



**ON A MISSION**  
Actor Nitu Chandra says she is looking out for stories of inspiring women from different parts of the world **LEISURE P2**



**ASSAULT CONTINUES**  
Russia launches missiles that hits apartment buildings in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia **INTERNATIONAL P10**



**INDIA FACE PAK TODAY**  
Shafali Verma would be keen to come out of her lean patch when India take on Pakistan in the Women's Asia Cup T20 **SPORTS P12**

**SHORT TAKES**

**Two more elephants perish in Sambalpur**

**SAMBALPUR:** There is no let-up in elephant deaths in the state as carcasses of two more jumbos were recovered near Tileimal village under Jamankira forest range of Bamra forest division in Sambalpur district, Thursday. Sources said the carcass of a tusker, 8, was recovered from a paddy field while that of a female elephant aged around 13 years was found from a tomato field. It is suspected that the two animals might have died of poisoning, Bamra divisional forest officer (DFO) Falguni Sarathi Mallick said. **MORE P5**

**Abducted Indian-origin family found dead in US**

**LOS ANGELES:** All four Sikh family members, including an eight-month-old baby girl, who were kidnapped in the US state of California earlier this week have been found dead, authorities said Wednesday. The family, originally from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, was kidnapped at a business in Merced County, California, Monday. Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said the bodies of 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur, their eight-month-old child Aroohi Dheri and the baby's uncle, 39-year-old Amandeep Singh were found on Wednesday evening in an orchard near Indiana Road & Hutchinson Road. Warnke said that a farm worker near the orchard found the bodies and immediately contacted authorities. All of the bodies were found close together. **MORE P10**

**Rupee hits new low of 82.17 against dollar**

**MUMBAI:** The rupee plunged by 55 paise to close at an all-time low of 82.17 against the US currency Thursday due to a stronger dollar in overseas markets and firm crude oil prices. The Indian currency for the first time closed below the 82 level against the US greenback as heavy dollar demand from oil importers and growing expectations of a Fed rate hike weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened on a positive note at 81.52, but pared all the gains later as the dollar extended gains. **MORE P11**

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



Promise we made were for the state. We are a national party now



**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR:** Earthen idols of Goddess Durga were immersed in artificial ponds created by the civic authorities at Devigada Ghat on Kathajodi riverbed in Cuttack, Thursday **(REPORT P3)**

## Rich in minerals, poor in childcare

Though mineral-rich Keonjhar contributes immensely to the state's revenue, the health indicators paint a gloomy picture

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Oct 6:** Although Keonjhar district contributes a lion's share of the state's revenue, the government has failed to ensure nutritious food and healthcare to the people of the district. The result: Rise in incidences of anaemia and malnutrition among women and children. As per statistics, over 12,669 children were found to be malnourished. The data reveals that 74.7 per cent women in Keonjhar district are grappling with anaemia as against 61.8 per cent in the state. Similarly, 32.7 per cent children in the district are down with anaemia. The recent death of 13 newborns within 18 days in September 2022 at the district headquarters hospital is a case in point. The Health department has admitted that the children are succumbing to malnutrition as it leads to low immunity following reduced weight. This is the case of poverty amid plenty with the district having highest deposit of iron ores in the state. Reports said the state government has been taking loan from



**12,669 children in Keonjhar are suffering from malnutrition**  
**32.7% kids are down with anaemia**  
**38.9% child deaths have no records**

Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OM-BADC) and investing it in the development of the state. The district mineral foundation (DMF) has a whopping Rs 5,000 crore which is being utilised in developmental initiatives. However, many children are having stunted growth and suffering from malnutrition. According to National Family Health Survey, the district has achieved 87.5 per cent in registration of childbirths (upto 5 years), but the district health department has no records of the remaining 12.5 per cent children. This has raised questions on the availability of healthcare services, proper nutritious food and vaccines in intervals to these 12.5 per cent kids. **Continued on P4**

**66 CRIB DEATHS IN GAMBIA**

### WHO alert for 4 Indian syrups

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**UN/Geneva, Oct 6:** The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an alert for four 'contaminated' medicines manufactured by an Indian pharmaceutical company that have been 'potentially linked' with acute kidney injuries and 66 deaths among children in The Gambia. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters Wednesday, "The four medicines are cough and cold syrups produced by Maiden Pharmaceuticals Limited in India. WHO is conducting further investigation with the company and regulatory authorities in India," he said, adding that the loss of young lives due to the products is "beyond heart-breaking for their families". The four products are Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup. The manufacturer has not provided guarantees to WHO on the safety and quality of these products", WHO said. The WHO chief said while the contaminated products have so far only been detected in The Gambia, they may have been distributed to other countries. **Continued on P4**

## Dhamnagar bypoll: BJD faces problem of plenty

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** The ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is facing the challenge of nominating a candidate as several leaders aspire to contest the byelection in the Dhamnagar Assembly seat to be held November 3. This is likely to be the last bypoll before the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Odisha due in 2024. Riding the popularity of Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik, who is ruling the state since 2000, at least four leaders have expressed willingness to contest from the Dhamnagar constituency. The BJD has won all five bypolls conducted since 2019 when the last Assembly election was held. "Several people are seeking to contest the Dhamnagar Assembly byelection. Party president Naveen Patnaik will take the final decision in this regard," BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra told PTI. The Dhamnagar seat fell vacant following the death of BJP MLA Bishnu Charan Sethi September 19. The safe party is likely to nominate Sethi's son Suryabanshi Suraj who has already started campaigning. BJP general secretary Golak Mohapatra said, "We do not have any problem regarding candidate selection. The name of the candidate will be formally announced from Delhi." There are at least four people who want to contest the seat on BJD ticket. BJD leader Rajendra Das, who lost to Sethi by 4,625 votes, is one of the contenders for the seat from where he had won in 2009. BJD's Bhadrak MP Manjulata Mandal's husband and ex-MLA Mukhtikanta Mandal is also hopeful of getting the party ticket for Dhamnagar. "I am confident of getting the party ticket but the final decision rests with the chief minister," he said. Two other contenders for the BJD ticket for the seat are party leader of Dhamnagar block Ashok Nayak and Dr Sanjay Das, a political greenhorn who is a doctor by profession. The Congress, which stood second behind the BJD pushing the BJP to third place in the Brajrajnagar bypoll in June, is also facing the candidate selection problem. Congress candidate from Dhamnagar in 2019, Bidyadhar Jena, is hopeful of getting the party ticket and so are senior leader Ananta Sethy and his daughter Madhumita Sethy. Madhumita had unsuccessfully contested the Bhadrak Lok Sabha seat in 2019.

## French writer Annie Ernaux bags Literature Nobel

HER MORE THAN 20 BOOKS PRESENT UNCOMPROMISING PORTRAITS OF SEXUAL ENCOUNTERS, ABORTION, ILLNESS AND THE DEATHS OF HER PARENTS

AGENCIES

**Stockholm, Oct 6:** French author Annie Ernaux, who mined her own biography to explore life in France since the 1940s, was awarded this year's Nobel Prize in literature Thursday for work that illuminates murky corners of memory, family and society. The Swedish Academy said Ernaux, 82, was recognised for "the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory". She is the first French literature laureate since Patrick Modiano in 2014. Ernaux told Swedish broadcaster SVT by telephone that the award was "a great honor" and "a very great responsibility". Ernaux started out writing au-

tobiographical novels, but quickly abandoned fiction in favour of memoirs. Anders Olsson, chairman of the Nobel literature committee, said Ernaux had used the term "an ethnologist of herself" rather than a writer of fiction. Her more than 20 books, most of them very short, chronicle events in her life and the lives of those around her. They present uncompromising portraits of sexual encounters, abortion, illness and the deaths of her parents. Anders Olsson, chairman, Nobel Committee for literature, said Ernaux's work was often "uncompromising and written in plain language, scraped clean". "She has achieved something admirable and enduring," he told reporters after the announcement in Stockholm, Sweden.



Ernaux describes her style as "flat writing" (écriture plate), a very objective view of the events she is describing, unshaped by florid description or overwhelming emotions. In the book that made her name, "La Place" (A Man's Place), about her relationship with her father; she writes: "No lyrical reminiscences, no triumphant displays of irony. This neutral writing style comes to me naturally." Her most critically acclaimed

**Nobel for Physics**

Three scientists jointly won the prize in Physics Tuesday. Frenchman Alain Aspect, American John F Clauser and Austrian Anton Zeilinger had shown that tiny particles can retain a connection with each other even when separated, a phenomenon known as quantum entanglement that can be used for specialised computing and to encrypt information.

**Nobel for Chemistry**

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded Wednesday to Americans Carolyn R Bertozzi and K Barry Sharpless, and Danish scientist Morten Meldal for developing a way of "snapping molecules together" that can be used to explore cells, map DNA and design drugs that can target diseases such as cancer more precisely.

book was "The Years" (Les années), published in 2008 and describing herself and wider French society from the end of World War II to the present day. Unlike in previous books, in "The Years", Ernaux writes about herself in the third person, calling her character "she" rather than "I". The book received numerous awards and honours. In 2018, the award was postponed after sex abuse allegations rocked the Swedish Academy, which names the Nobel literature committee, and sparked an exodus of members. The academy revamped itself but faced more criticism for giving the 2019 literature award to Austria's Peter Handke, who has been called an apologist for Serbian war crimes. The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics award Monday.

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	58222.10	↑ 156.63
NIFTY	17331.80	↑ 57.50
DOLLAR	82.39	↑ ₹0.57
EURO	80.75	↑ ₹0.08
GOLD	₹51,880	↑ ₹234
SILVER	₹60,840	↑ ₹73

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.0°C	29.6°C
TEMP MIN	24.5°C	24.0°C
Humidity	95%	92%
Rainfall	49.3mm	62.2mm
Forecast	Light rain very likely	



LETO TO ESSAY LATE FASHIONISTA KARL LAGERFELD IN BIOPIC

Requiem for a Dream actor Jared Leto, will star in a film about the acclaimed fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld.

RUST TEAM REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH HALYNA HUTCHINS ESTATE

The estate of the late cinematographer, Halyna Hutchins, has come to a settlement with the film production of Western movie Rust,



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ARIES Are you a science and technology geek? Well, today you may have a chance to use your knowledge and zoom ahead of everyone!

TAURUS This is not one of those easy and carefree days. You are in for a lot of mental anguish.

GEMINI Emotions, not acidity, will be the cause of your uneasiness.

CANCER Today, you will be at the centre of all your plans.

LEO Love, respect and quality time together - this might just be the perfect recipe for a happy family life.

VIRGO Pay due attention to your innate feelings.

LIBRA All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!

SCORPIO There is nothing more enchanting and alluring to you than some passionate time with your love interest.

SAGITTARIUS Friendship with a few like-minded people is likely to develop today.

CAPRICORN Your grand orchestration may not come to fruition.

AQUARIUS Finally, you've decided to clean up the mess!

PISCES Financially, you have bright prospects awaiting you today.

Neetu believes in being valued

The 13B actress has plan in place to form an all-women team of production, technicians, camera operators, writers, directors with herself heading it as producer

Mumbai: After leaving her mark in the industry with films like Garam Masala, Traffic Signal, One Two Three and others, actress Nitu Chandra is slowly but steadily carving her niche as a producer.

During a recent conversation with a news portal, when asked about it, Nitu said, "Yes, I plan to set an all women team of production, tech, camera, writer, director and myself as producer.

"I feel it's high time that people's belief that we women don't work together needs to change which is a passive and old thought.

Women do get along very well actually more now. Because we understand the importance and value of where we stand today and looking to prove ourselves telling we are no lesser," she added.

"This doesn't mean that I'm against men. I am just in my favour and believe in being equally treated and valued."



Sushmita Sen to play trans activist in Taali

Mumbai: Actress and former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen is set to portray the role of transgender activist Shreegauri Sawant in her upcoming film Taali - Bajaungi Nahi, Bajaungi.

The actress unveiled the first look of the film through her Instagram. She wrote in the caption: "Taali! (I won't clap but will make others do so) #first-look as #ShreegauriSawant.

Nothing makes me more proud and grateful than to portray this beautiful person and bring her story to the world! Here's to life & to everyone's right to live it with dignity! I love you guys (sic)."

The actress called the project 'special' for her: "This one is special for many reasons. This is just the beginning, stay tuned for what's in store," she added.

Born as Ganesh and raised in Pune, Shreegauri Sawant is a transgender activist from Mumbai.

The biopic is created by Arjun Singh Baran and Kartik D Nishandar, directed by National award-winning director Ravi Jadhav, and produced by Arjun Singh Baran, Kartik D Nishandar and Aafeefa Nadiadwala.

Dhanush, Aishwaryaa call off divorce

Mumbai: Tamil star Dhanush and Aishwaryaa Rajinikanth - the eldest daughter of megastar Rajinikanth, have put their divorce on hold and are trying to make things work around their marriage.

Dhanush and Aishwaryaa got married in 2004. They have two sons together, Yatra Raja and Linga Raja. Several media reports state that nine months after announcing the separation, the two have decided to reconcile their marriage although an official statement from Dhanush and Aishwaryaa is awaited.

Back in January 2022, Dhanush wrote: "18 years of togetherness as friends, couple, as parents and well-wishers to each other. The journey has been of growth, understanding, adjusting and adapting. Today we stand at a place where our paths separate..."

Aishwaryaa and I have decided to part ways as a couple and take time to understand us as individuals for the better. Please do Respect our decision and give us the needed privacy to deal with this.Om Namashivaya! Spread love, D."

Even though the two did not disclose the reason behind their separation and requested everyone to respect their privacy, there were reports saying that Dhanush and Aishwaryaa's families had been trying to "convince them to stay together."

On the work front, Dhanush will next be seen in the bilingual film titled Vaathi in Tamil and Sir in Telugu. He also has Captain Miller in the pipeline.



BLACK ADAM TO ARRIVE IN INDIA ONE DAY EARLY!

Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson's much-awaited movie Black Adam will make its debut in India October 20, a day before its global release.

Warner Bros shared the exciting news update on its social media handle and also announced that the film will have a wide release in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

The movie was initially slated to arrive in theatres October 21.

"Brace yourselves because #BlackAdam is arriving one day early! Watch Black Adam in cinemas in India from October 20 onwards in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu," the studio tweeted.

Black Adam is a spin-off from Warner Bros and New Line Cinema's Shazam! featuring Zachary Levi in the lead role. The character first appeared in DC Comics in the 1940s as a villain corrupted by power. He became an anti-hero years later in 2000.

Directed by Jungle Cruise director Jaume Collet-Serra, the movie also features Aldis Hodge as Hawkman, Noah Centineo as Atom Smasher, Quintessa Swindell as Cyclone, and Pierce Brosnan as Dr. Fate.

The movie is written by Adam Strykiel, Rory Haines, and Sohrab Noshirvani.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

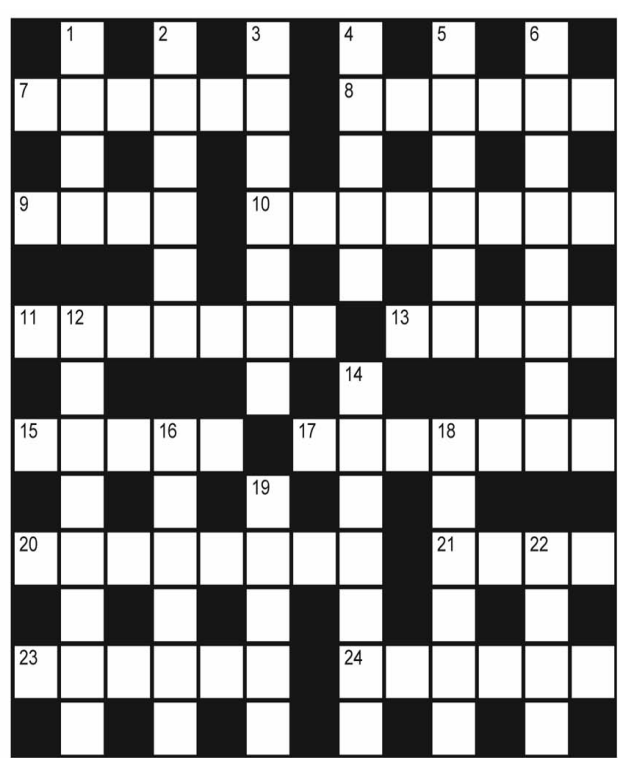


BREVITY



FUN post

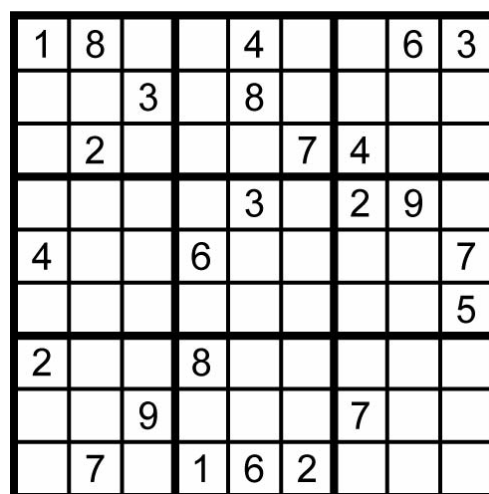
CROSSWORD



- Across 7 Mexican cloak 8 Esoteric 9 Footwear 10 Onion plant 11 White ant 13 Spring bloom 15 Fool 17 Venezuelan statesman 20 Photograph 21 Mouselike animal 23 Food grain 24 Type of policy 4 Impertinent 5 Predicament 6 Sleep disorder 12 Heightened 14 Roman Catholic Pope 16 Weak person 18 Commit funds 19 Blackboard item 22 Incline

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

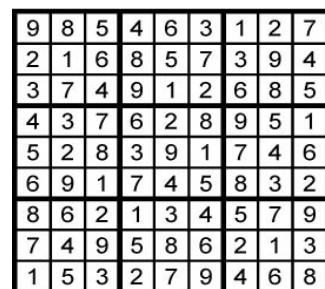


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



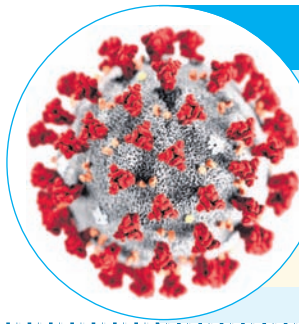
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## BRAVING RAIN

Commuters were caught in a heavy downpour which lashed the City, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	62,51,29,794	60,49,52,856	65,56,063
India	4,46,04,463	4,40,43,436	5,28,745
Odisha	13,34,642	13,24,736	9,198

# Durga Puja ends with immersion ceremony

A TOTAL OF 178 IDOLS IMMERSED IN 4 PONDS DUG UP BY BMC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Celebrations associated with the Durga Puja officially ended Thursday with the immersion of the idols. The idols were immersed in temporary ponds created by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC). Four temporary ponds have been set up. Two are on either sides of the Kuakhai river, one is at Bastuaghai in Tankapani locality and one beside the Daya river.

