



Ananya's reaction
Actor Ananya Panday, during a recent interview, reacts to the statement that she is the next Alia Bhatt

LEISURE | P2



Doctor shot dead
Two minors shoot a doctor dead inside a nursing home in southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area Thursday morning

NATIONAL | P9



US export hurdle
The US East Coast and Gulf Coast dockworkers' strike is expected to hurt the country's exports to America, which is the largest trading partner of India

BUSINESS | P11



Positive vibes
The Indian women's cricket team will look for a winning start when they face New Zealand in the T20 WC game Friday

SPORTS | P12



STIR AGAINST CM: Police use water cannons to disperse members of Muslim Youth League during a protest against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in Thiruvananthapuram, Thursday
PTI Photo

Will go extra mile for investors: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday assured ambassadors and representatives of various countries that his government will go the extra mile to ensure the environment in Odisha is more business-friendly for investors. Addressing an event – a key step in building excitement for Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 to be held in the state Capital here January 28 and 29 next year – in New Delhi, Majhi said the state offers huge investment opportunities in several sectors such as IT, electronics, garments, food processing and metals. "I assure you that we will go the extra mile to provide a more business-friendly environment in Odisha," he pointed out. "Over the past few years, Odisha's economy has been evolving. While we continue to rely on minerals and metals, we are now actively diversifying into new, fast-growing sectors," the CM said, expressing confidence that the ₹5 lakh crore investment target for the next five years is achievable. "Come and invest in Odisha. We are creating an ecosystem to foster innovation and investment," Majhi said, adding, "I ensure you a peaceful and safe business environment to operate."



He said that steps to further improve ease of doing business, skilled manpower, and availability of minerals are some of the attractions for investors in the state. Speaking at the event, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram said that industries should set up facilities at places in Odisha where there are no units at present. State and the Centre will make roads and provide facilities in those areas to facilitate the industry, he said. He also suggested them to give priority to local people in employment. Representatives of Indonesia, Norway, Singapore, China, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, the US, Thailand, Vietnam, the UK and several other countries attended the event, according to an official statement. In addition, nine foreign associations participated in the meeting, reflecting the growing global interest in Odisha, it said. "I had a fruitful discussion with the representatives of different countries. We expect a good investment in the semi-conductor, petrochemicals, IT, green energy, electronics and food processing sectors," Majhi said. Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain, Secretary Hemant Sharma, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and other senior state government officials attended the meeting.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Refrain from urging people not to vote for liars. We risk losing whatever support we have

Everyone born equal: SC

TOP COURT STRIKES DOWN RULES ENABLING CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION IN PRISONS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 3: In a landmark judgement, the Supreme Court Thursday declared caste-based discrimination in prisons as unconstitutional, stating that 'everyone is born equal' and cannot suffer lifelong due to stigma attached to their caste.

While striking down provisions in the prison manuals of 10 states, including Odisha, which sanction assignment of manual labour and segregation of inmates in barracks based on their caste, and biases against prisoners of de-notified tribes and habitual offenders, the SC directed the Centre and the states to amend their prison manuals and laws within three months.

Observing that 'right to live with dignity extends even to the incarcerated', a bench comprising CJ DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said, "Criminal laws of the colonial era continue to impact the postcolonial world." "Article 17 enunciates that everyone is born equal," it said, adding, "Rules assigning sweeping work which stipulate that sweepers shall be chosen from the 'Mehtar or Hari caste' is also part of discrimination." Penning the 148-page judgment on a PIL of journalist Sukanya Shantha who had written an article on prevalent caste-based discrimination in prisons, the CJ also ordered deletion of the 'caste' column and any references to caste of jailed undertrials or convicted prisoners' registers in prisons. "The impugned provisions are declared unconstitutional for being violative of Articles 14, 15, 17, 21 and 23 of the Constitution. All states and UTs are directed to revise their Prison Manuals/Rules as per this judgment within three months," it said. The SC ordered the Centre to make necessary changes to address caste-based discrimination in the Model Prison Manual, 2016 and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 within three months. "References to 'habitual offenders' in the prison manuals/model prison manual shall be as per the definition provided in the habitual offender legislation enacted by the respective state legislatures, subject to any constitutional challenge against such legislation in the future. All other references or definitions of 'habitual offenders' in the impugned prison manuals/rules are declared unconstitutional," it held.

"The police is directed to ensure that members of denotified tribes are not subjected to arbitrary arrest," it said. The SC took suo motu cognisance of the discrimination inside prisons on any ground and listed the case titled 'In Re: Discrimination Inside Prisons in India' after three months.

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Isha Foundation row: SC stays police probe

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Thursday effectively halted the police probe into the alleged illegal confinement of two women at spiritual leader Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation ashram at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu. Transferring to itself a habeas corpus petition of a man alleging that his two

daughters were held captive on the foundation's premises, a bench headed by CJ DY Chandrachud directed the Tamil Nadu Police to not take any further action in pursuance of the Madras High Court's direction asking it to inquire into the alleged illegal confinement of the women. P9

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VAR.
SENSEX	82497.10	↓ 1,769.19
NIFTY	25250.10	↓ 546.80
DOLLAR	84.02	↑ ₹0.08
EURO	92.67	↓ ₹0.04
GOLD	₹75,300	↓ ₹366
SILVER	₹92,343	↑ ₹968

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.8°C	33.8°C
Min Temp	26.5°C	26.0°C
Humidity	81%	83%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

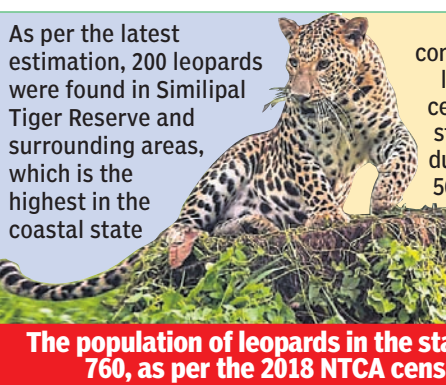
FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

FOREST DEPT CENSUS

Odisha home to 696 leopards

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The first state-sponsored leopard census conducted in Odisha has revealed the presence of 696 leopards in different forest areas of the coastal state, officials said. The census report was released by Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia during an event to celebrate the State Wildlife Week here, Thursday. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had conducted the last leopard census in the state in 2022, during which 568 leopards were found. The population of leopards in the state was 760, as per the 2018 NTCA census.



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and Sambalpur areas, followed by 40 in the Sunabeda and Khariar forests, he said. "Forty-five per cent of the leopard population in Odisha is located outside the protected area network... The territorial forest divisions have considerable leopard presence," the report said. The exercise was conducted to identify leopard presence through various signs, including pugmarks, scrapes, scats, rakes, urine spray, vocalisations and livestock depredation, it said. Sites with confirmed direct or indirect evidence of leopards were monitored using camera traps, the officials said. From next year, the survey will be synchronised with the annual All Odisha Tiger Estimation, they said.

Commenting on the 'All Odisha Leopard Estimation', PCCF (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda said about 200 leopards were located in the Similipal Tiger Reserve and surrounding areas, which is the highest in the state. The Satkosia landscape turned out to be another promising site for these animals, boasting the second-highest leopard population in the state at 150, Nanda said. During the census carried out in 47 forest divisions, 70 to 80 wild leopards were found in the Hirakud, Redhakhol

5 MORE CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Thursday approved conferring the status of classical language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages. "This is a historical decision and it goes very well with PM Narendra Modi and the NDA government's philosophy of taking pride in our culture, tak-

ing pride in our heritage and taking pride in all the Indian languages and the rich heritage that we have," I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said. The Centre decided to create a new category of languages as 'classical languages' October 12, 2004 declaring Tamil as classical language. Later, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia languages were given the status. P9

ODISHA'S FIRST NATIONAL LEAGUE CRICKET TEAM

Odisha Khehiba Duniya Dekhiba

KISS VOLLEYBALL FESTIVAL
Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences

Powered by VOLLEYBALL FOUNDATION
A Grand Celebration of SPORTS, UNITY & CULTURE

Inaugural Session
4th October 2024 | 10:30 a.m. | Athletic Stadium, KISS Campus 4, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Graced by

Ms. Jennifer Larson
US Consul General
Hyderabad, India

Dr. Ary S. Graça F°
President,
Federation Internationale
de Volleyball (FIVB), Switzerland

Event Highlights

- 5000** Kids showcasing their volleyball skills across 60 mini-courts in thrilling 4-a-side matches.
- 40,000** Students creating an electric atmosphere with flag displays, cheers, and tribal dance performances.
- 3** Guinness World Record Attempts in volleyball.

◆ KIIT and KISS will announce a scholarship program, **Dr. Ary Graça-Dr. Samanta Scholarship**, for volleyball athletes. KIIT/KISS will provide sponsorship to one or two athletes pursuing bachelor's or master's degree.

◆ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony will be held between KIIT/KISS and the FIVB Volleyball Foundation. This MoU will cover all forthcoming projects and partnership initiatives.

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today, you may set out to please your beloved, and maybe even woo him/her all over again. There may be a bit of dissatisfaction regarding friends and relatives, but you can look forward to partying and new friendships this evening, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Today, you are likely to pay attention to your health issues and eating habits. Fortune may not favour your efforts. However hard you may try, you may still find yourself back to square one at the end of the day. Try until you taste the sweet fruit of success, suggests Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will be in the mood to spend the day doing the things that you really love. You will consider helping people in need and will be in a generous mood. Your charitable bent of mind will bring you elevated social status and improved self-esteem, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Today, every word coming out of your sweetheart's lips will be music to your ears. Your relationship with your relatives will be harmonious. You may steer clear of your troubles, if you learn to restrain. The best way to deal with criticism is to take them constructively.

LEO
One way to assure success is by believing in oneself and one's abilities. Let this confidence and your high spirits take you to newer heights today, says Ganesh. Remain cheerful all day long, and you will see your hardships disappear as you tackle them with consummate skill. But more importantly, Ganesh foresees the day leading you to a fulfilling evening. Enjoy!

VIRGO
A medley of good and bad awaits you today. Emotional people will find you immature and inconsistent. But your bag of jokes is never empty, and you remain the jester as always. Ganesh advises you to meditate and engage in spiritually rich activities to channel and focus all your talents.

LIBRA
There is no end to work, so buckle up, as it is highly probable that work pressure will take up most of your time today. This leaves precious little for your family, but as always, they fully understand. Ganesh expects you to be both hard-working and conscientious today. You may also launch a new business scheme, especially if you are self-employed.

SCORPIO
The spectre of financial instability will keep haunting you. But there can be a brighter side to life too, says Ganesh. Long overdue payments might get encashed today. And those blind bluffs you call sometimes in business might pay handsome rewards, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You may have women swooning over you today; such is your charm and way with them, says Ganesh. But friends are highly valuable to you, and you shall spend much time with them cherishing their company and reliving amazing times spent together.

CAPRICORN
It may seem to be an unusual combination, but you will experience pain and pleasure in equal measure today, says Ganesh. The errands you may have to run for at home will leave you exhausted, so conserve some energy for the rest of the day. Your wit can get you whatever you want, but it's important that you use it in the right way and not just to meet your selfish interests.

AQUARIUS
Good news may hit home today. Promotion, profit, scholarship, anything you've been working for will probably materialise. You are ingenious, and will crack the toughest of problems with consummate ease. Ganesh sees money lenders and brokers doing well.

PISCES
Being a friend in need is what today will be about, says Ganesh. Making new acquaintances and associations is also on the cards. Try not to let jealousy mar your better judgement while you are at it.



SABRINA WAS 'LED ASTRAY' DURING HER EARLY CAREER

Nonsense singer Sabrina Carpenter was just 15 when she released her first single and became a household name thanks to TV series *Girl Meets World*. However, she has admitted she was 'misguided' by people in those days, she's thankful for her experiences as she's learned to trust her instincts as a result.

PINK FLOYD SELLS MUSIC FOR \$400MN

The legendary English band *Pink Floyd*, which revolutionised psychedelic and progressive rock, has finally sold off their recorded-music and name-and-likeness rights for approximately \$400 million. The band sold their music rights to the music label to Sony Music, reports *Variety*.



Mallika's harrowing experience

Mumbai: Actress Mallika Sherawat, who will be soon seen in the upcoming movie *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*, had once shared a harrowing incident when she was harassed by a male co-star. A video of the actress, which has gone viral on the Internet, shows her recollecting the time when she filmed for a "big movie" in Dubai along with a "big star-cast". In the video, Mallika said, "Let me tell you an instance, I was shooting for a big film in Dubai, it was a multi-starrer film. It's

Mumbai: Actor Tara Sutaria has finally ended her long silence on dating rumours with actor Arunoday Singh. Refuting buzz of the two being in a relationship, Sutaria tells us, "Arunoday is a dear friend of mine and I am single." According to reports, Sutaria and 41-year-old Singh have been in a relationship for the past one-and-a-half years. The 28-year-old's personal life has been in the news for some time now. Her break-up with actor Aadar Jain in 2023 had also hit headlines. While speaking at the sidelines of a beauty event in the Capital, Sutaria says that she doesn't get overwhelmed by the public scrutiny on her private life: "I think it's so much simpler than what other actors make it out to be. If you want to do anything, if you believe in it and if you want to stay true to yourself, it's very simple. Just stay true to yourself. Both my twin sister (Pia) and I have always prioritised things that were personal to us since we were little. Now, too, even if I am busier than I have ever been, that is what always matters." On the work front, Sutaria is said to be a part of *K.G.F.* actor Yash's upcoming film, *Toxic*.

Tara breaks silence on dating rumours

a super hit film, people like it a lot, I have done a comedy role in it". Everything was fine till here. However, what she spoke of next, paints a very uncomfortable, rather a dark picture of what goes around in the blingy corridors of tinsel town. She further mentioned, "The hero of that film used to knock on my door at 12:00 am. By knocking, I thought he was going to break the door. Because he wanted to come inside my bedroom. And I was like, no, it's not going to happen. After that, that hero never worked with me". However, the actress refrained from taking any names. As soon as the clip went viral, people on social platforms started speculating who she could be talking about. Some people in the comments section of Reddit deduced that the big budget film could be the 2007 superhit *Welcome* as it was shot in Dubai, featured a huge starcast, and sees Mallika portraying a comedy role.



Ananya reacts to being called next Alia Bhatt

Mumbai: Ananya Panday is a huge Alia Bhatt fan but she is not ready to talk about any comparisons with the actor. Ananya, who is busy promoting her upcoming film *CTRL*, reacted to the statement during an interview with an entertainment portal that she is the next Alia Bhatt. Interestingly, both *CTRL* and Alia's next film *Jigra* are releasing just one week apart from each other - even as *CTRL* is an OTT release whereas *Jigra* is a theatrical one. During the interview, when Ananya asked about her views on fans calling her 'the up-



coming Alia Bhatt for sure,' the actor started with a "no." She went on to add, "I think Alia is too good. It's a huge compliment that people think that, but I think I can't touch what Alia has done, ever." Alia had a special appearance in Ananya's first film, *Student of the Year 2*. Alia performed with Tiger Shroff in *The Hook UP* Song. Also, Alia made her acting debut with *Student of the Year* in 2012. Fans saw Ananya last in the OTT show *Call Me Bae*. The comedy-drama series, which addressed themes such as privilege, empowerment, and the impact of social media, also featured Gurfateh Pirzada, Varun Sood, Vihaan Samat alongside Muskaan Jafari, Niharika Lyra Dutt, and Lisa Mishra.

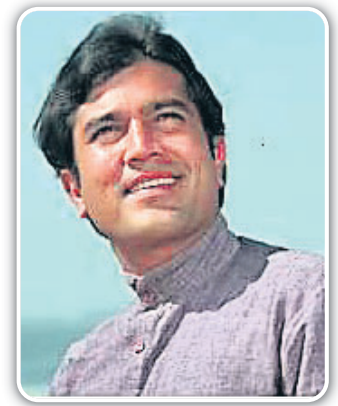
Kaka's bungalow was labelled cursed, 'ruined' 3 superstars

Mumbai: When we think of iconic houses of Bollywood stars, places like Shah Rukh Khan's Mannat, Salman Khan's Galaxy Apartments, and Amitabh Bachchan's Jalsa spring to mind. These places are legitimate landmarks in Mumbai, tourist spots almost. However, for years before any of these actors ascended to superstardom, one man reigned over Bollywood - Rajesh Khanna, aka Kaka. And his house - the picturesque Aashirwad bungalow - was as much as a landmark as Mannat or Jalsa. But due to its troubled history, Aashirwad had come to be known as a 'cursed' booh bungalow, a tag it could never get rid of.



stretches back to before Mumbai (then Bombay) became the hub of the Indian film industry. Situated on Carter Road next to the Arabian Sea front, the bungalow was owned by an

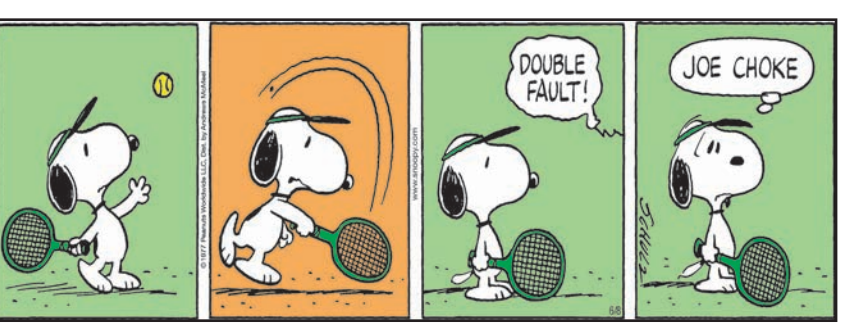
Anglo-Indian family. The first celebrity owner of the house was Bharat Bhushan, the reigning star of Hindi films in the early 1950s. However, a few years after he moved in to this bungalow, his films began flopping. By the end of the decade, Bhushan went in debt and lost his stardom. He sold the bungalow and it became dilapidated. The shabby appearance, coupled with the sudden downfall of its owner, gave birth to the urban legend that the bungalow was cursed. **'The 'Booh Bangla of Bollywood'** In the 1960s, given it was available for cheap in such a location, Rajendra Kumar bought it and named it after his daughter Dimple. On the advice of friend Manoj Kumar, he got a puja done here to ward off the



house's supposed curse. Like Bharat Bhushan, Rajendra Kumar first tasted success after moving into the house. But by 1968-69, he entered financial strife as his films failed and other investments went bad. Yet another resident of the infa-

mous house was driven into the ground. Rajesh Khanna's Aashirwad Rajesh Khanna bought the house in the early 70s when he is in the middle of his golden run of 17 hits. But by 1975, his movies were falling flat while Amitabh Bachchan was climbing in the ranks. His personal life also fell apart with his wife Dimple Kapadia separating from him and leaving the house with his children. Rajesh continued to live in Aashirwad till his last days in 2011. However, he largely stayed alone. The imagery of the lonely once-superstar living in the house further strengthened its 'cursed' tag. In 2014, an industrialist bought the bungalow and two years later, demolished it and with it, a piece of Bollywood history.

