the carbon they store, but also for their role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting environmental health, and promoting economic growth and human development

tion. Between August 2023 and July 2024, tropical forest loss in the Brazilian Amazon was cut by 46%, compared to the previous 12 months. And at the global level, Brazil, which holds the G20 presidency this year, has emphasized nature-based solutions to climate challenges as part of its agenda, paving the way for further progress at COP30 in Belém in 2025

For its part, the World Bank Group is supporting similar public and private efforts across developing economies. The goal is to design strong policies, build credible institutions, and mobilize investments in the infrastructure that is needed to conserve and manage forests sustainably. Making forest finance more widely available and more affordable is key.

The World Bank Group is also working to turn the vast potential of carbon markets into an income stream for developing countries that are committed to reducing emissions and conserving their forests. Already, 15 countries are benefiting from a pipeline that could produce more than 24 million carbon credits by the end of 2024 – a win for both the climate and development. But those engaged in these efforts have long been dogged by the question of how to support

the conservation of standing forests over the long term. While forest carbon markets have created new revenue streams, they usually reward only those countries, communities, or project developers that are focused on reducing their emissions from deforestation. Thus, forests that are not under immediate threat offer no financial reward.

One solution is the proposed Tropical Forest Forever Facility, a large-scale, performancebased mechanism that would use blended finance to generate financial returns and reward countries for protecting their standing forests. Instead of carbon credits, the TFFF would provide predictable longterm financial support linked to a country's hectares of standing forests, thus aligning economic incentives with environmental outcomes.

Led by the Brazilian Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and in partnership with other tropical-forest countries, developed economies, and non-traditional sponsors. the TFFF aims to leverage sovereign and philanthropic funding to mobilize more private capital, thus expanding forest finance beyond purely publicsector tools. Crucially, it would

allow private investors to sup port a global public good by quantifying and verifying the underlying asset on terms aligned with their business models.

This is the kind of bold, innovative solution that we need if we want to make a real difference in the fight against climate change. One of the biggest advantages of the TFFF is that it is not expected to depend on scarce donor grants and recurrent replenishments. Instead, it would require a onetime, fully repayable investment from potential sponsors, who therefore would be presented with a conceptually novel development-aid model.

Those designing the TFFF are also studying how to simplify disbursement models (without any loss of rigor) through digital monitoring, reporting, and verification systems, and how to disburse enough annually to tip the scales away from deforestation. Finally, another important question that is coming into focus is how to improve access to such mechanisms for indigenous peoples, local communities, and other forest owners and stewards. The countries working on the TFFF intend to address these issues by COP30.

Forests are vital not just for the carbon they store, but also for their role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting environmental health, and promoting economic growth and human development. The period between COP16 in Cali and next year's COP30 in Brazil could be the perfect time to launch the TFFF and set the stage for a new era in forest-conservation finance. We must start properly rewarding countries that have controlled deforestation and redouble our efforts to conserve existing forests

> Ajay Banga is President of the World Bank. Fernando Haddad is **Minister of Finance** of Brazil. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

for future generations.

far Russia will be able to act beyond its borders is a question that time alone can answer

#### WISDOM CORNER

Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better take things as they come along with patience and equanimity

#### CARL JUNG

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood. All is riddle, and the key to a riddle is another riddle

In oneself lies the whole world and if you know how to look and learn, the door is there and the key is in your hand. Nobody on earth can give you either the key or the door to open, except yourself IIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

#### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1942:** The British, led by Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, launched a successful infantry attack against the Germans at El-Alamein, Egypt, during World War II.
- **1944:** During World War II, U.S. forces under the leadership of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., commenced a decisive air and sea battle against the Japanese on the central Philippine island of Leyte.
- **1956:** The International Atomic Energy Agency was created with the purpose of increasing the contribution of atomic energy to world peace.
- **1964:** Jean-Paul Sartre Turns Down Nobel Prize. The French existentialist philosopher and writer published a letter in the newspaper Le Figaro to explain why he did not want to accept the Nobel Prize for Literature he had been awarded the day before on October 22. In his letter, he said he did not want to take sides in the East and West struggle of the Cold War, by accepting an award that was given out by Western institutions.
- 1983: Beirut barracks bombing. Two bombs exploded in front of American and French barracks during the Lebanese Civil War, killing about 300 French and American military personnel. Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the bombings

#### LOL

#### Giving away a horse

Aretiring farmer in preparation for Selling his land, needed to rid his farm of animals. So he went to every house in his town.

To the houses where the man is the boss, he gave a horse. To the houses where the woman is the boss, a chicken was given.

He got toward the end of the street and saw a couple outside gardening.

"Who's the boss around here?" he asked "I am," said the man. "I have a black horse and a brown horse," the farmer said, "which one would you like?' The man thought for a minute and said, "The black one." "No, no, no, get the brown one," the

man's wife said. "Here's your chicken," said the farmer.



IN JEST THIS

Melvin Durai

**IF THE PERSON TRYING TO DEVELOP AN** ONLINE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU LOOKS LIKE AN ACTOR OR **MODEL, BE SUSPICIOUS** 

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinior

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TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250

tary "Sweet Bobby: My Catfish Nightmare" made me realise how easy it is to be come a victim of catfishing and how vulnerable many people are. Catfishing, as you probably know, is what happens when you have an online romance with someone who looks dropdead gorgeous, but when you meet them in person, they look like a dead catfish.

No, that's not exactly what it means. Catfishing is when someone creates a fictitious online persona or fake identity to lure another person into a relationship. Romance scams often involve catfishing. These schemes are based on an adage that humans have known for centuries: one of the easiest ways to steal someone's money is to first steal their heart.

But financial gain is not always the motive for catfishing, as "Sweet Bobby" illustrates. The documentary portrays the decade-long scheme that lured

The new Netflix documen- Kirat Assi, a Punjabi woman in Britain, into a relationship with a doctor named Bobby Jandu.

Anyone can be a victim of catfishing

It began as an online friendship, then progressed into a romance and eventually an engagement. The perpetrator (no spoilers here) created dozens of fake online profiles to carry out the catfishing scheme and even convinced Assi that the man of her dreams couldn't meet her in person or communicate with her fully because he was in a witness protection program in the US. (Many an American man has been invited to the wedding of a former girlfriend and written in response: "Wish I could be there, but the Justice Department has put me in a witness protection program.")

In Assi's case, the perpetrator's motive isn't clear, but it appears to be manipulation or control. Indeed, some people engage in catfishing to harass other people, bully them or take revenge. Some suffer from low self-esteem or loneliness and enjoy

being a totally different person online who can attract other people. A person with low self-esteem can portray themselves online as attractive and confident. taking advantage of another per-

son with low self-esteem. But you don't have to suffer from low self-esteem to be a victim of catfishing, especially when the scheme is as elaborate as the one that entrapped Assi. That's why it's important to know some of the warning signs. Here are just a few of them:

1. The photos look perfect. If the person trying to develop an online relationship with you looks like an actor or model, be suspicious. Ask yourself if someone so attractive would be looking for love online. If so, wouldn't they pursue all the other people using fake photos?

2. The photos remain unchanged. If the person is not sharing new photos of themselves in various environments. it might mean that they don't

have complete access to that beautiful face.

3. The person refuses to video chat with you. They make excuses for not appearing in video, such as being in a witness protection program, suffering from video-phobia, or not being quite ready to take such a big step in the relationship. (Going from texting to a video chat is like going from a heart emoji to a blowing-a-kiss emoji.)

4. The relationship progresses too fast. If you became online friends a week ago and they're already proposing marriage, you may want to unfriend them immediately.

5. They ask for money. Most catfishing schemes are conceived for financial gain. But before they can swindle you, they need to win your trust. This can be done in many ways, including turning down your offers to help when they're in trouble. Eventually, of course, you'll discover that what they truly love is not you but your money.

#### A welcome first step

Sir, This refers to "Pact with China on LAC patrolling," Orissa Post, Oct 22. The clarity on contours of the patrolling agreement between New Delhi and Beijing would be known in weeks ahead. It is expected to set the ball rolling towards 'disengagement' and 'resolution of issues' along LAC and border areas. Relations between the two nations have remained on thin ice, in a state of heightened military preparedness since the 2020 deadly conflict in eastern Ladakh. Bilateral talks between the two have been limited to talking disengagement since 2020, even as India has engaged with China consistently on multilateral fora. The step forward has taken over 20 rounds of military negotiations over the last 53 months and many numbers of multi-level meetings between foreign affairs officials. The slackening stance of Beijing as an aggressive unbending adversary is no doubt influenced by its own domestic challenges, especially a slowing economy and costs of maintaining a highly militarised border. Beijing also no doubt has in its focus New Delhi's deepening strategic and military ties with Washington and steadily growing defence trade. The word 'stable' finds more frequent mention now than the phrase 'status quo ante'. But as things stand, and regardless of both Beijing's commitment, and the restraint that surrounded Monday's announcement, it's a very welcome first step.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Unanswered question

Sir, This refers to the news report "Remarks on PM's degree: SC upholds summon issued to Kejriwal" (Orissa Post, Oct 22). The apex court has in its wisdom dismissed Kejriwal's plea to quash summons asking him to face trial in a defamation case over his alleged remarks on the Prime Minister's educational qualification. But the pertinent question remains unanswered what is exactly the educational qualification of our Prime Minister? The government of India has the moral duty to get the people of India informed about the educational qualification of the Prime Minister. The suppression of the material fact creates unnecessary doubt in the minds of the public who never miss a chance of belittling the Prime Minister.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA









## **Punjab CM orders paddy lifting**

Despite the chief minister stating that farmers should not be allowed to face any sort of inconvenience in mandis, paddy growers claimed that the crop was not being lifted from mandis, leading to a glut in grain markets

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 22: Under attack from farmers and Opposition parties over the delayed paddy procurement and lifting, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday issued directions to officials to ensure the lifting of crops from mandis across the state Meanwhile, Food Minister Lal

Chand Kataruchak said over 24 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has arrived so far, in mandis, of which 22.50 lakh MT has been procured.

Almost 4.12 lakh MT has been lifted from mandis so far, he further said

Chairing a meeting here to review procurement operations in the state, Mann said paddy should be lifted at the earliest in the state so that farmers do not have to face any inconvenience.

#### Himachal CM opens 24x7 cybercrime reporting station

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 22: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Monday inaugurated a 'CY-Station' of the cyber wing of the state police in Shimla to facilitate real-time registration of complaints, particularly in cases of financial frauds.

Equipped to handle cybercrime-related complaints more efficiently, the CY Station would function 24x7, the chief minister said in a statement.

It would also facilitate the blocking or lien marking of defrauded amounts through the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS), the statement said.



Farmers of the state have played a key role in making the country self-reliant in food production, he said.

In this process, the food growers have even overexploited the only available natural resources of the state in terms of water and fertile soil, said Mann.

Despite the chief minister stating that farmers should not be allowed to face any sort of inconvenience in mandis, paddy growers claimed that the crop was not being lifted from mandis, leading to a glut in grain markets

They have also claimed that despite paddy procurement operations starting October 1 in the state, farmers were facing hardships in selling their crops. Farmers under the banner of

Bharti Kisan Union (Doaba) Monday blocked a stretch of the national highway-44 near a sugar mill in Phagwara for an indefinite period to protest the tardy paddy procurement.

