



## BEING JUDGMENTAL

Actor Shruti Hassan has opened up on how people often judge her for her looks

LEISURE | P2



## PAK SHOCKER

A woman is raped in Pakistan every two hours making the country an unsafe place, according to a recent survey

INTERNATIONAL | P10



## EVES IN FINAL

India thrash Thailand to seal a berth in Women's Asia Cup T20 final, where they will lock horns with Sri Lanka

SPORTS | P12



MAGICAL FINGERS: A roadside artisan weaves an intricate pattern while making a basket at Rajmahal Square in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

## Ukraine war 'huge blessing for climate'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Oct 13: Head of the UN weather agency, Petteri Taalas said the war in Ukraine 'may be seen as a huge blessing' from a climate perspective because it is accelerating the development and investment in green energies over the longer term - even though fossil fuels are being used at a time of high demand now.

Comments from Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), came as the world is facing a shortfall in energy needs - prompted in part by economic sanctions against key oil and natural gas producer Russia - and prices for fossil fuels have risen.

That has led some countries to turn quickly to alternatives like coal. But rising prices for carbon-spewing fuels like oil, gas and coal have also made higher-priced renewable energies like solar, wind and hydrothermal more competitive in the energy marketplace.

The energy crunch has also led many consuming countries in Europe and beyond to initiate conservation measures, and talk of rationing has emerged in some places.

"From the five-to-10-year timescale, it's clear that this war in Ukraine will speed up our consumption of fossil energy, and it's speeding up this green transition," Taalas said in a release.

"So we are going to invest much more in renewable energy, energy-saving solutions and some small-scale nuclear reactors are likely to come online by 2030 as part of the solution. So from climate perspective, the war in Ukraine may be seen as a blessing," Taalas added.

Taalas was speaking as WMO issued a new report which said the supply of electricity from cleaner sources of energy needs to double within the next eight years to curb an increase in global temperatures.

Taalas said the energy sector is responsible for about three-quarters of emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, and he called for a 'complete transformation' of global energy system. He warned that climate change is affecting electricity generation - and it could have an increasing impact in the future.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Playing for India is not a claim to run the BCCI. You should play for our party!

## Split verdict over hijab

2-judge bench has difference of opinions with Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia slamming the Karnataka HC for issuing an order akin to 'invasion of privacy'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court delivered Thursday a split verdict on the ban on hijabs in Karnataka's educational institutions and referred the matter to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) for constituting a larger bench.

While Justice Hemant Gupta dismissed the appeals against the March 15 verdict of the Karnataka High Court which had refused to lift the ban and held that hijab is not part of 'essential religious practice' in Islamic faith, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia allowed the pleas and observed that it is ultimately a 'matter of choice'.

"There is divergence of opinion," Justice Gupta, who was heading the Supreme Court bench, said at the outset while pronouncing the verdict on a batch of 26 petitions.

While pronouncing his judgement, Justice Dhulia said the high court had probably taken a 'wrong path'.

"The main thrust of my judgment is that this entire concept of essential religious practices, in my opinion, was not essential for the disposal of the dispute. And the court probably took wrong path there. It was simply a question of Article 19(1) (a), its applicability and Article 25(1) primarily. And it is ultimately a matter of a choice, nothing more, nothing less," Justice Dhulia said.

Justice Dhulia said while deciding this case, the education of girl child was on his mind. "It is com-



**The Supreme Court's split verdict in the hijab case means that the matter will continue to attract that court's attention. The Congress will also continue to demand accountability from PM Narendra Modi on political dictatorship**

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS

**Uniform in schools is meant to promote uniformity among students. I believe that separatism is promoted in the garb of issues like promotion of burqa or hijab. This separatism progressively morphs into extremism which can be a source of terrorism**

CT RAVI | BJP

mon knowledge that already a girl child primarily in rural areas and semi-urban areas has lot of difficulties to face. So are we making her life any better; that was also in my mind" Justice Dhulia pointed out.