PEANUTS



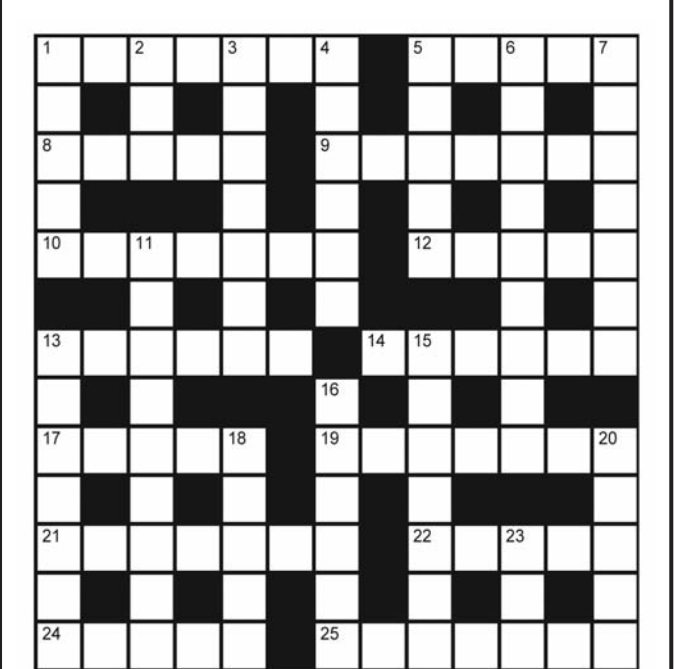
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY

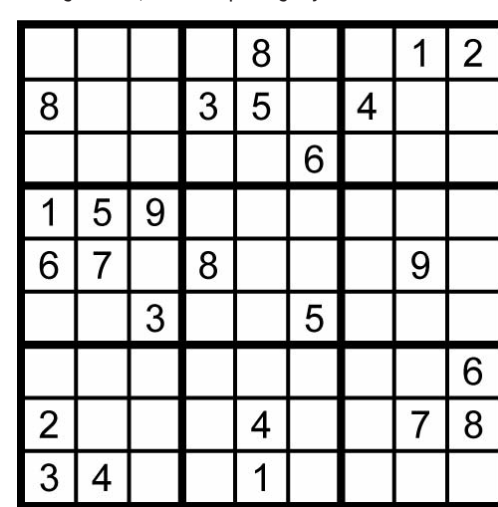


FUN post CROSSWORD

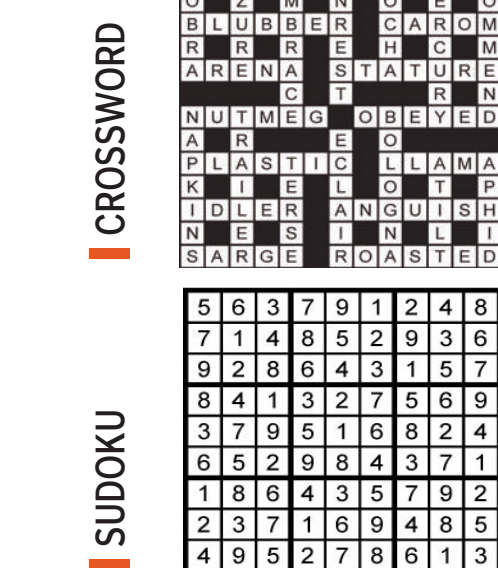


- Across**
1 Andean animals
5 Anaglyph
8 Roentgen's discovery (1-4)
9 Eyelet
10 Type of submarine
12 Boredom
13 Fix-it shop
14 Unruffled
17 Constructed
19 Game dish
- Down**
1 Female fox
2 Chinese brew
3 Savings (4,3)
4 Sweet
5 Witch
6 Type of occasion
- Across**
21 Heavy hydrogen, e.g.
22 Bikini, for one
24 Bloodhound's clue
25 It can be standing
- Down**
7 Large flightless bird
11 Lion or tiger, e.g.
13 Evil spirits
15 US state that borders three Canadian provinces
16 City in NW Spain
18 Freshwater game fish
20 Man-made fibre
23 Arles assent

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

IRREGULARITY CHARGE

Job aspirants protest near minister's house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: A number of job seekers Thursday staged a demonstration outside the residence of the Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj here to protest against alleged irregularities in the recruitment to various posts like revenue inspectors (RIs), assistant RIS and ICD supervisors.

Hundreds of job seekers also staged demonstrations in different parts of the state over the same demand.

The agitators alleged large-scale irregularities in recruiting district-cadre posts of RIs, ICDS supervisors, assistant RIs, amins and others conducted by OSSSC

The agitators alleged large-scale irregularities in recruiting district-cadre posts of RIs, ICDS supervisors, assistant RIs, amins and others conducted by the Odisha Sub-ordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC).

The OSSSC, which runs under the Higher Education department, is conducting a recruit-



Members of Students Against Corruption stage a protest outside the Cuttack Collectorate demanding cancellation of the examinations

ment drive to fill a total of 2,895 vacant posts.

The aspirants demanded the cancellation of the online examination and suggested offline tests for selecting candidates for government posts.

The process of preliminary written examination for the recruitment began September 20 and will continue till October 20.

Alleging lack of transparency in the recruitment process, the agitators also doubted the manner in which the examination was conducted.

Many aspirants took out a rally in Cuttack during the day demanding the cancellation of

the examination. The rally was held from Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Bus Terminal in Badambadi to the Collector's office.

They alleged that the government deployed black-listed firms to conduct the examination.

"We demand transparency and cancellation of the examination," the aspirants shouted while giving slogans during the rally.

Sources said that the aspirants also held a similar rally in Boudh district where police arrested one person.

Neither the minister nor the officials of the OSSSC or the state government were available for comments on the issue.

Fake ghee factory busted in Cuttack



POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 3: A few days after a milk adulteration unit was busted in Atada area here, police sealed a factory at Jagatpur New Industrial Estate where spurious ghee was being manufactured, Thursday.

According to sources, the factory, which has got the licence for production of soya chunks, was manufacturing adulterated ghee and sesame oil for the last four years.

However, a team from Jagatpur police station, on being tipped off about the adulterated ghee unit, swung into action and conducted a raid on the factory. The raid was conducted in the presence of a team of health officials from the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC).

A cop said, "Jagatpur police station's inspector in-charge (IIC) was tipped off that a factory in the New Industrial Estate was manufacturing edible ghee in the name of 'Bal Gopal Ghee' following which we informed the food safety officer and health officer. Later, a joint raid was conducted."

The team seized raw materials worth ₹20 lakh and some machinery from the firm. Police have detained two workers but factory owner Saroj Mishra is absconding.

NEW DCP ASSUMES OFFICE

2011-batch IPS officer Pinak Mishra takes charge as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Bhubaneswar, Thursday, following a recent reshuffle by the state government



POLITICKLE by MANJUL

SO, AN ADULT WOMAN CAN RENOUNCE THE WORLD AND JOIN AN ASHRAM, BUT SHE CAN'T MARRY A MAN OF HER CHOICE FROM A DIFFERENT RELIGION?



CMC draws HC ire over poor roads

AGENCIES

Cuttack, Oct 3: A little over a week after the Orissa High Court expressed its dissatisfaction over lack of repair of roads and resolution of civic issues, the court Thursday rapped the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) on civic issues in the Silver City.

Taking up a petition on the civic problems, a bench of Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo and Justice V Narasingh stated the road repair work has not been carried out in the city. Observing that the CMC has only done a

patchwork on the roads, the bench stated that if the report is found to be false, action will be taken for not adhering to the court order.

Earlier, the court had directed the CMC and departments concerned with civic issues of the city to ensure timely repair of roads before the Durga Puja. The court asked the departments to improve the coordination and complete the repair work.

During Thursday's hearing, the High Court also directed the CMC to ensure proper lighting

of the areas in the Millennium City.

Expressing dissatisfaction over DJ music during the Ganesh Puja immersion, the HC said the ban on playing of such music should be followed strictly.

Cuttack DCP, who was present during the hearing, told the court that no traffic issue will arise due to puja pandal gates. The senior police official said volunteers will be engaged as well for traffic management.

The HC directed the Cuttack DCP to submit an affidavit on the traffic management in the city.

FESTIVE FERVOUR

Replica of Swaminarayan Temple at Rasulgarh

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: As the vibrant festival of Durga Puja approaches, preparations are in full swing at various puja pandals in City. Artisans are working overtime to finish their theme-based structures as the countdown has begun for the autumn fest. To make the celebrations grander this year, Rasulgarh Durga Puja Committee is erecting the replica of Gujarat's Swaminarayan Temple.



According to sources, organisers are leaving no stone unturned to create awe inspiring thematic pandals to make the puja even grander and more pompous than ever before.

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

replicas of word famous monuments. Among those standing out include the Rasulgarh puja pandal which will enter the 32nd year of hosting the puja. The glorious, multi-coloured, wood carved Swaminarayan Temple in Ahmedabad, was built in 1822 as the first temple of the Swaminarayan Hindu sect.

Secretary of Rasulgarh Durga Puja committee Sanjay Baliarsingh said that 45 artisans from West Bengal are erecting the 85x120 structure which is scheduled to be completed before Sasthi. The pandal involves an expenditure of ₹45 lakh.

In 2023, the committee had created famous Taiwan Buddha Temple.

About security and safety measures, Sanjay said that the committee will install around 50 CCTV cameras for surveillance on the crowd along with deployment of 100 security guards. Also, around 50 volunteers of the committee will oversee the traffic and vehicle parking.

On DJ ban, Baliarsingh said, "We have brought several folk artists and musicians and also the dhakis who will perform during puja."



PUJA PREP: Preparations in full swing at Nayapalli Durga Puja mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, ahead of the autumnal festival

OP PHOTO

'Gaja sathi' injured in jumbo attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 3: A 'gaja sathi' was injured when he, along with his team, was tracking a herd of three elephants. The injured forest staffer is being treated at Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH).

The team of forest officials and the 'gaja sathi' rushed to

Haladiposh village under Kuleiposh range as they got the news about the small herd wreaking havoc there. The team was unaware of the herd having a calf for which the mother elephant became aggressive and started chasing the team.

The mother elephant attacked the team in which 'gaja sathi' Santosh

Munda got his right hand fractured. He has also received head injuries.

"The 'gaja sathi' actually fell into a gorge and managed to escape from there. We immediately shifted him to RGH for further treatment. His condition is stated to be stable," said DFO Bonai Lalit Patra.

Raj Bhavan BJP's 'war room' ahead of Jharkhand polls: BJD



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Alleging that Odisha Raj Bhavan is being used as a 'war room' for the upcoming Jharkhand elections, the Opposition BJD Thursday sought clarification from Governor Raghubar Das on whether he was in the race for the Chief Minister post in the neighbouring state.

BJD's reaction comes in the wake of recent visits by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and veteran BJP leader M Venkaiah Naidu to the Raj Bhavan to meet Das.

Additionally, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi met senior BJP leaders and Das before embarking on a two-day pre-election tour to Jharkhand.

While Assam's CM clarified that his visit was for personal reasons, the BJD expressed skepticism, questioning the intentions behind the gathering of BJP leaders at the Governor's residence.

Mounting a strong attack on the ruling BJP, BJD MPs Sasmit Patra and Sulata Deo claimed that the Raj Bhavan has effectively turned into a centre for the saffron party's political activities. They asserted that the office

of the Governor and the Raj Bhavan should remain above politics, emphasising the need to maintain the sanctity and dignity of the Governor's House.

Deo highlighted ongoing discussions suggesting that Das might be seeking to become the next Jharkhand CM. "There are rumours that the Governor will contest elections in Jharkhand; he should clarify his position regarding this speculation," they told reporters.

Speculations are doing the rounds that Das, who was Jharkhand CM between 2014 and 2019, wants to return to the politics of his home state.

BJD leaders also criticised the state's BJP government for its alleged inaction regarding an incident where the Governor's son physically assaulted a government official at Puri Raj Bhavan in July. They questioned whether any action would be taken against the Governor's son, pointing to Majhi's silence on the matter. "It appears that the state government is shielding the accused because he is the son of the Governor," they alleged.

Raj Bhavan was yet to respond to the allegations of the BJD leaders.

Researchers link climate shocks to domestic violence

ANALYSTS FOUND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WAS INCREASINGLY PREVALENT AND SEVERE, ESPECIALLY IN COUNTRIES HAVING PATRIARCHAL SOCIETIES WHERE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Climate shocks such as floods and landslides are likely to lead to an increased domestic violence over the next two years, researchers, who analysed survey data from 156 countries between 1993 and 2019, have found.

As global warming intensifies, researchers, led by those at University College London, urged countries to include funds and gender action plans in climate mitigation to address this issue, even as they said the climate shock-violence link remains complex and challenging to discern in a manner understandable to policymakers.

The team did, however, add that domestic violence was increasingly prevalent and severe, especially in countries having patriarchal societies where violence against women is considered acceptable. Violence rates

were found to be low in countries having a higher Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The analysis, published in the journal PLoS Climate, is the first to provide evidence of how climate shocks can influence national rates of physical and sexual intimate partner, or domestic, violence, the authors said.

It also adds to global evidence regarding the social impacts of climate shocks, which can often be felt long after the events, thereby building a case for policymaking and action, they said.

"All of this happens more often and with increased severity in countries that have patriarchal gender norms and where the use of violence against women is widely accepted as normal behaviour," lead author Jenevieve Mannell, from the University College London's Institute for Global Health, said.

"Climate-related disasters increase stress and food insecur-



REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

ity in families in ways that can lead to increases in violence. They also reduce the social services often available for dealing with partner violence, such as police and civil society who are more focused on the disaster," Mannell said.

Previous studies have found that rising heat and humidity increases aggressive behaviour. "We set out to explore what was happening at a national

level to help inform international climate change policy," Mannell said.

The researchers also included climate shocks data - floods, storms, landslides, extreme temperatures, droughts, earthquakes, volcanoes, wildfires - from 1920 to 2022 across 190 countries in their analysis.

Floods were found to be the most strongly linked with domestic violence, followed by

storms and landslides. Earthquakes, volcanoes and wildfires, on the other hand, were found to not influence violence rates.

"National data representing 156 countries suggest a significant relationship between intimate partner violence and a climate factor composed of storms, landslides and floods," the authors wrote.

The researchers said they could not assess as to why certain kinds of climate shocks impacted intimate partner violence more than others.

They proposed that varied types of climate shocks can take different times before showing their effects on violence against women, which they said could possibly not be captured within the two-year window of the study period.

Therefore, they called for more regular data collection by countries for measuring domestic violence in the context of climate change.

70TH STATE WILDLIFE WEEK 2024

Awareness needed for wildlife protection: Min



“Jibe Daya’ is the basic mantra of our ancient culture and tradition. A natural balance should be maintained between human society and wildlife for the survival of human beings

GANESH RAM SINGH KHUNTIA | MINISTER, FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

“Around 36.21 per cent of state’s geographical area has forest cover, compared to national average of 24 per cent. The numbers indicate a tangible proof of the state’s strong initiatives towards the protection and conservation of wildlife, forests and environment,” he said.

“Our rich biodiversity inhabits more than a thousand species of plants, 14 species of mam-

mals, 537 species of birds, 29 species of amphibians and 129 species of reptiles,” he added. The minister said, “It is very important to create awareness among students and youth generating interest and curiosity by which massive deforestation and environmental damage can be prevented.”

On the occasion, Siddharth Pati and Sailendra Narayan Satpathy were conferred with the state level Biju Patnaik Wildlife Conservation Award and a sum of ₹1 lakh.

The minister also launched two new applications-- ‘PRA-HAR’- State Wildlife Crime Database Management Portal and ‘SARPA’, rescue and rehabilitation of snakes found in human settlements.



NIGHTMARE: Commuters waded through drainage water spilled on the service road between CRPF Square and Baramunda in Bhubaneswar, Thursday
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

ILS to host Life Science Startup Summit today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) here will organise a two-day Life Science Startup Summit – 2024 from October 4, an official said Thursday.

The event will be as an innovation platform to bring together researchers, investors, corporations, policy makers, representatives from public institutions, academia and financial institutions among others in order to cooperate, collaborate, and conglomerate for the regional and national socio-economic growth, with an emphasis on BioE3.



Department of Biotechnology, Central government secretary Rajesh S Gokhale will inaugurate the startup summit. Science and Technology department principal secretary Chithra Arumugam will also grace the inaugural ceremony. To achieve the target of Viksit Bharat by 2047, experts in-line with the BioE3 policy, aims to build a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable development for current and future generations.

Key discussions will be held on bio-manufacturing in diverse sectors such as agri-food, climate, health, bio-AI, and bio-economy, new business opportunities, technology trends, disruptive strategy and transformation with startup ecosystem enablers. Gokhale will also meet with Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and other officials to discuss on various projects and biotech activities in the state.

SJTA bars 3 servitors from entering Srimandir kitchen

AGENCIES

Puri, Oct 3: The Sri Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) recently prohibited three servitors from entering the temple premises after they were found using iron cauldrons (kadhai) to prepare Mahaprasad for the deities and devotees. SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said the temple administration took a serious view of the violation of age-old practice of cooking Mahaprasad in earthen pots. “We have served them show-



cause notice and directed a team comprising temple officials and senior servitors to inspect and seize the utensils from the temple kitchen,” Padhee said. “One of them, a Palia servitor, has been prohibited from performing the service of the deities and legal actions were taken under 1955-21 B (a) of the temple Act,” he said. Devotees were shocked to learn that iron utensils were used by the Supakaras in the temple kitchen to cook Mahaprasad, breaking the tradition.

Prof Balooni appointed new VC of BGU

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Prof Kulbhushan Balooni, a noted academician with over 25 years of experience with premier education institutions, was recently appointed as the new vice-chancellor of Birla Global University (BGU), Bhubaneswar.