#### Move your share of paddy from Punjab: Mann to Centre

Dunjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Tuesday said he spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and urged

him to address the issues of the state rice millers by moving the paddy belonging to the Centre stocked in state. Paddy lifting from mandis in Punjab is hit since the state rice millers have refused to mill the crop till their demands are met. "Today, I spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and urged him that the issues of rice millers and 'arthiyas' (commission agents) be addressed at the earliest," Mann said. The CM said the demands of the rice millers and 'arthiyas' are related to the Central government. Mann said Punjab contributes the maximum into the central pool of the crop, adding, the state will contribute 180 lakh metric tonnes of paddy this year. He also stressed on moving 130 lakh MT rice from last year - belonging to the Centre and stocked in Punjab - to other states to create more space.

sold paddy to prove it. We will continue blockade till purchase armers under the banner of Bharti Kisan Union (Doaba) of paddy was started in all Monday blocked a stretch of the national highway-44 near a suga mandis" mill in Phagwara for an indefinite period to protest the tardy paddy Delegation of Samyuta Kisan

Morcha met Mann October 19 and gave an ultimatum to him, saving if the state government could not ensure smooth paddy procurement within four days, they would announce a "big decision"

RADESH

Paddy lifting from mandis has been affected after the state rice millers refused to mill the paddy till their demands were met

Rice millers have also expressed concern over the outturn ratio (post-milling yield) of the PR-126 paddy variety, claiming that it will lead to huge losses

They have said that the outturn ratio of this variety is less than 67 per cent, a ratio which has been fixed by the Centre. They are demanding that they should be allowed to give 64 kg

of rice out of one quintal of paddy because of less yield in the PR-126 variety.

The state rice millers have also complained of space crunch for storing the fresh paddy crop and want the Centre to liquidate the existing wheat and paddy stock to create sufficient space.

However, minister Kataruchak said 11 lakh MT of space has been created for storing food grain

## Blind Persons' Association protests in Shimla

The association have also been demanding that the government should provide them with reservation and promotions as promised in a notification issued in 2021 and also extend the retirement age of all

specially abled persons to 60 years

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 22: The Himachal sons' Association held a 'chakka jam' near the Himachal Pradesh Secretariat here Tuesday in protest against the non-fulfilment of their demand of filling the backlog in government jobs for visually impaired people.



## Himachal changes criteria for Van Mitra recruitment

**OrissaPOS** 

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 23 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR



THE GOAL OF THE VAN **MITRA SCHEME IS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROTECTION**, **CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST AREAS** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 22: The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet Tuesday decided to do away with the 10mark personal interview criteria in the recruitment of Van Mitra in the Forest department .

It also decided to set up a Cabinet sub-committee to review the operations of parking facilities run under the publicprivate partnership (PPP) model in Shimla City.

The Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu decided to go ahead with the recruitment of 2061 Van Mitra in the Forest department by eliminating the 10-mark criteria for personal interview, a statement issued here said.

The goal of the Van Mitra scheme is to strengthen local communities' involvement in the protection, conservation, and development of forest areas. Van Mitras (friends of forest) receive incentives for maintaining and protecting plantations

Men and women in the age group of 18 to 25 with matriculation and 10 plus as minimum gualification who are residents of Gram Panchayat/urban Local Body within the jurisdiction of the forest beat and have good

The Cabinet decided to create and fill up 150 posts of nursing personnel posts and create and fill six posts of Associate Professor posts, 10 posts of Assistant Professors in different departments Dr Radhakrishnan Government Medical College and Hospital Medical College Hamirpur

In order to promote the use of electric vehicles and reduce reliance on fossil fuel vehicles, the Cabinet approved involving private players to expand the EV charging station network along the state's six green corridors where 77 EV charging stations are already operational

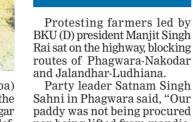
Shimla Parking, Sanjauli Parking, New Bus Stand Parking and Tutikandi Parking.

It also decided to amend the Eco-tourism Policy 2017 to align with the recent amendments in the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) 2023, aimed at promoting and developing eco-tourism activities in the state.

The Amended Forest Conservation Act (FCA) 2023 exempts certain specified forest lands for activities like zoos and safaris, besides eco-tourism facilities, silvicultural operations and any other purpose specified by the Central government.

With a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) during disasters and emergencies, the Cabinet decided to transfer the administrative control of SDRF to the Additional Director General (Home Guards and Civil Defence) and also approved the deputation of Home Guards to the SDRF for a maximum period of two years to ensure its smooth operation.

The Cabinet has decided to accept the recommendations of



Protesting farmers led by BKU (D) president Manjit Singh

Rai sat on the highway, blocking routes of Phagwara-Nakodar and Jalandhar-Ludhiana

procurement

nor being lifted from mandis. We have brought a large number of trollevs laden with un-

The citizens can register cybercrime related complaints through the toll-free number 1930. it added.

"The data centre will act as the nodal hub for overseeing the functioning of the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal's (NCRP) district database and serve as a key decision-making unit for future strategies, Sukhu said.

The CY-Station is equipped with modern technology to ensure swift response by trained operators besides having automatic facilities for call recording to ensure effective followup measures, the statement said.

The data centre's network infrastructure would serve as a strategic link between Himachal Pradesh's cyber infrastructure and the centralised NCRP.

In cases where a complaint is reassigned with a bank or a financial institution seeking some correction, the data centre will ensure immediate action in coordination with the complainant.

The chief minister also said the state government is making dedicated efforts to modernise the police force by incorporating advanced technologies into its operations

The initiative aims to enhance the efficiency, transparency and responsiveness of the police force, he added.

By adopting modern tools and technologies, the police will be able to address the emerging challenges more effectively, streamline the processes, and foster stronger community relations for a safe and secure Himachal Pradesh. the statement concluded.

The protesters blocked the Sanjauli-Chotta Shimla road for about 30 minutes. There was also a minor scuffle between them and police personnel.

"We have been demanding for the filling of backlog posts for blind people for 362 days," member of the association Rajesh Thakur said.

He said three to four meetings were held with authorities

Security personnel try to remove members of the Blind Persons' Association during a protest against the Himacha Pradesh government, in Shimla

but no solution has come out. 'Only Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Health and Family Welfare Minister Dhani Ram Shandil can answer why our demands are not being accepted," Thakur added.

> The members of the association also warned that they

came prepared with warm clothes and blankets, and would not leave the spot unless their demands were met and the government gave a written assurance.

Alleging that some police personnel threatened them, Thakur said the chief minister and police would be responsible if any-

thing happened to the protesters in the night.

The association have also been demanding that the government should provide them with reservation and promotions as promised in a notification issued in 2021 and also extend the retirement age of all specially abled persons to 60 years.

physical and mental health are eligible to apply for the post, the statement said.

It said a Cabinet sub-committee to review the operations of parking facilities run under the PPP model would be headed by Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi with Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh, Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh, and Town and Country Planning Minister Rajesh Dharmani as members.

Shimla MLA Harish Janartha will be a special invitee. The committee will review the operations of Lift Parking, Chhota

the Cabinet Sub-Committee, headed by Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, concerning the 450 MW Shongtong-Karcham Power Project including the directive to the company to ensure project completion by the financial year 2026-27.

The tender for the project was awarded in 2012 but the construction of the project was delayed due to several reasons and Chief Minister Sukhu had asked the company to complete the project by July 2025.

Shongtong Hydroelectric Power Project would generate 1,579 million units of electricity annually worth ₹1,706 crore.

## 'Crop residue management machinery unviable for small farmers'

FARMERS DEMANDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE THE CROP RESIDUE **MACHINERY IS AVAILABLE IN SUFFICIENT** NUMBERS AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL SO AS TO **CHECK STUBBLE BURNING INCIDENTS** 

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

#### Chandigarh, Oct 22: Amid concern over the rise in stubbleburning incidents in Punjab, a demand for financial incentives to manage paddy stubble is

emerging from farmers who assert that it is not financially viable for small cultivators to buy crop residue management machinery to clear their fields.

They also said as the window for Rabi crops like wheat is very short after paddy harvest, many farmers are forced to set their fields on fire to quickly clear the straw for sowing the next crop.

Many farmers were of the view that the minimum support price on alternative crops like maize, pulses etc should be guaranteed so as to wean away growers from the water-guzzling paddy

crop Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for

the rise in air pollution in Delhi after the harvesting of the paddy crop in October and November. As the paddy harvesting is

progressing in the state, the incidents of stubble burning are picking up in the two foodgrain growing states, prompting the state authorities to register FIRs and impose fines on erring

farmers. With over 31 lakh hectares of paddy area, Punjab produces around 180-200 lakh tonnes of paddy straw every year.

Crop residue management machinery like super seeder, smart seeder, happy seeder, paddy straw chopper, shredder. mulcher. hvdraulic reversible mould board plough and zero till drill under



the in-situ (mixing crop residue in fields) management method and baler and rake under the ex-situ (using stubble as fuel) management method are made available on subsidy.

The rate of subsidy on these machines for individual farmers is 50 per cent of the cost of the equipment and 80 per cent for cooperative societies and panchavats.

Bharti Kisan Union (Lakhowal) **General Secretary Harinder** Singh Lakhowal said farmers want financial incentives for the management of paddy stubble.

"We are de manding ₹3,000 per acre for managing paddy straw,' said

Lakhowal. He pointed out that it was not economically feasible for

small farmers to buy crop residue machinery for the management of straw.

"A tractor having 60 HP capacity is required to run crop residue management machinery and it costs over ₹10 lakh. A small farmer cannot afford to buy machinery at such a cost. And that is why we are saying farmers should be given financial incentives for managing the stubble." said Lakhowal.

According to Punjab farmer unions, more than 60 per cent in the state own less than 5 acres of land.

buying them.

Farmer

Singh Bhulla

said due to the

high costs of

leader

Paramjit

They also said that the maintenance cost of Stubble burning in Punjab crop residue maand Haryana is often blamed chinery is also for the rise in air pollution in high which Delhi after the harvesting of the also deters paddy crop in October and November farmers from

As the paddy harvesting is progressing in the state, the incidents of stubble burning are picking up in the two foodgrain growing states, prompting the state authorities to register

fines on erring farmers paddy residue dis-

posal, farmers resort to burning it in fields. "The expense associated with acquiring machines like balers, coupled with a meagre government subsidy, has left farmers with no choice but to set paddy residue on fire to prepare fields for sowing the next crop," he said.

Farmers also said they have very little time after paddy harvesting to sow the next crop and therefore they resort to burning the residue in order to clear their fields

They demanded that the government should ensure the crop residue machinery is available in sufficient numbers at the village level so as to check stubble burning incidents.

"At least a baler per two villages should be made available so that small farmers can give their straw," said Mohali-based farmer Bhupinder Singh.

Many farmers also stressed that the government should ensure guaranteed MSP on crops other than paddy so they can switch over to other crops.

Punjab had witnessed a reduction of 30 per cent in the number of fire incidents at 71,159 in 2022-23 as compared to 76,929 in 2021-22 and a reduction of 26 per cent in such incidents at-49,922 in 2023-24 as compared to 71,159 in 2022-23.