The ponds have been created to save the river water from getting polluted and contaminated. To reduce pollution of the river water the government has asked the urban local bodies to ensure that no idol immersion takes place in rivers, ponds or at public water bodies.

Polythene sheets were also used during the immersions for removal of the solid waste to the dump yard. The liquid waste on

the other hand was taken in cesspool vehicles to the sewage treatment plant.

Officials informed that a total of 178 Maa Durga idols adorning various pandals across the Odisha capital were immersed.

Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19, Durga Puja celebrations had been a low-key affair in the last two years. This year with the fear of the virus slowly fading and the curtailment of restrictions, the fervour of the festivities certainly went up by a few notches. The different committees had planned to conduct the Durga Puja in a grand manner and grand it was.

In the race to present something new and unique, various committees this year had come up with different themes. Many also had pandals constructed as a replica of the Askshardhan and Ayodhya Ram temples, the Varanasi river bank and the Jodhpur Palace



**BIDDING ADIEU:** Despite the inclement weather, immersion of idols of Goddess Durga were carried out Thursday with much fanfare in different parts of Bhubaneswar



OP PHOTO

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Rain plays spoilsport, immersion postponed in Puri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar/Cuttack/Puri, Oct 6:** Rain played spoilsport in the pilgrim town of Puri, where the Puja ritual was postponed by a day, officials said.

The puja organisers had a tough time completing immersion as the heavy rains led to water logging in many areas of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack so much so that out of the 350 idols in the two cities less than 70 idols could be immersed in the artificial tanks created by the administration by 8 PM.

The state government has banned immersion of idols in rivers and other natural bodies to check water pollution and instructed the local administration to create artificial tanks in river banks for the purpose.

The Cuttack Municipal Corporation dug one at Devigada on the bank of Kathajodi river.

In some places, the puja organisers even wrapped the idols of



the goddess in polythene sheets to protect them from the rain water before their immersion.

Police Commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi said adequate security arrangements were made and over 300 CCTV cameras were fitted in the twin cities to keep a watch on the immersion processions.

Cuttack recorded the highest 62.6 mm of rainfall and Bhubaneswar 49.3 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm Thursday, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar said.

“Though the coastal districts experienced light to moderate rainfall in the forenoon, the intensity increased in the afternoon and threw life out of gear in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar,” said senior scientist Umashakar Dash.

The low pressure weakened by Wednesday but the cyclonic circulation along with the activation of monsoon caused widespread rains in Odisha, the weatherman said.

Meanwhile, in Cuttack there was a clash between organisers

of two Durga Puja committees during immersion on Thursday during which the two sides threw stones at each other which left some people injured.

Additional DCP Cuttack, Anil Kumar Mishra said both organisers had been involved in conflict in the past and additional deployment of police was made near the idols to avoid any untoward situation.

A youth went missing during the immersion of idols of Goddess Durga in Salandi river in Bhadrak district as heavy rains induced by a cyclonic circulation lashed the coastal district.

Another youth, who too had gone for the immersion near Baudpur, about four and half kilometre from Bhadrak town, was rescued by the local people from the river, the police said.

The Bhadrak district administration and fire brigade personnel have launched a search for the missing youth.

# Mahapatra launches 1st compendium document

**THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE OF GOPABANDHU ACADEMY OF ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ADVISED TO SHARE THE FINDINGS WITH RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** In a step towards result-based management of developmental interventions, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra launched Thursday the first volume of the compendium on Location Specific Research Works prepared by the Centre of Excellence (CoE) of Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA).

Mahapatra launched the document at the Lok Seva Bhawan here in presence of GAA director general Ranjana Chopra and State Head of UNICEF, Monika Nielsen.



Appreciating the efforts of the research team, Mahapatra asked CoE to take up more such community-centric studies in different areas of Odisha for assessing the need of the people and bridging the critical gaps at field level. He also asked the GAA to hold discussion sessions on findings of the studies with respective departments.

Mahapatra also advised to document the successful development models emerging from such studies. Such models would be useful

guide books for the trainee officers and could be replicated with local customization for achieving targeted developmental outcomes, said the Chief Secretary.

Speaking on the occasion, Chopra said that the Centre of Excellence was made operational from 2021 at GAA in collaboration with UNICEF along the line of the State Training Policy.

“The CoE operated with technical support of the UNICEF. The studies undertaken by CoE were need and demand based. CoE

could add value to developmental administration through such community-based studies,” Chopra stated.

Nielsen said that the type and functioning of the CoE at GAA with location-specific approach was one of its kind in the entire country. She also expressed UNICEF’s willingness to continue its collaboration with the CoE.

Director of CoE, Shashank Grahacharya informed that the compendium contained around 19 community and people-based impact studies on many important issues including functioning of Adarsha Vidyalaya, impact of Covid-19 on women handloom weavers, early detection and care of sickle cell patients, fishermen communities in coastal belt, children with special intellectual needs, paddy procurement, reduction of malnutrition, control of wildlife hunting and livelihood interventions in tribal communities etc.

The research team also collected and compiled the voices of and visuals from the communities regarding their participation in the development process, Shashank said.

# Police bust escort service gang in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Commissionerate Police arrested recently five cyber fraudsters including a woman on the charges of duping a person of around Rs 25,000 on the pretext of providing escort service. The accused were identified as Susanta Kumar Patra alias Babu, 28, of Pidhapatna, under Delanga police limits, Upamanyu Baral, 34, of Rupadeipur in Balanga locality in Puri, Sasmita Jena alias Kandhei, 24, of Bishnudiha area under Banapur police limits, Sadashiva Sethi, 24, of Brajamohan, under Khurda Sadar police station in Khurda and Jagannath Pradhan, 38 of Balipatna locality in the Odisha capital.

Susanta, the mastermind of the fake escort services gang was staying at Orchid Residency in Sunderpada locality under the Airfield police limits here.

“Till now we have arrested five people including a woman involved in cheating people in the name of providing escort services. Susanta was the mastermind behind the gang. He also engaged his wife and two other girls to lure different persons and then duped them,” in-

formed a senior police official Tuesday.

Among those arrested are two agents who used to supply pre-activated mobile sim cards to the fraudsters. Police also said the fraudsters were operating their gang from different places in the city. A manhunt has been launched to arrest the other absconding cyber criminals associated with the gang. Based on a complaint lodged by Bibekananda Jena, the Cyber Crime and Economic Offence police station here registered a case (39/22) and arrested the five accused.

Jena while searching for escort services September 18 on Google came across the website <https://i.skokka.com>. When Jena contacted one of the accused, the

person asked him to come to a hotel at Master Canteen area.

Accordingly, Jena reached the hotel where two of the fraudsters told him to pay Rs 1,500 for the service which he duly did. However, then the accused demanded more money from him and Jena paid them another Rs 22,500 scanning a QR code in the name of Chandrakant Mishra. However, he came to know later that the account was actually was in the name of one Subhashri Pradhan.

Smelling a rat, Jena approached the police seeking action against the accused persons. Along with the arrest of the five, police also seized 11 mobile phones, 23 ATM cards, 70 pre-activated SIMs and Rs.86,500 in cash from those nabbed.



## BJD appoints district observers

As per the order, five leaders have been given the charge of two districts, while the remaining 20 leaders have been given charge of one district each

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Thursday appointed 25 senior party leaders as district observers for 30 districts.

BJD organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das has released the list of district observers following the approval of BJD President and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

As per the order, five leaders have been given the charge of two districts, while the remaining 20 leaders have been given charge of one district each.

The five leaders are; Minister Sushanta Singh has appointed observer for Bolangir and Deogarh districts, Minister Pramila Mallik to look after Dhenkanal and Khurda districts, Minister Atanu Sabayashi Nayak is the observer for Gajapati and Rayagada districts, Pranab Prakash Das for Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj and Dibya Shankar Mishra of Koraput and Malkangiri. The ruling party has excluded



two Ministers Samir Dash & Tusharkanti Behera, Cuttack mayor Subash Singh, Debasish Samantary, Chandra Sarathi Behera from the responsibilities. Dash was the observer for Jagatsinghpur district earlier.

It is speculated that School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Das has been removed for the party position over his involvement in the death of Gop Zilla Parishad (ZP) member, Dharmendra Sahoo.

On the other hand, senior leaders Arun Sahoo, Tukuni Sahu and Rohit Pujari were included in the observers' list.

Minister Pratap Keshari Deb

has been appointed as the observer of Balasore district, while Prasanta Kumar Mudli to look after Angul, Sudhir Kumar Samal for Bargarh and Pranak Kumar Balabantary for Bhradak district.

The BJD has appointed Minister Usha Devi as its observer for Cuttack district whereas Arun Kumar Sahoo is in-charge of Jagatsinghpur district, Bijay Nayak for Kandhamal, Prafulla Kumar Mallik for Kendrapara, Iswar Panigrahi for Nabrangpur, Padmanav Behera for Nayagarh, Tukuni Sahoo for Nuapada and Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain for Puri.

Moreover, Nalinikanta Pradhan is the observer for Sambalpur, Minister Pritiranjana Gharai for Sundargarh, Minister Nabakishore Das for Kalahandi, Minister Pradip Kumar Amat for Ganjam, Soubhagya Nayak for Boudh, Minister Ashok Chandra Panda for Jajpur, Sarada Prasad Nayak for Jharsuguda and Minister Rohit Pujari for Subarnapur.

## 'Unify 2022' for future girl leaders

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** KickOff Solutions' enabling underprivileged girl leaders through sports is organising first-of-its-kind in-person event, Unify 2022, Oct 8-11 at CYSD, Bhubaneswar.

Unify 2022 will bring 50 beneficiary girls from India and Africa under Kick Off Solutions' scholarship programme together and provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to listen and learn from their experiences.

The event, which is a critical pivot on the social impact roadmap for community-led change, will see an exchange of stories, goals & plans from girls, coaches, and non-profit leaders, besides perspectives from industry experts. The event is also aligned with the U-17 Women's football world cup for a meet and greets session for girls.

Kick Off Solutions supports sports-for-development, they identify potential future girl leaders in underprivileged areas and provide them with multi-year scholarships and access to change maker programmes that are uniquely curated to address each girl's needs and aspirations.

## Daan Utsav spreads joy across Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** 'Daan Utsav' or the 'Joy of Giving' week started October 2 and will continue till October 8. The 'Daan Utsav' week this year coincided with the Durga Puja celebrations. However, that has not stopped the festival which started in 2009 from spreading its roots across different demographics and geographies in Odisha.

The different ways in which various kinds of people have come together to give and to get 'Joy in Giving', shows that anyone can participate in this festival even in a small and doable manner.

Hundreds of volunteers of 'Bakul Foundation' went out to different slums in the Odisha capital to spread happiness among children through games, craft and story creation sessions. Among the volunteers were popular film actor Priya Choudhury, retired ED of Naloco, Amiya Patnaik and also the 13-year-old Nikhaar Somani.

It was amazing seeing the child come out with Patnaik while in-



and play area and also felicitated those who collect garbage and waste.

'Daan Utsav' this year has connected the young with the old as well. The students of a women's college in Malkangiri wrote letters to elders in their community to make them feel wanted and special. The 'Nagarika Mancha' at Hata-Muniguda in Rayagada gifted clothes to 150 tribal people from a community. They organised a feast for them as well.

Like every year, 'Mission Odisha' led the celebrations in Puri. They

The biggest celebrations this year took place in Dhenkanal. In fact, the Dhenkanal Municipality decided to celebrate 'Daan Utsav' as a 'Patha Utsav' (Road Celebrations) in which a stretch of the main road was blocked for vehicular traffic. Among the programmes, senior citizens displayed their yoga skills while youngsters performed martial arts and took part in various cultural programmes. Distribution of fruit-bearing plants was conducted by SGI Health camps.

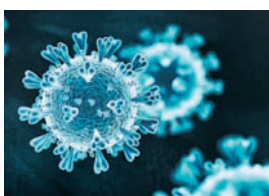
At Ramachandrapur Prathamika Vidyalaya in Gondia, the 'Inner Wheel Club' distributed new clothes to grandparents of students from nearby hamlets. Students of DPS Dhenkanal decided 'Daan Utsav' by giving the staff members tokens of appreciation and gifts.

There have been many initiatives to attract children to the 'Daan Utsav'. The 'Rotary Vidya Mandir' in Gajamara organised a debate on the topic 'Joy of Giving' and distributed knowledge material and sweets to school students.

Bipin Mohanty, who has been a volunteer and ardent ambassador of 'Daan Utsav' in Odisha has also invited children to participate in an essay and drawing competition on 'Make your School the Kindest' by sending entries at welcometoo-disha@gmail.com. He informed that the selected entries would be published in a book.

## State logs 49 fresh Covid-19 cases

**Bhubaneswar:** The state's Covid-19 tally mounted to 13,34,642 Thursday as 49 more people, including five children, tested positive for the virus, a health department bulletin said. The state had recorded 68 infections Wednesday. The death toll remained unchanged at 9,198, it said. Odisha now has 821 active cases, while 13,24,570 patients have recovered from the disease so far, including 171 in the last 24 hours. It tested 6,336 samples for coronavirus since Wednesday at a daily positivity rate of 0.77 per cent, the bulletin added. Meanwhile, India recorded 2,529 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid-19 cases to 4,46,04,463, while the active cases dipped to 32,282, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated Thursday. The death toll climbed to 5,28,745 with 12 fatalities which includes eight deaths reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8am stated. The active cases comprise 0.07 per cent of the total infections.



## Cyber criminals extort ₹71k from Odia youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Cyber criminals allegedly honey-trapped a youth in Khurda district and extorted Rs 71,000 from him, police informed Thursday. Victim Benudhara Muduli has filed a complaint at the Bhubaneswar cyber police station. Speaking to media-persons here Muduli alleged that he got a video call from an unidentified girl posing in the nude on his Whatsapp recently.

"Later, I got a call from a person who claimed to be an IPS officer and

identified himself as 'Rahul'. He said that he has the recordings of the nude pictures and videos and unless I pay Rs 1.5 lakh, a case will be registered against me," Muduli informed. Fearing police harassment, Muduli informed that he transferred Rs 71,000 to the account numbers given by the cyber criminals in four installments.

Meanwhile police officials said they have initiated an investigation in this case. Recently a Bhubaneswar-based engineer was honey-trapped in the similar manner and had lost Rs 25 lakh.



teracting with kids. On the other hand, the young Nikhaar donned the mantle of an adult while teaching craft to young children.

There have been also younger volunteers celebrating 'Daan Utsav'. 'Bhubaneswar Changemakers', who work with citizens to build more inclusive communities, got small kids to participate in a knowledge exchange programme with students of Kabarpada Government School. They also cleaned up their own park

organised a blood donation camp in Gopabandhu Ayurvedic College for thalassemia patients. Among the donors was Badri Mishra, who has now donated blood 109 times. He said that he had made up his mind to donate blood during this year's 'Daan Utsav'. Bone mineral density tests were also conducted for many people, mostly senior citizens, and doctors also advised them on nutrition and advised them on ways to address this deficiency.

## Odisha Infrastructure Conclave today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** The All Odisha Contractor Welfare Association (AOCWA) will organise a one-day conclave 'Odisha Infrastructure Conclave' October 7 in Bhubaneswar Friday.

This one-day conclave will be inaugurated by Ganeshi Lal, Governor of Odisha in the presence of Bijay Kumar Patnaik, former Chief Secretary and dignitaries.

Speaking about the conclave Jagdish Patra, President, AOCWA said, Odisha Infrastructure Conclave (OIC) is a platform to discuss the role of infrastructure in the growth of Odisha and the roles & responsibility of all the stakeholders.

## Continued from P1

## Rich in minerals, poor....

Likewise, the district has 61.1 per cent registered child deaths in last three years but there are no records about the rest 38.9 per cent dead children.

According to a survey, over 37.1 per cent infants were found suffering from malnutrition with reduced weight. The district is implementing 14 Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) projects covering over 1, 73,657 children but 12,669 children are suffering from malnutrition. Among them, 2,830 children are from Banshpal block,

2,436 from Joda block and 1,736 from Harichandanpur block.

Notably, over 74.7 per cent women in Keonjhar are suffering from anaemia as against 61.8 percent in the state. Similarly, 32.7 per cent children are also suffering from anaemia in the district.

Admitting the prevalence of anaemia and malnutrition in the district, CDMO Kishore Chandra Prustysaid, "Nutrition schemes and awareness programmes are being undertaken to remove these twin problems."

## WHO alert for 4....

WHO has recommended all countries detect and remove these products from circulation to prevent further harm to patients.

The WHO Medical Product Alert refers to four substandard products, identified in The Gambia and reported to WHO in September 2022.

WHO said substandard medical products are the products that fail to meet either their quality standards or specifications. Therefore, they are "out of specification," the health body said.

Laboratory analysis of samples of each of the four products confirms that they contain unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol as contaminants.

Outlining the risks associated with the products, WHO said diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol are toxic to humans when consumed and can prove fatal.

"Toxic effects can include abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, altered mental state and acute kidney injury which may lead to death," it said.

All batches of these products should be considered unsafe until they can be analysed by the relevant National Regulatory Authorities. The substandard products referenced in this alert are unsafe and their use, especially in children, may result in serious injury or death, it added.

Meanwhile, the samples of four cough syrups manufactured by a Sonapat-based firm have been sent to the Central Drugs Laboratory in Kolkata for examination, Haryana's Health Minister Anil Vij said Thursday.

A probe has already been initiated by India's drug regulator, the Drugs Controller General of India. Vij said the cough syrups manu-

**WHO said substandard medical products are the products that fail to meet either their quality standards or specifications**

factured by the pharma company were approved for export. "It is not available for sale or marketing in the country. Whatever action has to be taken will be taken once the CDL report comes. Only after the report is in, we can arrive at any conclusion," he said.