According to BGU, Prof Balooni possesses immense knowledge and expertise in academic administration, research and building institutional brands as he held leadership roles at IIM Kozhikode, IIM Kashipur and IIM Amritsar.

Pro Balooni was one of the founding faculty members to join IIM Kozhikode at its in-



According to BGU, Balooni held leadership roles at IIM Kozhikode, IIM Kashipur and IIM Amritsar

ception during the academic year 1997-1998, where he played a significant role in the institu-

tion building, a university official said. He was appointed director (In-charge) of IIM Kozhikode from 2014-2018, where he played a crucial role in leading entrepreneurship and research activities. His assistance went even further since he was a key figure in nurturing IIM Amritsar as its first mentor director. Following a fruitful tenure from 2019 to 2024, Balooni served IIM Kashipur as a director, where he spearheaded numerous initiatives ranging from fostering innovation to promoting entrepreneurship, supporting research and handling government directives that boosted the institution’s reputation.

CAR T-cell therapy now in SUM Hosp



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: The Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital, the medical school of Siksha ‘O’ Anusandhan (SOA) Deemed to be University, here has become the leading hospital in the state to offer chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR T-cell) therapy to treat blood cancer patients.

Talking to media persons here Thursday, Clinical Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant department head Priyanka Samal said, “The therapy represents the future of cancer treatment, providing new hope to patients with B-cell hematological malignancies who may not have other viable treatment options.” “Unlike traditional chemotherapy, CAR T-cell therapy genetically modifies the patient’s T-cells—critical cells in the immune system—to recognise and target cancer cells and destroy them,” she said. She told that the groundbreaking therapy was used for the first time in Odisha on a 15-year-old girl from Mayurbhanj district, who responded positively to the treatment and is

doing well. “The therapy holds promise for those patients in India who do not respond to conventional treatment and bone marrow transplant (BMT),” Samal said. She further said that SOA founder Manojranjan Nayak has extended his full support for implementation of the innovative treatment option for the patients. Medical Superintendent of the hospital Puspapraj Samantasinghar said the treatment will be taken up using the new therapy in the entire eastern India post marketing of the product. Department of Transfusion Medicine head Girija Nandini Kanungo and, Associate Professor and in-charge of the Hematology ICU Santosh Kumar Singh were present on the occasion. Notably, the therapy has been pioneered indigenously by IIT-Bombay in collaboration with the Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, and the product, known as NexCAR19, has been developed by ImmunoACT in India making it affordable for patients.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I, Nalini Ranjan Pradhan, S/o - Raghunatha Pradhan, resident of At-Radha Madhab, Goudiya Math, PO/PS - Khantapada, Dist. - Balasore, Pin - 756043, Odisha declared by this Affidavit No. 8255, dtd - 01.10.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Bhakti Vilash Paryatak Maharaj for all future purposes.

I, Jayakant Das Hindocha, Son of Bhanumati Das, resident of Jawaharchowk, P.O./PS - Dhenkanal, Dist. - Dhenkanal, Pin-759001 Odisha, declare by this affidavit No.-2510 dtd. 18.11.23 that now onwards I shall be known as JAYAKANT DAS for all future purposes.

ENHANCING TRIBAL HEALTH & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

‘THRIVE’ initiative by KIIT, KISS & Jhpiego

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), and Jhpiego, a Johns Hopkins affiliate, Thursday called for a new initiative ‘Tribal Health Research Innovation and Vocational Empowerment’ (THRIVE).

A new tripartite MoU was signed in this regard between KIIT, KISS and Jhpiego in presence of the KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta. The pact was signed between the KIIT VC Saranjit Singh and KISS VC Deepak Behera, and Jhpiego director Somesh Kumar. As part of the new initiative, two new centres, Centre for Tribal Health and Research (CTHR) and the Centre for Youth Innovation and Inclusiveness (CYII) will be launched, serving as hubs for indigenous-led research, cultural preservation,



and youth empowerment with an aim to address critical health and social challenges within indigenous communities.

In his address, Kumar said the launch of two centres of excellence in tribal health research and youth innovation is set to

empower a healthier, more confident future for tribal communities and youth”, he said.

Singh expressed hope that the partnership will eventually lead to the establishment of the John Hopkins Chair, while Behera stated that the initiative will accelerate the pace of youth and women empowerment in marginalised communities.

“This collaboration aims to meet immediate health needs, with excellence in creating a hub for indigenous-led research, forging academic partnerships, and strengthening local capacity,” said president and CEO of Jhpiego Leslie Mancuso through a video message.

“Youths can bring their issues, ideas and preferences at these institutions to shape their future and drive future solution goals, particularly in health and education,” said Jhpiego’s senior vice president of global programmes and technical leadership office Debora Bossemeyer.

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Official-mafia nexus spurs illegal mining in Jajpur stone quarries



far lost their lives in accidents at the quarries, and also due to lack of safety protocols, since 2017.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has, on many occasions, issued directions to curb the rampant loot of black stone and the environmental pollution arising out of it. However, the problems still persist.

It is alleged that absence of action has emboldened the illegal miners so much so that they brazenly violate the norms of Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) in looting and trafficking black stones.

The corruption has helped influential politicians and their henchmen make hay from the mining at the cost of the lives of scores of poor labourers working at the quarries.

According to reports, a leaseholder, Prakash Nayak, had been granted transit permit for three months to extract black stones from two quarries at Malagoda in Barada mouza. Though the lease term has expired, and the Minor Minerals department has not renewed it, black stones worth crores of rupees are being extracted daily from these two quarries in complete violation of norms.

Meanwhile, locals have questioned the silence of the Minor Minerals department over the issue as the illegalities have not only resulted in revenue losses, but the regular use of explosives at the Bajabati quarry has resulted in air and groundwater pollution. The contaminated water is causing the spread of kidney-related ailments in 10 villages in the locality.

When contacted, Prakash Nayak, Deputy Director of Minor Minerals department said he has no information about black stone smuggling from Barada and Bajabati quarries. When told about the findings made by this reporter, he promised to launch a probe and take necessary steps in this regard.

POST NEWS NETWORK

continues to lose precious revenue worth crores of rupees.

Sources said that the rampant loot has resulted in the shrinking of black stone, or granite deposits, under the tehsil. There are around 200 small and big quarries out of which 85 quarries are on government rolls. Among those, the district administration has leased out around 37 quarries, while illegal mining is being carried out at the remaining quarries.

Side by side, allegations of illegal mining and irregularities have also been reported at the quarries leased out by the district administration. It is alleged that miners, fearing penalties, are illegally extracting black stone from quarries beyond their lease areas, and also in areas adjoining their quarries, and trafficking stones outside.

Significantly, the use of explosives for extracting black stones in a short time from the quarries is often resulting in the death of labourers.

On May 16, 2024, three labourers were crushed to death after they came under huge stones which rolled down from the hill at BSQ-5/10 quarry on Dankari hill following an explosion.

According to the statistics, as many as 50 labourers have so

Jajpur, Oct 3: After a brief lull, illegal mining of black stones has allegedly resumed at quarries under Dharماسala tehsil in Jajpur district.

According to information, the illegality was exposed by local residents who recently brought to light large scale extraction of black stones from a big quarry at Malagoda under Barada mouza under the tehsil. Afterwards, similar illegal mining was also witnessed in Bajabati quarry where extraction of black stones is being carried out not only during day time but also at night.

Following extraction, the black stones are sent to crusher units in the vicinity before being transported (smuggled) to various destinations for sale. Minor Minerals department officials frequently patrol the area. However, the rampant loot and smuggling of black stones is going on right under their nose since they have failed to curb the phenomenon at hills under the tehsil.

Locals alleged that the black stone mafias are making a killing by conniving with officials of Minor Minerals department while the state government con-



ART EXPO: Guests appreciate paintings displayed at an art exhibition titled 'Abahani' depicting various forms of Goddess Durga, at the Regional Art Gallery of Lalit Kala Akademi at Bada Bazar in Sambalpur, Thursday

Controversies galore in Binayak Residential College

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Oct 3: A private residential college near Medinipur under this block in Kalahandi district has been in the news for all the wrong reasons, lately.

Binayak Residential College grabbed headlines after a plus two second year Arts stream student in the college was allegedly subjected to ragging at the hands of his classmates September 29. The victim, identified as Ankesh Bag, was allegedly pushed by the rogues from the second floor of the four storied college-cum-hostel building of the college.

Ankesh was rescued in a serious condition and admitted to the district headquarters hospital for treatment. He has sustained critical injuries on his waist and legs.

The incident sent shockwaves across the state. It assumed serious proportions after a video of the alleged ragging went viral



on social media.

According to Ankesh, he had been subjected to ragging by his classmates who would beat him up on repeated occasions in the past. On September 29 night, nine of his classmates thrashed him before pushing him down the second floor of the college building, he said.

Principal of the college, Nalinikanta Dash, has claimed that the anti-ragging cell of the college is conducting a probe

into the matter. However, action against the rogue students is yet to be seen. Nevertheless, the college is no stranger to such controversies. The body of Saswat Mund, a plus two second year Science student, had been found under mysterious circumstances at a nullah near the Jaleswar temple in the area. Questioned were raised as to how the authorities allowed the student, residing in the hostel, to go out for bath in the afternoon.

The deceased's family members alleged that Saswat had been done to death in a planned way and they lodged a murder complaint at the Town police station. Police questioned Mund's classmates and arrested the Managing Director and the then Principal Trilochan Mohapatra and booked him under Section-304 of Juvenile Justice Act.

Mohapatra was produced in a court which remained to judicial custody after his bail plea was rejected. It is alleged that such incidents continue to occur due to alleged negligence, irresponsibility and apathetic attitude of the college authorities.

It is also alleged that the college authorities are charging hefty fees from the students at the time of admission, but have failed in providing security to the students as has been proved from these two incidents. Locals have demanded the state Higher Education department to intervene and initiate action in this regard.

Four minor orphan siblings seek govt help for survival

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Oct 3: Four minor siblings, who have become orphaned after the death of their father in Ganjam district, are waiting for the state government's help for their survival.

The orphaned minors are — Khushi Behera, 17, his two sisters Lushi, 15, Mamali, 13, and brother Mahabir, 11, of Bhanjanagar town in Ganjam district. Their father, Subala Behera, 45, died September 23. Their mother, Puspaa, died five years ago. Subal, a daily labourer succumbed to some ailments.

After their father's death, their grandmother Laxmi has been taking care of them. With her limited income from selling fish, Laxmi, 70, is unable to meet the daily expenses of her four grandchildren. Moreover, her house is also in dilapidated condition.

The siblings met Bhanjanagar Sub-Collector Anil Kumar Sethi

and sought government assistance. Sethi immediately sanctioned ₹10,000 from the district Red Cross fund and asked the Tehasildar, Bhanjanagar to inquire about their plights.

However, Laxmi said the assistance provided from the Red Cross would be spent on the final rituals of her son (Subal).

When asked, the sub-collector said, "We will take steps for their rehabilitation after discussion with the Collector following the receipt of a report from the Tehasildar." "I hope the government will take care of the orphan children" said Laxmi.

"My father was taking care of us after the death of our mother about five years ago. After his death, now we are very much worried about our future, as our old grandmother is unable to earn much to eke out a livelihood," said Khushi.

Social activists have urged the government to take steps for their proper rehabilitation.

AP officials trespass into Kotia again

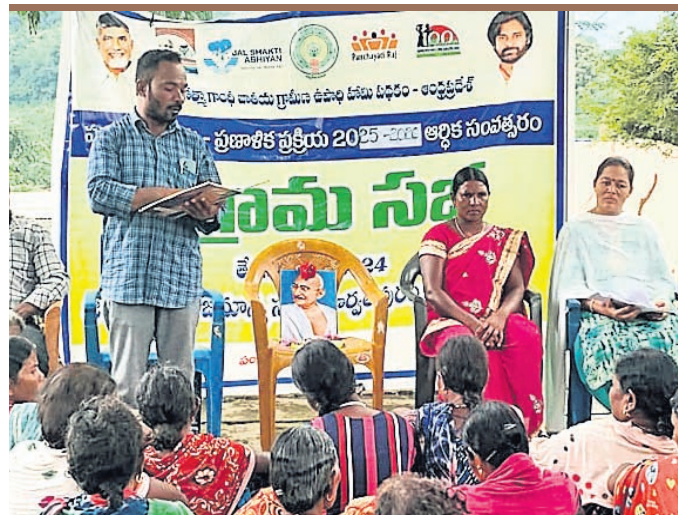
'CELEBRATE GANDHI JAYANTI, HOLD GRAM SABHA'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Oct 3: The trespass of Andhra Pradesh officials into the bordering villages in Odisha continues even after a new government led by Telugu Desam Party (TDP) assumed office in that state recently by replacing the YSRCP government.

Recently, the matter came to the fore after Andhra officials were seen sneaking into Phagunsineri village in Kotia panchayat of Koraput district and celebrating Gandhi Jayanti. They also conducted a gram sabha in the village over the Centre-sponsored rural job scheme, MGNREGS.

Authorities of Salur block in Parbatipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh have accorded gram panchayat status to Phagunsineri village and are



holding various programme of their government. They, along with the panchayat extension officer (PEO), reached

Phagunsineri village and celebrated Gandhi Jayanti in the presence of their self-declared sarpanch Kuneti Kusu Amma

and the villagers Wednesday. They also conducted a gram sabha on implementation of MGNREGS in the presence of the villagers.

Later, they sought the opinion of the villagers on the implementation of various government schemes in the gram sabha to prepare a report for submission to the Salur BDO. The Salur BDO, in turn, will inform the Collector of Parbatipuram Manyam district and implement the Andhra government schemes in the area following approval.

Meanwhile, when contacted, Pottangi BDO Sukant Kumar Pattanaik said a probe will be conducted into the trespassing by Andhra officials in Phagunsineri village of Kotia panchayats. "A report will be submitted to the district administration for action," Pattanaik added.

Miscreants stone man to death in front of wife

Kamakhyanager: A man was stoned to death by a group of miscreants in the presence of his wife at Rupabeda village, under Kankadahada police limits in Dhenkanal district, police said Thursday. The deceased was identified as Gagan Nayak, 35, a daily wage earner and a resident of the village. Sources said that both Gagan and his wife 'Pinky' work as daily wagers to earn a living.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No.: DRM/Engg/KUR/24-25/
E-Tender/63, Dtd.: 27.09.2024
Tender No.: e-Tender/ABSS-TLHD-2024
dtd. 20.09.2024

Description: PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY FOR UPDATION OF MASTER PLANS, REVIEW OF TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY REPORT, PREPARATION OF ESTIMATE, TENDER SCHEDULE AND GOOD FOR CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR UPGRADEMENT OF TLHD, TALCHER ROAD RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.

Approx. Cost of the Work: Rs. 10.34Lakh
EMD: Rs. 20,700/-

Tender No.: e-Tender/ABSS-DNKL-2024
dtd. 20.09.2024

Description: PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY FOR UPDATION OF MASTER PLANS, REVIEW OF TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY REPORT, PREPARATION OF ESTIMATE, TENDER SCHEDULE AND GOOD FOR CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR UPGRADEMENT OF TLHR, TALCHER RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.

Approx. Cost of the Work: Rs. 11.75Lakh
EMD: Rs. 23,500/-

Tender No.: e-Tender/ABSS-MCS-2024
dtd. 20.09.2024

Description: PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY FOR UPDATION OF MASTER PLANS, REVIEW OF TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY REPORT, PREPARATION OF ESTIMATE, TENDER SCHEDULE AND GOOD FOR CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR UPGRADEMENT OF TLHR, TALCHER RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.

Approx. Cost of the Work: Rs. 11.75Lakh
EMD: Rs. 23,500/-

Tender No.: e-Tender/ABSS-MCS-2024
dtd. 20.09.2024

Description: PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING ARCHITECTURAL AND TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY FOR UPDATION OF MASTER PLANS, REVIEW OF TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY REPORT, PREPARATION OF ESTIMATE, TENDER SCHEDULE AND GOOD FOR CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR UPGRADEMENT OF TLHR, TALCHER RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME.

Approx. Cost of the Work: Rs. 15.01Lakh
EMD: Rs. 30,000/-

Completion Period: 6 (Six) Months (For All Tenders)
Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. on 14.10.2024 (For All Tenders)

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)
PR-576/P/24-25
Khurda Road

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Tourist footfall at Midubanda declines

Midubanda waterfall is battling an unusual crisis these days due to a sharp decline in the water level which has resulted in a dip in tourist footfall



POST NEWS NETWORK

Daringbadi, Oct 3: In an apparent instance of climate change taking a toll on tourism, erratic rainfall has caused significant reduction in water level of Midubanda waterfall here in Kandhamal district, thereby affecting tourist footfall, according to a report.

Daringbadi, a hill station in Kandhamal district, is known as the Kashmir of Odisha for its scenic locales, pine trees, coffee gardens and splendid valleys.

There are several waterfalls like Indradhanu, Patabandha and Kirikuti Lovers' Point that at-

tract the tourists. Among them, Midubanda waterfall attracts tourists the most for its sylvan settings around the waterfall and the clean and cool water.

However, Midubanda waterfall is battling an unusual crisis nowadays due to a sharp decline in its water level which has resulted in a dip in tourist footfall.

Several tourists also decided to cut-short their stay after learn-

ing about the decline in the waterfall's water level. The decline in water level has also impacted the agricultural activities carried out on the upstream of the waterfall. Some of the tourists alleged that this has robbed the sheen off the beautiful tourist destination which is famous for the waterfall and its pristine beauty.

It is said that the waterfall's

water level is declining due to irregular rainfall induced by the climate change. Locals said, of late, the amount of water the waterfall should throw down has also decreased. This apart, the otherwise cool climate of the scenic place has also changed.

Officials from the block development office are of the view that the area registered a minimum temperature of 21.5 degrees Celsius at 8am while the maximum temperature stood at 26.5 degrees Celsius at 5pm, Thursday. Humidity in the area was recorded at 89%. The rise in temperature has delayed the arrival of winter season and subsequent arrival of tourists.

Locals said the water level at Midubanda goes down either in the month of February or after the Holi festival in March but this year it has declined too soon which is beyond their expectations. This has sparked concern among the environmentalists. They said if the area does not receive adequate rainfall in October, tourist footfall in the winter season will decline further.