FIRs and impose



## national



Tejashwi Yadav has no brand value. He stands exposed before the masses of Bihar. He went thrice to Jharkhand Chief **Minister Hemant Soren's home** (for seats) but to no results HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CM

#### **SAXENA FLAGS TOXIC FROTH IN YAMUNA**

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena Tuesday shared pictures of toxic froth in Yamuna, saying instead of making excuses and accusations on media, authorities should focus on providing relief to the city's residents





## **TALKS** Restoring trust: Army chief

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday said Indian and Chinese soldiers will be able to resume patrolling in the way they had been doing before the border face-off began and the disengagement process with China has been completed

accept giving a ticket to someone linked to underworld don Dawood Ibrahim

We will not

NAWAB MALIK NCP LEADER

Shame on such BJP politics and **BJP's** hunger for power, which conspires to incite riots... for politics. Every day new

revelations are being made in the case of Bahraich violence and the BJP is not able to show its face AKHILESH YADAV SP PRESIDENT

As some candidates had to keep up with the muhurat for filing of nominations, they have been allotted our party's A and B forms AJIT PAWAR MAHA DEPUTY CM

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Srinagar airport goes on high alert

Srinagar: The security grid at Srinagar International Airport Tuesday went on high alert mode after a hoax call about a possible bomb threat, officials said. The officials said a call was received at the Srinagar airport about a bomb in the Indigo flight that had arrived here from Mumbai. The authorities carried out a thorough search of the flight which was scheduled to take off for Delhi via Jammu at around 5.20 pm.

#### 4 auto lifters held after encounter

New Delhi: Four people allegedly involved in stealing motor vehicles were arrested after an encounter with police here Tuesday. A senior police officer said a brief exchange of fire took place between the police and the accused -- Farman (28), from Meerut, Mohsin (26), from Ghaziabad, Sahabzada (24), from Gautam Budh Nagar, and Zahid (30), from Muzaffarnagar.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: India will look at disengagement and de-escalation of the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh after restoration of the status quo of April 2020, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said Tuesday, a day after New Delhi announced striking an agreement with Beijing to end the over four-year border row in the region.

In his first comment on the pact on patrolling along the contested frontier, Gen Dwivedi said the Indian military is trying to restore "trust" and both sides will have to "reassure each other" to achieve this objective. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri Monday announced India and China reached an agreement on patrolling along the

LAC in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough in ending the over four-year military standoff. The announcement came ahead of a likely meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi



Kazan Wednesday on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. "As far as we are concerned, we want to go back to the status quo of April 2020. Thereafter, we will be looking at disengagement, de-escalation and normal management of the LAC,"he said at an interactive session. "And, this normal management of the LAC will not just

stop there. There are phases in that also," he added. In almost all the negotiations with China on

the border row. India has been insisting on restoration of the status quo ante of that existed before the border standoff erupted in early May of 2020.

'This is what I am saying. This has been our stance since then and even today (it) remains the same. So, as of now, we are trying to restore the trust,' the Army Chief said.

"How trust will be restored. It will get restored once we are able to see each other, and we are able to convince each other, look at the buffer zones which are there, which have been created, we are not creeping," he said. "And, both will have to

reassure each other," he said. The Army chief said resumption of patrolling would

give some kind advantage. "Patrolling gives you that kind of advantage and that is what is commencing. And, as we restore the trust, the other stages will follow through soon," he said. Meanwhile, China Tuesday confirmed that it has reached

an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

"Over a recent period of time, China and India have kept close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues related to the China-India border," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said in Beijing. The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

BANGALORE RAINS 1 dead, 17 trapped in building collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 22: One worker was killed after an under-construction building collapsed in Babusapalya here Tuesday amid heavy rains, officials said.

Two rescue vans from the fire and emergency department have been pressed into rescue operations. The incident occurred at a time when the city is witnessing heavy downpour, they said.

"Approximately 20 people were trapped. One body has been recovered, 14 workers have been rescued and five are still missing," D Devaraja, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East Bangalore) told media.

It is a seven-storey building he said.

According to preliminary inquiry, the entire building collapsed following which people got trapped underneath, a fire department official said.

Bengaluru has faced recordbreaking rainfall recently, with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) reporting an astounding 186.2 mm of rain

#### North B'lore bears the brunt

Bangalore: Five people were killed in rain-related incidents in Bangalore, which has been reeling under incessant rains for the past three days, bringing several residential areas and roads under knee-deep water. Five teams of the National **Disaster Response Force and** State Disaster Response Force were deployed to evacuate marooned people with the help of coracles in the country's IT capital Tuesday. North Bangalore bore the brunt of the rains as several areas were flooded in and around Yelahanka. According to the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Yelahanka received 157 mm (six inches) rain in just six hours from Tuesday midnight to Tuesday 6 am.



recorded at the GKVK observatory until 8:30 am Sunday, surpassing the previous highest 24-hour record of 178.9 mm set October 1, 1997. The ongoing downpour has severely affected public life, particularly in northern Bangalore.

The Bengaluru Urban district administration has declared holiday for schools and Anganwadi centres Wednesday in view of the heavy rains in the district.

In a statement, the Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore Urban Jagadish G as said the decision has been taken as a precautionary measure and in the interest of students.

However, all the colleges and ITIs will function as usual.

Jagadish also said a general instruction has been given colleges not to use dilapidated and weak buildings for holding classes in order to avoid accidents.

He asked parents and college management to ensure that students should not go to low lying areas where there is water.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the college authorities should provide information to the students about dealing with natural calamities.

#### HC grants bail to Sachin Waze in corruption case

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: The Bombay High Court Tuesday granted bail to dismissed police officer Sachin Waze bail in a corruption case also involving former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

A division bench headed by Justice M S Sonak granted bail to Waze and said the conditions for the same shall be set by the special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court.

The dismissed police officer will, however, continue to remain in jail as he is in judicial custody in the 'Antilia' bomb scare case lodged by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).



J&K: Pak-based new terror outfit Delhi's air quality slips further dismantled by security forces PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A potter makes an earthen lamp ahead of the Diwali festival, on the outskirts of Agartala

PTI PHOTO

Jinping in the Russian city of

#### Omar visits residence of slain doc in Budgam

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday visited the house of Dr Shahnawaz Dar, who was killed in a terror attack in Ganderbal, and announced a government job to a family member. The CM also announced the state will bear all expenses related to the civil services education and training of the doctor's son, who wants to become an officer.

#### **Girl dies after falling** into cooking pot

Nagpur: A four-year-old girl died of severe burn wounds after she fell into a pot in which vegetables were being cooked in Maharashtra's Nagpur district, police said Tuesday. The child succumbed to her injuries at a hospital Monday morning, an official from Wathoda police station said.

#### Man stabs woman for 'avoiding' him

New Delhi: A 30-year-old woman was stabbed a dozen times allegedly by her neighbour in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area, police said Tuesday. According to the woman's husband, the accused, Ravinder Singh alias Goldy (36), insisted the victim on befriending him after which she started avoiding him. Ravinder had also misbehaved with the woman on two separate occasions before but the couple did not file any complaint against him because of his sister's intervention, the husband claimed.



Waze, who is presently in judicial custody, had sought to be released on bail claiming that he is an approver in the case, and on the grounds of parity as well as citing that the other accused in the case are out on bail.

Waze's counsel Aabad Ponda had said keeping him in jail even after he was declared as an approver was violation of fundamental rights.

He was declared an approver by the special CBI court in June 2022. Waze was arrested in March 2021 for his alleged role in the case of an explosives-laden vehicle found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence 'Antilia' in south Mumbai and the murder of Thane businessman

Srinagar, Oct 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's counter-intelligence wing carried out raids Tuesday in several districts of the Vallev and busted a recruitment module of a new militant outfit believed to be a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) offshoot, officials said here. They said the raids were

carried out at 10 locations across Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kulgam, Budgam, Anantnag and Pulwama

During the operation, police busted a recruitment module run by a newly floated terrorist organisation 'Tehreek Labaik Ya Muslim' (TLM), headed by a Pakistani terrorist handler known by his alias 'Baba Hamas', the officials said.

They added that the searches were conducted in pursuance of a search warrant issued by a



special NIA court in a case registered under various sections of the IPC and the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The case pertains to a larger conspiracy hatched by proscribed terrorist organisations operating within Jammu and Kashmir and across the LoC at the behest of Pakistani agencies.

These outfits, in connivance with their sympathisers in the Kashmir valley, are continuously creating "new terror modules", the officials said.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: A thick layer of smog enveloped the national capitalTuesday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) slipped further, even dropping to the "severe" category at 411 in Anand Vihar.

Air quality was recorded in the "very poor" category by 28 out of 36 pollution monitoring stations. The 24-hour average AQI was recorded at 327 at 4 pm Tuesday as against 310 a day earlier even as anti-pollution restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)-II came into force.

An AQI reading between 401-500 is classified as "severe' which affects healthy individuals and seriously impacts those with existing diseases.

PM2.5 was recorded at an alarming 129.3 micrograms per cubic meter, according to the

Central Pollution Control Board. PM2.5 refers to fine inhal-

able particles with diameters generally measuring 2.5 micrometres and smaller, posing the greatest risk to health.

The acceptable annual standard for PM 2.5 is 40 micrograms per cubic meter.

While Air quality in Anand Vihar slipped into the "severe' category, the AQI remained "very poor" in areas like Bawana, Dwarka, Jahangirpuri, Rohini, DTU, IGI Airport (T3), ITO, Mundka, Narela, Patparganj,

Rohini, Shadipur, Sonia Vihar, Wazirpur, Alipur, Ashok Vihar, Aya Nagar, Burari, Mandir Marg and Mundka

Factors that contributed to Delhi's pollution on a high margin Tuesday included transportation, stubble burning, dust pollution and others.

Emissions from transportation accounted for approximately 11.45 per cent of Delhi's air pollution, according to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management.

## Muslim man can register more than one marriage: HC

A division bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Somasekhar Sundaresan October 15 directed the deputy marriage registration office of the Thane Municipal Corporation to decide the application filed by a Muslim man in February last year seeking to register his third marriage with a woman from Algeria

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mansukh Hiran

Mumbai, Oct 22: A Muslim man can register more than one marriage as their personal laws permit multiple marriages, the Bombay High Court held in a case of a man seeking to register his union with his third wife.

A division bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Somasekhar Sundaresan October 15 directed the deputy marriage registration office of the Thane Municipal Corporation to decide the application filed by a Muslim man in February last year seeking to register his third marriage with a woman from Algeria.

sought direction to the authorities to issue them a marriage certificate, claiming that their application was rejected as this was the man's third marriage.

The authorities refused to register the marriage on the ground that under the Maharashtra **Regulation of Marriage Bureaus** and Registration of Marriage Act, the definition of marriage contemplates only a single marriage and not multiple unions. The bench, however, termed

the authority's refusal as "wholly misconceived" and said in the entire scheme of the Act, it does not find anything that would preclude a Muslim man from registering a third marriage.



"Under the personal laws for Muslims, they are entitled to have four wives at a time. Once this is the case, we are unable to

accept the submission of the authorities that under the provisions of the Maharashtra **Regulation of Marriage Bureaus** 

and Registration of Marriages Act, only one marriage can be registered, even in the case of a Muslim male," the court said.

The bench said if it were to accept the authorities' contention, then it would effectively mean that the Maharashtra Regulation of Marriage Bureaus and Registration of Marriages Act overrides and/or has displaced the personal laws of Muslims. 'There is absolutely nothing in this Act to indicate that the personal laws of Muslims have been excluded," the court said.

It further noted that the same authorities had ironically registered the petitioner's marriage with his second wife.

The authority had also claimed that the petitioner couple had not furnished certain documents. The court then directed the petitioners to submit all relevant documents within two weeks. The court ordered that once these documents are submitted, the concerned authority of the Thane civic body shall give the petitioners a personal hearing and pass a reasoned order either granting marriage registration or refusing the same within ten days. The bench directed that until

then, no coercive steps should be taken against the petitioner woman whose passport expired in May this year.