When asked about the matter, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said the Centre was looking into this issue. When an international issue is involved, the Government of India deals with it and they are dealing with it, he said. However, he added, "So far, we do not have information on whether the deaths happened actually because of these medicines or due to some other reasons.

# The quest to demystify déjà vu--a mysterious phenomenon

**H**ave you ever had that weird feeling that you've experienced the same exact situation before, even though that's impossible? Sometimes it can even seem like you're reliving something that already happened. This phenomenon, known as déjà vu, has puzzled philosophers, neurologists and writers for a very long time.

Starting in the late 1800s, many theories began to emerge regarding what might cause déjà vu, which means "already seen" in French. People thought maybe it stemmed from mental dysfunction or perhaps a type of brain problem. Or maybe it was a temporary hiccup in the otherwise normal operation of human memory. But the topic did not reach the realm of science until quite recently.

Early in this millennium, a scientist named Alan Brown decided to conduct a review of everything researchers had written about déjà vu until that point. Much of what he could find had a paranormal flavor, having to do with the supernatural - things like past lives or psychic abilities. But he also found studies that surveyed regular people about their déjà vu experiences. From all these papers, Brown was able to glean some basic findings on the déjà vu phenomenon.

For example, Brown determined that roughly two thirds of people experience déjà vu at some point in their lives. He determined that the most common trigger of déjà vu is a scene or place, and the next most common trigger is a conversation. He also reported on hints throughout a century or so of medical literature of a possible association between déjà vu and some types of seizure activity in the brain.

Brown's review brought the topic of déjà vu into the realm of more mainstream science, because it appeared in both a scientific journal that scientists who study cognition tend to read, and also in a book aimed at scientists. His work served as a catalyst for scientists to design experiments to investigate déjà vu.

We investigated a near century-old hypothesis that suggested déjà vu can happen when there's a spatial resemblance between a current scene and an unrecalled scene in your memory. Psychologists called this the Gestalt familiarity hypothesis.

For example, imagine you're passing the nursing station in a hospital unit on your way to visit a sick friend. Although you've never been to this hospital before, you are struck with a feeling that you



have. The underlying cause for this experience of déjà vu could be that the layout of the scene, including the placement of the furniture and the particular objects within the space, has the same layout as a different scene that you did experience in the past.

Maybe the way the nursing station is situated - the furniture, the items on the counter, the way it connects to the corners of the hallway - is the same as how a set of

welcome tables was arranged relative to signs and furniture in a hallway at the entrance to a school event you attended a year earlier. According to the Gestalt familiarity hypothesis, if that previous situation with a similar layout to the current one doesn't come to mind, you might be left only with a strong feeling of familiarity for the current one.

To investigate this idea in the laboratory, my team used virtual re-

**T**he most common trigger of déjà vu is a scene or place, and the next most common trigger is a conversation

**O**ne contributing factor to déjà vu can be spatial resemblance of a new scene to one in memory that fails to be consciously called to mind at the moment

ality to place people within scenes. That way we could manipulate the environments people found themselves in - some scenes shared the same spatial layout while otherwise being distinct. As predicted, déjà vu was more likely to happen when people were in a scene that contained the same spatial arrangement of elements as an earlier scene they viewed but didn't recall.

This research suggests that one contributing factor to déjà vu can be spatial resemblance of a new scene to one in memory that fails to be consciously called to mind at the moment. However, it does not mean that spatial resemblance is the only cause of déjà vu. Very likely, many factors can contribute to what makes a scene or a situation feel familiar. More research is underway to investigate additional possible factors at play in this mysterious phenomenon.

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## Landslide in hillside village: 400 evacuated

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Daringbadi, Oct 6:** While low-pressure-induced heavy rains continued to lash various parts of the state, Kumbharipada locality in Hatimunda panchayat under Daringbadi block of Kandhamal district has been hit by a landslide, Wednesday.

Following the landslide, the district administration has been on its toes for rescue operation with a directive from Collector Ashish Ishwar Patil. About 400 villagers were evacuated to a nearby school



Thursday. Initially, the villagers were provided with rations, but it was not possible for them to cook food at the place. Then, some people had to go back to their houses.

However, the district administration decided to provide cooked

food to them at the school, said BDO Gadadhar Patra. The villagers had been evacuated to the school with help of the BDO, the tehsildar and members of a youth club.

After the landslide, the village has been in a precarious condition. "In

view of the danger to the hillside village, the administration has been making efforts to permanently relocate the villagers elsewhere. A survey will be conducted. It will take some time," said the BDO.

It may be noted here that the hill near Kumbharipada has seen landslides twice in the month of September owing to heavy rains. In 2018 also, the area had been hit by landslide. Taking repeated occurrences of landslide in the area into account, the administration has decided to relocate the entire village somewhere else.

## 2 more elephant carcasses found in Sambalpur forest

OVER 10 PACHYDERMS HAVE DIED WITHIN A YEAR IN THE DISTRICT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 6:** There is no let-up in elephant deaths in the state as carcasses of two more jumbos were recovered near Tileimal village under Jamankira forest range of Bamra forest division in Sambalpur district, Thursday.

The dead animals were identified as a tusker and a female elephant aged between eight and 13 years. The carcass of the tusker was recovered from a paddy field while that of the female elephant from a tomato field. It is suspected that the two animals might have died of poisoning who had come to the area from the nearby jungle in search of food, Bamra DFO Falguni Sarathi Mallick said.

On being informed, Forest officials rushed to the spot and launched an investigation. Preliminary inquiries indicated that the animals might have died after consuming pesticide laced crops from the farmlands as no external injury was found on their carcasses. The owners of the farmlands also admitted to have sprayed pesticides on their crops, two days back. The post-mortem of the carcasses will be conducted Friday and the exact reason behind the deaths would be ascertained after availability of the report, the DFO said. Bamra DFO Falguni Sarathi Mallick, forest ranger Gajendra Nayak and forest officials were at the spot monitoring the investigation.



Preliminary inquiries indicated that the animals might have died after consuming pesticide laced crops from the farmlands as no external injury was found on the carcasses

Local officials held the Forest department is not taking any concrete step to drive away the animals from straying into human habitats despite a series of complaints. This is leading to loss of lives and properties. The farmers are applying pesticides in excess to protect their crops from pest attacks and diseases. The animals are dying after consuming the pesticide laced water and crops on the farmlands, they alleged.

Environmentalists and animal lovers have questioned the safety and security of the elephants with frequent deaths being reported from various parts of the state almost every week. The animals face an uncertain and dangerous future with the forests of the state slowly turning into their graveyard.

Reports said that over 10 elephants have died within a year in the district with the animals becoming vulnerable in Bamra, Redhakhole and Sambalpur forest divisions due to various external threats like poaching through electrocution and gun shots for ivories.



RELIGIOUS FERVOUR: Devotees in attires of mythological characters took a round of Sambalpur town during Ravan Podi festival

OP PHOTO

## Woman succumbs to diarrhoea; 12 affected

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khaira, Oct 6:** Diarrhoea has been playing havoc at Nakapada under Khaira block in Balasore district. One person has died while a dozen others were affected by the diseases.

The deceased was identified as Laxmi Mathan of Gandhali village. Laxmi had come to her maternal uncle's house at Nakapada and was affected with diarrhoea. The affected people were admitted to the Khaira community health centre (CHC).

Madan Mohan Behera and Shankarshan Behera had organised a feast Monday. Some villagers

Villagers alleged that the outbreak of diarrhoea is the outcome of drinking contaminated water

took part in the feast. Since then, many of them have complained of loose motion. Wednesday, six people were hospitalised. Laxmi was critical and shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital where she succumbed. Five others were admitted to the CHC Thursday.

Some villagers alleged that the outbreak of diarrhoea is the outcome of drinking contaminated water.

## Close shave for 10 fishermen as trawler catches fire in sea

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chandbali, Oct 6:** As many as 10 fishermen had a close shave after a trawler they were in capsized mid-sea after catching fire near Wheeler island close to Dhamra coast in Bhadrak, Thursday.

The mishap occurred when the fishermen were fishing in the sea. They immediately wore their safety jackets and jumped into the sea. Fishermen in other trawlers rescued them after spotting them and handed them over to the marine police.

The incident occurred when 10 fishermen in a trawler Maa Padmabati owned by one Samaresh Parida of Dosinga panchayat in Dhamra had gone inside the sea for fishing. The trawler went up in flames after catching fire due to unknown reasons.

## 2 killed in lightning strike

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chadeidhara/Berhampur, Oct 6:** Two youths were killed in a lightning strike near Kulanipata Kuanria bridge in Madhupurgarh panchayat in Jajpur district. The deceased were identified as Banchhanidhi Mallick (21), son of Sulekh Mallick and Jogi Mallick (16), son of Baban Mallick Bhubanpur village.

The two youths had gone to cut grass at Kulanipata Tuesday when a heavy thunderstorm lashed the area. They took shelter under a tree where lightning struck them. The two were rushed to Barchana CHC where doctors declared them dead on arrival.

**On hilltop for online classes, 3 students struck by lightning**

In another incident, three students were injured Wednesday after being struck by lightning on a hilllock that they had scaled to attend their online

classes owing to poor mobile connectivity in their village.

The three students identified as Dhiren Digal, Pinku Mallick and Pancha Behera of Mundagaon village under Chakapada block in Kandhamal district had gone atop a nearby hill to attend their classes as their village lacks proper network coverage.

As it started to rain, they took shelter under a tree. Suddenly they were struck by lightning and lost consciousness. After one of them came to senses, he called and informed his brother. On getting information, villagers rushed to the hill and rescued them.

The children were first admitted to Brahmanapad Community Health Centre (CHC) and one of them was later shifted to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) at Phulbani. All three students were reported to be out of danger.

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## Boy kills man for refusing money for liquor

**Berhampur:** A 17-year-old boy was arrested here Thursday for allegedly smashing the head of a man with a stone slab for refusing to give him money for liquor, police said. The incident took place Tuesday at Premnagar area in this district headquarters town Tuesday near a liquor shop. The man was on his way back to his home when the inebriated boy had demanded money from him and hit him on the head when he refused. The 48-year-old victim was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, the police said. The boy, who has two cases against him including burglary, was released on bail about a week ago.

## Man beaten to death; son critical in assault

**Kabisuryanagar:** A man was beaten to death while trying to save his son from an assault by two co-villagers at Khadal Sahi in Bolsar village under this police limit in Ganjam district. The deceased was identified as Anand Nahak, 65, a woodcutter of the village. Profusely bleeding, he collapsed on the spot, sources said. His son Amar Nahak sustained critical injuries in the melee and was rushed to the Kabisuryanagar hospital first and later, shifted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital after his condition deteriorated. Kabisuryanagar police detained the two villagers Akula Sethi and Binayak Sethi in the police station and were questioning them in this connection, IIC Prabhat Sahu said. A case was registered in this regard and the body was handed over to the family members after post-mortem. Residents alleged incidents of violence, hooliganism has picked up in the village due to illegal liquor sale in the village. Sources said that the two might have attacked Amar as he was a regular alcoholic and used to abuse the villagers under the influence of liquor.

## Hindalco empowering Sambalpur women



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 6:** Not so long ago, Nilima Sahu from Hirakud of Sambalpur district was struggling to meet daily needs. But one day, life changed for her and families like theirs. Hindalco, Hirakud, a unit of Aditya Birla Group, started the "Project Swabalmi" for empowering the women of Sambalpur by forming self-help groups (SHGs) for the socio-economic upliftment of the women living in its plant periphery.

Kailash Pandey, Head of Hindalco's Hirakud Cluster said, "We are concerned about the welfare of women from this region and by promoting the SHGs we want to instill among them a sense of entre-

preneurship and independence so that they can live with dignity and self-esteem. Our engagement not only promotes SHGs but also empowers women to become entrepreneurs by helping them to start independent business such as tailoring and phenyl manufacturing. Members of these groups were imparted capacity building training to understand the intricacies of SHG management. They were linked with banks, and financial assistance was arranged for them to engage in various income-generating activities. These activities resulted in remarkable changes in the economic condition of the members."

"The project which started with just 25 SHGs has now roped in 64 SHGs with 765 members under its umbrella, and ₹83.25 lakh savings in their bank accounts. These SHGs also availed loan amounting to ₹95.75 lakh from nationalised banks to undertake income generation activities," added Pandey.

## JUMBO CALF REUNITES WITH MOTHER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Oct 6:** A female elephant which was responsible for death of two persons at Jagatpur in Cuttack had an emotional reunion with its calf which had got separated from it following the efforts of the Forest officials.

The 35-year-old pachyderm had unleashed a reign of terror in Jagatpur by killing two persons, September 29. Concerned over the killings, Forest officials tranquilised the animal and brought it to the elephant rescue centre at Kapilash zoo in Dhenkanal district.

The female elephant was rehabilitated inside a crawl and was provided treatment. It was searching for its calf that had got separated from her while the mother jumbo was on the move. It often used to trumpet while searching for its calf and started



showing aggressive behaviour.

Meanwhile, the male jumbo calf was also equally in search of its mother. The calf crossed the Birupa river in Jagatpur and passed through Tangi to enter into the Kapilash sanctuary.

The Forest officials of Cuttack, who were tracking the movement of the calf, immediately informed their Dhenkanal counterparts about the

arrival of the calf in Kapilash sanctuary. However, the jumbos in Kapilash sanctuary did not allow the calf to come near them. As a result, the calf stayed into Sorishiapada village near the sanctuary in Dhenkanal district and ate the paddy crops on the farmlands.

Irked over crop loss, the villagers of Sorishiapada informed the Forest officials. On being informed, a team of

Forest officials led by the DFO tranquilised the calf and brought it to the elephant rescue centre. There it was left inside the crawl near the mother elephant where it had an emotional reunion with its mother. The female elephant which was showing aggressive behaviour so far immediately calmed down and began to lick its calf.

Later, the Forest officials took the mother and its calf in a vehicle and dropped them in a forest on the fringes of Narasinghpur and Satkosia under Hindol forest range when it was raining heavily in the area. This is the first of its kind incident in the state, Forest officials said. Protesting the move, locals staged a sit-in outside the Bondiri beat house under Hindol forest range. Forest officials tried to allay their fear stating that the two animals are in jungle and quite far away from the human habitats.

### STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA

[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]

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**APPEAL TO OBSERVE POLLUTION FREE DURGA PUJA, LAXMI PUJA AND KALI PUJA**

**Puja Committees/Organisers:**

- Use natural clay for making of idols instead of baked clay, plaster of paris etc.
- Use water soluble and nontoxic natural dyes for painting of idols instead of toxic non-biodegradable chemical dyes.
- Height of the super structure of the idol shall be limited to 40 ft. and of the idol shall be limited to 20 ft. in height.
- Immerse idols only at the identified immersion sites constructed by the District authorities or Local bodies.
- Remove worship materials like flowers, decorating materials before immersion of idols and to be disposed of in municipal dump site and make sure that they are not burnt near the immersion site.
- Do not use single use plastic or thermocol materials for decoration purpose and Prasad Sevan or distribution.

**District Authorities or Local Bodies:**

- Aware the public regarding water pollution caused by idol immersion.
- Aware the public to purchase eco-friendly idols made up of natural clay and coloured with natural dyes.
- Identify adequate number of designated immersion sites and inform the Puja Committee authorities well in advance.
- In case of immersion of idols in rivers and lakes, arrangements may be made for construction of temporary confined ponds with earthen bunds and removable synthetic liner for the purpose of immersion of idols. Identify the immersion sites at the points where the flow in stream is naturally available.
- Within 24 hours of the immersion, the left over materials from the immersion site shall be removed for disposal at designated municipal dump site and the supernatant water may be allowed to flow into the river after adding lime to clear the water.

**Individual Households:**

- Individual households are encouraged to use only eco-friendly idols made of natural clay and bio-degradable materials as decorative and puja materials.
- Imperson the idols at their homes in eco-friendly manner or immerse the idols in the designated on-land temporary artificial ponds or tanks located nearby or artificial movable tanks arranged by the local bodies.

**Penal Provision:**

- As per the Odisha Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (Procedure for Immersion of Idol after Pujas) Rules, 2021, for violation of Rule 3 by idol makers, they may be prohibited from idol making for 2 (two) years by the concerned local bodies; and deposition of the idol manufacturers towards registration fees shall be forfeited by the respective local body in addition to the prohibition of idol making for 2 (two) years.
- Further, violation of Rules 5 and 6 by the Puja Committee Organisers, the concerned local bodies may impose penalty on Puja Committee organisers as below.
  - In case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Panchayat, Rs. 3,000/-.
  - In case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Municipality or Notified Area Councils, Rs. 5,000/-.
  - In case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Municipal Corporation, Rs. 7,000/-.

**LET US TAKE A PLEDGE TO OBSERVE A POLLUTION FREE PUJA**

Sd./ Member Secretary

**Note: The Odisha Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (Procedure for Immersion of Idol after Pujas) Rules, 2021 in this regard can be downloaded from SPCB website. (Weblink: <http://ospcb.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/1741-F-E-Idol-Immersion-Rule-by-Odisha.pdf>)**

OIPR-08012/11/0260/2223

FOCUS CULTURE

# CRASH LANDING ON K-DRAMA

Around three months ago, I was introduced to the world of K-drama on Netflix. My son recommended that I try watching a new classic 2019 Korean TV series on Netflix called 'Crash Landing on You'. I was sceptical of TV serials from my experience of American soap operas and their Indian duplicates! But to my surprise, not only I found the first episode itself most alluring but indeed quite addictive! I have yet to figure out the exact ingredients in this wildly popular series, which has, since its release, generated a global cult following! In hindsight, it seemed to have a mix of everything, a gripping plot, powerful acting, lots of emotions, suspense and twists, great comedy and even elements that I found greatly educative. Written by Park Ji-Eun, directed by Lee Jeong-Hyo and starring Hyun Bin and Son Ye-jin in the lead roles, the story was about a successful South Korean businesswoman. She is swept up in a sudden storm while paragliding near Seoul and crash-lands in the North Korean portion of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). She literally falls into the arms of the dashing army captain and son of a high-ranking North Korean official.