FOCUS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

PLAYING PEACE-BROKER



To fully agree to Zelenskyy's plan would mean that Russia is brought to the negotiating table from a position of defeat or imminent collapse of its defence

The External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar reveals that India is talking to both Ukraine and Russia for a resolution of the conflict and ending the ongoing war. Does this mean that New Delhi is actively playing the role of a peace-broker? It has been long expected of India to give a hand or take the lead in resolving the conflict in Ukraine. This expectation from India stems from India's foreign policy tradition of neutrality which was called non-alignment and New Delhi's perceived friendship with Russia; the historical relation with former Soviet Union providing the backdrop.

pept the peace negotiations to be based on his 10-point plan.

To fully agree to Zelenskyy's plan would mean that Russia is brought to the negotiating table from a position of defeat or imminent collapse of its defence. Many observers would argue that this is not realistic. The option is to accept Russia's terms. The implication of this option is that Ukraine compromises its sovereignty, complicates its reconstruction and risks its existence. Ukraine's western allies will expect that Russia will not resume its war against Ukraine nor invade any other member of the European Union or NATO. Remember that the Western allies have promised 50 billion dollars more as an aid to Ukraine. It appears they are in no mood to just let Russia run away with victory in Ukraine.

A Russian outright victory will have serious implications for the West, India and the world. One, it will send a message that a big power can openly violate the sovereignty of a smaller country, mainly its neighbour, seize its territory on one pretext or the other and escape with impunity. Such an act would encourage other countries to do the same in complete violation of international norms which India has been advocating.

Second, Russian victory on the battlefield as well as at the negotiating table will strain its

relationship with the West, pushing it closer to the arms of China. In trade and commercial terms, without a market in Europe, Russia will become deeply dependent on China. This will go against India's strategic interest. New Delhi wants a fissure in Sino-Russian alliance. But is it likely? New Delhi has to perhaps reconcile to a long-term Sino-Russian partnership except that it is not directed against India's interest.

Third, Russian victory would undermine the US credibility as a security provider. It would cast an ominous shadow of doubt across the world about the US as a solid partner. In the Indo-Pacific, it may encourage China to be more aggressive. If this scenario is bad enough, what is the other optimistic outcome? Can Ukraine win? It is not impossible. Russia is not invincible. History shows that Moscow has been conquered by the Poles in 1612. The Bolshevik Russian Army was defeated by Poland at the battle of Vistula in 1920. Russia lost a war with Japan in 1905 and to Afghanistan in 1989. So, it is not difficult to defeat Russia with great courage and strong will to fight which the Ukrainians have displayed. They also have the continued support, both economic and military, from the powerful Western allies.

There is a widespread belief in India and elsewhere that with

a possible change of leadership in United States after the November elections, the American support to Ukraine might deplete. In that case, Ukraine may not be able to hold much longer against Russia. This is a misconception. The United States will not like to hand over the victory to the main ally of China which is its principal adversary. The war in Ukraine is helping somewhat the US economy. It is also costing the US far less in blood and treasure than its 20-year engagement in Afghanistan.

Notwithstanding the possible scenarios in ending the war and implications of its continuation, India should strive to bring the warring parties to the negotiating table. Organising peace conferences like the one done in Switzerland, will not serve the purpose as it isolates Russia. Any negotiation to be successful, all the immediate stakeholders have to be around the table, certainly Russians and Ukrainians. If New Delhi makes that meeting happen, it would have paved the way for a negotiated settlement of the two-and-half-year old war. It is time Prime Minister Modi proves that this is not an era of wars. Given his determination and strength of conviction, he could walk his talk. India's success, even partial, in bringing a ceasefire in Ukraine leading to a permanent solution would be a great signal to the world vis-a-vis wars raging in many parts.

India's message should be, 'give dialogue a chance' and 'embrace peace not war'. The former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has endorsed this in an article in an Indian newspaper while paying his tribute to the apostle of peace Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary on 2 October. It is time to make the world recognise that this message is critical to survival of humanity.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism. @NFA



DK Giri

REGARDLESS OF THE POSSIBLE SCENARIOS IN ENDING THE WAR AND IMPLICATIONS OF ITS CONTINUATION, INDIA SHOULD STRIVE TO BRING THE WARRING PARTIES TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE

No doubt that if India succeeds in bringing an end to the bloody and horrific war in Ukraine, it will signal a precedent for preventing and ending wars elsewhere. The escalation of wars in the Middle-East is a hair-raising scenario for the entire world. So, it is in order that we assess New Delhi's chances and ability in brokering peace between Ukraine and Russia. India has maintained that the conflict should be resolved through diplomacy and negotiations. Jaishankar has been reiterating that the solution to the conflict lies at the negotiating table, not on the battleground. Such an approach is gaining currency among the stakeholders. This is a start for India.

The second variable going for India is that it has a non-partisan image, has good relations with both sides of the conflict. This edifies India as a possible mediator. What are possible terms for negotiation? What would be a just peace acceptable to both sides? Ukraine will expect that final settlement of this war should uphold the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty of independent states. That is also the normative position in lines with the Charter of United Nations. The India-Poland Strategic Partnership Declaration underlined the call for 'just' peace. President Zelenskyy, however, would ex-

SPECTRUM CHILD PROTECTION

A landmark judgement

Just Rights for Children Alliance, a collection of five NGOs that work in unison against child trafficking and sexual exploitation, had filed an appeal before Supreme Court against the Madras High Court order quashing criminal charges against a young man Harish, who was booked by NCRB for viewing and storing video clips featuring children being exploited for sexual acts. The HC ruled that mere possession or storage of any pornographic material was not an offence under POCSO Act 2012. It further said that S67B of the IT Act only made transmission, publication or creation of material depicting children an offence, but mere watching or downloading child pornography in private domain was not punishable. The SC has held that the HC decision is erroneous and egregious. Writing this landmark judgement on behalf of the CJ Chandrachud & himself, Justice Pardiwala has invoked the concept of 'constructive possession' as per which storage of such material is an 'inchoate offence', a criminal act done in preparation for further offence. For Justice Pardiwala mens rea (intent) is to be gath-

ered from actus reus (action) of possessing the material but not deleting or reporting it. The Court referred to S30 of POCSO Act as per which the special court shall presume that the accused had a culpable mind-set. The burden is on the accused to show that he was not guilty. The SC notes that culpable mental state is what the HC should have considered. It also ruled that S79 which gives safe harbour to intermediaries from any liability, does not apply to child pornography.

The Court then proceeds to bring out how the impact of victimization and abuse of children is profound, inflicting lasting physical and emotional trauma on the child. The Court considers that the term child pornography is a misnomer that fails to capture the full extent of the crime. The court considers that the term Child Sexual Exploitative & Abuse Material (CSEAM) would more accurately reflect the reality that those images and videos which are not only pornographic but are records of incidents, 'where the child has either been sexually exploited or abused or where an abuse

of the children has been portrayed through any self-generated visual depiction.'

The Court then underlines the importance of sex education and tries to debunk the misconception that sex education encourages promiscuity and irresponsible behaviour among youth. Research has shown that sex education actually delays the onset of sexual activity and promotes safer practices. Effective sex education encompasses a wide range of topics, including consent, healthy relationship, gender equality and respect for diversity.

The Court has suggested that the Ministry of Women & Child Welfare should amend the POCSO Act by substituting child pornography with CSEAM, to reflect on the reality of such offences. According to National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, India accounts for the maximum number of online child sexual imagery in the world followed by Thailand.

Digital technology has significantly impacted the production and dissemination of CSEAM. The internet, smart phones and file sharing platforms have made it easier for

offenders to create, access and distribute such content across borders. End to end encryption and anonymising tools can make it challenging for law enforcement agencies to detect and investigate these crimes. However, technology also enables new methods for identifying victims, tracing of offenders & blocking CSEAM.

Collaboration between technology companies, governments and NGOs is crucial to leverage technology effectively in combating the exploitation of children online. Technology companies must develop and implement advanced algorithms and AI systems capable of detecting and removing CSEAM from their platform. While the government has banned child pornography it is yet to set up a dedicated agency to investigate cases of those who view, distribute and create it. The SC's judgement has reminded the state about its overarching constitutional responsibility of making special provision for children (Article 15) & to protect children against exploitation (Article 39(f)).

The writer teaches Constitutional Law.



Satya Narayan Misra

COLLABORATION BETWEEN TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES, GOVERNMENTS AND NGOS IS CRUCIAL TO LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY EFFECTIVELY IN COMBATING THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN ONLINE

Value teaching voices

Sir, Every year, we celebrate World Teachers' Day on 5 October to honour the significant contributions teachers make to society. They play a vital role in bridging the gap between the privileged and the underprivileged, shaping the character of individuals during their formative years. Teachers often become like second parents, guiding students through lessons, addressing their concerns, and imparting essential life skills. It is hard to imagine a world without these dedicated professionals, and their influence is crucial in making the world a better place. Despite their invaluable contributions, many teachers today feel overworked, undervalued, and underpaid. This situation has led to an alarming global shortage of over 44 million teachers, jeopardizing the right to education for many students. In response to this crisis, there is a growing call to strengthen the teaching profession and address the systemic challenges teachers face. This year's World Teachers' Day theme, "Valuing Teacher Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education," emphasizes the importance of engaging with teachers to acknowledge their expertise and address their challenges.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Trade imbalance

Sir, The early 2000s saw a seismic shift in global trade as China emerged as the world's manufacturing powerhouse. This phenomenon, known as the "China Shock," drastically altered the landscape for many economies, especially those with established manufacturing sectors. The flood of low-cost Chinese goods led to the closure of factories, job losses, and economic disruptions worldwide. The shock was particularly severe in countries where industries couldn't compete with China's rapid rise in production efficiency. Today, as China faces new economic challenges, including a slowdown in its real estate sector and weak consumer demand, there are concerns about a potential second "China Shock," which could again send ripples through the global economy. For India, this potential resurgence of Chinese exports presents both risks and opportunities. India has long struggled with a trade imbalance with China, with a significant portion of its imports coming from Chinese products. To safeguard its economy, India has implemented several strategies aimed at reducing its reliance on Chinese imports. One of the primary tactics has been the imposition of trade barriers, such as tariffs and anti-dumping duties, on certain Chinese goods.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Detachment is the beginning of mastery

SRI AUROBINDO



Climate Contagion

In Australia, California, the Amazon, and many other places nowadays, red skies, glowing and thick with smoke and ash, have become increasingly common. Beyond destroying homes, wildlife, and ecosystems, wildfires often cause air quality to deteriorate sharply, with serious consequences for human health.

Even in normal times, 99 per cent of all people breathe air that exceeds World Health Organization air-quality limits. But disasters such as wildfires make matters far worse: as air pollution and airborne allergens increase, so do hospital admissions for respiratory ailments, even in areas far from the blaze. Last year, during the 19 days when smoke from wildfires in Canada was wafting over the United States, emergency-room visits for asthma were 17 per cent higher than normal.

With climate change increasing the frequency and intensity of such disasters, the health impact will only grow. People suffering from respiratory illnesses, such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), are at particularly high risk, owing to their susceptibility to air pollution and allergens. Rising temperatures compound the problem: one study found that COPD hospitalizations rise by 1.5 per cent for every 1°C increase above 23.2°C.

People with certain allergies are also vulnerable to respiratory issues as climate change progresses. For example, over the past 20 years, the combination of rising temperatures and increased levels of carbon dioxide in the air has caused pollen counts to increase steadily. Already, climate change has brought an increase in new diagnoses of respiratory diseases, while exacerbating the symptoms of those who already suffer.

The same is true for immunity-related diseases, as many of the same environmental factors that affect the respiratory system – such as higher temperatures and increased airborne allergens – put the immune system under stress. This often results in inflammatory conditions, which contribute to more than half of all deaths globally.

Moreover, a robust body of evidence links outdoor air pollution to skin conditions, such as hyperpigmentation, atopic dermatitis, and psoriasis. The effects of climate change can also exacerbate other diseases that affect the immune system, including infectious diseases like meningitis and neglected tropical diseases.

Taking cover indoors cannot keep us safe. Indoor air pollution – which is also exacerbated by climate change – is responsible for an estimated 1.6 million deaths annually, more than half of which are children under five years old in countries that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Given the worsening climate crisis, urgent action is needed to protect human health. For starters, the health-care sector must identify key environmental risks created or exacerbated by climate change, clarify their potential health implications, and strengthen responses to – and prevention of – the relevant conditions and diseases. Health-care pipelines must be supplemented with targeted treatments.

Any effort to deal with the health effects of climate change should make use of artificial intelligence. AI will undoubtedly play an important role in climate action: research shows that, by scaling currently proven applications and technology alone, AI could help reduce global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by as much as 10 per cent by 2030, equivalent to the annual emissions of the entire European Union. AI can significantly bolster climate-related adaptation and resilience initiatives as well.

On the health front, by detecting patterns of incidence of potential climate events, AI can help us to identify and prepare vulnerable populations and develop plans for responding to extreme weather events before they happen. AI has already proven its ability to predict events like heat waves. This predictive capacity means that AI can also help to improve the efficiency of renewable-energy sources like wind and solar, optimize energy grids, and reduce downtime in energy production.

Finally, the health-care sector should work with local and philanthropic organizations and community workers to get treatments to those who need them most. Low- and middle-income countries are disproportionately affected by climate change, owing to a range of factors, including food insecurity, exposure to polluted air, lack of clean water and sanitation, and limited access to quality medicines and vaccines. With many of the most vulnerable communities also the hardest to reach, on-the-ground support from those who are most familiar with local conditions will be essential.

When it comes to limiting the health effects of climate change, there is no substitute for global action to limit temperature rise, especially by eliminating GHG emissions. But some amount of global warming is unavoidable, so devising strategies for dealing with associated health risks, especially among the most vulnerable patients and communities, is essential. The application of AI and effective collaboration among relevant organizations should be central to such plans.

The writer is CEO of Sanofi

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Restlessness is discontent and discontent is the first necessity of progress. Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure

THOMAS A. EDISON

It is far better to grasp the universe as it really is than to persist in delusion, however satisfying and reassuring

CARL SAGAN

There are three classes of people: those who see, those who see when they are shown, those who do not see

LEONARDO DA VINCI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1190: Richard I (the Lionheart), on his way to Jerusalem during the Third Crusade, invaded a hostile Sicily and took the key city of Messina.
- 1582: The Gregorian calendar was introduced, and over the following centuries numerous countries adopted it.
- 1853: The Crimean War began as Ottoman Turks (later joined by England and France) declared war on Russia; the fighting lasted more than two years and ended with Russia's defeat.
- 1957: Sputnik 1 launched by USSR. On this day in 1957 the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, which orbited Earth until 1958, inaugurated the space age, and heightened Cold War competition between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgurh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

DALIT STUDENT IIT ADMISSION

UP to register top institutes for scholarship disbursal

THE UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT HAD ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY THAT IT WOULD BEAR KUMAR'S ENTIRE FEE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

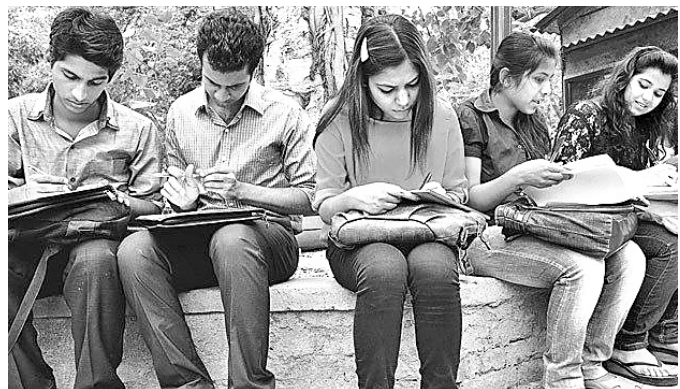
Lucknow, Oct 3: After a Dalit student from Uttar Pradesh almost lost his IIT seat due to delayed fee payment, the state government plans to register all IITs, IIMs and other premier institutes with its Department of Social Welfare to provide scholarships to students.

The first to be registered would be the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhanbad, which was Monday directed by the Supreme Court to admit the student, Atul Kumar (18), the son of a daily wageer from Muzaffarnagar's Titara village. Kumar lost his hard-earned seat in the Electrical Engineering branch at IIT Dhanbad as he missed the deadline to pay the admission fee of ₹17,500 by a few minutes.

The Uttar Pradesh government had announced Wednesday that it would bear Kumar's entire fee through scholarship.

The state government now plans to help all students like Kumar.

"We will write to all such institutes of national importance, including IITs and IIMs, that are located outside the state for registration to enable seamless scholarship disbursement to all eligible candidates from the state



We will write to all such institutes of national importance, including IITs and IIMs, that are located outside the state for registration to enable seamless scholarship disbursement to all eligible candidates from the state who get admitted in these institutes

ASIM ARUN | SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER

who get admitted in these institutes," Social Welfare Minister Asim Arun told PTI.

He said he spoke to the registrar of IIT Dhanbad and the institute is likely to be registered with the Department of Social Welfare by Thursday.

"I have spoken to IIT Dhanbad authorities and hopefully by the time Atul reaches the institute, it would be registered with us, ensuring a smooth transfer of scholarship to him and all other eligible students from the state in future," the minister said.

"As of now, many of the institutes like IITs outside Uttar Pradesh aren't registered with us. IIT Dhanbad wasn't registered with us either.

"So, I called up the institute's registrar, who turned out to be from Kanmaui (Arun's Assembly constituency). It has been decided that IIT Dhanbad would be registered with us immediately, possibly by Thursday, so that

the channel for disbursing scholarships is quickly in place," he added.

Currently, three Uttar Pradesh government departments - Social Welfare, Backward Welfare and Minorities Welfare - disburse scholarships. The Department of Social Welfare is the nodal department for all scholarships and framing rules for it, Arun said.

He said his department will also issue a "free-ship card" to Kumar.

"This card facility, started this year itself, allows eligible students to enrol in an institution and on the basis of that card, this student will be able to secure what was earlier referred to as the zero-balance-admission," the minister said.

Earlier, Arun spoke to Kumar's family over phone and assured them that the state government would provide financial assistance for his education.

Devotees throng temples across Rajasthan

The famous temples, including Tripura Sundari temple in Banswara, Kalika Mata temple in Chittorgarh fort, Shila Devi temple in Jaipur's Amber fort and Nausar Mata temple in Pushkar (Ajmer) remained crowded through the day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 3: Devotees thronged various Devi temples and Shaktipeeths across Rajasthan Thursday to offer prayers at the beginning of Shardiya Navratri.