The couple, in their plea,











## national



After the barbaric attack at the Sonamarg, there are reports that the local admin is pressurising non-local labourers to leave the Valley immediately. While I understand their obvious sense of panic but asking them to leave in this manner is not a solution MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

#### **SC TO HEAR SHARAD FACTION PLEA OCT 24**

The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would hear October 24 a plea filed by veteran leader Sharad Pawar-led group raising the issue over the use of "clock" symbol by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar-led faction of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)





Today, I spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and urged him that the issues of rice millers and 'arthiyas' (commission agents) be addressed at the earliest BHAGWANT MANN PUNJAB CM

Our government is ready to face this cyclonic storm. We have already started integrated control rooms at state and district levels and they are working 24X7

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

Lurge the central government and CAQM to implement antipollution measures in BJP-ruled neighbouring states, from which a large influx of buses enters Delhi GOPAL RAL DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER





Fake IT ED Biggest Feku of the world Fake Court @DrJain21

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Undertrial commits suicide in jail toilet

**Etawah (UP):** A 22-year-old undertrial lodged in Etawah district jail in a rape case allegedly committed suicide by hanging in the prison toilet, an official said Tuesday. Etawah Senior Superintendemt of Police Sanjai Kumar said that the inmate. Ravindra

## TMC MP throws smashed glass at Chair

The committee's chairperson and veteran BJP MP Jagdambika Pal condemned the conduct of Kalyan Banerjee, a rather vocal parliamentarian who has been strident in his criticism of the Bill. He said such actions were "unprecedented" and crossed all limits

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 22:** TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee was suspended for one day from the parliamentary committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill after high drama during its meeting Tuesday where he smashed a glass water bottle and threw it towards the Chair while injuring his fingers in the process.

The committee's chairperson and veteran BJP MP Jagdambika Pal condemned the conduct of Banerjee, a rather vocal parliamentarian who has been strident in his criticism of the Bill. He said such actions were "unprecedented" and crossed all limits.

As MPs enjoy privilege, does it mean someone will appear with a revolver tomorrow, Pal told reporters, adding he had a narrow escape. During the meeting, Banerjee was involved in an ugly spat with BJP MP and former Calcutta High Court judge Abhijit Gangopadhyay -- not for the first time -- as expletives were hurled with both members attacking each other in Bengali. Pal said it has become the TMC member's habit to use cuss words while some Opposition mem-

also targeted him. Pal said he and other members tried to calm things when the Trinamool Congress leader picked up a glass bottle, smashed

bers claimed that Gangopadhyay



it and threw it towards him. Banerjee ended up with cuts on the thumb and the little finger in his right hand as a stunned Pal adjourned the meeting. He was administered stitches at a medical dispensary in the Parliament complex.

The committee later took up a motion moved by BJP member Nishikant Dubey to suspend Banerjee for one day, whenever the next meeting takes place, for his conduct towards the Chair Votes were divided 10-8, with the ruling alliance and Opposition members polling on partisan lines. Sources said Banerjee expressed regret for smashing the bottle and claimed that he never meant to throw it towards Pal, while still accusing him of "biased" behaviour. Gangopadhyay was visibly upset after only one-day suspension was handed out to Banerjee as penalty and over the fact that the motion made no mention of the verbal attack on him. He is likely to take up the issue at the highest level, a source said.

Asked about the future course of action, Pal said he apprised Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla of the development. "It was in a way criminal act that could have badly hurt me. His conduct is a blow to parliamentary democracy," he added. The committee's meetings have often seen tempers fly with Opposition members accusing the Chair of inviting different organisations, including those working for Hindu causes, having no stake in the Waqf issues and the BJP members charging their political rivals with deliberately disturbing the proceedings.

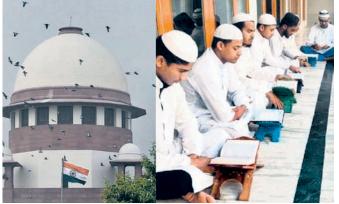
The committee Tuesday was hearing the views of two Odishabased organisations, Justice in Reality and Panchasakha Bani Prachar, both of which included retired judges and lawyers, when opposition members questioned their stake in the Bill. Both bodies were supportive of the amendments and offered more suggestions.

A BJP member said Banerjee was the first person to speak when the meeting began and was also allowed some interventions by the Chair. When he sought another turn to speak, Pal declined and a heated exchange erupted between him and Gangopadhyay, who objected to the repeated disturbance.

MPs from Kerala-based Indian Union Muslim League deposed in the afternoon and opposed the amendments. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill was referred to the joint panel of the Houses soon after being introduced in the Lok Sabha in the Monsoon Session.

The Bill to amend the law governing Waqf boards has proposed far-reaching changes in the present Act, including ensuring the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies.

## MADRASSA CASE Secularism means live and let live: Apex court



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Observing secularism means to "live and let live", the Supreme Court Tuesday said regulating madrassas was in the national interest as several hundred years of the nation's composite culture could not be wished away by creating silos for minorities.

The observations came from a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra during the daylong hearing on the pleas challenging the Allahabad High Court judgement, which declared the 2004 Uttar Pradesh law on madrassas as unconstitutional saying it was violative of the principle of secularism.

"The judgement is reserved," the bench said at the completion of the arguments. At the outset, the Uttar

Pradesh government, in response to a query of the bench, said it stands by the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrassa Education Act, 2004 and was of the view that the Allahabad High Court should not have held the entire law as unconstitutional. Agreeing to the submissions of senior lawyer Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for litigants opposed to the HC verdict, the CJI said, "Secularism means - live and let live."

Referring to the composite national culture, the CJI asked the state government, "Is it not in our national interest that you regulate the madrasas?" "You cannot wish away several hundred years of history of this nation like this. Suppose, we uphold

#### Why concerned with only madrassas, SC asks NCPCR

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Tuesday questioned the National **Commission for Protection of Child** Rights (NCPCR) why was it concerned with madrassas after the child rights body said students of such institutions weren't able to pursue medical and engineering professions. Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj made the remarks while reserving the verdict on petitions challenging the Allahabad High Court judgement. The high court had declared the 2004 Uttar Pradesh law on madrassas as unconstitutional on the ground it violated the principles of secularism.

just be a silo without any legislative intervention...mainstreaming is the answer to ghettoisation," the bench said.

It said let us preserve India as a melting pot of cultures and religions.

"Ultimately we have to see it through the broad sweep of the country. Religious instructions are there not just for Muslims. It is there for Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, etc. The country ought to be a melting pot of cultures, civilisations, and religions. Let us preserve it that way. In fact, the answer to ghettoisation is to allow people to come to the mainstream and to allow them to come together. Otherwise, what we essentially would be doing is to keep them in silos," the CII said.

The bench said Article 28(3) of the Constitution provides that a student can voluntarily



**New Delhi, Oct 22:** An e-mail was received threatening to blow up three CRPF schools in Delhi and Hyderabad, and two Kendriya Vidyalayas within the forces' office premises in other cities, officials sources said Tuesday, adding it turned out to be a hoax.

The schools were checked by anti-sabotage teams and nothing suspicious was found, they



Mule during the conclusion of not integrated surfire and M manoeuvre list training ve exercise m Shakti', at the Babina Field na Firing Range the in Jhansi, in Uttar Pradesh ref

PTI PHOTO

A Robotic

Kumar, a resident of Kanpur Dehat district, was booked under sections 137(2) (kidnapping), 87 (kidnapping, abducting or inducing woman to compel her marriage, etc) and 64 (punishment for rape) of BNS and POCSO Act. The case was registered against him at Kotwali police station in Auraiya district. He was sent to jail October 11 and was kept in jail barrack number 9.

### Six of family killed in oxygen cylinder blast

Bulandshahr (UP): An oxygen cylinder kept to aid in the care of an ailing woman exploded in a house in Bulandshahr's Sikandrabad area, killing her and five members of her family, including her husband and her three-year-old granddaughter. The tragedy that snuffed out the lives of 45-year-old Rukhsana, who had recently been discharged from hospital, her husband Riyazuddin, their three children and granddaughter took place Monday night.

said, adding classes were conducted smoothly Tuesday. The three CRPF schools include two in Delhi (Rohini and Dwarka), one in Hyderabad (Telangana); while the two Kendriya Vidyalayas are within the paramilitary forces' office premises at Panchkula (Haryana) and Rampur (Uttar Pradesh). A senior Delhi Police officer, who did not wish to named, said the cyber cell has launched a probe in to the threat mail that came a day after a blast along the boundary of wall of CRPF Public School in Delhi's Rohini.

He also said Delhi Police has written to the email service provider to get the user ID and other details of the sender. In the e-mail, according to the sources, the sender has also mentioned about politics in Tamil Nadu and sacked DMK functionary Jaffer Sadiq.

#### Police encounters in Assam: SC terms issue 'very serious'

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court Tuesday termed "very serious" the issue pertaining to 171 police encounters in Assam from May 2021 to August 2022 and sought details, including about the probe conducted in these matters. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing a plea challenging a January 2023 order of the Gauhati High Court which had dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) raising the issue concerning these encounters by Assam Police. In its order, the high court had referred to an affidavit filed before it by the Assam government which said 171 incidents had taken place from May 2021 till August 2022 in which 56 people died, including four in custody, and 145 were injured. During the hearing Tuesday, the apex court observed, "It is a very, very serious issue. One hundred and seven-one incidents are alarming." When the counsel appearing for Assam said the high court was not inclined to entertain the PIL and termed it premature, the bench observed, "Petitions like this can't be brushed aside as premature."

the high court order and the parents of the children still send them to madrasas then it will

obtain religious instructions with the only bar there should be no compulsion.

#### **TOP COURT CORNER**

## SC extends interim protection to actor Siddique for two weeks

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court Tuesday extended the interim protection from arrest till further orders granted to Malayalam film actor Siddique in an alleged rape case. A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma allowed Siddique to file his rejoinder affidavit to the status report filed by Kerala police, which alleged lack of cooperation in the investigation on his part. Senior advocate V Giri, appearing for Siddique sought time to file a rejoinder affidavit to the status report but claimed that his client had been cooperating with the police's investigation. Senior advocate Ranjit Kumar, appearing for the Kerala police, said Siddique was hindering the investigation and had destroyed electronic devices besides deleting social media accounts. The bench pointed out the survivor had lodged the complaint eight years after the incident.

#### SC permits Setalvad to travel to Amsterdam

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court Tuesday permitted activist Teesta Setalvad to travel between November 14 and November 24 to attend the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam. Setalvad had received an invitation from the organisers to attend the festival in her capacity as producer of the documentary film Cycle Mahesh. A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan allowed the plea filed by Setalvad and directed her to file an undertaking before it that she would return to India as scheduled and face trial. "The applicant is, therefore, permitted to travel to Amsterdam, Netherlands, for a period of 11 days from November 14, 2024 to November 24, 2024. The applicant's passport be returned to her so that she can travel abroad," the bench held.

#### WAYANAD BYPOLL A BATTLE OF EXPERIENCE VS LEGACY AWAITS

A software engineer with international experience in Singapore and the Netherlands, and a decade as a councillor in Kozhikode, Navya Haridas is confident her background equips her to challenge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is keen to extend the Congress' winning streak in this hilly Lok Sabha segment vacated by her brother Rahul Gandhi

#### K'taka BJP moves EC

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

New Delhi: The BJP Tuesday approached the Election Commission with a demand to disgualify Congress Bellary MP E Tukaram, alleging illegal money was used to influence voters in his constituency during the Lok Sabha polls. and he did not show the actual expenditure incurred on the election. In a separate memorandum to the poll panel, the Karnataka BJP delegation also accused the state government of violating the Model Code of Conduct by allegedly giving "full page advertisement" in all Kannada and English dailies ahead of the assembly by-polls on three seats in the state.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), Oct 22: In Wayanad's 3-way electoral contest, BJP's Navya Haridas is banking on her political experience to take on Congress' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the November 13 bypoll, which also will be the AICC general secretary's maiden electoral fight.