Thanks to the K-wave phenomenon, South Korea has emerged as a major popular culture exporter, driving tourism. It has been giving competition to the United States, which has dominated this domain for nearly a century

Netflix, and Forbes noted that it ranked number 1 out of the top 10. In addition, Jo Walker of The Guardian called it "addictively over-the-wall, heartbreaking and hilarious." Jo certainly captured the reaction of most of my cousins and friends who watched the show on my recommendation.

I cannot recall being as addicted to a show as this one. The twists and turns and the great comedy kept me hooked as I binge-watched several episodes at a time. To my utter surprise, I suddenly discovered a whole new world of K-media which has been long dubbed the K-wave that has been taking over the world of entertainment globally. The last I had known about it was when the Gangnam Style had become world famous, leading to the rise of K-pop. However, it dates back to the 1990s when the term was first coined. Encouraged by the South Korean Ministry of Culture in 1999 to promote Korean cultural export in neighbouring Asian countries, it quickly became a global phenomenon on the back of social media and online streaming services like Netflix.

Thanks to the K-wave phenomenon, South Korea has

emerged as a major popular culture exporter, driving tourism. It has been giving competition to the United States, which has dominated this domain for nearly a century. In 2014, the South Korean government allocated 1% of its annual budget to cultural industries. This is a trend that most countries would be watching with keen interest and racing to have a piece of the pie not only for economic reasons but, more importantly, to gain in the race of becoming a global super 'soft power'!

Soft power on the world stage is increasingly becoming as valuable, if not more than, as military or economic might. This is where it has a valuable lesson for India, which has great potential to be a global powerhouse in this domain. Unfortunately, the current trend in India is anything but encouraging. The new narrative is driven by the emergence of a majoritarian politics-driven 'New India', which seeks to dominate but lacks the power of the secular ethos of a great ancient composite culture that wowed the world since the times of Gandhi and Nehru!

I recently had the chance to watch Amir Khan's magnum opus 'Lal

Singh Chaddha' in Hong Kong, playing to a small audience of primarily non-Indians. It was a movie with a great message - albeit an official remake of the Hollywood blockbuster 'Forest Gump'. It had all the ingredients of being a vehicle for Indian culture, society, diversity, and religious harmony despite the trials and tribulations of recent history in which Lal Singh grew up. Yet, thanks to the current divisive politics prevalent in the country, a great movie was unjustly maligned on flimsy grounds, even at the cost of India's interest in gaining soft power. Thankfully, the film is doing much better in overseas markets than in India. Luckily, movies like Bahubali or RRR have proven hugely successful in India and abroad to keep the hopes alive for the emergence of an Indian counter to the K-wave in the future. Right from the days of Raj Kapoor's popularity in the erstwhile Soviet Union with his 'Mera Naam Joker' to the more recent popularity of Rajinikanth in Japan or Amir Khan in China, Indian pop culture, especially cinema, has had the ingredients of being a vehicle for the country's soft power. To add the earlier export of Yoga and classical music by the likes of Pandit Ravi Shankar to the West, Indian culture as a whole has powerful potential. However, it needs to be nurtured as the South Koreans have with K-media.

It took me a few days to recover from 'Crash Landing on You', and then I discovered a more recent Korean TV series - the 'Extraordinary Attorney Woo'. Yet another masterpiece brilliantly integrating critical social issues around the protagonist - a young female lawyer with an autism spectrum disorder. Without going into the details, not to be a spoiler, I would recommend it to anyone, if not for anything, just for the creativity that has come to define Korean drama.

The author is a civil engineer, academician and technologist. He is currently based in Hong Kong.

Whatever is the difficulty if we keep truly quiet the solution will come.

### THE MOTHER



## Hide the Swastikas

Not so long ago, the far-right in Europe was associated with shabby old men nostalgic for the good old days of order and jackboots. The far-right political parties in France and Italy, now led by women, were founded by former SS officers, veterans of the collaborationist Vichy government, and other dubious figures who had emerged from the shadows of World War II. The same goes for the Democrats in Sweden, who won 20.6% of the votes in the most recent election.

Clearly, much has changed in the European post-fascist firmament. Giorgia Meloni, leader of the far-right Brothers of Italy party, will be the first woman to be Italian prime minister. Marine Le Pen's National Rally won 89 seats in the French parliament. And the Sweden Democrats will have a strong voice in national politics, even though they will stay outside the government.

Not only women, but also young men, usually smartly turned out in tailor-made suits, now set the tone for the European far-right. Moderate conservative parties in Europe have not yet been taken over by extremists, as happened with the Republicans in the United States, but fear of losing votes has driven them further toward the fringe.

This does not mean that we are about to wake up in 1933. History never repeats itself in the same way. Meloni is not Mussolini, and there is no Hitler, so far, lurking in the wings. There are in any case many versions of right-wing extremism. The same was true of prewar fascism. Each country has its own history, and its own brand of demagoguery.

Still, all forms of right-wing populism have certain things in common. The politics of resentment appeals to people who feel left behind and ignored. In most countries, the deeper one goes into the provinces, the more ill feeling toward the so-called elites one encounters. Race plays its usual corrosive role in the US. Many rural white people resent the rise of Black people in public life. And everywhere, fear and discontent find a ready outlet in hostility toward immigrants.

Then there are those who feel humiliated by a lack of recognition or success: failed writers, third-rate academics, or, increasingly, young men from good families, who can no longer take the privileges of their class for granted. This explains the rise of what might be called the "frat boy right," stronger in Europe than the US, and the proclivity for snappy suits.

Far-right parties' recent electoral successes are frequently seen as a failure of their mainstream rivals, who are widely blamed for a lack of coherence. One doesn't know what they really stand for.

This is not entirely fair: What mainstream parties like Labour in the United Kingdom, or the Democrats in the US, stand for is pretty clear: international institutions, global trade, flexible and generous immigration policies, and so on. The problem is that this hardly distinguishes them from moderate conservative parties.

President Bill Clinton's politics didn't fundamentally differ from those of his predecessor, George HW Bush, and the same was true of Tony Blair and David Cameron in the UK, or Gerhard Schröder and Angela Merkel in Germany. In Europe during the 1990s and the 2000s, many European governments were formed by coalitions comprising moderate left and moderate right parties. Rule by technocrats, or political managers, became the norm. As a result, right-wing populists, such as Donald Trump, exploited a loathing not just of the left, but of the conservative establishment, too.

But there is one good reason why the progressives are even more resented than the conservatives: People hate hypocrisy. It is, of course, true that a degree of hypocrisy is essential in an open society. Moral or ideological purism is the enemy of liberal democracy, just as always saying exactly what you think is not a sign of good manners. But there is a particular kind of left-wing hypocrisy that many people find especially irritating.

The mainstream progressive parties now get most of their votes from relatively well-educated people in large cities, people who travel for their work, speak more than one language, relish cultural diversity, and have a stake in the global economy.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with their worldview. Economic globalisation lifted many people from poverty. International cooperation in common institutions is preferable to nationalism and border walls. And a generous attitude to asylum-seekers and immigrants is humane, culturally enriching, and brings new dynamism to a society.

But not everyone benefits from the liberal world order. The middle class in Italy is feeling the pinch. Former industrial workers in the American Midwest are hurting. People in the French provinces feel marginalised by Paris. Moderate conservatives tend to take a stern view of such complaints. Stop whining and work harder, they say.

The left-wing reaction is more moralistic. People who complain about immigrants are denounced as racists. Those who have doubts about international institutions or global trade are dismissed as xenophobes. But because the left still pretends to stand up for the underprivileged, this often has a strong ring of self-serving duplicity. Not only do progressive educated urbanites benefit from the liberal global order, but they also wish to take the moral high ground and lecture those who lack their education or prosperity.

This is one reason why people vote for Le Pen, Meloni, Trump, or the Sweden Democrats. If educated Londoners favour European Union membership, we will vote for Brexit. If the "elites" talk about face masks or climate change, we will believe that these are hoaxes cooked up by George Soros or Bill Gates. This is the vengeance of the slighted, the politics of resentment.

Trump has shown us that the politics of resentment is usually destructive and not conducive to successful government. Can Meloni and other far-right leaders with the chance to govern do better? I'm not holding my breath.

The writer is the author, most recently, of *The Churchill Complex: The Curse of Being Special, From Winston and FDR to Trump and Brexit* (Penguin, 2020). ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

- Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get. **DALE CARNEGIE**
- It is our choices... that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities. **JK ROWLING**
- Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute experience. **PAULO COELHO**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Cadastral

A cadastral survey is one on a scale sufficiently large to accurately show the extent and measurement of every field or other block of land. The most common reason for such a survey is as a basis for taxation, but in some countries, particularly the US, it is associated at least as strongly with the need to accurately identify land boundaries; for example, there is an active Cadastral Survey within the Bureau of Land Management in the USA, which is responsible for maintaining records of all public lands. Such surveys often required detailed investigation of the history of land use, legal accounts and other documents, so it often includes a fair amount of detective work in matching physical surveys with records.



Dhanada K Mishra

**IN 2014, THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT ALLOCATED 1% OF ITS ANNUAL BUDGET TO CULTURAL INDUSTRIES**



Ian Buruma

There are in any case many versions of right-wing extremism. The same was true of prewar fascism. Each country has its own history, and its own brand of demagoguery

### SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Renewable energy: Progress & path ahead

In 2015, India specified its intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) to global emissions as a response to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report stated India's objective to establish an effective, cooperative and equitable global architecture based on climate justice and the principles of Equity and Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, under the UNFCCC. The commitment and resolute approach underscored Mahatma Gandhi's famous incitement: "Earth has enough resources to meet people's needs, but will never have enough to satisfy people's greed." Apparently the rationale behind differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities of nations is historical and current levels of disparity in development across the globe. As outlined in the report, habit and attitude are as much a part of the solution to climate change as technology and finance. Besides, sustainable production processes and lifestyles are a condition and determinant of climate change.

However, the response of India so far has been no less tepid and inadequate relative to the developed countries even after the adoption of the UNFCCC and delineation

of obligations and responsibilities. Based on Population Foundation of India projections, India's population is projected to reach 1.5 billion where nearly a half of them would be urban dwellers. India's GDP is expected to reach \$6.31 and the electricity demand is projected to shot up to 2499 terawatt-hour. Amidst such an escalated projection, adhering to the emissions standard agreed under UNFCCC is no less a daunting task in spite of India being considered a leader in renewable capacity expansion programmes across the world. The share of renewable grid capacity in 2002 was 2% (3.9 GW) which registered an increase over 6 times to around 13% (36 GW) in 2015. The aim was to scale up the renewable energy capacity to achieve 175 GW by 2020. The two big and notable contributors to India's renewable energy capacity are solar and wind.

India is the fourth largest wind power producer in the world. As per Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MoNRE) recent assessment, India has gross wind power potential of 302 GW at 100 meter and 665.50 GW at 120 meter above ground level although seven states account for 97% of total potential - Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and

Andhra Pradesh. As per the data collected from MoNRE website, wind energy accounts for 39.2 GW of installed capacity as of 31 March 2021 which registered a 46% rise since 2015 (26.8 GW). However, India is expected to miss the 2022 target (60 GW) by a fair amount. Currently, states like Gujarat (8561.81 MW), Rajasthan (4326.82 MW), Maharashtra (5000.33 MW), Tamil Nadu (9608.04 MW), Madhya Pradesh (2519.89 MW), Karnataka (4938.6 MW) and Andhra Pradesh (4096.65 MW) are significantly under-producing.

Likewise, the Government of India through its solar mission aims to increase solar power capacity. The installed capacity in 2005 was 3.7 MW and it increased to an astounding 4060 MW in 2015. And this success gave impetus to the ambitious solar capacity expansion target of 100 GW to be met by 2022. The solar expansion programmes included solar parks, solarisation of petrol pumps, ultra mega solar power projects, canal top solar projects and solar pumps for farmers. However, India has failed to achieve the capacity expansion target it had set in its INDC report. By 31 March 2021, India could muster only 40.1 GW of installed capacity as against a target of 100 GW by 2022. Out of all Indian states, majority of installed

capacity as of 31 March 2021 is in Karnataka (7355.17 MW), Rajasthan (5732.58 MW), Tamil Nadu (4475.21 MW), Gujarat (4430.82 MW), Andhra Pradesh (4203 MW), Telangana (3953.12 MW), Madhya Pradesh (2463.22 MW), Maharashtra (2289.97 MW), and Uttar Pradesh (1712.5 MW).

Clearly, India has missed its INDC targets set for wind and solar power capacity installation by a fair amount but there is more to the problem lying ahead than what is foregone. The reasons for missing the set targets can be manifold - firstly, the onset of COVID-19 and resulting supply-chain disruptions blocked the huge financial requirements for renewable power projects; secondly, lack of external sources of finance; thirdly, absence of proper Centre-state collaboration framework on renewable energy generation; fourthly, India's climate actions depend heavily on domestic sources of finance; fifthly, a slowing economy. Therefore, scaling up future climate actions relies on the intensity with which India addresses these issues.

The writer is Assistant Professor of Economics at Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar. Views are personal.



Biplab Kumar Guru

**INDIA HAS MISSED ITS INDC TARGETS SET FOR WIND AND SOLAR POWER CAPACITY INSTALLATION BY A FAIR AMOUNT**

#### Cattle under threat

Sir, An alarming situation exists in India as the lumpy skin disease (LSD) spreads rapidly across states. Over 97,000 cattle have died of the disease in a span of three months. LSD is a contagious viral disease that affects cattle and causes fever, nodules on the skin and can also lead to death. According to experts, it is more likely to infect cows than buffalos. LSD is caused by lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV), a virus from the family Poxviridae. It is transmitted by blood-feeding insects like mosquitoes, flies, lice and wasps by direct contact and also through contaminated food and water. There is no need to be concerned because public announcements and explanations have been made concerning the disease's non-harmful effects on milk and meat. LSD is a non-zoonotic disease, which means it cannot be transmitted from animals to humans, according to the FAO. The virus has serious economic consequences because infected animals' skin suffers lifelong damage, lowering the market value of their hide. In addition, the illness frequently results in chronic debility, decreased milk production, poor growth, infertility, miscarriage, and, in rare circumstances, death. The demand for the vaccine is increasing as the disease spreads from one state to another. Recently Indian scientists have developed an indigenous vaccine 'Lumpi-ProVacInd' against LSD. Its commercial launch is expected in next three-four months.  
**Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD**

#### Avoidable confusion

Sir, The Centre has notified the appointment of the new Attorney General (AG), R Venkataramani obviously has a long and wide experience as an advocate, and has also held various important positions like Law Commission member. However, the confusion regarding the new AG could have been avoided considering the prestige and respect the post holds. Even as KK Venugopal's three-month extension was about to end, there were announcements in the media about Mukul Rohatgi being appointed as Venugopal's successor. But Rohatgi shocked some sections of the media by his refusal to accept the coveted post after he initially had consented to succeed Venugopal. A top lawyer on the lines of Venugopal and Venkataramani, Rohatgi apparently had solid reasons to say no to become the country's top law officer again. After all, he was the first AG of the Modi government between 2014 and 2017. Said to be Modi's choice for a fresh tenure, there is more to Rohatgi's disinterest in the post than meets the eye.  
**Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
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of the day quote

Over 11 lakh metric tonne of paddy has been procured so far during the current Kharif marketing season

**MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR** | CM OF HARYANA

Abuse of power has been going on at the Centre for the past seven years. KCR decided to give a firm answer to that. But we support CM KCR's efforts to gain the confidence of the people of the country through development rather than political revenge

**H D KUMARASWAMY** | SENIOR JDS LEADER

After a WHO product alert, authorities in Haryana have taken samples of cough syrup from Sonepat-based factory of Maiden Pharmaceuticals, and sent to the Central Drug Laboratory in Kolkata for analysis

**ANIL VUJ** | HARYANA HEALTH MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Rape accused lynched in Bihar

**Patna:** The accused of the rape of a minor in Bihar's Katihar district was lynched by a mob early Thursday, police said. The accused was identified as Mohammad Sagir, a native of Hasanjan Bazar under Hasanjan police station. The police said that the victim, a 9-year-old girl, was sleeping with her mother inside the house, when the accused reached there and took her away silently.

### AP: Over 70 hurt in traditional stick-fight

**Amaravati:** More than 70 people were injured in the traditional fight with sticks during Dussehra celebrations in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district. Like every year, two groups attacked each other with sticks during Banni Utsav held as part of celebrations at Devaragattu village in Holagonda 'mandal' (block) late Wednesday. The injured were admitted to hospitals at Adoni and Alur and the condition of some of them is stated to be critical.

### Boy stabbed to death in Delhi

**New Delhi:** Two people were arrested Thursday for allegedly stabbing a 17-year-old boy to death in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area following a quarrel over an old enemy, police said. The victim, Shivam of Mukundpur, was attacked late Wednesday night, they said.

### Three killed in lightning strike

**Medininagar:** Three people were killed in a lightning strike in Jharkhand's Palamu district Thursday, police said. The incident happened in Lotania village in Hussainabad block when they were returning after grazing their cattle and it started raining heavily, they said. The villagers rushed them to a nearby hospital where they were declared brought dead, police said. The deceased were identified as Raghunandan Yadav (55), Surendra Yadav (50) and Pramood Yadav (35).

### Tempo rams into house

**Palghar:** A speeding tempo crashed into a house in Jawhar area of Thane district, though no one was injured in the incident, a police official said Thursday. The tempo was coming from Nashik when the incident took place in Khapricha Pada Wednesday night, he added.



It is a secret ballot. No one will know who voted for whom. There is also no way of knowing which state PCC voted for which candidate as all the ballots would be mixed together before being counted

**SHASHI THAROOR** | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

### AMBANI THREAT CALL: ONE NABBED

Mumbai Police has arrested a man from Bihar's Darbhanga district in connection with anonymous calls threatening to target industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his family, officials said



## WELFARE SCHEMES FOR ELDERLY

# SC directs states, UTs to submit info

THE APEX COURT WILL TAKE UP THE MATTER FOR HEARING IN JANUARY 2023

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** The Supreme Court has directed all state governments and Union Territories to bring on record information on existing welfare schemes for the elderly in connection with pension, old age homes in each district, and level of geriatric care.

A bench of Justices Anirudhha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia said: "Heard Dr Ashwani Kumar in person and also senior advocate(s)/advocate(s) for the other appearing parties. We direct that schemes operating for the welfare of the elderly with respect of (i) pension for the elderly, (ii) old age homes in each district and (iii) level of geriatric care, ought to be produced before us."