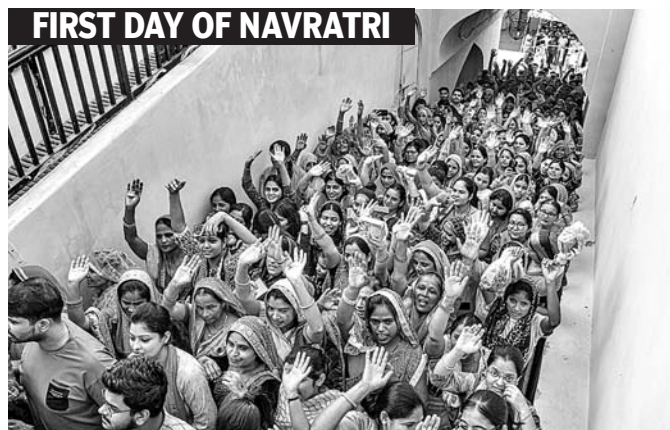
The famous temples, including Tripura Sundari temple in Banswara, Kalika Mata temple in Chittorgarh fort, Shila Devi temple in Jaipur's Amber fort and Nausar Mata temple in Pushkar (Ajmer) remained crowded through the day.

Tripura Sundari Mata temple trust president Kanti Lal Panchal said the entire temple complex has been decorated with colourful lights during the Navratri festival.

Ghatasthapana in the temple, located in Talwada nearly 15 km from the city, was under the direction of Pandit Nikunj Mohan Pandya.

Jagesh Panchal, the temple manager, informed that over 10,000 devotees had visited the temple by afternoon.

"The devotees from various parts of Rajasthan and neigh-



FIRST DAY OF NAVRATRI

bouring states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat visit the temple during the Navratri festival. Elaborate security and other arrangements have been made for the convenience of the devotees," he said.

Tripura Sundari temple is one of the most famous Devi temples in Rajasthan which is often visited by the politicians apart from the general people.

Temple Trust's general secretary Natwarlal Panchal said that 12.25 quintal special 'prasad'

reach Kalika Mata temple. The erstwhile royal family of Mewar organises Chandi Paath, which lasts for nine days and the ritual is completed with Purnahuti.

Pawan Nath, a tourist guide at the Chittorgarh fort, said the devotees come to this temple with their wishes.

Gaj Singh, the member of erstwhile royal family of Jodhpur, performed prayers at Chamunda Mata temple in Mehrangarh fort.

The temple is also visited by thousands of devotees everyday during the Navratri. Tight security arrangements have been made in the area.

Long queues were there in Amber fort where the devotees came to have darshan of Shila Mata as well as in Nausar Mata temple on Pushkar road in Ajmer.

Shila Mata temple is located in the Amber fort while Nausar Mata temple is also nestled in the famous Naag Pahadi in Ajmer.

"Devotees have unshakeable faith in the temple and come in large numbers," said a priest at the Nausar Mata temple.

HISTORIC FEAT

UP plants 36.51cr saplings in a single day

CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH LAUNCHED THE 'PED LAGAO, PED BACHAO JAN ABHIYAN-2024' BY PLANTING SAPLINGS IN LUCKNOW JULY 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 3: The Uttar Pradesh government has set a historic record by planting 36.51 crore saplings in a single day July 20, an official statement issued here said Wednesday.

The state has planted over 36.80 crore saplings between July 20 and September 30, it said.

According to the date revealed by the government, the Rural Development Department led the efforts by planting 13.53 crore saplings, closely followed by the Forest Department with 12.92 crore saplings.

Sonbhadra district ranks first, having planted more than 1.55



This achievement was made possible through the combined efforts of all departments, led by the Forest, Wildlife, and Environment Department

core saplings, the statement said. In response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a leader in the 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign, it claimed. Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath launched the 'Ped Lagao, Ped Bachao Jan Abhiyan-2024' by planting saplings in Lucknow July 20.

On the same day, he extended the momentum of the campaign by planting saplings in

Gorakhpur and Prayagraj.

The initial goal was to plant 36.50 crore saplings July 20, but the state exceeded this target, planting 36.51,45,477 saplings — 1,45,477 more than planned.

The campaign continued uninterrupted and as a result, the total number of saplings planted increased to 36.80 crore by September 30.

This achievement was made possible through the combined efforts of all departments, led by the Forest, Wildlife, and Environment Department, it said.

Sonbhadra led the campaign with the highest number of saplings planted, reaching 1.55 crore by September 30. In Jhansi, the count rose from 97 lakh saplings July 20 to 98.70 lakh by September 30.

The Rural Development Department spearheaded the plantation efforts, planting 13,54,62,142 saplings by September 30. The Forest Department played a crucial role in enhancing the state's green cover, contributing 12,92,66,486 saplings.

UNMATCHED RADIO COLLECTION

Amroha's 'Radio Man' sets Guinness World Record



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amroha (UP), Oct 3: Ram Singh Bouddh, popular as the 'Radio Man', has secured a place in the Guinness World Records for amassing an unparalleled collection of over 1,250 radios.

"The largest collection of radios is 1,257, and was achieved by Ram Singh Bouddh in Gajraula, Uttar Pradesh, India, February 13, 2024. Ram Singh was inspired to begin his radio collection after listening to the radio show 'Mann Ki Baat' hosted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Guinness World Records stated on its website.

The records on the website are not updated immediately, it added. The name of Ram Singh (68), a resident of Naipura village in Uttar Pradesh's Amroha district, was registered in the Guinness World Records September 26 for collecting 1,257 unique radios.

A team from the Guinness World Records visited Naipura February 18 and selected 1,257 radios from a collection of 1,400 radios of different makes.

"My name was registered in the Guinness World Records September 26 and the certificate was uploaded on its website the following day," Bouddh told PTI.

He also said that 137 radios have been given as gifts to the museum in Akashvani Bhawan in Delhi. Bouddh had also written to Prime Minister Modi, expressing his desire to establish a radio museum in his hometown.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has praised Bouddh through a social media post, saying his collection is a

preservation of the heritage of radios which will introduce the coming generations to the journey of the communication tool.

During his monthly radio show 'Mann Ki Baat' in November 2023, Prime Minister Modi praised Ram Singh for his love for radios and his efforts to establish a museum.

Ram Singh said after his name was mentioned in 'Mann Ki Baat', his interest in radio collection got a boost.

After retiring as a supervisor in the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), Ram Singh spends most of his time with his radios. Apart from well-known companies such as Bush, Murphy, and Philips, Ram Singh's collection also includes radios made by Sony and Panasonic, among others.

The most valuable in his collection is a US Army radio made in 1920 worth ₹20,000.

The largest radio belongs to the German Ground Link Company, measuring one-and-a-half metres, while the smallest one measures one inch, he told PTI.

He said Manohar Singh Rawat, in-charge of 'Mann Ki Baat', had expressed his gratitude to him for gifting radio sets to the museum in Akashvani Bhawan.

Apart from radios, Ram Singh's collection also includes 200 film reels from 1931, antique watches and calculators, 300 ancient manuscripts, gramophones, 2,500 ancient coins from different periods up to the British era, 12 pocket TVs, 50 telephones, petromax lamps, 150 stamps dating back to the Portuguese rule, and 250 postage stamps from the British rule, a 400-year-old handwritten Bhagavad Gita, and the world's smallest Bible.

Leopard that attacked humans caught in a cage trap in UP sanctuary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), Oct 3: A female leopard which reportedly attacked people in the recent past was caught by the Forest department in the Sujauli range of Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, a forest official said Thursday.

"The leopard was caught in a cage trap Wednesday evening. It was brought to the Sujauli range office for a medical check-up. It is a female leopard aged about three to four years," Lalit Verma, field director at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, told PTI.



The leopard has been found to be healthy and will be released in the Trans-Gerua forests of Katarnia soon.

"Another leopard was rescued on the night of September 29 which has been released in the forests across the Gerua river. Neither of the leopard is a man-eater," he added.

The official emphasised that releasing the big cats in the Trans-Gerua forests reduces the chances of the animals crossing the river and venturing into the residential areas.

During monsoon, when the natural habitats of the animals get flooded, they tend to reach the sugarcane farming villages nearby, giving rise to human-animal conflicts, Verma said.

According to the official, with the monsoon now withdrawing, it is likely that these animals will head towards their natural habitats inside the forest.

CM Sharma gives land deeds to homeless tribals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Oct 3: Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma Wednesday handed over land deeds to nearly 21,000 beneficiary families of Vimukta, nomadic and semi-nomadic communities.

Sharma was addressing the 'Swachh Bharat Mission Rural and residential deed distribution programme' organised at the State Agricultural Management Institute in Durgapura here.

Earlier in the day, the chief minister visited the Khadi exhibition on the premises of the Rajasthan Khadi and Village Industries Board here where he garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

Upholding the significance of the indigenous fabric, he said Khadi is the identity of the country, and its products are environment-friendly. He urged people to take advantage of the 50 per cent discount on Khadi products as much as possible so that spinners and weavers in the state are benefitted.

The chief minister also purchased Khadi products and made payment through UPI.

During the event at the management institute, Sharma distributed deeds of residential plots to the families of nomadic, semi-nomadic and Vimukta communities and also interacted with some of the beneficiaries.

He said these communities are a living part of Rajasthan's culture and they played an important role in the country's freedom struggle.

"We are moving towards fulfilling about 50 per cent of the promises of the Sankalp Patra in this short time," he said.

Sharma said the decisions such as increase in farmers' Samman



Sharma was addressing the 'Swachh Bharat Mission Rural and residential deed distribution programme' organised at the State Agricultural Management Institute in Durgapura

Nidhi and MSP of wheat, LPG cylinder for ₹450 to needy families, reduction in petrol and diesel rates, rise in honorarium of Anganwadi and panchayat workers, and initiative to implement ERCP scheme are symbols of the vision of the state government.

The chief minister said the government is determined to make the state self-reliant in the field of energy and to provide adequate electricity to farmers during the day by 2027. The chief minister said that at present about 60,000 posts of grade IV employees are vacant in various departments of the state government, regarding which the previous government did not pay attention and make appointments.

The government has also issued a notification for the recruitment of 23, 820 sanitation workers through local bodies, he added. Sharma said these decisions will help in fulfilling the state government's resolution of providing 1 lakh government jobs this year and 4 lakh in 5 years.

No.D-
SELECTION BOARD ODISHA POLICE, CUTTACK
Recruitment for the post of Drivers in Police Motor Transport in Odisha Police
INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT
No.1924 / PMT Estt. Dt : 03.10.2024
(For detailed advertisement log on website www.odishapolice.gov.in, http://opdriver.cbexams.com)
Applications are invited from the intending eligible male candidates to appear in the recruitment examination for the post of Drivers in Police Motor Transport, Odisha Police.
Start Date for submission of Application Form : 11.10.2024 from 10.00 A.M.
Last Date for submission of Application Form : 31.10.2024 till 5.00 P.M.
Important information :
i) Candidates are required to apply online only after publication of the detailed advertisement in the website. Candidates applying for the post must go through the detail advertisement and ensure that they fulfill all the eligibility criteria prescribed for the post as laid down therein.
ii) If at any stage during recruitment process or thereafter, it is found that any information furnished by the candidates in his application is false / incorrect or the candidate has suppressed any relevant information or the candidate does not satisfy the eligibility criteria for the post, his candidature for the recruitment will be cancelled forthwith and he may be debarred from appearing any further recruitment examination conducted by selection Board either temporarily or permanently.
No. of vacancies : 405

(Rank)	(UR)	(SC)	(ST)	(Total)
Driver	216	51	138	405

There is no vacancy under category SEBC. However, SEBC candidates can apply under UR category and the same conditions for UR candidates will be applicable them.
Service Conditions :
The appointment will be guided by the Odisha Gazette Home Department Notification No. 9337/D&A dtd. 03.03.2023 and Gazette No. 594 dtd. 15.03.2023, Notification No. 26116/D&A dtd. 27.06.2023, Gazette No. 1542 dtd. 01.07.2023 and Notification No. 41558/D&A dtd. 18.10.2023 published in the Odisha Gazette No. 2418, dtd. 19.10.2023 regarding Odisha Police Motor Transport & Odisha State Armed Police (S.S) Battalion Service (Method of recruitment & Condition of Service of Drivers) Amendment Rule 2023.
Other important information :
Information regarding Age, Educational Qualification, Method of recruitment & other eligibility criteria has been mentioned in the detailed advertisement which will be available in the above website from 11.10.2024 (10.00 A.M.)
Sd/- (CHAIRMAN)
Recruitment Of Driver in PMT
Odisha, Cuttack
OIPR-12175/11/0002/2425

national

of the day quote

The emphasis on capacity building, technology-driven governance, and performance-oriented processes will shape the future of Indian governance, aligning it with the evolving needs of a modern, competitive world

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

Naxalism is an ideology which can be eliminated only through an ideology. But it is not good to target farmers in the name of ending the menace

RAKESH TIKAIT | BJK LEADER

I am the Finance Minister of the state. I can confirm that our annual revenue stands at around ₹42-43 lakh crore

AJIT PAWAR | MAHA DY CM

SHORT TAKES

63.88% turnout in J&K Assembly polls

New Delhi: Voter turnout of 63.88 per cent has been recorded in phase-3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, with women outnumbering men in casting votes, the Election Commission said Thursday. Overall, 63.88 per cent turnout has been recorded at polling stations, as against 58.58 per cent in the Lok Sabha polls, the poll panel noted. In phase-3 of the polls October 1, when 40 seats went for voting in the Union Territory, the turnout of male voters was recorded at 69.37 per cent as compared to 70.02 per cent of women, the Election Commission (EC) said.

2 colleges, 7 schools receive bomb threat

Tiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu): Nine educational institutions here received an email Thursday claiming that bombs had been planted on their premises and the threat turned out to be a hoax following searches, police said. After seeing the email, the management of Manapparai-based Campion School immediately informed police. A bomb detection and disposal squad searched the school premises and later carried out searches in other institutions that received similar mail.

Campaigning ends for Haryana polls

Chandigarh: The high-octane campaign in Haryana for the October 5 Assembly polls came to an end Thursday evening as the BJP hopes to buck anti-incumbency to retain power for a third consecutive term and the Congress eyes a comeback after a decade-long hiatus. More than two crore voters, including 8,821 centurions, are eligible to exercise their franchise in Haryana.

CBI arrests TMC student wing leader

New Delhi/Kolkata: The CBI Thursday arrested TMC youth leader Ashish Pandey in connection with the alleged corruption case against former principal of Kolkata's RG Kar hospital Sandip Ghosh, officials said. Pandey, who is said to be close to Ghosh, was under the probe agency's scanner and was questioned by the CBI September 30, they said. Ghosh was arrested in the corruption case September 2. Later the agency took his custody in the alleged rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the state-run medical college August 9. The ruling TMC in West Bengal reacted with caution.



Neither me nor the government have hired any PR agency to arrange for an interview. I agreed to the interview based on a request from former party MLA Devakumar's son

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

SP LEADER MOEED KHAN BOOKED

Samajwadi Party leader Moeed Khan, already an accused in a rape case, was booked Thursday for alleged fraud over furnishing incorrect information to a bank, officials here said. The manager of the Punjab National Bank (PNB), whose branch was located in Khan's now-demolished building here in Uttar Pradesh, registered a police complaint accusing him of leasing out a hall and room to the bank by providing incorrect plot numbers



MEA rejects USCIRF report

The USCIRF report also mentioned clashes between Kuki and Meitei communities in Manipur and said months of ongoing violence resulted in the destruction of thousands of homes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: India Thursday trashed a report by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and described it as a "biased" organisation with a "political agenda".

In its report, the USCIRF that monitors universal right to freedom of religion criticised India for alleged violations of religious freedom.

It also recommended to the US state department to declare India a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) in the context of religious freedom. In a strong reaction, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said



the USCIRF should utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States.

"Our views on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) are well known. It is a biased organisation with a agenda," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "It continues to misrepresent facts and peddles a motivated narrative about India. We reject this malicious report, which only serves to discredit USCIRF further," he said in a statement.

He was responding to media queries on the 'country update'

on India in the report.

"We would urge USCIRF to desist from such agenda driven efforts. The USCIRF would also be well advised to utilise its time more productively on addressing human rights issues in the United States," the spokesperson said. The USCIRF report also mentioned clashes between Kuki and Meitei communities in Manipur and said months of ongoing violence resulted in the

destruction of thousands of homes. The USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan US federal government agency.

It makes policy recommendations to the US President, Secretary of State, and Congress and tracks the implementation of these recommendations.

"This report highlights how, throughout 2024, individuals have been killed, beaten, and lynched by vigilante groups, religious leaders have been arbitrarily arrested, and homes and places of worship have been demolished," the USCIRF said. "These events constitute particularly severe violations of religious freedom," it said. Beginning with the previous Manmohan Singh-led government, India has consistently denied visas to USCIRF members to visit the country, citing "interference" in its internal affairs, it added.

In its report, the USCIRF that monitors universal right to freedom of religion criticised India for alleged violations of religious freedom

Tanwar returns to Cong days before Haryana elections



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 3: Senior BJP leader and former MP Ashok Tanwar joined the Congress at Rahul Gandhi's rally in Mahendragarh district in Haryana Thursday, a setback for the ruling party just two days before the state goes to polls.

Hours before joining the Congress, the former Sirsa MP was campaigning for the BJP candidate in Safidon Assembly constituency and exhorting voters to bring it back to power for a third time.

Sources said Tanwar was in touch with a senior Congress leader in Delhi and his return to the party materialised just a day ago.

As Gandhi was winding up his speech at the rally in Bhawaria, an announcement was made from the stage asking the audience to wait for a few minutes.

Soon after, Tanwar (48), who had joined the BJP in January this year, walked onto the stage and it was announced that "aaj unki ghar wapas ho gayi ha (today, he has returned to the Congress fold)".

Tanwar, a Dalit leader who was considered close to Gandhi and had left the Congress in 2019 following differences with former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, re-

Tanwar, who was considered close to Gandhi and had left the Congress in 2019 following differences with senior party leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, joined the party hours before the campaigning for the October 5 Haryana Assembly polls comes to an end at 6 pm

turned to the party hours before the campaigning for the October 5 Haryana Assembly polls came to an end at 6 pm.

Shortly before he joined the Congress, he addressed a rally in Safidon in support of BJP candidate Rajkumar Gautam. "On the last day of poll campaigning, (I) addressed a rally in support of the BJP's Safido (Jind) candidate Rajkumar Gautam and appealed (to people) to help BJP Haryana candidates win by pressing the button against the lotus October 5."