A software engineer with international experience in Singapore and the Netherlands, and a decade as a

councillor in Kozhikode, Haridas is confident her background equips her to challenge Vadra, who is keen to extend the Congress' winning streak in this hilly Lok Sabha segment vacated by her brother Rahul Gandhi.

Haridas told PTI in interview Tuesday that although Vadra holds a position in the AICC, she lacks experience as a people's representative. "Priyanka Gandhi is a national figure due to her Nehru family background, but this is her first election. I, on the other hand, have served as a councillor in the Kozhikode Corporation for two consecutive terms and contested the 2021 Assembly elections."

"I have been representing the people for many years, so contesting against Priyanka Gandhi doesn't feel any different to me. I believe I have more experience than she does," the BJP candidate said, a day ahead of the Congress leader's entry into Wayanad, where she is seeking votes with a roadshow in Kalpetta.



The by-election for the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency was necessitated after Rahul Gandhi vacated it following his

victory in Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh, in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Eminent CPI leader and former MLA, Sathyan Mokeri, is contesting on the CPIM-led ruling LDF ticket.

"The fight is only between Congress and BJP. See, this election was necessitated due to the irresponsibility of Congress. In many parts of Wayanad, you still see flex boards asking for votes for Rahul Gandhi. However, he chose to keep the Rae Bareli seat and handed Wayanad over to his sister. This is an example of family dominance, and the BJP will highlight this issue before the voters," Haridas said. Navya, who is also the state

general secretary of the Mahila Morcha, BJP's women's wing, believes PM Narendra Modi's development agenda will work in favour of the party in Wayanad. "BJP always puts forward the agenda of development. There has been no intervention from the people's representatives in the issues demanded by the people here for the past several years."

She said Wayanad is not a constituency where the BJP has a strong organisational foothold but pointed out at its electoral gains. "However, the party's vote share doubled compared to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Moreover, we saw that people voted for the BJP in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, and it showed that people want the BJP in power. We expect that kind of change will happen here also," she said.

In the 2024 elections, the BJP saw its vote share in Wayanad rise to 5.75 per cent, when its state president K Surendran took on Rahul Gandhi.



international 



The German side is sceptical about our NATO membership, that's a fact. I believe their stance is softer than it was before, this is also a fact. But when it comes to the invitation I'm talking about now. they are afraid of **Russia's reaction** 

**VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY** PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

#### **CHINA PROVIDES FLOOD RELIEF TO SL**

The Chinese govt Tuesday grants flood relief assistance of \$100,000 to Sri Lanka, marking China's first show of goodwill towards the new govt

BRICS SUMMIT



threat, and President Joe Biden

has said the democracies face a

challenge from autocracies such

Biden has referred to Xi as a

"dictator" and has said Putin is

a "killer" and even a "crazy

SOB". Beijing and Moscow have

scolded Biden for the comments.

and said the partnership with

China was a force for stability in

tion in world affairs is one of

the main stabilising factors on

coordination on all multilateral

platforms in order to ensure

global security and a just world

Xi said cooperation in the

BRICS group was "the most

important platform for soli-

darity and cooperation between

emerging market countries and

developing countries in the

tion of equal and orderly global

multipolarity, as well as inclu-

sive and tolerant economic glob-

He said it was "a mainstay" force in promoting the realiza-

the world stage," Putin said.

"Russian-Chinese coopera-

"We intend to further enhance

Putin called Xi "dear friend"

as China and Russia.

the world.

order."

world today.'

alisation.

## uote

I am calling for an immediate truce, even if for a few hours, to enable safe humanitarian

passage for families (in Gaza) who wish to leave the area & reach safer places

PHILIPPE LAZZARINI HEAD OF THE UNRWA RELIEF AGENCY

No matter how large the scale of the (China's) drill is, they should not be frequent and close to Taiwan. This will only cause unnecessary tension

CHO JUNG-TAI PREMIER, TAIWAN

Let's realise there are five million illegal migrants in the EU who have nothing to do there, with completely different traditions, with completely

different mental settings which have negative effects on the condition that Europe is in

ROBERT FICO PM, SLOVAKIA

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Taiwan again rejects SA's demand

Taipei: Taiwan has again rejected South Africa's demand that it move its representative office in the country from the capital, Pretoria, to the commercial center of Johannesburg. Taiwan Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jeff Liu said at a news conference Tuesday that the demand to move or shut the office entirely violated a 1997 agreement between the sides on the location of their mutual representative offices following the severing of formal diplomatic relations. "Facing this kind of unreasonable demand, our side cannot grant our acceptance," Liu said. South Africa maintains a liaison office in Taiwan's capital, Taipei, and the sides have a strong commercial relationship

## **US makes last ceasefire push**

**ANTONY BLINKEN URGES ISRAEL TO CAPITALISE ON HAMAS LEADER'S KILLING TO END GAZA WAR** 

#### REUTERS

Tel Aviv, Oct 22: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken pressed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in talks Tuesday to capitalise on the killing of Hamas' leader by securing the release of the October 7 attack hostages and ending the war in

Gaza. After repeated abortive attempts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, Blinken was making his 11th trip to the Middle East since the Gaza war erupted and the last before a presidential election that could upend US policy.

Blinken was also looking for Palestinians ways to defuse an escalating spillover conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon, where overnight at least 18 people were killed, including four children, and 60 injured by an

Israeli airstrike near Beirut's main state hospital. Blinken faced an uphill strug-

gle on both fronts. He spelled out US hopes that the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, blamed for triggering a year of devastating warfare by planning the deadly militant assault from Gaza on Israeli territory October 7 last year, will pro-

vide a new opportunity for peace. "The Secretary underscored the need to capitalise on Israel's successful action to bring Yahya

Baghdad: Iraq's Prime Minister

announced Tuesday that the Islamic

State militant group's leader in Iraq

along with eight of the group's other

Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said that

Jassim al-Mazroui Abu Abdul Qader

was killed in a military operation

senior leaders. Prime Minister



Israel Department said in destroyed a statement on the

Jerusalem meetings. In a statement issued by his office, Netanyahu said Sinwar's elimination "may have a positive effect on the return of the hostages, the achievement of all the goals of the war, and the day

curity

after the war". But there was no mention of a possible ceasefire after a year of war in which Hamas' military capabilities have been greatly degraded and Gaza largely reduced to rubble, with most of its 2.3 million Palestinians displaced.

Western allies of Israel see Sinwar's killing last week as a potential breakthrough by providing Netanyahu's far-right government political cover to assert that its objectives have been achieved in Gaza. But Israel has maintained that it will not stop fight-

ing until the Palestinian Islamist militant group has been utterly destroved as a military force and governing entity in Gaza.

For its part, Hamas has refused to free scores of hostages in Gaza seized in its October 7, 2023 raid on Israel without an Israeli pledge to end the war and pull out of the territory.

The State Department said Blinken and Netanyahu also discussed ways of implementing a long moribund 2006 UN resolution passed after the last Israel-Hezbollah war that would restore security and calm along the Israeli-Lebanese border and allow civilians on both sides to

#### **Hezbollah rules** out negotiations

Beirut: Lebanon's Hezbollah movement said Tuesday there would be no negotiations while fighting continued with Israel and it claimed sole responsibility for a drone attack on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's holiday home. The group "takes full and sole responsibility" for targeting Netanyahu's house, Mohammad Afif, head of the Iranian-backed militant group's media office, told a press conference in the southern suburbs of Beirut. "If our hands didn't reach you the previous time, then days, nights and the battlefield are still between us," he said. Israel said a drone was launched at Netanyahu's holiday home Saturday. Netanyahu was not there at the time, but he described it as an assassination attempt by "Iran's proxy Hezbollah" and called it a "grave mistake". Hezbollah also for the first time acknowledged that Israel had captured some of its fighters since it launched a ground offensive in south Lebanon, and said that Israel was responsible for their wellbeing. Hezbollah had not captured any Israeli soldiers but had come close, Afif said. "It won't take long before we have captives from the enemy (Israel)."

#### return to their homes.

In his statement, Netanyahu also said there was a need for a change in the security and political situation in Lebanon that would allow Israelis to return safely to homes that had come under Hezbollah rocket fire.

### China-Russia amity stands strong amid chaos: Prez Xi REUTERS Kazan, Oct 22: Chinese

President Xi Jinping told Russia's Vladimir Putin that the international situation was gripped by chaos but that Beijing's strategic partnership with Moscow was a force for stability amid the most significant changes seen in a century.

Xi and Putin in May pledged a "new era" of partnership between the two most powerful rivals of the United States, which they cast as an aggressive Cold War hegemon sowing chaos across the world.

"At present, the world is going through changes unseen in a hundred years, the international situation is intertwined with chaos." Xi told Putin in the Russian city of Kazan at the opening of the BRICS summit. "But I firmly believe that the

friendship between China and Russia will continue for generations, and great countries' responsibility to their people will not change.'

Russia, waging war against NATO-supplied Ukrainian forces, and China, under pressure from a concerted US effort to counter its growing military and economic strength, increasingly have found common geopolitical cause.

Russia and China, pushing back against perceived humiliations of the 1991 Soviet collapse and centuries of European colonial dominance of China, have sought to portray the West as decadent and in decline.

The United States casts China as its biggest competitor and Russia as its biggest nation-state

#### **Protesters demand** removal of B'desh **Prez Shahabuddin**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 22: A prominent\_\_\_ students' organisation, which spearheaded the protests against Sheikh Hasina's government in Bangladesh, Tuesday staged demonstrations in Dhaka, demanding the removal of President Mohammed Shahabuddin over his comment on the resignation of the deposed Prime Minister



## **US PRESSURES INDIA OVER** PANNUN'S MURDER PLOT

United States had charged Vikash Yadav, described as a former officer in India's Research and Analysis Wing spy service,

Sinwar to justice by se curing the release of all hostages and has maintained ending the conthat it will not stop flict in Gaza in a way that profighting until the vides lasting se-**Palestinian Islamist** for Israelis and militant group has been utterly alike," the US State

#### Germany identifies new mpox variant

Berlin: The first case of the new mpox variant has been detected in Germany, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for public health said Tuesday, adding that it viewed the risk to the wider population as low. In a statement, the institute said an infection caused by the new variant, which had been acquired abroad, was detected October 18. It noted close physical contact was required for transmission. "The RKI currently considers the risk to the health of the general population in Germany to be low," the RK said, adding it was monitoring the situation closely and would adapt its assessment if necessary.

will pursue them to their hideouts and eliminate them said in a statement. The Joint Operations Command said in a statement that the operation was carried out "with technical support and exchange of accurate intelligence information by the international coalition forces.

**SNIPPETS** 

Iraqi forces kill Islamic State group leader

#### Lahore declared world's most polluted city; Pak plans artificial rain

Lahore: Pakistan Punjab province Tuesday said it has planned artificial rains to mitigate the impact of the smog after Lahore faced an alarming Air Quality Index (AQI) of 394. It would be the second time



that Lahore, the cultural capital of Pakistan and one of the cities to regularly face worst pollution, would carry out cloud seeding for artificial rain. The first time it was done was in December 2023 that cloud seeding was done for combating hazardous levels of smog and the project had cost an estimated Rs 350 million. Lahore was declared the most polluted city in the world Monday with an alarming AQI of 394. The AQI is a measure of the concentration of various pollutants in the air and an AQI above 100 is considered unhealthy and above 150 "very unhealthy". Early this month, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had called for "climate diplomacy" with India to mitigate smog impact in the province.