The apex court order came on a plea filed by former Union Law



Minister Ashwani Kumar seeking a direction to set up old age homes providing basic healthcare facilities across the country.

The bench added: "Let the respective states and Union Territories furnish the information on their existing schemes on the aforesaid three heads to the advocate-on-record of the Union of India. After collecting information from all the respective states and the Union Territories within a period of two months. A

revised status report shall be filed one month thereafter by the Union of India."

The apex court said the state governments' report should provide details on the present status in connection with the implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act. "The revised report of the States shall also disclose the present status as regards implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior

Citizens Act," it said.

Scheduling the matter for further hearing in January next year, the top court said: "Let copies of this order be sent by the Registry to the Chief Secretary of each State and the Union Territories for onward compliance of the directions contained in this order."

Kumar had sought a direction for the effective implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. The apex court will take up the matter for hearing in January, 2023. The top court was hearing a plea filed by former Union Law Minister Ashwani Kumar seeking setting up of old age homes with basic healthcare facilities across the country.

He had also sought effective implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

Kumar, in his PIL, had said there was a large number of aged people which has been increasing, with most of them living in poverty, without any roof over their heads or proper clothes and food.

## Minor gangraped in school toilet in Delhi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The alleged incident had taken place in July but the victim approached the police Tuesday only after the matter was highlighted by the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW)

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** An 11-year-old student was allegedly gangraped by two seniors inside the washroom of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the national capital following which a case has been registered, police officials said Thursday.

The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan's regional office has also ordered an enquiry into the issue.

The DCW, which termed the incident as a "serious matter", issued a notice to Delhi Police and the school principal on the issue.

The school authorities have been asked to inform why the incident was allegedly not reported to the police by them.

Officials of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) maintained that the incident was not reported to the school principal by the victim or her parents and has only come to light following police investigation. KVS is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education and it oversees over 1,200 KVVs that are spread across 25 regions in the country.

According to the police, the victim filed a complaint Tuesday and immediately a case was registered.

DCW Chairperson Swati Maliwal said, "We have received a very serious case of gang-rape with an 11-year-old student inside a school in Delhi. The girl has al-

leged that her school teacher tried to hush up the matter. It is very unfortunate that even schools are unsafe for children in the capital." She demanded strict action in the matter.

"Also an enquiry into the role of school authorities must be conducted on the issue," Maliwal added.

According to the Commission, the minor alleged that in July while she was going to her classroom, she collided with two boys from her school studying in Class 11 and 12. "She said that she apologised to the boys but they started abusing her and took her inside a toilet. She alleged that the boys locked the toilet door from inside and raped her. She stated that when she informed the incident to a teacher, she was told that the boys have been expelled and the matter was allegedly hushed up," a DCW statement said.

KVS officials said no complaint regarding the matter was received by the school authorities.

## Govt sets up tribunal to adjudicate PFI's ban justified or not

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** The Centre Thursday set up a tribunal comprising Delhi High Court judge Dinesh Kumar Sharma to adjudicate whether sufficient grounds were available for declaring the Popular Front of India (PFI) and eight associate groups as unlawful. The Union home ministry issued a notification, announcing the formation of the tribunal.

"The Central Government hereby constitutes an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal consisting of Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, High Court of Delhi, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Popular Front of India and its associates or affiliates or fronts including Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's

Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala as unlawful association," the notification said. Earlier, the Department of Justice in the law ministry had sent a communication conveying

that Justice Sharma will head the tribunal. Once an organisation is banned under the UAPA, a tribunal is set up by the government to adjudicate whether there is sufficient ground for the decision.

According to the procedure, the home ministry requests the law ministry to name a sitting judge of high court as presiding officer of the tribunal. The law minister then requests the chief justice of the high court concerned to recommend a judge to head the tribunal.

Ban on these organisations followed a number of action against them and that include seizure of properties, freezing of bank accounts and complete prohibition of normal activities.

The PFI was accused of multiple cases of violent protests in different parts of the country against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), alleged forced conversions, radicalisation of Muslim youths, money laundering and maintaining links with banned groups.

## On Akasa Air, you can now travel with your pets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Akasa Air, which took to the skies two months ago, will allow domesticated dogs and cats in cabin as well as cargo from November and will also be starting new routes in the coming weeks.

The airline, which is "well capitalized", plans to start international services in the second half of 2023 once it has a fleet of 20 planes. Currently, the carrier has 6 aircraft and will have a total of 18 planes by the end of March next year.

Akasa Air Founder and CEO Vinay Dube Thursday said the airline's performance has been "satisfying" in the first 60 days. "We are very happy, satisfied with... Our

performance". Currently, the carrier has 30 daily flights, will start services from Delhi Friday. It started operations August 7.

The airline is progressively expanding its network and connecting more cities, its Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer Praveen Iyer said.

From November, domesticated dogs and cats can travel. The bookings in this regard will start from October 15, its Co-Founder, Chief Marketing & Experience Officer Belson Coutinho said while addressing a press meet here.

Currently, Air India allows carrying of pets in cabin while some other airlines permit pets only in cargo. Each pet will have to be in a cage.



**FLYING HIGH:** IAF's Suryakiran aerobatic team performs during the full dress rehearsal for the Indian Air Force Day over the Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh

## ISRO all set to launch 36 OneWeb satellites this month

ACCORDING TO ISRO, THE 36 SATELLITES HAVE UNDERGONE HEALTH CHECKS SUCCESSFULLY AND HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED WITH THE DISPENSER UNIT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Oct 6:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is getting ready its rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III (GSLV MkIII) for launching 36 satellites of OneWeb in the third or fourth week of this month.

According to ISRO, the two solid fuel fired booster motors have been strapped on to the liquid fuel powered second stage at the rocket port in Sriharikota.

The GSLV MkIII is a three stage rocket with the first staged fired by solid fuel, the second by liquid fuel and the third is the cryogenic engine.

After this, the cryogenic stage will

be stacked on the second stage and the integration of heat shield or payload fairing with the 36 satellites will happen, said ISRO.

The NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) the commercial arm of ISRO has signed two contracts with Network Access Associated Ltd (OneWeb) for launching the latter's broadband communication satellites in low earth orbit.

"The total launch mass will be six tonne," the official told IANS.

The proposed mission has several firsts for the Indian space sector. They are: (a) The first commercial launch of GSLV MkIII (b) First time an Indian rocket will be ferrying a payload of about six tonne (c) First time OneWeb is using an Indian rocket to put its satellites into orbit (d) First com-



mercial launch of GSLV MkIII contracted by NSIL, the commercial arm of Indian space sector and (e) First time GSLV MkIII or its variants is being used for launching satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Another set of 36 satellites from OneWeb is planned to be put into orbit in January 2023. "One additional launch will take place this year and three more are targeted for early next year to complete the

constellation," OneWeb had said.

OneWeb, a joint venture between India Bharti Global and the UK government. The satellite company plans to have a constellation of 650 satellites in low earth orbit to offer communication services.

The GSLV MkIII with a lift off mass of 640 ton is a three stage rocket powered by solid, liquid and cryogenic engines.

The rocket was designed to carry four tonne satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) and about 10 tons to LEO.

With this launch, OneWeb will have more than 70 per cent of its planned Gen 1 Low Earth orbit (LEO) constellation in orbit as it progresses to deliver high-speed, low-latency connectivity services around the world.

Bharti Enterprises, a major investor and shareholder in OneWeb, this year announced a distribution partnership with Hughes Communications India Private Ltd.

## NCW NOTICE TO UDIT RAJ FOR HIS REMARK ON PREZ



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** The National Commission for Women (NCW) has issued a notice to Congress leader Udit Raj for his tweet against President Droupadi Murmu.

Raj had said that no country should get a President like her. The Commission has asked the former Lok Sabha MP to appear before it in person on October 10.

"No country should get a President like Droupadi Murmu ji. Chamchagiri also has its limits. She says 70% of the people eat Gujarat's salt. She will know once she starts living by consuming only salt," Raj had tweeted in Hindi.

NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma also demanded an apology from the Congress leader.

"Highly objectionable statement against the Supreme power of the country and a woman who with her sheer hard work reached at this position. @Dr\_Uditraj must apologise for his derogatory and insulting statement. @NCWIndia is sending him a notice," Sharma said in a tweet.

However, Raj later said that his statement on the President was made on his personal capacity, and didn't represent the party's view.

"My statement with regard to Droupadi Murmuji has nothing to do with the Congress. My heart cries when SC/STs reach a higher position and ditch their own communities and become mum," Raj tweeted.

# TN to finalise AI-based solution to prevent elephant deaths

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 6: The Tamil Nadu forest department will be finalising Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions to prevent elephant deaths by the end of this month. The department has already floated tenders from prospective companies to provide AI-based solutions to prevent elephant deaths in forest areas.

Sources in the state forest department said that the department has already received 23 tenders and is in the process of shortlisting them.

Speeding trains had hit elephants in the Madukkarai forest range in Walayar leading to the death of several wild tuskers. Three female elephants lost their lives after being hit by a speeding Mangalore-Chennai express train on November 26, 2021. This had led to a major confrontation between the Southern Railway and Tamil Nadu forest department with the latter even manhandling railway employees.

An RTI inquiry has revealed that 8 elephants were killed since 2010 after being hit by speeding trains. The top brasses of the forest department of Tamil Nadu and Southern Railway had met



SOURCES IN THE STATE FOREST DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY RECEIVED 23 TENDERS AND IS IN THE PROCESS OF SHORTLISTING THEM

several times and in the brainstorming sessions, it was decided that Artificial Intelligence could be deployed to prevent elephants being hit by speeding trains.

Tamil Nadu forest department Secretary Supriya Sahu while interacting with media persons on the sidelines of Wildlife week

SPEEDING TRAINS HAD HIT ELEPHANTS IN THE MADUKKARAI FOREST RANGE IN WALAYAR LEADING TO THE DEATH OF SEVERAL WILD TUSKERS

celebrations said that the state forest department would rely more on technology for conservation efforts.

The Tamil Nadu forest department is also in the process of setting up digital archives and digital data centres so that information will be at fingertips.

## OPENING OF 'MAHAKAL LOK'

# Ujjain flyover turns into 'selfie point'

The state government has named the over 900-metre corridor, billed as one of the largest in India, 'Mahakal Lok'. It has also started to garner popularity among the youth through social media



Illuminated corridor titled 'Mahakal Lok' in Ujjain. Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the first phase of the Mahakaleshwar Temple corridor development project October 11

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ujjain (MP), Oct 6: Dipu Sharma could barely contain his excitement about the soon-to-open Mahakal corridor in his hometown. He travels to an old overbridge near his house nearly every night to catch a glimpse of the "dazzling new project" and take selfies, he says.

And Sharma isn't the only local admiring this drastic change of landscape from the ramp of Hari Phatak Overbridge that offers a view of the 108 ornate sandstone columns bearing decorative 'trishul' (tridents) on top and 'mudras' (symbolic hand gesture) of Lord Shiva on its faces, gushing fountains surrounded by sculptures of the deity and illuminated murals.

This trend of admiring the project site from a distance has picked

up over the last few weeks. Last month, after the Madhya Pradesh cabinet's first-ever meeting in the 'holy city', this craze for "flyover selfies" has only grown.

Every day, particularly after dark, scores of people gather near the overbridge parapet and either stand and admire the emerging skyline facing the ancient Rudrasagar Lake or take selfies with the corridor in the background.

Sharma, a resident of Jaisinghpura area near the project site, had gone to the flyover with his wife on Navratra's final night on Tuesday.

He parked his motorcycle on the flyover while his wife peeked below to admire the view.

"People of Ujjain are super excited about the new corridor, es-

pecially after it was confirmed by the Madhya Pradesh government that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate it soon. As that day nears, excitement is only building up," he said.

Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the first phase of the Rs 856-crore Mahakaleshwar Temple corridor development project here, around 200 km from Bhopal, on October 11.

The Mahakaleshwar Temple is one of 12 'jyotirlingas' (a representation of Lord Shiva) in the country and gets devotees throughout the year.

While daylight offers a clear view of the new structures, people gather mostly after dark to enjoy the illuminated fountain at play Sharma said. His wife said women in her neighbourhood were also excited,

particularly the young ones.

The state government has named the over 900-metre corridor, billed as one of the largest in India, 'Mahakal Lok'. It has also started to garner popularity among the youth through social media. Two majestic gateways - Nandi Dwar and Pinaki Dwar - have been erected near the starting point of the corridor, which winds its way to the entrance of the ancient temple while offering aesthetic views along the way.

"This portion of the overbridge faces the main gateway (Nandi Dwar), and it has sort of become a viewing gallery and a favourite selfie point. This craze has particularly picked up over the last few weeks and I see it often while driving by," said Ujjain-based cab driver Rohit Songara.

Ujjain Smart City Chief Executive Officer Ashish Kumar Pathak feels excitement levels would only go up and lead to a "huge jump" in tourist footfall after the opening. "The ornate columns, the aesthetic-looking fountains, and depictions of various elements from Shiv Puran in murals will enhance viewer experience," he said.

Officials of IPE Global, the consultancy firm which worked on the project under the Ujjain Smart City mission, said testing of fountains and lights had been taking place over the last several days, drawing scores of people.

# Awareness campaigns proving beneficial in TN



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 6: Extensive awareness campaigns by the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital have led to an increase in the number of breast milk donors and beneficiaries in the district.

According to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, around 5,511 babies have benefited from its breast milk bank from January 2022.

The hospital, in a statement, said that 2,355 women donated breast milk leading to the benefit of 5,511 infants

of lactating mothers donating their milk. In addition to this, the beneficiaries of the scheme also have come to know of this through regular awareness programmes.

Coimbatore Medical College hospital Dean Dr A. Nirimala said that infants whose mothers are ill, babies born with low weight, toddlers hospitalised with serious ailments and babies whose mothers are not able to breast-feed are benefitted from the hospital's breast milk scheme. She also said that regular awareness programmes on the same have helped more people approach the hospital to donate milk as well to get the benefit.

The hospital authorities also said that there are women who donate milk on a daily basis and this has led to a regular supply of breast milk in the bank.

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## BOUNCING BACK FROM 2020 CRISIS

# Kamal Nath reviving party cadres for 2023

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 6: At a crucial juncture when the Congress leadership is making all out efforts to revive the grand old party with the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' led by Rahul Gandhi, crisis broke out in Rajasthan, which led to twists and turns in the filing of nomination for the Congress presidential poll scheduled on October 17.

Factionalism that came to the fore in Rajasthan over the conflict between two camps led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot brings back the memory of what had happened in Madhya Pradesh in 2020, when Jyotiraditya Scindia jumped ship to the BJP, resulting in the fall of the Kamal Nath-led Congress government within 15 months of assuming power.

However, senior Congress leaders, including Kamal Nath, said the situation in Rajasthan is not what it was in Madhya Pradesh. Commenting on the comparison between the current crisis in Rajasthan and what happened in Madhya Pradesh in 2020, Kamal Nath recently said, "Sachin Pilot didn't do anything wrong. He was asked to be at the party headquarters and he followed the instructions of the party chief. There is no basis of comparing Rajasthan's situation with happened in Madhya Pradesh."

With Assembly elections scheduled in Madhya Pradesh next year, the Congress led by Kamal Nath seems to be leaving no stone un-



WITH ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS SCHEDULED IN MADHYA PRADESH NEXT YEAR, THE CONGRESS LED BY KAMAL NATH SEEMS TO BE LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED TO RETURN TO POWER, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, REVIVING THE GRAND OLD PARTY

turned to return to power, and more importantly, reviving the grand old party.

Hopes are pinned on the Congress leadership in Madhya Pradesh as a victory in the Assembly polls will energise the entire party cadre ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Perhaps this was the reason why Kamal Nath distanced himself from the race to be the next Congress President, despite his name doing the rounds, from Bhopal to Delhi.

Kamal Nath kept saying that he would focus on Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, making it clear that he is not interested to be-

come the next Congress chief.

"I have repeatedly said that I am not interested in contesting the AICC presidential poll. Instead, I want to focus on Madhya Pradesh only. Assembly elections are just one year away and a lot of work needs to be done to bring the party back in power," Kamal Nath said after meeting Sonia Gandhi in Delhi on Wednesday.

The senior Congress leader has been reiterating that the party will form the government in Madhya Pradesh after the 2023 elections, even making promises like reintroducing the 'old pension' system for the state govern-

ment employees.

Although the veteran Congress leader has been a nine-time MP from his hometown Chhindwara, Kamal Nath became active in Madhya Pradesh politics in 2018 after he became the state head of the party in the run-up to the 2018 Assembly elections.

In 2018, Kamal Nath was sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, bringing to an end 15 years of BJP rule in the state which had become the saffron party's stronghold.

However, in 2020, 22 Congress MLAs resigned along with Jyotiraditya Scindia, resulting in the collapse of the Kamal Nath-led government and bringing back BJP's Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the Chief Minister for a fourth term.

Political observers believe that after the collapse of the 15-month-old government, the biggest challenge before Kamal Nath was to keep the leaders of different factions united and to ensure that no factionalism emerges within the party.

Kamal Nath remained the MPCC President even after his government collapsed, and thereafter he also led the party in the Assembly as the leader of opposition before stepping down in April 2022, when voices were raised for 'one man one post' in the party. And his efforts bore fruits after veteran party leader Divyijaya Singh repeatedly said that Congress will contest the 2023 Assembly elections under Kamal Nath's leadership.

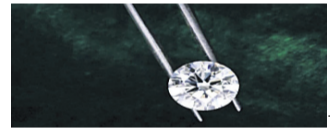
# Noida bizman's luck shines with diamonds

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Panna (Madhya Pradesh), Oct 6: The Panna district of Madhya Pradesh is known worldwide because of its diamond deposits.

A lot of people believe in testing their luck when they visit the district situated in the heart of the country.

Rana Pratap Chauhan, a businessman from Noida, recently got lucky when he acquired seven diamonds in a year, out of which six were extracted from a mine leased in the name of his wife.



Chauhan has been involved in the business of selling construction materials in Noida. He had rented a mine to extract diamonds around a year ago, when he was contacted by some local people and came here with his wife.

The first diamond, worth approximately Rs 2 lakh was procured from a mine bought under his name in January 2022, said reports. Chauhan rose to immense prosperity when five diamonds were extracted consecutively from a mine under his wife Meena's name.

The sixth diamond, estimated to be worth of Rs 50 lakh was extracted during Navratra.