"The people of Haryana are going to give their blessing for a third time to the BJP government which has ushered in non-stop development," Tanwar said in a post on X in Hindi which was later deleted.

SNIPPETS

Bareilly factory blast: Main accused detained

Bareilly (UP): Police Thursday arrested the main accused in the illegal firecracker factory blast case, a day after five persons were killed in the incident at Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. Senior Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said the explosion occurred at Rehman Shah's home, destroying several houses in the area. Police arrested alleged mastermind Nasir Shah Thursday and sent him to jail, Arya added. The SSP said it has been found in the preliminary investigation that Shah, who has a license to only sell firecrackers, was operating an "illegal" firecracker factory at the residence of Rehman Shah, his father-in-law, where the incident occurred.

Top court sentences Munna Shukla to lifer

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday convicted criminal-turned politician Vijay Kumar Shukla alias Munna Shukla and another person in the 1998 sensational murder case of former Bihar minister and RJD leader Brij Bihari Prasad at a hospital in Patna. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Sanjay Kumar and R Mahadevan partially set aside the Patna High Court verdict acquitting all the accused and asked convicts Munna Shukla, a former MLA, and Mantu the murder of Brij Bihari Prasad by Gorakhpur-based gangster Sri Prakash Shukla who was later gunned down by Uttar Pradesh STF and others, had shaken the police of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Laddu row: SC to hear pleas today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will hear a batch of pleas, including those seeking a court-monitored probe, into the alleged use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus Friday. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta requested the apex court, which was scheduled to hear the matter at 3.30 pm Thursday, that the case be taken up at 10.30 am Friday. "If your lordships permit, can I respond at 10.30 am sharp tomorrow," Mehta told the bench headed by Justice B R Gavai. The bench agreed to the request and said it would hear the matter Friday.



Farmers block a railway track during a protest demanding justice for the victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, in Amritsar, Punjab

PTI PHOTO

'Quitting smoking could raise men's life expectancy'

Along with improving life expectancy, accelerating efforts to eliminate tobacco smoking could avoid 876 million years of lives lost to death, research said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Cutting down smoking to five per cent of current rates by 2050 would increase life expectancy by a year among men and 0.2 years in women, according to recent global modelling studies published in The Lancet Public Health journal.

The researchers found that based on current trends, smoking rates around the world could continue to reduce to 21 per cent in men and about four per cent in women by 2050.

Along with improving life expectancy, accelerating efforts to eliminate tobacco smoking could avoid 876 million years of lives lost to death, researchers form-



the Global Burden of Disease, Injuries and Risk Factors (GBD) Tobacco Forecasting Collaborators said.

They also found that banning sales of cigarettes and

other tobacco products could prevent 1.2 million lung cancer deaths across 185 countries by 2095. Of these deaths, nearly two-thirds would be averted in low- and middle-income coun-

tries, because they tend to have more younger populations compared to high-income ones, the authors said.

"We must not lose momentum in efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate smoking around the world. Our findings highlight that millions of premature deaths could be avoided by bringing an end to smoking," said senior author, Stein Emil Vollset, of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington, US, which coordinates the GBD study.

The estimates regarding preventable deaths came from analysing how banning tobacco sales would impact lung cancer deaths among people born be-

tween 2006 and 2010. They also depict the potential effects of the tobacco-free generation policy which aims to prevent the sale of tobacco to people born after a specific year.

The policy has not been implemented in any country, the authors said. New Zealand's December 2022 legislation to ban the sale of tobacco products to anyone born in or after 2009 was repealed earlier this year.

Along with maintaining existing tobacco policies, the authors called for implementing new ones to avoid additional smoking-related risk of disease and ensure that the gains made over the past decades are not lost.

Centre rolls out internship scheme on pilot basis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The government Thursday rolled out the internship programme on a pilot basis that will provide a total annual financial assistance of ₹66,000 to those in the age group of 21-24 years, and aim to cover one crore youth over five years.

Under the pilot project, which is estimated to cost around ₹800 crore, the internship will start December 2 and expects to cover 1.25 lakh candidates in the current financial year ending March 2025, government sources said Thursday.

Announced in the Union Budget 2024, the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme in Top Companies will also provide insurance coverage to interns. The scheme will be implemented through the online portal 'www.pminternship.mca.gov.in' developed by the corporate affairs ministry. Apart from the monthly financial assistance of ₹5,000 for one year; there will be a one-time grant of ₹6,000 for the interns, the sources said. From October 12 to 25, candidates can register with minimum data in the portal and the applicants will be shortlisted October 26.

Later, candidates will be selected by companies from October 27 to November 7. Then, the selected candidates will have time from November 8 to 15 to accept the offer, the sources said.

The top 500 companies for the scheme have been identified on the basis of their average CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) expenditure in the last three years.

The ministry has partnered with government-owned BISAG-N to run the project.

The internship will be for 12 months. The interns will be provided financial assistance of ₹5,000 per month and out of the total amount, ₹4,500 will be disbursed by the government and ₹500 will be paid by the company from its CSR funds.



Hatred has to be ended. India is not a country of hatred, it is the country of 'mohabbat'... it is the country of 'mohabbat ki dukan', not 'nafrat ka bazaar'

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

BONUS FOR RLY EMPLOYEES

The Union Cabinet Thursday approved payment of productivity linked bonus of 78 days for ₹2028.57 crore to over 11.72 lakh railway employees, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said



of the day quote

Those who malign our state are, in fact, insulting Bangla Maa

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

The missing name of Surajpal alias Bhole Baba from the list of accused in the Hathras-satsang-stampede incident which led to 121 deaths, mostly those of women and children, is anti-people politics. This proves that such people enjoy the patronage of the state government, which is not right

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

Earlier too I had been the Chief Minister for five years, probably in Karnataka's history after Devaraj Urs, if there is any Chief Minister who has completed five years term, it is only Siddaramaiah

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

XPOST OF THE DAY

BJP released its Haryana manifesto one day after Congress Congress: ₹2000 per month to every woman

BJP: ₹2100 per month to every woman Is this some kind of auction for votes? LMAO

@mxtaverse

SHORT TAKES

India welcomes UK-Mauritius deal

New Delhi: India Thursday welcomed the UK's decision to hand over the sovereignty of Chagos Islands including Diego Garcia to Mauritius under a historic agreement. In its reaction to the move, New Delhi said this significant understanding completes the decolonisation of Mauritius. "We welcome the agreement between the United Kingdom and Mauritius on the return of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago, including Diego Garcia," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Teen dies of electrocution

New Delhi: A 17-year-old boy got electrocuted while standing in a queue to enter the Kalkaji Temple here, causing panic among the devotees that led to a stampede past midnight leaving six people injured, police said Thursday. Police received information about the incident at 12.40 am regarding a stampede that broke out near Kalkaji temple. Police along with the forensic team and BSES staff reached the spot and rushed the six injured to AIIMS Trauma Centre and Safdarjung Hospital.

3 students injured in fire at gurukul

Kota: Three students were injured after a fire broke at a gurukul in Rajasthan's Bundi district, with one of them suffering 90 per cent burns, police said Thursday. The blaze, reported in Talawas village of Dei area Wednesday, was allegedly caused by sparks from neem leaves burnt as a mosquito repellent, said Shankar Lal, DSP, Nainwan circle. The police will launch an inquiry into the safety measures at the gurukul. Lal reached Kota's MBS Hospital Thursday morning where the boys were admitted, and took stock of the medical care.

5 more languages get classical status

THE LANGUAGES THAT HAD THE TAG EARLIER WERE TAMIL, SANSKRIT, TELUGU, KANNADA, MALAYALAM AND ODISIA. TAMIL WAS GRANTED THE STATUS IN 2004 AND THE LAST LANGUAGE TO GET IT WAS ODISIA, IN 2014



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Union Cabinet Thursday approved conferring the status of classical language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "This is a historical decision and this decision goes very well with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the NDA government's philosophy of taking pride in our culture, taking pride in our heritage and taking pride in all the Indian languages and the rich heritage that we have," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a cabinet briefing. The classical languages serve as a custodian of Bharat's profound and ancient cultural heritage, embodying the essence of each community's historical and cultural milestone, the government said. The Government of India decided

to create a new category of languages as "classical languages" October 12, 2004 declaring Tamil as classical language and thereafter Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Odia languages were given classical language status. A government statement said that a proposal from the Maharashtra government in 2013 was received in the ministry requesting classical language status to Marathi, which was forwarded to the Linguistics Experts Committee (LEC). The LEC recommended Marathi for classical language.

The assembly elections are due later this year in Maharashtra and this was a major poll issue in the state. During the inter-ministerial consultations on the draft note for cabinet in 2017 for conferring classical status to the Marathi language, the MHA advised to revise the criteria and make it stricter. The PMO vide its comment stated that the ministry may conduct an exercise to find out how many other languages are likely to become eligible. It said that in the meantime, proposals from

Bihar, Assam and West Bengal was also received for conferring status of classical language to Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali.

Accordingly, the Linguistics Experts Committee (under Sahitya Akademi) in a meeting July 25, 2024 unanimously revised the criteria as below. The Sahitya Akademi has been appointed as nodal agency for the LEC.

The inclusion of languages as Classical Language will create significant employment opportunities, particularly in academic and research fields, the government statement said. Additionally, it said the preservation, documentation and digitisation of ancient texts of these languages will generate jobs in archiving, translation, publishing and digital media.

The primary states involved are Maharashtra (Marathi), Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh (Pali and Prakrit), West Bengal (Bengali) and Assam (Assamese), while the broader cultural and academic impact will extend nationally and internationally.

Doctor shot dead by teenagers at hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: A doctor was shot dead inside a nursing home in southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area in the early morning hours, police said Thursday.

The accused, both juveniles, came for treatment and shot Javed Akhtar, a Unani practitioner (BUMS), around 1.45 am, they said. According to a police officer, Akhtar was found in a chair oozing blood from the head inside the three-bed Nima Hospital located in a narrow lane of Khadda Colony of the area. An inquiry revealed the possible involvement of two boys, aged about 16, who had come to the hospital around 1 am for dressing, the officer said.

One of them had a bandaged toe and had been to the hospital also the day before, it was re-

vealed, the officer said. After dressing, the two boys went inside Akhtar's cabin.

Some time later, night nursing staff Gajala Parveen and Mohammad Kamil heard a gunshot. Parveen rushed inside the cabin and found Akhtar sitting still in a pool of blood. Prima facie, it seems to be an instance of targeted killing, unprovoked as it was and involved recce, the officer said.

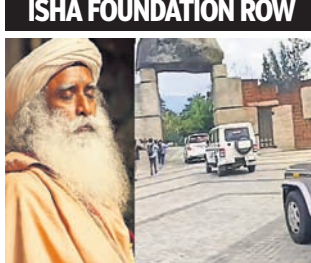
Abid, an employee at the nursing home, said Akhtar had been working there for past two years. His duty began at 8 pm Wednesday. Joint Commissioner of Police (Southern Range) SK Jain said it was a targeted killing executed by two suspects, who have been identified. They met the compounder for dressing and later shot the Unani practitioner in his cabin.

Top court stays police probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Supreme Court Thursday effectively halted the police probe into the alleged illegal confinement of two women at spiritual leader Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation ashram at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

Transferring to itself a habeas corpus petition of a man alleging that his two daughters were held captive inside the premises of the Foundation, a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud directed the Tamil Nadu Police to not take any further action in pursuance of the Madras High Court's direction asking it to inquire into the alleged illegal confinement of the women. "You can't let in the Army or the police into an establishment like this," the bench observed during the hearing. The apex court passed the



high court order, and said around 150 police officials have entered the Foundation's ashram and are probing every corner. The bench, which interacted with the two women in-chambers through video-conferencing, noted they have stated that both of them are residing at the ashram voluntarily and without any coercion.

"As regards the presence of police, in pursuance to the order of the high court, it has been stated by the two individuals that the police left the premises last night, though they were there... in pursuance of the order of the high court," the bench noted. While taking up the habeas corpus petition, the bench permitted the father of the two women to appear before it through video-conferencing if he wishes to interact with the court in person or through counsel.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the Foundation, sought a stay of

order after the Isha Foundation approached it challenging the high court's order directing the Coimbatore Police to collect all case details registered against the Foundation and produce them before the court for further consideration. "We welcome intervention by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case. Since the matter is sub judice, we will not be able to comment further," Isha Foundation said in a statement.

Criminalising marital rape will ruin marriages: Govt

THE CENTRE SAID IN THE FAST GROWING AND EVER CHANGING SOCIAL AND FAMILY STRUCTURE, MISUSE OF THE AMENDED PROVISIONS CAN ALSO NOT BE RULED OUT AS IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING FOR A PERSON TO PROVE WHETHER CONSENT WAS THERE OR NOT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: If sexual acts by a man with his own wife is made punishable as "rape", it may severely impact the conjugal relationship and lead to serious disturbances in the institution of marriage, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

The apex court is seized of petitions raising the vexed legal question of whether a husband should enjoy immunity from prosecution for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex.

Under the exception clause of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), now repealed and replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man

with his wife, the wife not being minor, is not rape. Even under the new law, Exception 2 to Section 63 (rape) says that "sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under eighteen years of age, is not rape".

"Furthermore, it is submitted that striking down the exception 2 of section 375 of IPC on the ground of its constitutional validity will have a far-reaching effect on the institution of marriage if sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife is made punishable as 'rape'," the Centre said in its affidavit.

It said to decide on the constitutionality of the provision, a holistic approach and



consultation with all the states needs to be undertaken after taking their views into consideration. "This is more so since the is-

sues involved have a direct bearing on the society in general and is a part of Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India," the Centre

said. It said Parliament has provided different remedies, including criminal law provisions, to protect consent within marriage.

It said the Government of India is committed to fully and meaningfully protect the liberty, dignity and rights of every woman who are the "fundamental foundation and a pillar of a civilised society". The top court January 16, 2023 sought the Centre's response on a clutch of petitions assailing the IPC provision, which

provides protection to a husband against prosecution for forcible sexual intercourse if the wife is an adult.

Later, it also issued a notice to the Centre on a similar plea challenging the BNS provision on the issue.

The BNS, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam came into effect from July 1, replacing the IPC, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Evidence Act, respectively.

SC slams CAQM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Supreme Court Thursday slammed the Commission for Air Quality Management for failing to control incidents of stubble burning in NCR and adjoining areas, and said it has made no effort to implement its direction to prevent such incidents.

The apex court said the Commission only kept on calling meetings but did not take penal action against the violators. There was no implementation of directions to stop stubble burning at the ground level and the state governments of Punjab and Haryana have done nothing except recovering nominal compensation from the farmers who indulge in stubble burning, the court added.

A three-judge bench of Justices Abhay S Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Masih said the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has not launched a single prosecution against incidents of stubble burning in the National Capital Region (NCR) and the adjoining areas.

The bench said neither Punjab nor Haryana has placed on record any document showing efforts made to comply with the directions issued by the Commission. "We find from the compliance affidavit filed by the commission that no effort is made by the commission to secure implementation of its own directions. There is a sub-committee (of CAQM) on safeguarding and enforcement. "The last meeting of the sub-committee was held on August 29, 2024 in which there is not even discussion of the implementation of directions. Though there is a specific direction in the order to prosecute wrong doers under section 15 of Environment Protection Act, not a single prosecution has been launched," the bench said. The apex court said in one of the CAQM sub-committee meetings held August 29, only five out of 11 members were pres-



The apex court said the Commission only kept on calling meetings but did not take penal action against the violators

There was no implementation of directions to stop stubble burning at the ground level and the state governments of Punjab and Haryana have done nothing except recovering nominal compensation from the farmers who indulge in stubble burning, the court added

ent apart from the fact that the committee did not discuss implementation of directions. This is how sub-committees are working, the top court said.

About the qualification of expert members in CAQM, the bench noted the lack of air pollution experts on the panel and said it would exercise powers under Article 142 to bring experts in the field as a member. Noting that 129 cases of stubble burning were detected in Punjab and 81 in Haryana in 15 days from September 15 to September 30, the top court said all that the states have done is to recover nominal compensation from 40 to 45 farmers.

The bench directed the Punjab and Haryana governments to file affidavits within a week on the implementation of the directions.

The case has been posted for next hearing October 16. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for CAQM, informed the apex court that since its inception, the Commission has issued 83 statutory directions and 15 advisories besides various orders, guidelines and official communications from time to time, targeting each of the identified sectors.

Nagarjuna files complaint against Telangana Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 3: Under attack for her comments on the divorce of actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya, Telangana Minister Konda Surekha Thursday withdrew her remarks that triggered strong reactions from political leaders and the Telugu cinema industry with superstar Nagarjuna suing her for defama-



tion. Prabhu and Chaitanya criticised the minister for dragging their name for political gains by blaming Opposition BRS leader K T Rama Rao for their divorce, which they said, was a mutual and personal decision. Surekha Wednesday stirred up a major controversy by alleging that KTR was the reason behind Prabhu and Chaitanya's divorce in 2021.

Reacting strongly to her comments, many prominent personalities from the Telugu film industry criticised the Congress leader terming her comments derogatory. Naga Chaitanya's father Akkineni Nagarjuna, who criticised the minister Wednesday, has now filed a defamation case against Surekha in the Nampally court under section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). In his complaint, a copy of which was shared by son Naga Chaitanya on his social media, Nagarjuna has alleged that the minister's remarks damaged his family's reputation.

Azharuddin skips ED summons in HCA case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 3: Former Indian cricket captain and Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin Thursday failed to appear before the ED in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), official sources said.

The 61-year-old former MP was asked to deposit before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at its office here on Fateh Maidan Road and record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said. The former cricketer sought more time from the agency. He has been issued fresh summons for October 8, they said. The probe is related to alleged financial irregularities in the HCA. It had also raided the premises of former office bearers of the HCA, including ex-vice president and Indian cricketer Shival Yadav, Congress MLA and ex-president Gaddam Vinod and former HCA secretary Arshad Ayub apart from the office of a company called S S Consultants Pvt Ltd and the residential premises of its MD Satyanarayana.

Opposing the criminalisation of marital rape, the Centre has filed its preliminary counter affidavit in the top court

international



I reiterate our deep appreciation to the military and civilian members of our UN peacekeeping force, UNIFIL, and to troop-contributing countries
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

GEORGIA SIGNS CONTROVERSIAL BILL

The speaker of Georgia's Parliament Thursday signed into law a bill similar to Russian legislation that curbs the rights of LGBTQ people, despite warnings from the EU



Rutte visits Ukraine as new NATO chief

REUTERS

Kyiv, Oct 3: NATO chief Mark Rutte told Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "your security matters for ours" Thursday during his first visit to Kyiv since becoming the alliance's secretary-general.