"By asking the girls to take off their hijab before they enter the school gates, is first an invasion of their privacy, then it is an attack on their dignity, and then ultimately it is a denial to them of secular education," he added.

While pronouncing the verdict, Justice Gupta on the other hand said he framed 11 questions. He read out

the 11 questions, which include what is the ambit and scope of the Right of Freedom of Conscience and Religion under Article 25 and what is the ambit and scope of Right to Essential Religious Practices under Article 25 of the Constitution.

"Whether fundamental rights of freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a) and Right of Privacy under Article 21 are mutually exclusive or are they complementary to each other," Justice Gupta said while reading out the questions.

Continued on P4

## Dog kills 3-yr-old in Bolangir

HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S APATHY IN TREATING 13 INJURED SHOCKS VILLAGERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Oct 13: A three-year-old girl was mauled to death Wednesday by a stray dog in front of her family members at Balipata village under Patnagarh block of Bolangir district. The fierce dog also attacked and left 13 others injured. Those injured were from Balipata and neighbouring Sanakalangapali villages. The deceased was identified as Dipa Munda, daughter of Guda Munda.



Initially people panicked due to the dog attack. However, later they managed to catch the canine and thrashed the animal to death.

However, what has shocked residents of the two villages is the apathy of the district health department to the entire incident. The department is yet to send a health team for the treatment of the injured and this has angered the villagers.

Sources said that the dog first at-

tacked a woman, Chandrakanti Sahu, 50, when she was on her way to purchase puffed rice from a shop at Sanakalangapali village. Later, the dog attacked some other villagers and after being chased away entered Balipata village.

Unaware about the developments, Dipa was playing outside her house when the dog attacked her. The animal bit her on her head and then mauled her despite efforts of the family members to save her. A profusely bleeding Dipa who suffered serious injuries on her head, neck

and torso was rushed to the Patnagarh sub-divisional hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead on arrival. After attacking Dipa, the dog then bit a few more people forcing residents to take shelter indoors. In the meanwhile some youths of the two villages managed to trap the dog and then they beat the animal to death.

Sources said that six of the injured are undergoing treatment at the Patnagarh sub-divisional hospital while the rest of them are depending on home medications.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	57235.33 ↓ 390.58
NIFTY	17014.35 ↓ 109.25
DOLLAR	82.31 ↓ ₹0.14
EURO	79.91 ↑ ₹0.19
GOLD	₹50,932 ↑ ₹27
SILVER	₹57,319 ↓ ₹6

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	32.3°C	34.2°C
MIN	24.0°C	24.0°C
Humidity	86%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain likely

## Tech-savvy daughter reunites man with family

Despite just having the number of the lane in Malkangiri district, the kid managed to locate Niranjan's village and reunite him with his roots



Niranjan with his mother Kalitara after returning to his native village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Oct 13: Parents these days regularly complain about kids being glued on the mobile or tabs or some of form of electronic device. They also rue that various mobile apps are slowly affecting the mental well-being of their children. However, there is a good side also. Due to his tech-savvy daughter, a man has finally managed to return to his roots in

Malkangiri district.

Niranjan Sarkar, a resident of MV 13 under Tamasa panchayat in this district had left home 22 years ago in search of greener pastures. He was 17 and an illiterate. Initially he went to Andhra Pradesh in search of work. After spending a few years in various parts of Andhra, he shifted to Mumbai. Unable to read and write, he forgot the name of the village as well his address.

In Mumbai, Niranjan worked as a daily wagger. Then he got married to a local girl and within a couple of years, gave birth to a daughter. As his income grew, he decided to send his daughter to school. He did not want her to remain uneducated like him.

All the while he wanted to return to his village and get in touch with

his family. However, he could not do so, as he had forgotten the name of his village and just remembered the district and had vague memories of the lane number.

It may seem insufficient to many people, but not for his daughter who had grown up to be tech-savvy and knew how to use a lot of mobile apps. She used the GPS app to finally get the details about Niranjan's address and they recently returned to their native place.