Panna district sees a lot of people taking mines on lease to test their luck in search of diamonds. While some shine, others keep waiting for a stroke of luck. Reports suggest that the businessman is immensely happy with his success.

# To fund online studies, many families sink into debt

Closure of educational institutions due to the epidemic and then online education created trouble for many poor families of Madhya Pradesh

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Oct 6: Kumer Singh, a resident of Amarapura village in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district, plunged into debt as he had to buy mobile by taking loan for his daughter's online education during the Corona epidemic.

Closure of educational institutions due to the epidemic and then online education created trouble for many poor families of Madhya Pradesh, because these poverty-stricken families had to buy Android mobiles for their children's education, for which they took a loan. And now they have to pay a huge price in the form of interest. Kumer Singh is not the only person who has bought an Android phone by taking a loan for his daughter's education. The number of such people is much more.

Kumer Singh says that his daughter Muskan studies in class

VIII. "Due to the Corona epidemic, schools were first closed and after that the emphasis was on online studies. Online studies were possible only when you have an Android phone. I had a phone with a keypad, but for the education of my daughter, we decided to buy an Android phone," he states.

The mobile phone costed Rs 7,000, but he did not have that much amount in lumpsum, so he took a loan from a person of the village and in return paid the amount along with interest in several instalments. Several thousand rupees had to be paid as interest. Kumer Singh says that he first bought the phone with difficulty and after that the big problem was to recharge the phone. Many a times, it was possible to recharge only after one to two weeks after the date of recharge.

Similar is the story of Lilabai Ivne of Kakaria village, her hus-

band Bhagwant works as a labourer. She wants to educate her daughters, that's why she bought an Android mobile for the online education of her Class VI daughter; for this she had to take a loan because she did not have enough money to buy a mobile at one go.

So she had to become a debtor for his daughter's online education. Many times, she also had to face the problems of recharging, but she didn't give up so that her daughter's education would not stop. Abid Khan, a resident of Singar Chori village in the same area, also had to get a mobile financed for the education of his children.

A teacher from the capital Bhopal, on anonymity, said that online education was a big problem for poor families because firstly they did not have mobiles and families that had mobiles had more than one child studying. Not only this, many families also faced the problems of recharging mobiles, in such a situation the teachers used to recharge the mobiles of the children.



# Soon, elevated PDS shops to prevent wild elephant attacks

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 6: Forest officials of Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR) are in the process of constructing Public Distribution System (PDS) shops on elevated pillars in Valparai's Thirumalai to protect the commodities from the wild elephants' raids.

A meeting held between officials of the forest department, including ATR officials, revenue and civil supplies department officials, Monday finalised this experimental project.

If the project to be implemented at Thirumalai in Valparai turns successful, then it will be extended to places affected by human-elephant conflict.

Notably, the Kerala forest department has in its forest policy note recently decided to plant jackfruit trees and other fruit-bearing trees that are dear to elephants within forest land.

Taking a cue from this Tamil Nadu forest department will also be planting jackfruit trees within



its forest land so that wild elephants don't venture out into human settlements bordering forest lands.

The forest department and civil supplies department has taken the initiative to construct a model ration shop to prevent the wild elephant's access to the PDS commodities as the next three months will be a migration period for elephants.

The municipal department officials who were also part of the revenue team that attended the meeting informed the ATR officials to erect sign boards for the tourists on the do's and don'ts at the tourist sites in Valparai.



## of the day quote

The Centre will take steps after due consultation for major electoral reforms which are required as per the new changing time and situation



KIREN RIJU | LAW MINISTER

People need to stand united for the restoration of abridged democratic and constitutional rights. If we don't do it, our future generations won't forgive us. The need of the hour is to unite



FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Contrary to negative narrative aimed at tarnishing its image, the DMK is not against spiritualism but is opposed to using religion for political and selfish gains



M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Vande Bharat train suffers damage

**New Delhi/Ahmedabad/Mumbai:** The newly-launched Mumbai Central-Gandhinagar Vande Bharat Express train suffered minor damage after hitting a herd of buffaloes in Gujarat on late Thursday morning, officials said. No passenger was injured in the incident that occurred around 11.15 am near Ahmedabad when the train was on its way to Gandhinagar and it reached the final destination four minutes early, they said, adding three buffaloes perished.

### Bombay HC gets 6 additional judges

**New Delhi:** Six judicial officers were Thursday elevated as additional judges of the Bombay High Court, the Law Ministry said. A notification issued by the Department of Justice in the law ministry said Sanjay Anand Rao Deshmukh, Yashviraj Gopichand Khobragade, Mahendra Wadhmal Chandwani, Abhay Sopanrao Waghware, Ravindra Madhusudan Joshi and Vrushali Vijay Joshi will be additional judges of the Bombay High Court, in that order of seniority, for a period of two years.

### Hardcore Maoist arrested in Ranchi

**Ranchi:** A hardcore Maoist belonging to the banned outfit People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) has been arrested here along with an assault rifle, the police said Thursday. Sonu Manjhi, who hails from Jharkhand's Khunti district, was arrested from Ranchi's Airport PS area after the police received a tip-off that he had come to meet his mother on the occasion of Durga Puja, a police officer said.

### Three kids die in childcare centre

**Chennai:** Three children died while 11 others were admitted to the hospital allegedly due to food poisoning at a children's home in Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu. The incident occurred at Vivekananda Sevalayam in Tiruppur, which is a recognised childcare centre. Of the 11 children admitted to the government hospital in Tiruppur, three have been moved to the intensive care unit (ICU).

### Man, wife, daughter found murdered

**Jashpur:** A man, his wife and their daughter were found murdered in Jashpur district in Chhattisgarh on Thursday, a police official said. The incident took place in Kadamtoli village and the deceased have been identified as Arjun Tendua (43), his wife Firdi Tendua (40) and daughter Sanjana (19), Jashpur Superintendent of Police D Ravishankar said.

## Uttarkashi avalanche: Death toll rises to 16

AGENCIES

**Uttarkashi (U'khand), Oct 6:** The death toll in the Uttarkashi avalanche rose to 16 after 12 more mountaineers' bodies were recovered Thursday, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) said. Fifteen climbers are still believed to be missing.

The avalanche occurred at a height of 17,000 feet on Tuesday when the NIM team was returning after summiting Draupadi Ka Danda II peak.

Of the 16 bodies retrieved, 14 are of trainees and two of instructors, NIM said in a bulletin. Four bodies were recovered on the day of the avalanche.

A search-and-rescue operation is in progress at the disaster site, the institute said.

However, helicopters were pulled from the operation due to bad weather. Their operation will resume on Friday morning depending on the weather, it added.

Earlier in the day, a 14-member team from High Altitude Warfare School based in Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir joined the rescue operation, the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) here said.

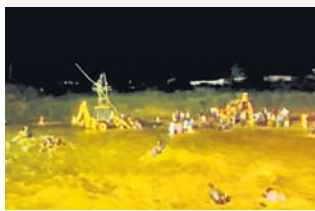
Nayab Subedar Anil Kumar, the instructor leading the team, told PTI, "There were 42 climbers in the team, including 34 trainees."

Kumar, who was among 14 injured mountaineers brought down from the NIM base camp and admitted to the district hospital on Wednesday, said 33 climbers took shelter in a crevasse during the avalanche.

"As I was ahead of the rest, I hung on to the left of the crevasse. When the snow began to settle, I undid the ropes and started to rescue my team mates. The other instructors also joined in,"

### Bengal: 8 drown in flash floods

**Jalpaiguri (WB):** Search and rescue operations are being carried out in full swing Thursday for people swept away in flash floods in the Mal river in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district. Eight bodies have so far been recovered, an official said. Jalpaiguri police superintendent Debarshi Dutta said that during idol immersion in the river on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami, flash floods occurred at around 8.30 pm Wednesday, sweeping away some people. The deceased persons included an eight-year-old boy and a girl, aged 13, the official said, adding that among the other six were three women. Fifteen people, who received injuries, were admitted to a nearby hospital, the official said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for every next of kin of the eight people.



he added. In the absence of proper tools, it took them two hours to remove the snow.

Those who could be spotted were pulled out. Despite their efforts, 29 team members were stuck inside the crevasse, the instructor added.



Army personnel move towards the avalanche site to carry out rescue operations

## Mulayam still critical, put on life-saving drugs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Samajwadi Party (SP) founder Mulayam Singh Yadav, who is admitted in Gurugram's Medanta hospital, continued to be in critical condition, the hospital authority informed.

**Mulayam Singh, who has been ill for some time, was shifted to the ICU after his condition deteriorated Sunday**

Issuing a medical bulletin, Medical Director, Sanjeev Gupta, said, "Mulayam Singh Yadav's condition is critical and he is still on life-saving drugs. He is being treated in ICU by a comprehensive team of specialists."

The Samajwadi Party tweeted the medical bulletin. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal had Wednesday visited the Medanta Hospital and enquired about the wellbeing of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Khattar also met Mulayam Singh's son and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and also talked to him.

Mulayam Singh, who has been ill for some time, was shifted to the ICU after his condition deteriorated Sunday.

## Heroin worth over ₹100cr seized at Mumbai airport

*The Mumbai unit of the DRI had laid a trap Tuesday at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on a specific tip-off that a passenger travelling from Malawi, an African country, to Mumbai via Qatar was trying to smuggle narcotic drugs into the country*

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 6:** The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 16 kilograms of heroin worth more than Rs 100 crore at the Mumbai Airport, and arrested a passenger and a woman from Ghana in this connection, an official said Thursday.

The Ghanaian woman was

nabbed from a hotel in Delhi as part of the DRI's follow-up action in the case, he said.

The Mumbai unit of the DRI had laid a trap Tuesday at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on a specific tip-off that a passenger travelling from Malawi, an African country, to Mumbai via Qatar was trying to smuggle narcotic drugs into the



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

country, he said. "As part of the trap, a surveillance and tracking team of DRI officers was positioned at the airport and intercepted a suspected passenger," he said.

During the search of his luggage, the DRI officers found 16 kg heroin that was concealed in cavities made in the trolley bags, the official added. The value of the seized heroin is more than Rs 100

crore in the international market, he said, adding that the passenger was placed under arrest and was remanded in the DRI custody by the local court.

"In a follow-up action, the DRI officers apprehended a woman from Ghana, who was to take the delivery of the smuggled contraband in Delhi," he said.

"The female Ghanaian national was nabbed from a hotel in Delhi when she came to take the delivery of the drug," the official said.

She has been arrested and being brought to Mumbai on transit remand granted by a court in Delhi, he said, adding that investigation into the case is underway.

## Ghaziabad most polluted city in India last week

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ghaziabad, Oct 6:** The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been implemented in Delhi NCR from October 1 to save citizens from rising pollution, but its rules are followed least in Ghaziabad. Ghaziabad was categorised as the most polluted city in India last week, as per reports.

The largest city in western UP was the most polluted one in the country Wednesday when its AQI was 248. On Tuesday, the city's AQI average stood at 162, with an escalation of 86 points.

The condition in Loni was the worst in all the four stations of the city with its AQI at 293. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has asked the officials

of Loni Municipal Council to strictly follow the rules of GRAP. The Board has concerns over the rising pollution in the capital after Ravan Dahan on Dussehra.

The AQI is expected to come down to normal level if it rains. Further in NCR, Gurugram's

AQI stood at 238, making it the second most polluted city in the country while Greater Noida was at the

third position with its AQI measuring at 234. "The spread of pollution is compounded by emission



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

of black smoke from vehicles," said the regional officer of the CPCB. After Navratni, vehicular pollution spread rapidly in the atmosphere as many people used their own vehicles to travel, taking Delhi's AQI to 211 - which was 37 points less than Ghaziabad.

"Slow wind speed, not sprinkling water on roads and vehicular smoke are considered to be the main reasons for pollution, in the last 24 hours," officials said.

The AQI of Ghaziabad in the last five days was recorded as 210, 207, 138, 162 and 248. The four stations of the district Indirapuram, Vasundhara, Loni and Sanjay Nagar had the AQI measured 258, 265, 293 and 175 respectively.



BIDDING ADIEU: Devotees immerse an idol of goddess Durga during Vijaya dashmi celebrations at the end of Durga Puja festival in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

## Sonia joins Bharat Jodo Yatra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pandavapura (KTK), Oct 6:** Making a public appearance after a long gap, Congress president Sonia Gandhi Thursday joined the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka with her presence at the march being viewed in party circles as a major morale booster.

Amid loud cheers and sloganeering by party workers, Sonia Gandhi, 75, walked besides her son Rahul Gandhi and other senior Congress leaders for a few kilometres in Mandya district of Karnataka Thursday morning.

The top party brass of poll-bound Karnataka led by former chief minister Siddaramaiah and state unit chief D K Shivakumar were also part of the convoy that walked alongside the Gandhis.

The happy images of the mother and son walking together filled social media spaces.

"We have sailed through storms in the past and today too we will break the limits of all challenges and will together unite India," Rahul Gandhi tweeted as the Yatra continued to traverse Karnataka, where he will stay for another 15 days before moving into Telangana.

"We have weathered many a storm and will overcome all challenges. Together we will unite India," he said in another tweet in Hindi and posted a photograph of him

walking with his mother, his arm around her.

The Congress also posted a picture of the two on Twitter, and said, "Those shielded by love fear nothing! On the road, marching ahead!"

Another post from the party simply said "Ma" with a heart and the photograph of Rahul Gandhi tying Sonia Gandhi's shoelaces.

The picture prompted Congress leader Shashi Tharoor to put out a post in Hindi, which said, "There are blessings even when she breathes, no one can replace a



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## Kerala: 9 dead in bus accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Palakkad/Thiruvananthapuram/Kochi, Oct 6:** Nine people, including five students, were killed after a private tourist bus hit a state-run KSRTC bus from behind at Vadakkenchery in Palakkad district, Kerala Road Transport Minister Antony Raju said Thursday.

The minister said the accident occurred around 11.30 PM Wednesday when the private bus, which was travelling at a high speed, while attempting to overtake a car, hit the rear end of a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus.

"Both the buses went off the road as a result. Nine people, including five students and a teacher, were killed in the accident," he told the media.

The driver of the KSRTC bus told reporters that he was driving at a speed of around 40 km per hour when the private bus suddenly hit him from behind and he barely managed to control the vehicle and prevent it from falling into a ditch.

"The private bus hit us from behind, ripped off a piece of our bus from one side and then went past us at high speed and toppled over," the KSRTC bus driver said. Visuals of the private bus showed a large piece of the state-transport vehicle inside the tourist bus.

The tourist bus had started from the Basielios Vidyankethan Senior Secondary School in Ernakulam at around 7 PM Wednesday with 42 students and five teachers for a pleasure trip to Ooty in Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, the tragic bus accident prompted the Kerala High Court to issue directions against plying of contract carriages which flout norms and reckless driving on the roads.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

# international

## of the day quote

To me, the diversities of the world which are quite evident will also naturally lead to a differential response and I would not disrespect the position of other countries as I can see that many of them are coming from their threat perception, their anxiety and their equities in Ukraine

**S JAISHANKAR** | INDIA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Putin understands that after the use of nuclear weapons he would be unable any more to preserve, so to speak, his life, and I'm confident of that

**VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY** | UKRAINE PRESIDENT

The country should not be forced to go out with a begging bowl to rich polluting nations after the floods that have devastated the country

**SHEHBAZ SHARIF** | PAKISTAN PM



China has been supporting us from ancient times and we believe they will do the same in these difficult times

**RANIL WICKREMESINGHE** | SRI LANKA PRESIDENT

## NEW APP DEVELOPED

Researchers have developed a new smartphone app that can accurately and rapidly detect Parkinson's disease and severe Covid-19 using just people's voice recordings



## HIGHLY UNUSUAL INCIDENT

# N Korean warplanes stage bombing drill

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Seoul, Oct 6:** North Korea flew 12 warplanes near its border with South Korea Thursday, prompting the South to scramble 30 military aircraft in response, Seoul officials said.

The highly unusual incident came hours after North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the sea in its sixth round of missile tests in less than two weeks. Eight North Korean fighter jets and four bombers flew in formation and were believed to have conducted air-to-surface firing drills, South Korea's military said.

The military said South Korea responded by scrambling 30 fighter jets and other warplanes, though they didn't engage in any clash with the North Korean aircraft. The North Korean planes were probably dozens of kilometres away from the border, South Korea media said.

North Korea has previously sent military aircraft near the border, but Yonhap news agency said this is likely the first time it has mobilised so many warplanes for such



**EIGHT NORTH KOREAN FIGHTER JETS AND FOUR BOMBERS FLEW IN FORMATION AND WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE CONDUCTED AIR-TO-SURFACE FIRING DRILLS, SOUTH KOREA'S MILITARY SAID**

**TENSIONS HAVE RISEN SHARPLY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AS NORTH KOREA'S RECENT BARRAGE OF MISSILE TESTS PROMPTED SOUTH KOREA, THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN TO CONDUCT JOINT DRILLS IN RESPONSE**

a provocative flight and firing exercises. Tensions have risen sharply on the Korean Peninsula as North Korea's recent barrage of missile tests prompted South Korea, the United States and Japan to conduct joint drills in response. Earlier on Thursday, North Korea launched two short-range ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters. The launches came after the United States redeployed an aircraft carrier near the Korean Peninsula in response to North Korea's launch of a nuclear-capable missile over Japan earlier this week.

North Korea has conducted a record number of missile tests this

year. South Korean officials said the North may further raise tensions by testing an intercontinental ballistic missile or conducting its first nuclear test explosion since 2017, following an old pattern of heightening animosities before trying to wrest outside concessions.

Some experts say North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is determined to expand his nuclear arsenal in defiance of international sanctions. They say North Korea's goal is to eventually win recognition as a legitimate nuclear state from the United States and the lifting of sanctions, though Washington and its allies have shown no sign of doing so.

The latest missiles were launched 22 minutes apart from North Korea's capital region and landed between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

The first missile flew 350 kilometres (217 miles) and reached a maximum altitude of 80 kilometres (50 miles) and the second flew 800 kilometres (497 miles) with an apogee of 60 kilometres (37 miles). Japanese Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada said the second missile was possibly launched on an "irregular" trajectory. It is a term that has been used to describe the flight characteristics of a North Korean weapon modelled after Russia's Iskander missile, which travels at low altitudes and is designed to be maneuverable in flight to improve its chances of evading missile defences.