#### with directing the plot

#### REUTERS

Washington, Oct 22: US officials have told their Indian counterparts they want a speedy result and more accountability after their investigation into Indian involvement in a foiled murder plot against a Sikh activist in the United States, according to a US official.

An Indian Enquiry Committee visited Washington last week to discuss India's own investiga tions after the Justice Department alleged an Indian intelligence official had directed plans to assassinate dual US-Canada citizen Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. a Sikh separatist, last year.

'We've communicated really clearly that the US government



isn't going to feel fully satisfied until we see that meaningful accountability takes place," said a US official who declined to be named. "We have been emphasizing that we hope that India will move as quickly as possible through their investigative process.

The Indian embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Washington's message to Indian officials has not been previously reported.

Last week, an unsealed indictment showed that the United States had charged Vikash Yadav,

described as a former officer in India's Research and Analysis Wing spy service, with directing the plot against a Sikh separatist in New York City.

The indictment alleged that beginning in May 2023, Yadav, described as an employee of the Indian government at the time. worked with others in India and abroad to direct a plot against Pannun.

The accusations have tested Washington's relations with India, which the Biden administration sees as a potential counterbalance to China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific.

Ancient meteorite was 'giant fertilizer bomb' for life on Earth

New research shows, the space rock that slammed into Earth 66 million years ago actually may have been beneficial for the early evolution of life by providing access to the key nutrients phosphorous and iron to bacteria and other single-celled organisms

#### REUTERS

Washington, Oct 22: The space rock that slammed into Earth 66 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous Period caused a global calamity that doomed the dinosaurs and many other life forms. But that was far from the largest meteorite to strike our planet

One up to 200 times bigger landed 3.26 billion years ago, triggering worldwide destruction at an even greater scale. But, as new research shows, that disaster actually may have been beneficial for the early evolution of life by serving as "a giant fertilizer bomb" for the bacteria and other single-celled organisms called archaea that held dominion at the time, providing access to the key nutrients phosphorous and iron.

Researchers assessed the effects of this meteorite impact using evidence from ancient rocks in a region in northeastern South Africa called the Barberton Greenstone Belt. They found ample signs, mostly from the geochemical signature of preserved organic material but also from fossils of mats of marine bacteria, that life bounced

back with aplomb. "Life not only recovered quickly once conditions returned to normal within a few years to



Life not only recovered quickly once conditions returned to normal within a few years to decades, it actually thrived NADJA DRABON HARVARD UNIVERSITY GEOLOGIST

decades, it actually thrived," said Harvard University geologist Nadja Drabon, lead author of the study published Monday in The meteorite was a type called a carbonaceous chondrite that is rich in carbon and also contains phosphorus

the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Earth was a much different place during the Paleoarchean

Era when this occurred, and meteorite impacts were larger and more frequent.

"At this time, Earth was something of a water world, with limited emergence of volcanoes and continental rocks. There was essentially no oxygen gas in the atmosphere and oceans, and no cells with nuclei," Harvard geologist and study co-author Andrew Knoll said.

The meteorite was a type called a carbonaceous chondrite that is rich in carbon and also contains phosphorus. Its diameter was approximately 37-58 km, Drabon said, making it about 50-200 times the mass of the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs, aside from their bird descendants.

'The effects of the impact would have been quick and ferocious. The impactor hit with so much energy that it and whatever sediment or rock it hit vaporized. This rock vapor cloud and dust ejected from the crater

would have circled the globe and turned the sky black within hours." Drabon said.

'The impact likely occurred in the ocean, initiating a tsunami that swept across the globe, ripping up the sea floor and inundating coastlines. Lastly, a lot of the impact energy would get transferred into heat, meaning that the atmosphere started heating up so much that the upper layer of the oceans started boiling," Drabon added. It probably would have taken a few years to decades for the dust to settle and for the atmosphere to cool enough for the water vapor to return to the ocean, Drabon said. Microbes depending on sunlight and those in shallow waters would have been decimated.

But the meteorite would have delivered a large amount of phosphorous, a nutrient for microbes crucial for the molecules central to storing and conveying genetic information.

In an interview with Bangla daily Manab Zamin last week, Shahabuddin said he does not have any documentary evidence of Hasina resigning as Prime Minister before she fled the country in August amidst studentled mass protests.

The Anti-discrimination Student Movement, which spearheaded the campaign that led to the ouster of Hasina, rallied in front of the Central Shaheed Minar here, demanding Shahabuddin's resignation.

"The president is an ally of fascism. He was in favour of genocide. We demand his resignation," Nasir Uddin Patwari, a protest leader, said.

Some of the protesters also said that the President might face a campaign against him.

A group of protesters under the banner of Shadhinota-Shorbobhoumotto Rokkha Committee (Committee to protect independence and sovereignty) also staged a sit-in protest at the Dhaka University campus, demanding Shahabuddin's resignation and calling for the termination of the Constitution and the formation of a "revolutionary government"

The protesters also demanded the disbanding of Hasina's Awami League party and its allies from political activities. They later marched towards Bangabhaban, the President's official residence.

"We request him to resign immediately and vacate the Bangabhaban. Otherwise, we will start another movement ২ like the one in July," he said.

In his interview with the Bangla Daily, Shahabuddin said he heard that Hasina had resigned as Prime Minister before she fled Bangladesh, but – he does not have documentary evidence.













## business



#### **BHARTI AIRTEL TO INCREASE STAKE IN INDUS TOWER**

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) Tuesday cleared Bharti Airtel's proposal to increase its stake in Indus Towers, following a buyback of shares by the telecom infrastructure company. Indus Towers is a passive telecom infrastructure provider. It deploys, owns, and manages passive telecom infrastructure for various mobile operators. "The Commission approves an increase in the percentage shareholding of Bharti Airtel Ltd (Bharti Airtel) in Indus Towers Ltd (Indus Towers) to 50.005 per cent pursuant to buy back of shares by Indus Towers," CCI said in a release.



## **Bear attack: Investors poorer** by ₹9.19L-cr in single day crash

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Investors' wealth eroded by a massive ₹9.19 lakh crore Tuesday as markets came under heavy sell-off with the BSE benchmark index Sensex falling 930.55 points.

Extending its previous day's decline, the BSE Sensex plummeted 930.55 points or 1.15 per cent to settle at 80,220.72. During the day, it tanked 1,001.74 points or 1.23 per cent to 80,149.53.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by ₹9,19,374.52 crore to ₹4,44,45,649.22 crore (USD 5.29 trillion). There has been no respite

from FIIs selling in local equities in the current month so far. which has been creating uncertainty among domestic investors. Also, foreign investors are fleeing Indian equities to invest in relatively cheaper locations such as China, especially after the stimulus announcement by its government to boost its slowing economy. Along with sectoral stocks, mid and smallcap stocks too bore the brunt as persistent buying had led to valuations in several stocks getting expensive and hence the breather," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP

Ltd. said. From the 30 Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, Power Grid, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, NTPC, Bajaj Finance and Reliance were

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Adani

Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL).

the power transmission arm of

the Adani group, Tuesday said

it has received a notice from

SEBI alleging wrongful cate-

gorisation of certain investors

firm in notes to its second-quar-

ter earnings statement said it

will respond to regulatory and

Without giving details, the

as public shareholders.

(Research) at Mehta Equities

among the biggest laggards. In contrast, ICICI Bank, Nestle and Infosys were the gainers



#### Hvundai Motor India makes muted debut

NEW DELHI: Shares of Hyundai Motor India Ltd, the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, Tuesday made a muted market debut and ended more than 7 per cent lower against the issue price of ₹1.960. The stock listed at ₹1.931, reflecting a decline of 1.47 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. The stock made some recovery during the initial trade and hit a high of ₹1.968.80, up 0.44 per cent. But it failed to carry the momentum and slumped 7.80 per cent to ₹1.807.05 during the day. Shares of the firm finally ended at ₹1,820.40 apiece, down 7.12 per cent. On the NSE, the stock made its debut at ₹1,934, down 1.32 per cent. Intra-day, it tanked 7.80 per cent to ₹1,807. The stock ended at ₹1.819.60, registering a drop of 7.16 per cent from the issue price.

The company's market valuation stood at ₹1.47.914.98 crore. from the pack.

moter holding.

Foreign Institutional Investors

show cause notices from the

Securities and Exchange Board

of India (SEBI) for alleged vio-

lation of related party transac-

tions and non-compliance with

listing regulations in the quar-

ter ended March 31, the compa-

nies had stated in their regula-

tory filings to stock exchanges.

While group's flagship Adani

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2,261.83 crore Monday, accord ing to exchange data. "Rising US bond yield amid ex-

pectation of a modest rate cut by US Fed led to weakness in global markets and outflow of funds from emerging markets like India. Following its peers, Indian equities too witnessed a decline. Q2 earnings are also showing signs of moderation which dented the sentiments,' Siddhartha Khemka, Head Research, Wealth Management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. said.

The BSE smallcap gauge tanked 3.81 per cent and the midcap index slumped 2.52 per cent.

All sectoral indices ended lower. BSE Industrials tumbled 3.51 per cent, realty (3.29 per cent), metal (2.99 per cent), commodities (2.80 per cent), power (2.64 per cent), utilities (2.64 per cent), telecommunication (2.63 per cent) and consumer discretionary (2.54 per cent).

A total of 3,428 stocks declined while 559 advanced and 71 remained unchanged on the BSE.

#### HDFC AMC onboards on ONDC network

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 22: HDFC Asset Management Company Limited (HDFC AMC) has announced its onboarding on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), becoming one of the first Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to join hands with this revolutionary network.

By enabling mutual fund distributors to access a broader range of AMCs and vice versa, the ONDC is set to revolutionise how investment products are distributed. This integration marks a significant milestone in the financial services sector, as it aims to democratise access to mutual fund investment products across the country.

By leveraging ONDC's open protocol, the initiative will bring mutual funds to the masses, enabling more first-time investors to take part in India's growth story. The integration with ONDC will further aid in tackling three common barriers to investment faced by a significant portion of India's population: low incomes. irregular cash flows, and limited access to financial tools. The ONDC's open protocol will help in improving reach to large investing population by offering mutual fund investment products.

Navneet Munot, MD & CEO of HDFC AMC, said "At HDFC AMC, we are deeply committed towards financial inclusion. By joining forces with ONDC, we're not just offering a new investment channel; we're democratising wealth creation. This Network allows us to reach every corner of Bharat, transforming small savings into meaningful investments. This is in line with our ambitious mission to be the wealth creator for every Indian."

## MFI loans decline 2.3% in June qtr, NPAs rise: Report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: Loan portfolio of microlenders reduced by 2.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter to ₹4.32 lakh crore in April-June while NPAs surged, a report said.

Notably, for the last few months, microfinance institutions, banks and small finance banks which extend MFI loans, have been reporting challenges on this portfolio, and the regulator has also flagged the same. Over-leveraging among the bor-

rowers is being flagged as a key aspect, impacting asset quality. The report by Crif High Mark,

a credit information company said, there was 17.2 per cent increase in the borrowers having more than five active loan accounts in June when compared with the year-ago period, with highest growth seen in West Bengal and Karnataka.

Nearly half of the rise in stress on an incremental basis when compared to the year-ago period came from borrowers who have five or more active loans, the company said. There was 31.2 per cent QoQ drop in the amount disbursed in the first quarter of FY25 at ₹79.000 crore while the number of loans disbursed fell 32.1 per cent to 1.62 crore.