"I was barely 17 when I left my village," Niranjan said Thursday. "I had no recollection of my village as I shifted from one place to another in search of a good living. I finally settled down in Mumbai. When I expressed the desire to return to my village, it was my daugh-

ter who helped me locate it and return to my roots," Niranjan added with tears of joy streaming down his eyes.

"My father loves his roots and always talked about his village. However except for remembering the name of Malkangiri district and 'Lane No 13' he did not have any other detail. I used the GPS app to find a route to the village and we came down. My father is probably the happiest man now," Niranjan's daughter Khushboo said.

Initially Niranjan's family was a little skeptical about his identity. However, when he recounted some of his childhood experiences, there was no doubt in Kalitara's mind that Niranjan was indeed her son. Now mother and son are enjoying a happy reunion.

## MAN-EATER TIGER CAPTURED IN MAHA

GADCHIROLI: A tiger that had killed 13 persons in three districts of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra over the past 10 months was captured Thursday by a team of the Forest department in this district, an official informed. The tiger named 'CT-1' was moving in the Wadsa forest range in Gadchiroli and had become a threat to human lives. The captured tiger has been sent to Gorewada rescue centre in Nagpur, some 183 kilometres from here, for rehabilitation. The principal conservator of forests in Nagpur had announced that the tiger be either caught or killed as it had turned into a man-eater. Accordingly a team of 22, including a couple of sharpshooters had been formed to take preventive measures.



# leisure



## HILTON WAS SEXUALLY ABUSED IN SCHOOL DURING MEDICAL EXAM

Socialite Paris Hilton, opening up about being abused mentally, emotionally and physically, says that she was sexually abused during medical examinations at boarding school and didn't understand what was happening to her during her teenage years.

## VIN DIESEL DETHRONES PRINCE WILLIAM AS HOTTEST BALD MAN

Duke of Cambridge Prince William has been defeated by Hollywood star Vin Diesel for the title of 2022 World's Hottest Bald Man. According to a study carried out by SEO agency Reboot, the *Fast & Furious* actor claimed the honour for 2022 with a score of 6.46 out of 10.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You may find yourself in a precarious position today, says Ganesh. You may feel challenged and swim against the current, which will be counterproductive. Nothing may seem to work out. Taking a break will ease the stress at such a time.

**TAURUS**  
In all probability, it is a favourable day to begin financial planning, says Ganesh. You will focus on your relations and leave no stone unturned to make them prosper. You may yearn for a quiet getaway and end up spending a small fortune to get what you want.

**GEMINI**  
Even though it is for your own benefit, you will spend the day safeguarding the sentiments of others. Not too uncharacteristic, but unusual nonetheless. For most part of the day, you will be away from your family, mostly on a trip for business or leisure purposes. Today, family takes a backseat and having a successful career will be the only thing on your mind.

**CANCER**  
The workaholic Bull will have more on their plate than they can chew. They will be under so much work pressure that their otherwise robust shoulders may wilt under pressure. Ganesh advises you to take it easy, and learn to say no. Also, this is just a temporary phase and as long as you stay cool, nothing can defeat you.

**LEO**  
There are chances of conflict on the home front today. However you will be able to solve these problems owing to your understanding nature. However, these conflicts would likely not have cropped up if you would have paid more attention to your family. You appreciate the wonderful things in life today, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Keep an open mind and give vent to your imagination. You will feel very creative today, and will pursue your innovative ideas. Luck will favour you, and some things on which you took some risk will bear fruits. You will be very energetic and enthusiastic about all the work you do.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that your social status will increase now. Today is an auspicious day for venturing in new business or changing your profession. For those involved in the fields of interior designing, or running beauty parlours, now is an especially bountiful time for making progress in your business.

**SCORPIO**  
A cheerful day lies ahead of you especially for the business community. It's a clincher, as good deals not only come to your door step, but yield good business. Feel, that you are the king of the world; bring out the best in you and you are bound to succeed.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Problems will push you in a corner today. But try resolving them as soon as possible. Expect delays in making final decisions. But as the day ends, expect fruitful results to come by, predicts Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Good news for students! If you have been trying your luck for studies abroad, today is an opportune day, says Ganesh. Also, get your priorities straight and see that you achieve them one by one, for only a well-planned move can take you a step closer to your ambition. Those engaged in stock exchange and dealing with shares can expect a fruitful day ahead.