Rutte also reiterated NATO's pledge that Ukraine would one day be a NATO member, but Zelenskyy said he wanted the Western allies urgently to provide the kind of active military support that some of them have given to Israel in its battle with Iran.

"Your security matters for ours and your fight for freedom reflects our core principles and values," Rutte told a joint news conference, stressing that his first foreign trip as NATO chief demonstrated the alliance's staunch support for Kyiv.

"Ukraine is closer to NATO than ever before, and it will continue along this path until it secures NATO membership," said Rutte, a former Dutch Prime Minister who only took up his new job Tuesday.

Zelenskyy also renewed his appeal to the Western allies to allow Ukraine to conduct deep strikes inside Russia with weapons supplied by them, saying they were "delaying" their decision.

"Without long-range weapons, we cannot stop Russia, which is using those weapons against us, destroying everything," he said.

Rutte reaffirmed NATO's stance that Moscow does not get to decide which country can or cannot join the alliance.



Russia damages energy infrastructure

Russian forces launched a major drone attack overnight on 15 Ukrainian regions, causing damage to energy infrastructure and residential buildings, authorities said Thursday.

The Ukrainian air force said it had shot down 78 out of 105 Russian drones during the assault, with 23 more likely impacted by active electronic jamming.

The drones damaged power lines and substations' equipment in the Kyiv, Odesa and Ivano-Frankivsk regions in the past 24 hours, Ukraine's energy ministry said on the Telegram messaging app.

The attacks caused temporary disruption of railway services in the southern Odesa region as well as power cuts for households, it said.

Odesa regional governor Oleh Kiper said power had been restored to more than 3,000 consumers in his region following the overnight attack, though a further 2,000 people remained without power.

Russia's defence ministry said its forces had hit Ukrainian energy facilities that were providing power to Ukraine's armed forces' operations, Russian state news agency TASS reported.

Israel calls for evacuations

IN BEIRUT'S SOUTHERN SUBURB, A HEZBOLLAH STRONGHOLD, THREE EXPLOSIONS WERE HEARD THURSDAY

AGENCIES

Beirut, Oct 3: Israel's military urged residents of over 20 towns in south Lebanon to evacuate their homes immediately Thursday as it pressed on with an incursion after suffering its worst losses in a year of fighting the Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah.

The call for evacuations from southern towns included the provincial capital Nabatieh, suggesting another Israeli operation designed to further weaken Hezbollah is imminent.

Any type of military attack, terrorist act or crossing our red lines will be met with a decisive response by our armed forces

MASOUD PEZESHKIAN | PRESIDENT, IRAN

In Beirut's southern suburb, a Hezbollah stronghold, three explosions were heard Thursday and several large plumes of smoke were rising after heavy Israeli strikes.

While Hezbollah said it detonated an improvised explosive device against Israeli forces infiltrating a southern Lebanese village.

Overnight, Israel bombed central Beirut in an attack the Lebanese health ministry said killed nine people.

"Another sleepless night in Beirut. Counting the blasts shaking the city. No warning sirens. Not knowing what's next. Only that uncertainty lies ahead. Anxiety and fear are omnipresent," UN special coordinator in Lebanon, Jeanine

HEZBOLLAH SAID IT DETONATED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AGAINST ISRAELI FORCES

SMOKE RISES AFTER THREE EXPLOSIONS HEARD IN BEIRUT



Israel's military said it had 'eliminated' Rawhi Mushtaha, the head of the Hamas govt in Gaza, along with two senior security officials in strikes three months ago

Hennis-Plasschaert, said on X Thursday.

Lebanon's health minister, Firass Abiad, said more than 40 rescuers and firefighters were killed by Israeli fire in three days, with 97 killed overall since Hezbollah and Israel began clashing last October.

Israel also said it targeted a municipality building in the southern Lebanese town of Bint Jbeil killing 15 Hezbollah members, while more than a dozen Israeli missiles also hit the southern suburb of Dahiyeh, where Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was killed last week.

Eight Israeli soldiers were

Sweden suspects Iran's role in Embassy attacks

Stockholm: The Swedish intelligence agency Sapo said Thursday that Iran may have been involved in explosions and gunfire around Israeli embassies in Sweden and Denmark this week. In Denmark, police said they arrested three Swedish nationals Wednesday after two blasts, likely caused by hand grenades, close to the Israeli embassy in Copenhagen. On Tuesday, the Israeli embassy in Stockholm was targeted in a shooting, according to Swedish police.

Asked about reports of links to Iran, Fredrik Hallstrom, head of operations at the Sapo agency, told a press conference that "there are some things that could point in that direction."

"In part due to the choice of targets and modus operandi, but that is an assumption rather than pure knowledge," Hallstrom said.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, speaking at an event in Doha, said Iran would be ready to respond and warned against "silence" in the face of Israel's "warmongering".

"Any type of military attack, terrorist act or crossing our red lines will be met with a decisive response by our armed forces."

but Israel and the United States have promised to hit back hard.

of the day quote

On Kashmir, we have said clearly that we are committed to support the UN Security Council resolution, but the concerns on human rights are, of course, our concerns
ANWAR IBRAHIM | PM, MALAYSIA

I'm focused on the election 33 days from now because I want to throw Kamala Harris out of office and get back to common-sense economic policies
JD VANCE | REPUBLICAN VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, US

The election campaign is over. The confrontation is over. Now compromises must be found. Now it's about talking to each other and finding a viable majority
ALEXANDER VAN DER BELLEN | PRESIDENT, AUSTRIA

SHORT TAKES

Kim's sister mocks SK military parade

Seoul: North Korea's Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, criticised a military parade held in Seoul for its Armed Forces Day this week and called it a "clown show", in a statement carried by state media KCNA Thursday. She also downplayed South Korea's military capabilities put on display, as well as slamming the flypast of a US B-1B bomber during Tuesday's parade. "Who could talk about 'end of regime' by showing off what is such a uselessly bulky weapon," Kim was quoted as saying by KCNA, referring to South Korea's display of its powerful new Hyunmoo-5 missile capable of carrying an eight-ton warhead. Military officials have said Tuesday's parade was partly intended to showcase South Korea's military might as a deterrent to North Korea.

Mexican army kills 6 migrants

Mexico City: Six migrants are dead after Mexican soldiers opened fire on a fleeing truck near the border with Guatemala, Mexico's Defence Department said Wednesday. The department said in a statement that soldiers claimed they heard shots as the trucks and two other vehicles approached their position late Monday in the southern state of Chiapas, near the town of Huixtla. The truck was carrying migrants from Egypt, Nepal, Cuba, India, Pakistan and at least one other country. Soldiers then approached the truck and found four of the migrants dead, and 12 wounded.

S'pore jails Indian origin former min

Singapore: Singapore's Indian-origin former transport minister S Iswaran has been sentenced to 12 months jail Thursday by the High Court for obtaining gifts worth about SGD 403,300 over seven years, from two businessmen he considered his friends. The 62-year-old pleaded guilty to four charges relating to receiving gifts and one blocking justice September 24, the first day of trial proceedings, cutting short what was set to be a protracted trial with 56 prosecution witnesses. In sentencing, Justice Vincent Hoong said he had considered submissions on sentence from both prosecution and defence but was "ultimately unable to agree with both the positions taken".

Dozens of captive tigers, lions die of bird flu in Vietnam

REUTERS

Hanoi, Oct 3: Dozens of tigers and lions in captivity died in the past month in southern Vietnam with tests showing they were positive for bird flu, health ministry and state media said Thursday.

Two samples taken from dead tigers at Mango Garden Resort in Dong Nai province have tested positive for the H5N1 strain of bird flu, the Ministry of Health said in a statement. Twenty tigers have died at the resort since early last month.



The spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, to mammals including cows, dogs, cats and even dolphins worldwide has raised concerns about potential human-to-human transmission.

In neighbouring Long An province, 27 tigers and three lions died from bird flu at My Quynh Safari from Sept. 6 to 18, state media reported, citing provincial agricultural authorities.

The tigers at Mango Garden Resort had been fed chicken before they died, Phan Van Phuc, an official of Dong Nai province's Centre for Disease Control, said in the health ministry statement.

"It's likely that the tigers had been infected from sick chicken, and the authorities are tracking the source of the chicken to determine the cause," the statement quoted Phan as saying. On its website, the World Health Organization warns against consuming raw or incompletely cooked meat and eggs from regions experiencing avian influenza outbreaks due to the high risk of infection.

RED SEA CAMPAIGN

Houthis threaten shipowners of attack

REUTERS

Athens, Oct 3: On a warm spring night in Athens, shortly before midnight, a senior executive at a Greek shipping company noticed an unusual email had landed in his personal inbox.

The message, which was also sent to the manager's business email address, warned that one of the company's vessels traveling through the Red Sea was at risk of being attacked by Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi militia.

The Greek-managed ship had violated a Houthi-imposed transit ban by docking at an Israeli port and would be "directly targeted by the Yemeni Armed Forces in any area they deem appropriate," read the message, written in English and reviewed by Reuters.

"You bear the responsibility and consequences of including the vessel in the ban list," said the email, signed by the Yemen-based Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center (HOCC), a body set up in February to liaise between Houthi forces and commercial shipping operators.



The Houthis have carried out nearly 100 attacks on ships crossing the Red Sea since November, acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Israel's year-long war in Gaza. They have sunk two vessels, seized another and killed at least four seafarers.

The email, received at the end of May, warned of "sanctions" for the entire company's fleet if the vessel continued "to violate the ban criteria and enter the ports of the usurping Israeli entity".

The executive and the company declined to be named for safety reasons.

The warning message was the first of more than a dozen increasingly menacing emails sent to at least six Greek shipping companies since May.

UK hands over Chagos Islands to Mauritius, secures military base

UNDER THE AGREEMENT, THE TROPICAL ATOLL OF DIEGO GARCIA WILL REMAIN UNDER UK AND US JURISDICTION FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT 99 YEARS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 3: The UK Thursday announced a "historic" agreement that will see Britain hand over sovereignty of the remote Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean to Mauritius while it retains the joint UK-US military base on Diego Garcia. The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) status of the disputed archipelago, made up of around 60 islands, has been in contention for many years and negotiations over its future began under the previous Conservative Party government in 2022.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer spoke to his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth soon after to welcome the political agreement achieved

between the UK and Mauritius on the exercise of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago after two years of negotiations.

"The Prime Minister reiterated the importance of reaching this deal to protect the continued operation of the UK-US military base on Diego Garcia. He underscored his steadfast duty to national and global security which underpinned the political agreement reached today," Downing Street said in a readout of the phone call.

Under the agreement announced this week, the tropical atoll of Diego Garcia, which the West says plays a crucial role in the region's stability and international security, will remain under UK and US jurisdiction for at least the next 99 years.

SNIPPETS

B'desh recalls envoy from India

Dhaka: Bangladesh's interim government has recalled five envoys, including its high commissioner in New Delhi, as it carried out a second phase of reshuffle in the diplomatic service alongside the domestic administration, an official said Thursday. The interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus as the Chief Adviser has asked Bangladesh's envoys in India, Brussels, Canberra, Lisbon, and the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to return immediately and report to the foreign ministry here as part of the latest reshuffle. "The recalling of the envoys is part of a government decision under which our High Commissioner to India, Mustafizur Rahman, has been asked to return to the foreign ministry in Dhaka," an official said Thursday, preferring anonymity.



Indian-American Professor gets \$8,00,000 genius grant

New York: An Indian-American professor, Shailaja Paik, conducting research on and writing about Dalit women has received a \$800,000 "genius" grant from the MacArthur Foundation which gives out awards every year to people with extraordinary achievements or potential. Announcing her fellowship, the Foundation said, "Through her focus on the multifaceted experiences of Dalit women, Paik elucidates the enduring nature of caste discrimination and the forces that perpetuate untouchability." Ms Paik is a distinguished research professor of history at the University of Cincinnati, where she is also an affiliate faculty in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Asian Studies. "Paik provides new insight into the history of caste domination and traces the ways in which gender and sexuality are used to deny Dalit women dignity and personhood," the Foundation said.

Nepal, India, Bangladesh sign tripartite agreement



Kathmandu: Nepal, India and Bangladesh Thursday signed a tripartite agreement to facilitate cross-border electricity trade, officials here said. As per the agreement, Nepal will export its surplus electricity to Bangladesh via India from June 15 to November 15 every year. India will make arrangements to supply electricity

from Nepal to Bangladesh. In the first phase, Nepal will export 40 MW of hydroelectricity to Bangladesh via Indian territory. The rate per unit of electricity has been fixed at 6.4 cents. From the export of electricity, Nepal will make an annual income of around \$9.2 million, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) officials said.



HISTORIC MOVE



For the first time in more than 50 years, the status of the base will be undisputed and legally secure

"This government inherited a situation where the long-term, secure operation of the Diego Garcia military base was under

threat, with contested sovereignty and ongoing legal challenges," said UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy. "Today's agreement secures this vital military base for the future. It will strengthen our role in safeguarding global security, shut down any possibility of the Indian Ocean being used as a dangerous illegal migration route to the UK, as well as guarantee-

ing our long-term relationship with Mauritius, a close Commonwealth partner," he said. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the pact struck with Mauritius demonstrates Britain's commitment to safeguarding global security and averting threats to peace and prosperity in the Indian Ocean and wider Indo-Pacific.

It will see Mauritius assume sovereignty over the islands, with the UK authorised to exercise the sovereign rights of Mauritius on Diego Garcia. For the first time in more than 50 years, the status of the base will be undisputed and legally secure, following a political agreement between the UK and Mauritius, the FCDO claimed. The UK said its agreement is "strongly supported" by international partners including the United States, which has joint operation of the strategic military base.

of the day quote

For India, the EUDR's complex compliance requirements pose a serious challenge

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

Next year, we plan to introduce one electric model in the mass segment. The Kia 2.0 transformation is aimed to redefine how you perceive automobiles conventionally, while keeping the cores intact

GWANGGU LEE | MD & CEO, KIA INDIA

This collaboration with Google not only sets a new standard for environmental leadership but also illustrates our shared commitment to making a real difference in the fight against climate change

KULDEEP JAIN | MD, CLEANMAX

SHORT TAKES

Blackstone seeks to raise \$10 bln

Hong Kong/Singapore: Blackstone Inc, the world's largest alternative asset manager, has started raising its third Asia-focused private equity (PE) fund, targeting at least \$10 billion, two people with knowledge of the situation said. The new buyout fund, Blackstone's third in Asia, will primarily focus on India with the largest percentage of capital allocated there, the sources said, declining to be named as they were not authorised to speak to the media. China will not be a focus market for the new fund, the sources said. Japan and Australia will be two other significant markets for Blackstone while it continues to look at other countries such as South Korea and Singapore, they said.

Govt approves NMEO-Oilseeds

New Delhi: The government Thursday approved National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds with an outlay of ₹10,103 crore to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils. India imports more than 50 per cent of its annual edible oil requirement. "With an aim to make India self-reliant in oilseed production in next 7 years, Cabinet approves National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) for 2024-25 to 2030-31 with outlay of ₹10,103 crore," the government said on social media platform X. The mission aims to increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes in 2022-23 to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31, the government said.

FROM AI TO DPI

Google brings out new initiatives for India mkt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 3: Tech giant Google Thursday announced several key initiatives for the India market, including an open-source 'AI Agent Framework', more local data storage options, a digital public infrastructure (DPI) model, clean energy partnerships and a new Google Safety Engineering Center (GSEC) in the country next year.

Roma Datta Chobey, Managing Director, Google India, said that as India embraces tech more deeply, Google's engagement with the country too has deepened over the years.

"We're expanding Gemini Live, the Gemini app's mobile conversation experience, and AI Overviews in Google Search to

BIGGEST FALL IN 2 MONTHS

Missiles hit markets

- SENSEX PLUNGES 1,769 PTS TO 3-WEEK LOW
- NIFTY SLUMPS 546.80 POINTS TO 25,250.10
- INVESTORS LOSE ₹9.78 LAKH CR IN A DAY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 3: Benchmark BSE Sensex tumbled 1,769 points to settle at 82,497.10, its lowest closing level since September 11. During the day, it plummeted 1,832.27 points or 2.17 per cent to 82,434.02. As many as 29 Sensex scrips closed in the red while only one stock ended in the green.

Market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies dropped by

around ₹9.78 lakh crore to ₹4,65,07,685.08 crore (USD 5.54 trillion).

The NSE Nifty slumped 546.80 points or 2.12 per cent to 25,250.10 with 48 of its constituents ending lower.

Continuous foreign fund outflows and rising crude oil prices dented investors' sentiment, analysts said.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Larsen & Toubro, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, Adani Ports and HDFC Bank were the major laggards.

JSW Steel emerged as the only gainer.

"The domestic market took a sharp downturn following Iran's

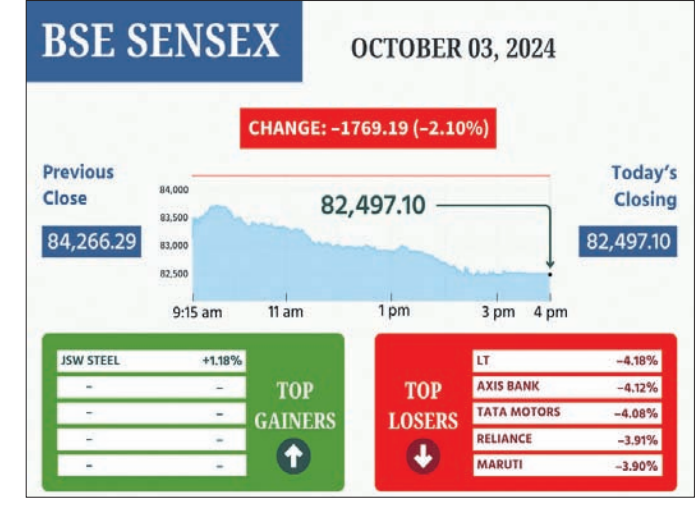
launch of ballistic missiles at Israel, sparking fears of retaliation and escalation in the war," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

"New SEBI regulations for the F&O segment have raised concerns about reduced trading volumes in the broader market. Lastly, with attractive valuations in China, FIIs have redirected their funds, adding pressure on Indian stocks," Nair added.

The BSE midcap gauge tumbled 2.27 per cent and smallcap index dropped 1.84 per cent.