On the asset quality front, all the three classifications -- overdue for up to 30 days, 31-180 days and over 180 days -- showed an uptick, with the largest stress being in the 31-180 days overdue advances where 2.7 per cent of the loans were unpaid as of June as against 2.1 per cent in March.

The company said Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Rajasthan showed the highest stress on the asset quality front, while West Bengal, Karnataka and Maharashtra witnessed the least increase.

Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh alone accounted for over a third of the incremental delinquency during the quarter when compared with the March quarter, it said.

Among the lender types, nonbanking finance companies showed a 2.7 per cent growth in portfolio, while banks showed the steepest decline at nearly 5 per cent. Lenders seem to be preferring higher ticket size loans as the over ₹50.000 amount loans showed the strongest growth.

#### **SEBI** notice to Adani firm Silver zooms past ₹1 lakh-mark are generally clubbed as pro-

#### Seven out of the 10 listed firms PRESS TRUST OF INDIA of Adani group had received

New Delhi, Oct 22: Gold price rose by ₹350 to hit a fresh alltime high of ₹81,000 per 10 grams while silver soared ₹1,500 to record the ₹1 lakh mark in the national capital Tuesday amid a surge in demand, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Continuing its upward movement for the fifth straight day sil



USD 2,747.10 per ounce in the Asian market hours.

"Gold prices edged higher to USD  $2,74\overline{7}$  per ounce as investors are eyeing the BRICS Summit, where Russia aims to challenge US dollar dominance with a new global financial payment system," Kavnat Chainwala. AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said.

Globally silver comex futures went up nearly 1 per cent to USD

'Gold prices hit a record high

once again on Monday, extend-

34.41 per ounce.



## Bajaj Finance

profit rises 13%

As we are serious about

all', we must rethink

and market insurance

how we distribute

products

'insurance for

SIDDHARTHA MOHANTY LIC CMD

The market is

demand. It is

extremely clear that

the growth in the F&B

sector, which used to

be in double-digit a

to 1.5 to 2 per cent

facing a muted

couple of quarters ago, is now down

SURESH NARAYANAN NESTLE INDIA CMD

The capex has

not revived. It's

just that the

basket, which is

available to all of us

is smaller. Naturally.

New Delhi: Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) Tuesday reported a 13 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹4.014 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2024. The non-banking finance company had posted a net profit of ₹3,551 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago. Its total consolidated income increased to ₹17,095 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹13,382 crore in the same period a year earlier. BFL said in a regulatory filing. The Puneheadquartered company's total expenditure rose to ₹11,697 crore, compared to ₹8,624 crore in the year-ago period. Asset quality of the company worsened with gross non-performing assets rising to 1.06 per cent of the gross loans by the end of September 2024 from 0.91 per

#### **Zomato posts ₹176cr profit**

cent a year ago.

New Delhi: Online food delivery firm Zomato Ltd Tuesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹176 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2024. The board of the company. which had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹36 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, has also approved the raising of ₹8,500 crore through qualified institutional placement of equity shares, Zomato Ltd said in a regulatory filing. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹4,799 crore. It was at ₹2,848 crore in the year-ago period, it added. Total expenses were at ₹4,783 crore in the quarter under review against ₹3.039 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, it said.

statutory authorities by providing relevant information/clarifications.

The group's renewable energy firm, Adani Green Energy Ltd, which also declared its second quarter earnings, did not receive any new notice from SEBI.

"During the current quarter, an SCN (show-cause notice) has been received alleging wrongful categorization of shareholding of certain entities as public shareholding and consequences therefrom," AESL said. 'The company will respond to the regulatory and statutory authorities by providing information, responses, documents and/or clarifications, as appli-

cable, in the due course of time.' SEBI's listing rule provides for listed firms having a minimum of 25 per cent of equity owned by public investors. Foreign portfolio investors having links to the promoter group

Enterprises Ltd, renewable energy firm Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and city gas distributor Adani Total Gas Ltd in May stated that SEBI sent notices to their parent or holding company controlled by the conglomerate's chairman Gautam Adani, ports company Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone, Adani Power, electricity transmission firm Adani Energy Solutions, and commodities firm Adani Wilmar had said they have received SEBI notices.

The SEBI notices were part of a probe that followed US short-seller Hindenburg Research making damning allegations of corporate fraud and stock price manipulation against the Adani Group in January 2023. Though Adani vehemently denied all allegations, the report triggered a stock rout that wiped out about USD 150 billion of the group's market value at its

lowest point.

ver bounced ₹1,500 to hit a fresh high of ₹1.01 lakh per kg against the previous close of ₹ 99,500 per kg on Monday.

"The current momentum in silver prices is driven by industrial demand, such as in expanding photovoltaic applications, followed by the jewellery and silverware segments," Arun Misra, CEO and Whole-time Director at Hindustan Zinc Ltd, said.

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, silver prices have continued their rapid upward momentum, surging past ₹1 lakh in the physical Indian markets, with the fast-paced rally suggesting that prices could reach ₹1.1 lakh before Diwali.

Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped ₹350 to hit a fresh high of ₹80.600 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, the metal of 99.5



per cent purity had finished at ₹80,250 per 10 grams while gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹80,650 per 10 grams on Monday.

Bullion traders attributed the jump in precious metal rates to the rising consumption in industrial and wearable segments in the domestic market.

Furthermore, prices were led by growth concerns especially in China, coupled with escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia and the status quo on interest rates by most global central banks, traders added.

In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery rose ₹208 or 0.27 per cent to ₹78,247 per 10 grams.

On the MCX, gold prices have risen and the bullish momentum continues to drive prices higher. With the risk barometer staying high, this persistent demand for bullion is likely to keep driving gold prices upward in the near term, Trivedi said.

Market participants will be closely watching for any developments in interest rates, global conflicts and macroeconomic data, as these factors will play a key role in shaping gold's trajectory, he added.

Silver contracts for December delivery climbed ₹882 or 0.91 per cent to ₹98,330 per kg on the exchange.

Comex gold futures rose 0.30 per cent to a new record high of

ing a rally from last week as uncertainty over the US election and anticipation of Israel's retaliation against Iran fuelled safe-haven demand. Bullion rose even as the dollar remained close to its highest levels since early-August, as traders pencilled in a slower pace of interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve," Manav Modi, Senior Analyst - Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

This week, the focus will be on International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings, preliminary manufacturing and services PMI from major economies, US durables goods orders and comments from Fed officials which will drive the bullion prices in the near future. Modi said.

### Paytm posts

#### **₹928.3cr profit** New Delhi: One97

Communications, the parent of Paytm, Tuesday posted a net profit of ₹928.3 crore in the quarter ended in September 2024, compared to a ₹290.5 crore loss it incurred a year ago, as an exceptional gain from sale of entertainment ticketing business to Zomato improved the fintech firm's Q2 scorecard. The revenue from operations slumped 34.1 per cent year on year to ₹1,659.5 crore during the justconcluded quarter. For the July-September quarter of FY25, Paytm reported a Profit after Tax (profit attributable to owners of parent) of ₹928.3 crore. This included an exceptional gain of ₹1,345 crore on account of sale of the entertainment ticketing business, Paytm said in its earnings statement.

## 40% of blue-collar workers looking for job change: Report

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: With attrition rate as high as 40 per cent in the blue-collar job segment, a recent report revealed that over 40 per cent of those interviewed are still actively seeking new opportunities.

Over 40 per cent of participants are currently employed but actively seeking new job opportunities, according to a report by blue-collar hiring platform WorkIndia.

The report revealed that the quest for a better salary is a significant motivator, with 22 per cent of respondents indicating that financial compensation is their primary reason for job hunting.

Additionally, 20 per cent of respondents cited career growth opportunities as a driving factor,



while another 20 per cent noted personal motivations such as relocation, completing education, or changes in family cir-

cumstances, it stated. The report is an analysis based on inputs from 1,100 respondents on the WorkIndia platform.

It further revealed that many experienced candidates feel they need to be more fulfilled in their current roles, prompting them to explore better opportunities. Concerns over layoffs or financial instability within their

current employer often trigger candidates to seek new jobs, said the report.

Meanwhile, the potential for higher salaries and superior benefits remained a primary motivator for many as candidates increasingly prioritise organisations that align with their personal values, particularly regarding work-life balance and company culture.

Around 48 per cent of candidates said they continue to use the job search application even after securing a job, of which 74 per cent of respondents said they are searching for better opportunities.

These statistics highlighted a significant desire among bluecollar workers for roles that offer improved financial compensation and promise enhanced job satisfaction and career growth, it stated

Another 16 per cent of the respondents reported that they are actively searching for job opportunities on behalf of others, said the report.

"This report sheds light on the evolving motivations of blue-collar workers in India. As we continue to support their job search journeys, we are committed to providing resources and opportunities that align with their aspirations for better compensation, career growth, and a fulfilling work environment," WorkIndia co-founder and CEO Nilesh Dungarwal added.

#### Adani Group to buy Orient Cement for ₹8,100 crore

NEW DELHI: Adani Group Tuesday said it has agreed to acquire CK Birla group firm Orient Cement Ltd in a deal valued at ₹8,100 crore, as billionaire Gautam Adani-run conglomerate snaps up smaller rivals to challenge India's top cement maker UltraTech. Ambuja Cement, India's No.2 cement maker. will buy 46.8% of its founders including chairman CK Birla, and certain public shareholders for ₹3,791 crore. This would trigger ar open offer for an additional 26%stake in Orient, according to a company statement. Orient, which has two cement plants in the south and one in western India, will be Ambuja's second acquisition this year. It will add 8.5 million tonnes to take Ambuja's operational capacity to 97.4 million tonnes. The Adani group has plans in the works to raise this to 140 million tonnes a year by 2028, just a shade below market leader UltraTech's current capacity of 149.5 million tonnes.













## 9 sports axed in Glasgow CWG

Massive blow to India's prospects as the games that have been removed, yielded many medals for the country



#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 22: In a body blow to India's medal prospects in the Commonwealth Games (CWG), key sports such as hockey, bad minton, wrestling, cricket and shooting have been dropped from the 2026 edition by host city Glasgow, which unveiled a pruned roster of 10 disciplines to keep the event budget-friendly and free of 'operational risks'.

Table tennis, squash and triathlon have also been axed

#### SHORT TAKES

#### Sofia sinks Wang

Tokyo: Former Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin extended her perfect record against Wang Xinyu, beating the 10th-seeded Chinese player 6-1, 6-4 in a first-round match at the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament here Tuesday. The 25-year-old American, who won the Australian Open in 2020 and was a French Open finalist the same year, won her fourth straight match over Wang.

#### Colts triumph

Johor Bahru (Malaysia): Three-time champions India defeated hosts

in a bid to limit the cost and streamline logistics given that only four venues will host the entire showpiece. The total number of events at the Games will be nine fewer compared to the 2022 Birmingham edition.

India sent 210 athletes to the 2022 Birmingham Games across 16 sports, winning 61 medals in the process with 30 of those podium finishes coming from disciplines that won't be there at the Glasgow Games

In shooting India have won 135 medals at the CWG while in wrestling the country acquired 114 medals

Only 10 disciplines to be played at the Glasgow CWG starting July 23, 2026

30 of the 61 medals India won at the 2022 Birmingham CWG were from disciplines that wi not be featured in Glasgow

sports - striking a balance be-"The Games will include 10 tween ensuring the event has a multi-sport feel and the need to manage financial and operational risk," the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) said in a statement Tuesday.