US, South Korean and Japanese destroyers launched joint drills later Thursday off the Korean Peninsula's east coast to horn their abilities to search, track and intercept North Korean ballistic missiles, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

## MISSILES FIRED

# Assault continues

*The two strikes, the first before dawn and another in the morning, damaged more than 40 buildings, local authorities said*



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kyiv, Oct 6:** Russia launched missiles that hit apartment buildings in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, a local official said Thursday, killing three people and wounding at least 12 in a region that houses Europe's biggest nuclear power plant and which Moscow illegally annexed.

The two strikes, the first before dawn and another in the morning, damaged more than 40 buildings, local authorities said. The attacks came just hours after Ukraine's president announced that the country's military had retaken three more villages in another of the four regions annexed by Russia, the latest battlefield reversal for Moscow.

The Zaporizhzhia region's governor, Oleksandr Starukh wrote on Telegram that many people were rescued from the multi-story buildings, including a 3-year-old girl who was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Photos provided by the Emergency Service of Ukraine showed rescuers scrambling through rubble in the wreckage of a building looking for survivors. Starukh said of Russia: "The terrorist country has shown its beastly face by converting defence weapons into offensive weapons and killing peacefully sleeping people."

Zaporizhzhia is one of the regions of Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed as Russian territory in violation of international laws and is home to

a nuclear plant that is under Russian occupation. The city of the same name remains under Ukrainian control.

The head of the UN's atomic energy watchdog is expected to visit Kyiv this week to discuss the situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant after Putin signed a decree on Wednesday declaring that Russia was taking over the six-reactor facility.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry called the move a criminal act and said it considered Putin's decree "null and void". The state nuclear operator, Energoatom, said it would continue to operate the plant. Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, plans to discuss efforts to set up a secure protection zone around the facility, which has been damaged during Russia's war in Ukraine and seen staff, including its director, abducted by Russian troops.

Grossi plans to travel to Moscow for talks with Russian officials after his stop in Ukraine. The US government sent its international development chief to Kyiv on Thursday, the highest-ranking American official to visit Ukraine since Russia illegally annexed the four regions.

The head of the US Agency for International Development, Samantha Power, was holding meetings with government officials and residents. She said the US would provide an additional USD 55 million to repair heating pipes and other equipment.

## SHORT TAKES

### Drug gang kills 20

**Mexico City:** A drug gang shot to death 20 people, including a mayor and his father, in the mountains of southern Mexico, officials said Thursday. A video posted on social media showed men who identified themselves as the Tecuileros gang claiming responsibility for the mass shooting in the state of Guerrero. The Guerrero state security council said gunmen burst into the town hall in the village of San Miguel Totolapan on Wednesday and opened fire on a meeting the mayor was holding with other officials.

### 16 killed, 35 hurt

**Kathmandu:** At least 16 people were killed and 35 others injured Thursday in a bus accident in Nepal's Madhesh province, police said. The bus was heading towards Birgunj from Narayangadh when it skidded off road and fell into a river in Bara district, media reports said. Superintendent of Police, Bamdev Gautam, blamed the bus' high speed for the accident. The injured were taken to Hetauda, Chure Hill, and Sancho Hospital.

### Accident claims 11

**Karachi:** At least 11 people were killed and 13 others injured Thursday when a bus collided with a truck in Pakistan's southern Sindh Province, police said. The accident took place when the bus, travelling from Bahawalpur to Karachi, rammed head-on into a truck in the Manjhand area of Sindh's Jamshoro district on the Indus Highway. "Apparently it appears the driver dozed off and didn't see the truck coming and both vehicles collided head-on," Jamshoro SSP Javed Baloch said.

## Boats sink off Greece, 21 dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Kythira (Greece), Oct 6:** Residents of a Greek island pulled shipwrecked migrants to safety up steep cliffs in dramatic rescues after two boats sank in Greek waters, leaving at least 21 people dead and many still missing.

The coast guard in the eastern island of Lesbos said 16 bodies of young African women and one young man were recovered there after a dinghy carrying about 40 people sank. Ten women were rescued, while 13 other migrants were believed to be missing, coast guard officials said. "The women who were rescued were in a full state of panic so we are still trying to work out what happened," coast guard spokesman Nikos Kokkalis told state television. "The women were all from African countries, aged 20 upward. ... There is a search on land as well as at sea and we hope that survivors made it to land."

The second rescue effort was launched several hundred kilometres (miles) to the west, off the island of Kythira, where a sailboat struck rocks and sank.

The bodies of at least four migrants were seen next to floating debris from the sailboat. The deaths would be officially recorded when the bodies were recovered, officials said.

They added that 80 people, from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan, had been rescued while a search continues for as many as 11 still believed to be missing.

With winds in the area reaching 70 kph (45 mph), Fire Service rescuers and local volunteers on Kythira lowered ropes to help migrants climb up cliffs on the seafloor.

Survivors clinging to ropes were pulled to safety up steep cliffs as others were buffeted by waves as they waited their turn on tiny areas of rock at the bottom.

"All the residents here went down to the harbour to try and help," Martha Stathaki, a local resident said.



**ANGER MOUNTS:** A woman attends a protest at Catalunya square in support of Iranian women and against the death of Mahsa Amini in Barcelona, Spain

# Abducted Sikh family found dead in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Los Angeles, Oct 6:** Four members of an Indian-origin Sikh family, including an eight-month-old baby girl, who were kidnapped by an armed man in California earlier this week have been found dead in a rural orchard, authorities said as they were working to determine the motive behind the "horribly senseless" killing.

"Our worst fears have been confirmed," Merced County Sheriff Vern Warnke said at a news conference on Wednesday night. "A whole family wiped out, and we still don't know why," Warnke, who was visibly emotional and frustrated at what happened to the Indian-origin family in the US state of California.

The family, originally from Harsi Pind in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, was



A Merced County Sheriff's Office poster shows the four family members kidnapped from central California, US in this handout released on October 4, 2022

kidnapped from their newly-opened trucking business in Merced County, California, on Monday. Sheriff Warnke said the bodies of 36-year-old Jasdeep Singh, 27-year-old Jasleen Kaur, their eight-month-old child Aroohi Dheri and the baby's

uncle, 39-year-old Amandeep Singh were found on Wednesday evening in an orchard in a remote area in Merced County.

Warnke said that a farm worker near the orchard found the bodies and immediately contacted au-

thorities. All of the bodies were found close together, he said. "There are no words to describe the anger I feel," Warnke said.

"There's a special place in hell for this guy," he said about Jesus Manuel Salgado, the suspect, who attempted to kill himself. "It's horribly, horribly senseless," he said.

Warnke did not say how the family was killed, adding that it appears they were killed before they were reported missing on Monday. Authorities believe the person they have in custody is the main suspect in the killings, though they indicated other people may have been involved, according to Warnke, who did not elaborate on the extent of that involvement. "I fully believe that we will uncover and find out that there was more than just him involved," Warnke was quoted as saying by CNN.

## India abstains from UN rights panel vote on Sri Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Geneva/United Nations, Oct 6:** India Thursday abstained on a draft resolution in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka which was adopted.

While abstaining, India stressed that it will work with Sri Lanka and the international community to attain the related objectives of legitimate aspirations of Tamils of Sri Lanka and prosperity for all Sri Lankans.

The draft resolution on 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka' was adopted at the 51st Session of Human Rights Council in Geneva, with 20 nations voting in favour in the 47-member Council, seven against, including China and Pakistan, and 20 abstentions, including by India, Japan, Nepal and Qatar.

The 20 countries that voted in favour of the resolution included, the United Kingdom, the United States, Argentina, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of Korea and Ukraine.

In a statement during the adoption of the resolution, Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, Permanent Representative of India to UN & other International Organizations, said that while India has taken note of the commitments by the government of Sri Lanka on issues of implementation of the commitments in the spirit of the 13th Constitutional Amendment, meaningful devolution and the early conduct of provincial elections, "we believe that the progress towards the same remains inadequate."

## WAKE-UP CALL

# Cities globally warming nearly 30% faster than rural areas: Study

Researchers from Nanjing University in China and colleagues noted that planting trees and vegetation in cities -- also known as urban greening -- is reported to offset about 0.13 degrees Celsius of surface warming per decade in European cities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Oct 6:** Cities worldwide are warming by 0.5 degrees Celsius on average per decade, 29 per cent faster than in rural areas, according to a study which suggests that climate change and urban expansion are accelerating surface temperatures.

Researchers from Nanjing University in China and colleagues noted that planting trees and veg-



growth in cities are projected to increase the surface urban heat island effect, but many current estimates of future urban heat exposure assume equal rates of surface temperature increase between urban

and rural areas, the researchers said.

In China and India, they estimated that urban expansion was responsible for over 0.23 degrees Celsius of the observed surface

warming in cities per decade. Urban greening is suggested to reduce surface warming, but whether it can slow the accelerating surface urban heat island effect remains unclear, the researchers said.

The study, published recently in the journal Communications Earth & Environment, analysed satellite land surface temperature data for over 2,000 city centers worldwide between 2002 and 2021 and compared them to background rural surface temperatures.

Very large "megacities" such as Abuja in Nigeria, Phoenix in the US, London in the UK, Sao Paulo in Brazil, Beijing in China, and Moscow in Russia were included in the analyses. The study estimates that cities are warming 29 per cent

faster than rural areas, and that megacities are warming even more quickly.

The researchers estimated that climate change is the largest contributor to urban surface warming, increasing land surface temperatures by 0.30 degrees Celsius per decade, on average. However, the researchers also found that urban greening in European cities offset 0.13 degrees Celsius of surface warming per decade, indicating the potential of urban vegetation to slow down surface warming in cities.

For example, increased urban greening in Chicago, US was found to decrease the rate of surface warming by about 0.084 degrees Celsius per decade, they added.



Buying Twitter is an accelerant to creating X, the everything app. Twitter probably accelerates X by 3 to 5 years, but I could be wrong  
**ELON MUSK | CEO, TESLA**

**AIRTEL 5G GOES LIVE IN 8 CITIES**

Bharti Airtel Thursday said its 5G services have gone live in eight cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Siliguri, Nagpur and Varanasi. The customer availing 5G services will have to pay as per their existing 4G plan, it said



of the day **QUOTE**

Reserve Bank does not have any fixed dollar-rupee exchange rate and its market interventions are to curb excessive volatility  
**SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI**



I would urge the ministry as well as QCI to work to bring in convergence. So that the investment environment that we have created can go from strength to strength and can help India achieve our mission of becoming a developed nation by 2047  
**PYVISH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER**



As India Inc marches towards a hybrid working model, flexibility has become paramount for today's workforce  
**ARNAV S GUSAIN | HEAD OF REAL ESTATE (PRODUCT AND PROCUREMENT), WEWORK INDIA**



**SHORT TAKES**

**FinMin releases ₹7,183cr grant**

**New Delhi:** The Finance Ministry Thursday released the monthly instalment of revenue deficit grant of Rs 7,183 crore to 14 states. With the release of seventh instalment for the month of October, 2022, the total amount of Revenue Deficit Grants released to the states in current fiscal has gone up to Rs 50,282.92 crore, an official statement said. The Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant is released based on the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission to 14 states - Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

**WTO cuts global trade hope for '23**

**New Delhi:** The growth in world trade is expected to slow down to one per cent in 2023, due to global uncertainties, according to a WTO forecast. The World Trade Organization (WTO) has also projected a growth of 3.5 per cent in global trade this year, as against the April estimate of 3 per cent. World trade is expected to lose momentum in the second half of 2022 and remain subdued in 2023, as multiple shocks weigh on the global economy, the multi-lateral body has said.

**5 CPSEs give govt ₹1,203cr dividend**

**New Delhi:** The government has received Rs 1,203 crore as dividend tranches from five CPSEs, including SAIL, HUDCO and IRCTC. With this, the total dividend receipts of the government from public sector enterprises stood at Rs 14,778 crore so far this fiscal. "Government has respectively received about Rs 604 crore, Rs 450 crore and Rs 37 crore from SAIL, HUDCO and IREL as dividend tranches," Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

**SpiceJet shares jump nearly 9%**

**New Delhi:** Shares of SpiceJet Thursday ended nearly 9 per cent higher amid reports that the company is expected to receive an additional Rs 1,000 crore as part of the modified ECLGS (Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme). After beginning the trade on a positive note, the stock of the budget carrier further jumped 10.14 per cent to Rs 42.35 during the day on the BSE. It ended at Rs 41.85 apiece, higher by 8.84 per cent.

**RECORD DRAWDOWN**

# Global forex kitty dips by \$1trn

THE DROP COMES AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF CENTRAL BANKS ACROSS THE GLOBE, INCLUDING INDIA, INTERVENING TO SUPPORT THEIR CURRENCIES

AGENCIES

**Washington, Oct 6:** Global foreign currency reserves are shrinking at a record pace, as central banks worldwide intervene to support their currencies.

According to a Bloomberg report, forex reserves have declined by about \$1 trillion, or 7.8 per cent, this year to \$12 trillion. It is the biggest drop since at least 2003.

The record fall is also attributed to the strengthening of dollar, which jumped two-decade highs this year and reduced the dollar value of other reserve currencies, like the euro and yen. But the falling reserves also reflect the stress in the currency market that is forcing a growing number of central banks to dip into their war chests to fend off the depreciation, the report noted.

In September, Japan spent about \$20 billion, which is about 19 per cent of the loss of reserves this year, to slow the yen's slide in its first intervention to support the currency since 1998, according to the report.

A currency intervention in the Czech Republic helped drive down reserves there by 19 per cent since



- GLOBAL FOREX RESERVES HAVE DECLINED TO \$12 TRILLION THIS YEAR
- RUPEE LOST ABOUT 9% AGAINST DOLLAR, HIT RECORD LOW LAST MONTH
- JAPAN SPENT ABOUT \$20 BILLION TO SUPPORT YEN IN SEPT

February, it said. "Some countries, notably in Asia, can go both ways, smoothing weakness, and pockets of strength," said Alan Ruskin, chief international strategist at Deutsche Bank AG. The report also said that most central banks still have enough firepower to keep interventions going, if they choose to. Foreign reserves in India are still 49 per cent higher than 2017 levels, and enough to pay for nine

months of imports. But for others, they are quickly depleting. After declining 42 per cent this year, Pakistan's \$14 billion of reserves aren't enough to cover three months of imports, data compiled by Bloomberg showed.

While the intensity of currency decline is extraordinary, the practice of using reserves to stem currencies is not new. Central banks often buy dollars and strengthen their reserves to slow currency appreciation while overseas capital pours in. In desperate times, they draw on those stockpiles to soften the blow from capital flight.

**This is all part of the catalog of symptoms of the canary in the coal mine. Cracks are showing up. And those red flags will come at an increasing pace**  
**AXEL MERK | CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, MERK INVESTMENTS**

# Sept service activity falls to 6-month low

FOR THE FOURTEENTH STRAIGHT MONTH, THE SERVICES SECTOR WITNESSED AN EXPANSION IN OUTPUT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** The Indian services sector activity fell to a six-month low in September, as new business inflows rose at the slowest rates since March, amid inflationary pressures and competitive conditions, a monthly survey said.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Index fell to 54.3 in September, from 57.2 in August, highlighting the weakest rate of expansion since March. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The Indian service sector has overcome many adversities in recent months, with the latest PMI

data continuing to show a strong performance despite some loss of growth momentum in September," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The upturn was reportedly restricted by price pressures, an increasingly competitive environment and unfavourable public policies, the survey said.

Lima further noted that the steep depreciation of the rupee seen towards the end of the month due to interest rate hikes in the US present additional challenges to the economy.

It further noted that weak external demand weighed on overall sales, with international orders declining further in September. Monthly contractions have been recorded in each month since the onset of Covid-19.

The data highlighted a continued revival in business confidence, with sentiment at its highest level in over seven-and-a-half years. Service providers signalled a further increase in their operating expenses during September, owing to higher energy, food, labour and material costs.



**OPEC OUTPUT CUT**

India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and international oil prices directly dictate domestic pricing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** The record six-month-long freeze in petrol and diesel price revision in all likelihood will be extended after international oil prices rose on the announcement of deep production cuts by OPEC+.

Some of the world's top oil-producing countries Wednesday agreed to slash production by two million barrels per day to spur recovery in oil prices that had dropped to pre-Ukraine war levels.

For India, this is bad news as a fall in oil prices in recent weeks had helped it cut down on its import bill as well as limit losses that state-owned fuel retailers were incur-

# Petrol, diesel price freeze gets longer

India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and international oil prices directly dictate domestic pricing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ring on selling petrol and diesel. Prior to the decision of OPEC+, losses on diesel had come down to about Rs 5 per litre from a peak of around Rs 30 a litre while oil companies had started making a small profit on petrol, industry sources said.

But the rise in prices of crude oil, which is refined to produce petrol, diesel and other products, and the weakening of the rupee against the US dollar would mean losses on diesel widen and margins on petrol erode, they said.

State-owned fuel retailers - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) - have



changed the retail selling price of petrol and diesel in line with the international costs for a record six months now to help the government manage runaway inflation.

This prize freeze led to the firms booking losses on fuel sales as oil prices rose to a multi-year high of around \$120 per barrel during May/June. Prices had started to ease in August and dropped to January levels last month.

The basket of crude oil that

India imports had dropped to \$84.75 per barrel September 27 but the spurt in international oil prices following the OPEC+ decision led to rates rising to \$92.17 October 5.

Petrol currently costs Rs 96.72 a litre and diesel Rs 89.62 in the national capital. This is down from Rs 105.41 a litre price April 6 for petrol and Rs 96.67 a litre for diesel as the government cut excise duty to cool rates.

# WB cuts India's growth forecast to 6.5%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Oct 6:** The World Bank Thursday projected a growth rate of 6.5 per cent for the Indian economy for the fiscal year 2022-23, a drop of one per cent from its previous June 2022 projections, citing deteriorating international environment.

In its latest South Asia Economic Focus released ahead of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the Bank, however, noted that India is recovering stronger than the rest of the world.

The Indian economy grew by 8.7 per cent in the previous year. "The Indian economy has done



well compared to the other countries in South Asia, with relatively strong growth performance... Bounced back from the sharp contraction during the first phase of Covid," Hans Timmer, World Bank Chief Economist for South Asia, told PTI in an interview.