All indices ended lower: Realty tanked 4.49 per cent, while capital goods (3.18 per cent), auto (2.94 per cent), services (2.87 per cent), industrials (2.75 per cent) and oil & gas (2.52 per cent) were among the major losers.

A total of 2,881 stocks declined while 1,107 advanced and 88 remained unchanged on the BSE.



Adani to supply clean energy for Google cloud ops

New Delhi, Oct 3: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group will supply clean energy to power Google's cloud services and operations in India, the two firms said Thursday.

Adani group will supply 61.4 megawatt of electricity from a new solar-wind hybrid project located at its 30 gigawatt (GW) Khavda renewable energy park in Gujarat. Google powers most of its cloud operations and services through electricity procured from the grid and is planning to run the entire operations on clean energy by 2030.

Adani is expected to start commercial operations in the third quarter of 2025.

At the 'Google for India' event, the search giant also announced a partnership with CleanMax for sourcing 125.4 MW of clean energy to power its offices and cloud regions in India.

Of the contracted volumes, 66 MW solar energy will come from Rajasthan and 59.4 MW wind energy from Karantaka.

Broking stocks fall as F&O norms tightened

New Delhi, Oct 3: Shares of a large number of stock broking firms declined Thursday amid markets regulator Sebi tightening F&O framework to curb speculative trading.

SMC Global Securities tumbled 4.29 per cent, Aditya Birla Money dropped 3.50 per cent, Spaisa Capital went lower by 2.91 per cent, ICICI Securities dipped 2.38 per cent and HIFL Securities declined 2.16 per cent on the BSE.

"New SEBI regulations for the F&O segment have raised concerns about reduced trading volumes in the broader market," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

To curb speculative trading, SEBI Tuesday put in place a stricter framework for equity index derivatives by increasing the minimum contract size and mandating upfront collection of option premiums.

Other measures announced by SEBI included intra-day monitoring of position limits, removal of calendar spread benefit on expiry day, rationalisation of weekly index derivatives and increased tail risk coverage.

These measures, aimed at

BSE to discontinue weekly index derivatives on Sensex 50, Bankex

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US port strikes may hit Indian exports



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: The US East Coast and Gulf Coast dockworkers' strike is expected to hurt the country's exports to America, which is the largest trading partner of India.

Expressing concerns, exporters said that a lot of shipments go to the East Coast and from there, businesses take shipments to the West Coast of the US.

"There is a growing concern among the Indian exporters due to the strike. Amid the global economic slowdown, this is adding to the worries of the Indian exporters to the US, India's largest trading partner and biggest export destination," Chairman of the CII national committee on EXIM Sanjay Budhia said.

He said that due to the crisis, exports will be delayed which could lead to missed deadlines, contract penalties and strained relationships with US buyers.

Also, with ports on the East and Gulf Coasts experiencing disruptions, exporters may have to reroute shipments to the US West Coast or Canadian ports, incurring higher transportation costs and extended delivery times, Budhia, who is also MD of Patton International Ltd, said.

He added that rerouting may also lead to congestion at alternative ports, exacerbating delays.

"Also West Coast ports are already very congested and handling more cargo may not be feasible. Adding to the Exporters' troubles, dockworkers represented by the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) announced a strike Tuesday, halting operations at 36 major US ports along the East Coast and the

Buyers in the US are getting very concerned and constantly asking for contingency plan for Shipments in Transit and shipment route for new shipments from India

Indian exporters are already facing higher freight costs and delays due to disruptions in the Red Sea route

Gulf of Mexico," he said. These ports handle nearly 55 per cent of container traffic entering and leaving the US, including the largest 14 ports from Maine to Texas.

Budhia said that Indian man-

There is a growing concern among the Indian exporters due to the strike. Amid the global economic slowdown, this is adding to the worries of the Indian exporters to the US, India's largest trading partner and biggest export destination

SANJAY BUDHIA | CHAIRMAN, CII NAT'L COMMITTEE ON EXIM

The strike does not augur well for India as its outbound shipments dipped by a steepest decline in 13-month falling 9.3 per cent in August to USD 34.71 billion

ufacturers who rely on these ports for imports of raw materials and intermediate goods might also experience delays in receiving essential inputs, leading to slowdown in production cycles and contributing to higher inflation.

"Buyers in the US are getting very concerned and constantly asking for contingency plan for Shipments in Transit and shipment route for new shipments from India," he said, adding that it is important to hold discussions among the related parties to come to a consensus and restart the operations to minimise the macro impact.

Simultaneously, the Indian exporters must also continue to focus on their own competitiveness development to be on track to achieve the target of USD 1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030, he said.

Jamaica looks to replicate India's UPI success

On his maiden visit to India, Jamaican PM held a roundtable discussion with Digital India Foundation (DIF) officials and policy makers to understand the architecture needed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 3: Jamaica is looking to replicate India's success in digital payments, leveraging technological advances New Delhi has made in digital payments, the Caribbean Island nation's Prime Minister Andrew Holness said Thursday.

On his first visit to India, Holness held a roundtable discussion with Digital India Foundation (DIF) officials and policy makers to understand the

architecture needed.

"Jamaica has established as part of its development goals to become a digital society and we have already established our national identification system which is similar to your Aadhaar system here," Holness told PTI in an interview.

He said his country is trying to develop strong partnerships with Indian technology particularly the public infrastructure and the Unified Payment Interface (UPI).

The roundtable was to discuss how India's digital public infrastructure and UPI infrastructure could assist Jamaica to make it a digital economy, he said.

During the visit, an agreement for cooperation in digital public infrastructure and linking online payment system was also signed.

"We are hoping we will be able to do it very quickly but it's a



process the building of the partnership is the first phase," he said.

Talking about his visit, Holness said India is an amazing country, diverse but unified and very innovative.

"I think India is doing an amazing job and Jamaica wants to make a partner with India in these areas," he said.

Calling India the pharmacy

of the world, he said Jamaica was looking for increased collaboration in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, security and defence and technology.

Another agreement signed was for joining the Global Biofuels Alliance.

These are issues about energy security, energy efficiency and climate change and all three are issues that face Jamaica and

Jamaica has established as part of its development goals to become a digital society and we have already established our national identification system which is similar to your Aadhaar system here

ANDREW HOLNESS | PM, JAMAICA

countries like India, working together with India in this regard will be very useful, he said.

With passion for cricket binding the two nations, the Prime Minister hoped for greater collaboration with world's biggest cricketing nation, India will help bring back the lost glory for the post in the Island nation.

"The same was also true for athletics. So we have signed MoU on sports we will be collaborating with India to help developing your runners as well," he said.

Eves eye strong start

'Rohit-led squad reignited our passion'

WOMEN IN BLUE START THEIR T20 WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN FRIDAY WITH GAME AGAINST KIWIS

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 3: A stellar effort by senior stars would be mandatory when India take on New Zealand in their opening Group A match of the women's T20 World Cup here Friday. They will definitely be aiming for a strong start in their quest to wipe off the memories of past near-misses.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who in all likelihood, will be appearing in her last T20 World Cup, has been witness to several near misses and disappointing moments from close quarters, including India's capitulation to Australia in the final at Melbourne in 2020.

As has been in the past, this Indian line-up is rich in talent and, arguably, only Australia have a similarly well-oiled unit. But the reigning champions have six titles in their cabinet, and India's is still dust-laden.

So, what pegs India back in global events? It seems more a case of mental fragility at clutch moments, and the Women in Blue tried to address that during a preparatory camp at the NCA (National Cricket Academy) with a few counselling sessions. But such external measures can only be of limited help in big tournaments, as it boils down entirely to flawless execution of strategies on a given day.

In that context, India will not get a better opponent than New Zealand, who are not a fancied side like their Trans-Tasman neighbour. But the two-time runners-up are as tough as nails.

TIMINGS
Live on Star Sports 6.00pm onwards

A victory against them could well be counted as a sign of being in fine shape – tactically and mentally – and that's a prerequisite for India in a group which also has Australia, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

To start with, India will require heavy contributions from their top guns – the 35-year-old



Both Harmanpreet Kaur (left) and Smriti Mandhana will have to fire for India to do well in the tournament

Harmanpreet, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma. Harmanpreet has also time and

again said that it would be nice to replicate the men's team who recently won the T20 World Cup. "This year, the men's team

won the World Cup, and we all know how special

- NEW ZEALAND HAVE WON 9 OF THE 13 T20 GAMES AGAINST INDIA
- INDIA'S HIGHEST TOTAL AGAINST NEW ZEALAND HAS BEEN 194 FOR 5, WHILE FOR KIWIS IT IS 161 FOR 7

that moment was for everyone. If we win, it will create a similar moment for Indian fans and for cricket history back home. I think it's going to be a very special achievement for us if we win," Harmanpreet had said.

It is also critical that Indian's spinners fire here as the pitches are expected to assist them. They have only three genuine pacers in their squad – Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar and Arundhati Reddy.

In all likelihood, India will only play two of them, while depending on a plethora of spinners in their line-up.

India have exceptional variety in that department. The attack will be marshalled by off-spinners Deepti and Shreyanka Patil, leg-spinner Asha Shobhana and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav.



Jemimah Rodrigues

INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM WANT TO REPLICATE THE MEN BY WINNING THE T20 WORLD CUP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 3: Apart from chasing their first-ever Women's T20 World Cup title, India will also be striving to make a rare double of winning two silverwares in the shortest format in both genders, an achievement which would be very unique in the cricketing world.

Right-handed batter Jemimah Rodrigues has said the desire and passion to win the upcoming tournament was reignited in the team on seeing the Rohit Sharma-led men's side end a major trophy drought by winning Men's T20 World Cup earlier this year.

"I remember watching the men's final. We had a Test match against South Africa, and on day 3, we stayed up until around 1.30am in the night watching the match. I remember that moment clearly. We've always dreamt of winning the World Cup, but seeing them win just before our World Cup made it feel so much more real," Rodrigues stated dur-

ing a programme on Star Sports.

"That desire and passion to win was ignited when we saw Rohit Sharma and the team lifting the trophy. A few of us were in the room, and we're usually a talkative bunch, especially me, but when that happened, we all fell silent," informed Rodrigues.

India open their T20 World Cup campaign Friday against New Zealand. It will be followed by facing Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia in their Group A games. "It would be amazing. When the boys won, it gave us hope that we could replicate it.

They won after so many years, and there was so much happiness across the nation. We want to contribute to that happiness by winning our title too," pacer Renuka Singh said.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana said that following the process would be the key for India to win the title in the final October 20. "Winning two trophies in a year would be a different achievement, but winning the World Cup itself will be very special. This year, my goal is to not discuss my goals. I don't want to talk about what's going to happen next. It's important for us to follow the process and take it one match at a time," Mandhana stated.

I don't want to think too much about the results honestly. The dream is there, but we're focusing more on the process and what we need to do

JEMIMAH RODRIGUES

Shafali banking on three qualities

AGENCIES

Dubai, Oct 3: Consistency, power-hitting and confidence are the three attributes that Shafali Verma wants to combine to take India to glory at the T20 World Cup. Shafali always had the power which was 'natural' to her. Consistency is something she has picked up more recently, highlighted by her maiden international century in June this year. And she is hoping to tap into the confidence she gained from leading India to victory in the Under-19 T20 World Cup last year.

"I will draw inspiration from the Under-19 World Cup last year," Shafali was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo at a promotional event in Dubai. "Of course, it was a massive thing for women's

At the start of my career, I just used to go out and hit, but now I've made some changes mentally. I have learnt the importance of blocking the good deliveries so that I bat longer

SHAFALI VERMA

cricket in India that we won an ICC trophy. It was the biggest moment of my life and I will take confidence from that so that we can lift the T20 World Cup as well," she added.

Shafali was quick to point out that she would like to contribute as much as she can to propel India towards the goal. "Our main focus right now is that we win the World Cup trophy. Individual goals and records are

a part of the game. But there's no better feeling than your team winning, and those nights I get good sleep," Shafali stated.

The Indian opener has not played an international game since the T20 Asia Cup in July. Shafali however, asserted that during this time she has worked on different facets of her game.

"I'm working on my fitness and mental levels," she said. "I have learnt that fitness is very important because if you want to play long knocks," she stated.



SHORT TAKES

Khushi swells India's medal tally at ISSF

Lima (Peru): Khushi secured a hard-fought bronze in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions at the ISSF Junior World Championship here Wednesday, dramatically qualifying for the final before rallying to claim the third spot. Her medal took India's tally to 15, including 10 gold, one silver, and four bronze medals, keeping the country at the top of the standings. The youngster shot 447.3 in the final to finish behind Caroline Lund of Norway who won silver with 458.3. Caroline's compatriot Synnove Berg won gold with a score of 458.4.

Badosa finishes Zhang's dream run

Beijing: Zhang Shuai's drought-busting week came to a shuddering halt as Paula Badosa continued her resurgence in a 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) victory to enter the semifinals of the China Open tennis tournament here Thursday. The 19th-ranked Spaniard has won 28 of her last 35 matches since May. But, the story of the week has been the 35-year-old Zhang, who entered the China Open on a 24-match losing streak – the second longest in the Open era – and ranked No. 595. She didn't drop a set in four matches this week. However, against Badosa she had no answer.

Messi wins 46th career trophy

Columbus (Ohio): Lionel Messi and Inter Miami have another trophy, along with home-field advantage throughout the Major League Soccer (MLS) playoffs. Messi scored twice in the final minutes of the first half, goalie Drake Callender stopped a penalty kick in the 84th minute and Inter Miami beat the defending MLS Cup champion Columbus Crew 3-2 Wednesday, wrapping up the Supporters' Shield given annually to the team with the best regular-season record. It was Messi's 46th major trophy won for club or country.

Shock defeats for Bayern, Real



Aston Villa's Jhon Duran (left) celebrates with a teammate after scoring against Bayern Munich

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct 3: Substitute Jhon Duran scored a late winner to give Aston Villa a shock 1-0 win over Bayern Munich at the Villa Park in a Champions League game played Wednesday evening. When the sides met in the 1982 European Cup final, Villa won 1-0 in a big upset. Prince William was born that year, and he was cheering in the Villa Park crowd when Duran struck.

Coach Unai Emery sent the 20-year-old Duran on in the 70th and the Colombia forward – who has made a habit of scoring goals from the bench – did it again with a brilliant left-footed effort

from around 25 metres to beat Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

In another game played on the day, defending champions Real Madrid lost 0-1 to unheralded French side Lille. Kylian Mbappe came off the bench in the 57th minute but couldn't prevent the team suffering a loss.

With Mbappe a substitute after a minor hamstring injury, the opening goal came from Canada striker Jonathan David's penalty deep into first half stoppage time. A video review ruled that midfielder Eduardo Camavinga handled the ball.

"We made a lot of errors. In the first half, we had a lot of issues in the transitions," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "We weren't aggressive enough. We weren't able to create chances, we weren't great in possession. We were slow and we lacked ideas," he added.

Liverpool coach Arne Slot got his first taste of a European night at Anfield and saw his team beat Bologna 2-0, thanks to goals from midfielder Alexis Mac Allister and prolific forward Mohamed Salah, who set up the first goal. Salah teased the defense with an 11th-minute cross for Mac Allister to score from close range and curled in a rising shot in the 75th to double Liverpool's tally.

OFC, KBFC share 4 goals, points

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 3: Odisha FC (OFC) played out a 2-2 draw with Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) in their ISL encounter at the Kalinga Stadium here Thursday evening.

Noah Sadaoui and Jesus Jimenez combined well to give their side a two-goal advantage within the first 25 minutes of the game. However, Alexandre Coeff of KBFC conceded an own goal in the 29th minute and then Diego Mauricio completed OFC's comeback in the 36th minute with a fine strike. Even though there were four goals in the first half, the second half did not see anymore and both sides had to be satisfied with a point apiece.

OFC with four points from four games are in ninth position in the points table. KBFC on the other hand, have five points from an identical number of games.

The match was lively right from the get-go as both sides played attacking football. KBFC had the first look at the opposition goal when Danish Farooq found himself in open space. However Mourtada Fall managed to come up with a timely tackle and save the situation for



OFC and KBFC players (in white) go airborne to fight for the ball during the game Thursday at the Kalinga Stadium

PHOTO BIKASH NAYAK

the hosts. Similarly, Hugo Boumous passed the ball to Mauricio, but his shot was saved by KBFC goalie Sachin Suresh.

Mikael Stahre's side then took the lead in the 18th minute when Jimenez found Sadaoui inside the box and the latter beat OFC custodian Amrinder Singh with a curling shot. Three minutes later, Sadaoui turned provider for

Jimenez and he beat Amrinder with a nice placement.

OFC got a breather when a deflection off Coeff went into the KBFC goal. OFC didn't take much time to restore parity. Mauricio combined with Jerry to find some open space and scored with booming shot. In the second half both sides had chances, but failed to convert those.

Sports Hostel, Rourkela emerge champs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 3: Sports Hostel, Rourkela emerged champions at the 3rd Sub-Junior Women's Hockey Championships - 2024 which ended Thursday at the Birsas Munda hockey stadium. In the final they defeated Sports Hostel, Sundargarh 2-1 in shootout, after the game had ended goalless in regulation time. In the match for third and fourth positions, Sundargarh put on a dominant performance, beating Gangpur Hockey Association 5-0.

Speaking on the occasion, Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, congratulated all the teams for their exceptional per-



formances. "The talent we witnessed today is a testament to the future of hockey in Odisha. Each player displayed incredible skill and determination, and we are proud of their journey. The commitment to developing young talent in Odisha remains strong, and we look forward to seeing

these athletes shine on bigger stages," Tirkey stated.

Among other dignitaries present on the ground during the final were Nibedita Pradhan (OAS-SB), Sudipta Kumar Naik (OAS) and Sanatan Sahoo (secretary, Hockey Association of Odisha).

Patra in Indian squad

Bhubaneswar: Odia gymnast Rakesh Kumar Patra has been selected to the Indian team that will participate in the FIG World Challenge Cup Gymnastics at Szombathely in Hungary. The tournament will be held October 4 to October 10, the Odisha Gymnastics Association informed in a release Thursday. The prestigious event will see the participation of top gymnasts from all over the world. This is not the first time that Patra has found a place in the Indian squad. In the past also he has represented the national side on a number of occasions. He has represented India at the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games quite a few times. At the national level representing the Services and Odisha, Patra has won a number of medals including gold. He won two gold medals, one silver and two bronze medals at the Senior Artistic Gymnastics national championships which was held in January this year at the Kalinga Stadium here.

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