"The sports programme will include Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field), Swimming and Para Swimming, Gymnastics, Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball." the federation said.

The 23rd edition of CWG is scheduled to take place July 23 to August 2, 2026 marking Glasgow's return as host after 12 years. "The Games will take place across four venues -Scotstoun Stadium, Tollcross International Swimming Centre, Emirates Arena - including the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and the Scottish Event Campus (SEC). Athletes and support staff will be housed in hotel accommodation," the federation informed. The roster is a massive set-

back to India's medal prospects given that bulk of the country's medals came from the removed disciplines in the past editions. While announcing the Glasgow schedule, the CGF said "Glasgow 2026 will feature a 10-sport programme concentrated across four venues within an eight-mile corridor.'

The CGF further said, "Cost and operational risk were the main drivers. Every venue introduced brings added costs and complexity for venue hire, security, transport etc. To minimise those risks, it was determined that it would be too costly to add additional venues.

Hockey's omission from the Games would be a significant blow for India. The men's team have won three silver and two bronze medals, while the women have clinched three medals, including a historic gold in the 2002 Games. In badminton, India have racked up an impressive 31 medals – 10 gold, eight silver, and 13 bronze.

Shooting was a stronghold for India, with a staggering 135 medals in their kitty. Wrestling has vielded 114 medals for the nation, including 49 gold, 39 silver, and 26 bronzes.

## Krishna, Fall ensure 2nd ISL win for OFC



OFC's Roy Krishna gestures to spectators after scoring the first goal against East Bengal, Tuesday OP PHOTO

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Odisha FC (OFC) continued their unbeaten streak at home, securing a 2-1 victory against East Bengal in their ISL encounter Tuesday at the Kalinga Stadium here. The goals for OFC were scored by Roy Krishna (22nd minute) and Mourtada Fall (69th minute), while Dimitrios Diamantakos converted a penalty for East Bengal FC (45+4th). During the game, East Bengal's Provat Lakra received a red card in the 76th minute.

This was Odisha FC's second win in the ISL and took them to seventh in the table with seven points. East Bengal continued to languish at the bottom after suffering their sixth consecutive defeat.

OFC were deserved winners as they dominated the game from the start. The Kalinga Warriors finally broke the deadlock in the 22nd minute. Isak Ralte played a penetrating pass to Krishna, who showed great composure to slot the ball into the goal. Krishna again had the ball in the East Bengal net in the 37th minute, but was ruled offside.

In added on time in the first half, East Bengal finally got the equaliser. Thoiba Singh of Odisha FC handled the ball inside the box and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Diamantakos stepped up and converted easily to open his account in the ISL.

However, with OFC continuing to pile on the pressure in the second half, the winning goal finally came when Moroccan Ahmed Jahouh found an unmarked Fall in the East Bengal box. The latter easily headed in to ensure full points for Odisha FC.

Cummins ready to make amends

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: Australian skipper Pat Cummins is determined to 'make amends' against India in the upcoming five-match Test series, as he aims to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time in over a decade. The two teams will face off in a fivematch series starting November 22 in Perth. India will come into the contest with the Border-Gavaskar Trophy firmly in their grasp, having held it for nearly

#### Warner keen to end retirement

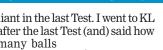
Sydney: Former Australia opener David Warner said Tuesday he is willing to come out of retirement and play against India in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy, if the home team need him in the opening slot. The 37-year-old left-handed opener had announced his retirement from the sport earlier this year. "I'm always available, just got to pick up the phone. I'm always dead seriou

### KL, SARFARAZ VIE FOR 1 SLOT BOTH SHUBMAN GILL AND RISHABH PANT FIT TO PLAY 2ND TEST AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Oct 22: India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said Tuesday that middle-order batters KL Rahul and Sarfaraz Khan are locked in a selection battle for the second Test against New Zealand here even though head coach Gautam Gambhir is keen

Rahul failed in both innings of the Bangalore Test scoring 0 and 12 respectively. Sarfaraz on the other hand, after failing in the first innings, got a brilliant 150 in the second



#### Kane ruled out of 2nd Test also

Pune: Senior New Zealand batter Kane Williamson will not be available for the second Test against India here as his rehabilitation from a groin strain is still not complete, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) announced Tuesday. Blackcaps head coach Gary Stead said Williamson is not yet ready even though he has made

to give the former, a long rope.



liant in the last Test. I went to KL after the last Test (and) said how many balls

do you

play at

(and)

miss

He did

n't play at

(and) miss

one ball

and that's

what tends to hap-

pen when you're

not getting runs.

There are cer-

at?

alavsia 4-2 to unbeaten run at the Sultan of Johor Cup junior men's hockey tournament here Tuesday. The goals for India were scored by Sharda Nand Tiwari (11th), Arshdeep Singh (13th), Talem Priyobarta (39th) and Rohit (40th). After this win, India are on top spot in the standings with nine points while New Zealand are placed second with five points and Australia third with four points.

#### Neymar returns

Al Ain: Neymar returned to action after a year out through injury and helped Al-Hilal beat Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates 5-4 in the group stage match of the AFC Champions League Elite. Neymar signed for the Saudi Arabia club in August 2023 but played only five times before tearing an anterior cruciate ligament last October. He came off the bench 369 days later for the four-time Asian champions with 13 minutes remaining at Al Ain. He almost scored immediately when his low shot from left of the area shaved the post.

#### Pep 'angry'

Manchester: Kyle Walker joined Manchester City's injury list after returning from England duty with a knee problem and will miss the home match against Sparta Prague in the Champions League Wednesday. For Pep Guardiola, this is nothing new. The City manager said Tuesday he never felt as angry as near the end of last season when Walker and fellow City and England defender John Stones returned from the international break with injuries sustained in friendlies. "I never was so angry like that moment never ever before was I so disappointed," Guardiola said. "It was a friendly game. And before crucial matches, two of my players came back injured. It should have never happened," Guardiola stated.

a decade and winning two consecutive series in Australia.

'We've had a bit of a break. so I'm excited for the five-match Test series. Excited to get into it," the 31-year-old said in a programme on Star Sports. "We haven't had a lot of luck against India over the last few series, but we always pride ourselves on playing well in Australia," Cummins added.

India had won the last Border-Gavaskar series in Australia 2-1 in 2020-21. Rishabh Pant's second innings heroics of unbeaten 89 in the final Test saw India chase down 328 to seal a historic three-wicket win at the Gabba. "The last two series were a Let's be honest, the guys have played one red ball game since their last Test matches in February, so I've almost had the same preparation," Warner told Code Sports.

long time ago, so I think we've gotten over it. But we have really high expectations when we play Test cricket in Australia,' Cummins said. "The last series, in particular, was a really tough one. It went right down to that last session at the Gabba, and unfortunately, we couldn't pull it off. A lot of the guys in the team are the same as those who played in that series and we're here to make amends," asserted Cummins.

With India looking to bounce back from the eight-

wicket thrashing at Bangalore in the opening Test, focus will be on the team combination with Washington Sundar being added to the squad. Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant are both aiming to shake off injury concerns for the match starting Thursday.

"Yeah, there's no point in sugarcoating it, there's a fight for a spot," Ten Doeschate told the media when asked if Rahul and Sarfaraz were battling for a place in the team for the game here.

"Sarfaraz was obviously bril

tainly no concerns about KL, he's batting nicely, he's in a good mental space. But we breamy have to fit seven pieces into six are certainly going to spots for this Test and look at the pitch now and decide what's going to be best for the team," added the Dutchman.

While admitting that it is difficult to keep Rahul out of the equation in the Test format,

Sarfaraz Khan scored a brilliant century against New Zealand at Bangalore in the first Test PTI FILE PHOTO

significant progress. "We're monitoring Kane and he's tracking in the right direction, but isn't yet 100 per cent fit," said Stead in a statement issued by NZC.

Ten Doeschate said head coach Gautam Gambhir is 'keen to' give him a long rope. He's (Gambhir) keen to give him (Rahul) as much rope as we can. We have a lot of faith in him," Ten Doeschate said.

Pant, who did not keep wickets for a significant part of the opening Test, and Shubman Gill, who missed the match due to stiffness in his neck, are close to attaining their full fitness.

## India eye revenge against Germany

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: International hockey will return to the capital after a 10-year gap when Olympic bronze-medallists India take on World Champions Germany in a two-Test bilateral series starting here Wednesday. Hosts India will aim to test some new faces and extract revenge for a recent heartbreak inflicted by the vis-

itors at the Paris Olympics. The matches against Germany will be played at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. It has been learnt that over 12,000 fans have already registered for the free tickets on offer through a pri-

vate ticketing portal. Coach Craig Fulton said Tuesday he has got down to building a new core group of players keeping in mind the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Fulton has opted for a mix of youth and experience against Germany, handing debuts to young midfielder Rajinder Singh and striker Aditya Arjun Lagale besides calling back play-

ers such as Mandeep Singh and



Coach Craig Fulton (let) and skipper Harmanpreet Singh speak to the media Tuesday in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

#### Dilpreet Singh.

"If you look at it from now to the World Cup and to LA (Los Angeles), we are just trying to open up the selection to pick a new core group. It will take us from now to the World Cup and from the World Cup to LA," Fulton said. "So you are never out of the system in that sense. Now it's opened up again and now we are giving guys

opportunities," he added. Fulton rejected observations that hockey Test series have become irrelevant. He said any opportunity to play a quality side is always beneficial. "It is always important to play

Test matches. It is the test of where you are. It will be good for us, we have Rajinder and Aditya - two debutants - and we also want to see some of the other players who have come back. Varun (Kumar) and Dilpreet (Singh) are in good form at the moment. Unfortunately, Jugraj (Singh) got injured last week in training," Fulton pointed out.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh said he is looking forward to the matches. "Our mindset remains the same against any opposition and we are determined to give our best," Harmanpreet pointed out.

#### Vinesh rejects Sakshi's claims

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Star wrestler and Congress MLA Vinesh Phogat has disagreed with Sakshi Malik's view that her and Bairang Punia's decision to accept exemption from the Asian Games trials last year undermined their protest against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Olympic bronze-winning wrestler Sakshi, one of the three prominent faces of the prolonged protest against the former WFI chief, had claimed in her recent book that Vinesh and Bajrang's decision made their movement seem 'selfish'

"That is her personal opinion. I don't agree with that. Unless I am weak, the fight cannot be weak. This is my belief. Till the time Sakshi, Vinesh and Bajrang are alive, the fight cannot be weak," Vinesh said Tuesday.

"Those who want to win should never be weak. They should always choose to fight on the field. For that you will have to be tough," Vinesh added

### **Odisha eves rout Mizoram**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Odisha defeated Mizoram by a massive margin of 130 runs in match of the Senior Women's T20 tournament played Tuesday at Vadodara. After being put in, Odisha scored 162 for the loss of four wickets in their 20 overs. Then the bowlers got their act together to skittle out Mizoram for just 32 in 13.2 overs.

When Odisha batted, skipper Madhuri Mehta (57, 39b, 5x4, 2x6) top-scored for the side. She played shots all round the wicket and completely dominated the opposition bowlers. Sushree Dibyadarsini (30, 21b, 1x4, 1x6) played a quickfire knock to take Odisha past the 150-run mark. PS Nimavat (1/22 off four overs) bowled well for Mizoram.

When Mizoram batted, Sushree (3/6), who bowls offspin, triggered a collapse. The Mizoram batters found the going extremely tough against Sushree. She was well-supported by Rasanara Parwin (2/2) as the Mizo batters were sent pack-

ing. None of their batters could achieve a double-digit score.

Madhuri Mehta

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