India, he said, has done relatively well with the advantage that it doesn't have a large ex-

ternal debt, there are no problems coming from that side, and that there is prudent monetary policy, he observed.

"But we have downgraded the forecast for the fiscal year that just started and that is largely because the international environment is deteriorating for India and for all countries. We see kind of an inflection point in the middle of this year, and first signs of slowing across the world," he said.

The Indian economy has done especially well in the services sector and especially service exports. The second half of the calendar year is weak in many countries and will be relatively weak also in India, he said.

# Sebi orders Brickwork Ratings to shut down within six months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** Capital markets regulator Sebi Thursday cancelled the licence of Brickwork Ratings India and directed the credit rating agency to wind down its operations within six months for allegedly violating various rules.

Further, the markets regulator has barred the agency from taking any new clients.

This is possibly the first instance of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) cancelling the licence of a credit rating agency.

In its order, Sebi highlighted several violations by Brickwork, including that it failed to follow a proper rating process and exercise due diligence while providing ratings.

Also, the rating agency failed to ensure proper maintenance of records to support its ratings and to make correct disclosures in its press releases concerning some issuers. It did not conclude the rating exercise within the timelines prescribed as per its own internal manual, Sebi said.

According to Sebi, Brickwork also made a delay in disseminating information with respect to monitoring of rating and also failed to follow an appropriate rating process.

Sebi said that Brickwork failed to address the issue of conflict of interest arising due to a Rating Committee Member (other than the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer) having business development roles.

**FLIPKART LEADS AGAIN**

# Ecomm firms clock ₹40K-cr in festive season sale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 6:** E-commerce firms are estimated to have registered a 27 per cent growth, clocking sales worth Rs 40,000 crore, during the recently concluded seven-day festive season sale, a report said Thursday.

"With the conclusion of Festive Sale 1, the online retail platforms have seen a robust 27 per cent year-on-year growth, clocking a sale of \$5.7 billion or Rs 40,000 crore," the report said.

Flipkart Group, including Myntra, Shopsy etc, maintains its leadership position, while Meesho is the second-largest contributor in order volume, the report by Redseer Strategy Consulting said.

"Flipkart Group (Flipkart, Myntra and Shopsy) continues to maintain its leadership position with 62 per cent market share in GMV during the Festive Sale Week 1. In terms of order volumes, Meesho, with its low average order value and high penetration in Tier-2 cities, emerged as the second largest player capturing around 21 per cent of the market share while Flipkart Group leads here as well," Kothari said.

The firm has done an analysis of Festive Sale week 1 including sale events conducted by all online retail platforms between September 22 and 30, and for platforms that did not run a sale during any of these dates, the report considered business as usual order volumes.



"Mobile as a category continued to lead GMV (gross merchandise value) share, contributing to 41 per cent of the GMV, translating to 56,000 mobiles sold per hour. On the other hand, fashion contributed

Meesho is the second largest contributor in order volume

- The growth in sales was driven by sales of mobile phones
- Transacting shoppers number increased by 24% YoY

ness as usual), mobile saw the highest growth at around 7 times while electronics and large appliances saw about 5 times growth, fashion at about 3 times growth, and other categories at close to 2 times growth.

In terms of transacting shoppers, the number increased by 24 per cent year on year (YoY) with around 65 per cent of shoppers coming from Tier 2 cities.

"A whopping 7.5-8 crore shoppers placed orders across all platforms in Festive Sale Week 1. Tier 2 and beyond cities witnessed the highest Y-o-Y growth in online shoppers. Moreover, the spend per online shopper increased marginally by 3 per cent during the recently concluded festive week," Redseer said.

to 20 per cent of GMV, which grew 48 per cent Y-o-Y from last festive season," Redseer Strategy Consultants, Associate Partner, Sanjay Kothari said. When compared to BAU (busi-

# SA DRAW FIRST BLOOD Eves face Pakistan in Asia Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Shafali Verma would hope to end her lean patch with an impactful innings against Pakistan, Friday

Sylhet (Bangladesh), Oct 6: India would expect that opener Shafali Verma comes out of the lean patch she has been enduring for some time and the team extend their domination of Pakistan when the two arch-rivals clash in their women's Asia Cup T20 match, here Friday.

The Indian team gave ample game time to their fringe players, making as many as eight changes in the last two games, but against Pakistan – one of title contenders – the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side is expected to have full strength team on the field.

Pakistan are coming into the contest after suffering a shock four-wicket defeat at the hands of minnows Thailand Thursday. The two sides currently occupy the top two spot in the points table with India, who have won three games on the trot, leading the table.

While an India-Pakistan tie always generates hype, the recent two matches between the two sides failed to produce a close game with India winning comfortably.

India were at their ruthless best as they brushed aside Pakistan at the Commonwealth Games in July. In fact, India have won the last five meetings against the neighbours in the format easily. After being rested for a game each, the star openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana will be expected to provide a strong start.

The big-hitting Shafali will be feeling the pressure as she still looks low on confidence. She was able to spend some time in the middle in the match against Malaysia but looked scratchy and far from her best.

The teenager will be eager to shake off the rust and play some dominant knocks with the T20 World Cup fast approaching. On the other hand, Mandhana and skipper Kaur are coming off stellar performances in the white-ball series against England.

Jemimah Rodrigues, who returned to the side after a wrist injury, is in imperious touch. After notching up her career-best score in the opener, she brought her second consecutive half-century of the tournament and along with all-rounder with Deepti Sharma

inspired a win against UAE. The bowlers have continued to be clinical in all three games.

On the other hand, Pakistan batters, who were hardly tested in the wins over Malaysia and Bangladesh, had the perfect opportunity to get some runs under their belts. But, barring opener Sidra Ameen who scored a fifty, they failed to impress, failing to breach the 120-run mark against Thailand. Their bowling attack, which has been clinical in the tournament, had few runs to defend. Their batters will have their task cut out against a confident and firing India bowling attack.



FROM L: Sanju Samson shapes up for a pull shot; David Miller celebrates his half century against India; Heinrich Klaassen plays an off-drive, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 6: Below-par death bowling coupled with ordinary fielding and batting, except for Sanju Samson (86 n o, 63b, 9x4, 3x6) and Shreyas Iyer (50, 37b, 8x4), hurt a second-string Indian team as it slumped to a nine-run defeat against South Africa in the rain-truncated first ODI of the three-match series here Thursday.

Opting to bowl in the rain-hit 40-over-a-side game, India started on the right note reducing South Africa to 110/4 in 22.4 overs before David Miller (75 n o, 63b, 5x4, 3x6) and Heinrich Klaassen (74 n o, 65b, 6x4, 2x6) hit strokeful half centuries to guide South Africa to 249/4.

Down at 110/4, Miller and Klaassen added 139 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket to take the visitors to close to 250-run mark. Shardul Thakur was the pick of the bowlers for India with figures of 2/35 from eight overs.

The Indian bowlers struggled in the death overs, conceding 54 runs in the last five overs. If that was not enough, the Indian fielders dropped as many as four catches

in the outfield to help South Africa's cause.

Chasing a stiff target of 250, Samson and Iyer struck fifties, while Shardul (33, 31b, 5x4) used the long handle to good effect towards the end but it was not enough in the end.

India endured a disastrous start to their chase, losing both Shubman Gill (3) and skipper Shikhar Dhawan (4) cheaply to be reduced to 8/2 inside six overs. While Kagiso Rabada cleaned up Gill in the third over, Dhawan inside-edged one on to his stumps from a Wayne Parnell delivery in the sixth over.

Ishan Kishan (20) and debutant Ruturaj Gaikwad (19) then tried to stabilise the innings with a 48-run partnership for the third wicket before the latter was stumped by Quinton de Kock off the bowling of Tabraiz Shamsi (1/89) as India slumped to 48/3 in 16.4 overs.

In the reserves for the T20 World Cup squad, Iyer, together with Sanju Samson, shared 67 runs for the fifth wicket to keep India in the hunt before handing a simple catch to Rabada at mid-on off Lungi Ngidi's (3/52) bowling.

But Samson and Thakur kept India in the hunt with an attacking 93-run partnership of just 64 balls for the sixth wicket. With India needing 45 off the last three overs, Ngidi struck twin blows, dismissing Thakur and Kuldeep Yadav in successive balls to hand South Africa the upper hand. Needing 30 off the last over, Samson tried his best, smashing one six and three fours but to no avail.

Earlier sent into bat, South Africa made a relatively slow start, reaching 41 for no loss after 10 overs. India skipper Dhawan's decision to bowl was justified by new ball bowlers Mohammed Siraj (0/49) and Avesh Khan (0/51).

Siraj, in particular, was brilliant as he swung the ball both ways to trouble the Proteas batters initially but without any luck. Dhawan introduced Shardul in the ninth over and in two balls the pacer gave his team the first chance, inducing an edge from Janneman Malan but Gill dropped a sitter at the first slip. But Shardul got his man four overs later as Malan flicked one straight to Iyer at short midwicket. Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (1/69)

was taken to task by South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma (8) as he conceded 31 runs from his first three overs.

Kuldeep Yadav gave India another breakthrough soon after Shardul got rid of Bavuma, cleaning up Aiden Markram for a duck with a sharp leg-spin. De Kock (48, 54b, 5x4) went about his business in quiet fashion and held one end together before perishing in the 23rd over as South Africa slumped to 110/4 in the 23rd over.

Then, it was all Miller and Klaassen. Death over bowling continued to haunt India as Miller and Klaassen brought up their century partnership in just 84 balls. To add to that, India dropped as many as four catches, displaying poor outfield fielding standards.

**BRIEF SCORES**

South Africa 249/4 (David Miller 75 n o, Heinrich Klaassen 74 n o, Quinton de Kock 48; Shardul Thakur 2/35, Kuldeep Yadav 1/39) beat India 240/8 (Sanju Samson 86 n o, Shreyas Iyer 50, Shardul Thakur 33; Lungi Ngidi 3/52, Kagiso Rabada 2/36) by 9 runs.

**SHORT TAKES**

**Rare opportunity**

**BHUBANESWAR:** KickOff Solutions' 'Enabling underprivileged girl leaders through sports' is organising first of its kind in-person event – Unify 2022 – October 8-11 at CYSB here. 'Unify 2022' will bring 50 beneficiary girls from India and Africa under KickOff Solutions' scholarship program together and provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to listen and learn from their experiences. The event, which is a critical pivot on the social impact roadmap for community-led change, will see an exchange of stories, goals & plans from girls, coaches, and nonprofit leaders, besides perspectives from industry experts. The event is also aligned with the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup for a meet and greet session for girls.

**Indian men bow out**

**CHENGDU:** India's campaign at the World Table Tennis Championships ended Thursday following the men's team's pre-quarterfinal defeat against formidable China, here Thursday. The mighty China toyed with the Indian team for an easy 3-0 win that secured their passage into the quarterfinals. Left-handed Manush Shah replaced Manav Thakkar in India's line-up and in a like-for-like change, the Chinese pitted World No.11 Wang Chuqin, also a left-hander, to face Manush in the third singles. Harmeet Desai opened the tie against Fan Zhendong but his challenge fizzled out in just 15 minutes against the World No.1, who emerged a 11-2, 11-9, 11-5 winner. G Sathiyathan suffered a 12-14, 5-11, 0-11 loss to Ma Long, India's misery ended when Wang Chuqin beat Manush Shah 11-4, 11-5, 11-6.

**Reid, Schopman ace**

**NEW DELHI:** Indian men's and women's hockey team coaches Graham Reid and Janneke Schopman were Thursday voted as FIH Coaches of the Year in their respective categories. This is the second consecutive time Reid won the award, while India coach Sjoerd Marjine was the winner of the FIH women's coach of the year award last season. The votes were cast online by experts (40%), teams (20%), fans (20%) and media (20%). Wednesday, PR Sreejesh and Savita Punia were voted as FIH men's and women's goalkeeper of the year, while Mumtaz Khan was named FIH women's rising star of the year Tuesday.

# Man City, Real march on; PSG held

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Oct 6: Manchester City and Real Madrid marched on with a third straight win in the Champions League, and former Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui was fired by struggling Sevilla minutes after a 1-4 loss at home to Borussia Dortmund. Paris Saint-Germain were held for the first time despite Lionel Messi's fine opening goal in a 1-1 draw at Benfica.

Erling Haaland was needed on the field for only the first half yet still scored twice in what has become a routine rout for Man City this season, 5-0 at home to Copenhagen.

It is now five goals in three Champions League games and 19 in 12 club games overall for the relentless Norwegian forward.

Real are making less spectacular progress in defense of their title yet had 35 attempts on goal in holding off Shakhtar Donetsk for a 2-1 win.

First-half goals from Madrid's young Brazilian forwards, Rodrigo and Vinicius Junior, opened a five-point lead in Group F over Shakhtar before their return game in Poland next week.

Lopetegui's exit from Sevilla,



**ON A ROLL:** Erling Haaland celebrates one of his two goals against Copenhagen

where he won the Europa League title in 2020, seemed likely after only one win in seven La Liga

games left the team 17th in the table. It was confirmed after the loss to a rampant Dortmund, which

followed a four-goal loss to Man City in the Spanish club's previous home game in Group G. Fans chanted Lopetegui's name as he left the field.

PSG went to Benfica tied on six points and left tied on seven after a lively, well-matched game in Lisbon. Messi's 127th career goal in the Champions League was a curling shot after linking passes with fellow star forwards Kylian Mbappe and Neymar.

Also in Group H, Juventus closed the gap on the leaders with their first points in a 3-1 win over Maccabi Haifa. France midfielder Adrien Rabiot scored in each half. Argentine winger Angel Di Maria made all the three assists for Juventus' goals.

Chelsea got their first win in the competition for new coach Graham Potter, cruising past AC Milan 3-0, though Salzburg now leads Group E. Noah Okafor kept up his goal-a-game rate in the Champions League to lift Salzburg to a 1-0 win over Dinamo Zagreb.

Christopher Nkunku, the France forward who is a widely speculated transfer target of Chelsea, opened the scoring in Leipzig's 3-1 win over Celtic in the group led by Madrid.

# Capitals emerge Legends League Cricket champions



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, Oct 6:** India Capitals made a stunning recovery after stumbling early to defeat Bhilwara Kings by 104 runs and lift the Legends League Cricket trophy here.

Former New Zealand skipper Ross Taylor sizzled with a fiery 41-ball 82 (4x4, 8x6). Taylor, along with Aussie veteran Mitchell Johnson (62, 35b, 7x4, 3x6), led the Capitals' stunning revival to post a daunting 211/7 after being sent in at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium Wednesday.

The Gautam Gambhir-led side was rattled to be 21/4 inside the first five overs with Rahul Sharma (4/30) and Monty Panesar (2/13) inflicting early blows. But Taylor held the fort in the duos' 126-run stand that came off just 60 balls. Later, Windies powerhitter Ashley Nurse finished off in style with a 19-ball 42 not out (6x4, 1x6).

In reply, the Kings' openers, Morne van Wyk (5) and William Porterfield (12), were out inside the first four overs. A lot depended on the broad shoulders of Yusuf Pathan (6), but he did not last long. Shane Watson (27) was unfortunate to be run out, while Jesal Karia (22) showed promise but could not carry on for long.

When Kings' captain Irfan Pathan (2) was out in the 12th over, the chase was as good as over for them. For the Capitals, the trio of Pawan Suyal (2/27), Pankaj Singh (2/14) and Pravin Tambe (2/19) grabbed two wickets each.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India Capitals 211/7 (Ross Taylor 82, Mitchell Johnson 62, Ashley Nurse 42 not out; Rahul Sharma 4/30, Monty Panesar 2/13) beat Bhilwara Kings 107 (Shane Watson 27; Pankaj Singh 2/14, Pravin Tambe 2/19, Pawan Suyal 2/27) by 104 runs.

# Qatar World Cup will be my last: Lionel Messi

AGENCIES

Paris, Oct 6: Lionel Messi, considered as one of the greats to grace the game of football, has said Thursday that his World Cup career will come to an end in Qatar. "This will be my last World Cup – for sure," he told Argentine journalist Sebastian Vignolo. "The decision has been made."

Messi first played in the World Cup in 2006, becoming the youngest player in his country's history to make a World Cup appearance at just 18 years old. Argentina fell to Germany in that year's quarterfinals and lost to Germany in the same round once again at the 2010 event.

Messi won the Golden Ball award in 2014 as the top player in that year's competition. He helped lead Argentina to the World Cup final, where they met up against

Germany for the third straight tournament. The result was similar, though, as Germany earned a 1-0 win in extra-time.

Argentina's most recent World Cup appearance also ended against the eventual champions France in the Round of 16 in 2018. Messi finished the event with just one goal in four games, bringing his career total to six goals in 19 World Cup matches.

By playing in the 2022 tournament, Messi will join a short list of players to take the pitch in five WCs. Antonio Carbajal, Rafael Marquez and Lothar Matthaus are currently the only players to reach the feat, while Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo seek to accompany them by playing in Qatar.

Messi's record for Argentina stands at 90 goals in 164 games, making him the third-highest goalscorer ever in men's interna-



**Lionel Messi** rejoices after extending his record of scoring against most number of teams – 40 – in the Champions League, Thursday

tional football behind Ronaldo (117) and Iran's Ali Daei (109).

Messi announced his retirement from international football in 2016 after losing in the Copa America final against Chile, but he quickly reversed his decision and has remained the captain of the team ever since.

However, he appears to be happy with his choice this time around. Whether he stops playing for Argentina immediately after the World Cup remains to be seen.

Messi has seen international success with Argentina in the buildup to the 2022 WC. He won his first major international trophy in 2021 with a victory over Brazil in the Copa America final. In June, Messi picked up two assists in a Finalissima triumph over Italy.

Argentina enter the 2022 event as the World No.3 team in FIFA's final pre-World Cup rankings, trail-

ing Belgium and rival Brazil. Messi and Co. will begin the event with a Group C match against Saudi Arabia November 22. They will continue group play against Mexico and Poland before likely entering the knockout stages.

While he has clarified his stance on his international future, where Messi will be playing his club football next season is still unclear. The playmaker is understood to be keen on a return to Barcelona once his PSG contract expires, and the Catalan giants can afford to bring him back to the Camp Nou.

However, there are a number of obstacles that need to be overcome in order for the move to go through, including repairing his relationship with Barcelona president Joan Laporta. Messi is expected to make a final call on his club future after the World Cup.