**AQUARIUS**  
Ganesh advises you to make a simple change in your routine and things will work out superbly. You also get recognition and rewards for past achievements. But that does not mean you become complacent, says Ganesh. Get going, as hard work is still the surest way to salvation!

**PISCES**  
Ferdinand the Bull would be the cartoon character that would most aptly describe you today. Calmness will be second nature to you, and wisdom will ooze from your pores. Communal harmony is something dear to your heart, and your amenability will see you achieve it, says Ganesh.

## Nora reveals Brad Pitt 'slid into her DMs'

**Mumbai:** Nora Fatehi said Brad Pitt is the most famous person to have slid into her DMs. Here's how people reacted to Nora's statement in an interview.

Nora Fatehi recently spoke about Brad Pitt in an interview. She said the Hollywood actor was the 'most famous person' to have slid into her DMs on social media. A clip of the dancer-actor's statement from her interview with a magazine was shared on social media platforms like Reddit, where a section of people appeared to have a hard time believing it.

When asked about the most famous person who slid into her DMs, Nora had told *Grazia India*, "You are not ready for this) - Brad Pitt."

Her interview from September was shared on Reddit and attracted a range of hilarious reactions from people.

One wrote, "Brad Pitt is not on Instagram lol (laugh out loud)." Another one commented on similar lines, and shared a meme that said 'I am embarrassed for her'. Alongside it, he wrote, "I don't get how he slid into her DMs, when he doesn't use Instagram." A comment also read, "Are we supposed to believe it?" A person joked about Brad's reaction to Nora's statement, and wrote, "Brad Pitt: I don't even know who you are."

"Sliding into DMs" means sending someone a direct message on social media or on a messaging app, usually with an intention to flirt.

AGENCIES



## Shruti on being judged for her looks

**Mumbai:** Actress Shruti Hassan has once again opened up on getting her nose "fixed" and how people often judge her for her looks.

The *Luck* actress has confirmed that she got her 'nose fixed', adding that it was broken and she did her first film with her 'old nose'. She was talking about how people attacked her for having undergone the nose surgery.

She revealed, "I did get my nose fixed as it was broken and quite different from before and I did my first film with my old nose. And people are like she's just using the deviated septum excuse. No, I did have a deviated septum, it hurt. But if I could make it prettier, it's my face, why wouldn't I? It was that simple. I don't feel the need to justify why I want to look a certain way for myself. They said, 'Did you get fillers?' Yeah. I did. And tomorrow, would you get a face lift?' Maybe, maybe not. who knows?"

She also said that she is often told that she is very talented, but is not Indian enough. She has added that what confuses her is that she has been cast as a village girl in many projects.

Shruti was last seen in the 2021 Telugu film *Vakeel Saab*. Next, she has a few films lined up for release, including Prabhas-Prithviraj-starrer *Salaaar*. AGENCIES



## 'Kishore Kumar inspires me to push boundaries'

**Mumbai:** Ayushmann Khurrana is one of the most talented actors in the Hindi film industry. The actor made his film debut in 2012 with the romantic comedy *Vicky Donor* with Yami Gautam and later, starred in many hit films, including *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, *Shubh Mangal Saavdhan*, *Article 15*, *Andhadhun* among others.

Ayushmann is currently filming his upcoming project *Dream Girl 2* which also stars Ananya Panday in the lead. The duo will be collaborating with each other for the first time.

He is reprising the role of the charming *Dream Girl* in the sequel to his blockbuster film. Thursday, on Kishore Kumar's death anniversary, he revealed that he has taken inspiration from the late singer for *Dream Girl 2*.

The *Badhai Ho* actor said: "Kishore Kumar was multi-talented and as an artiste, I draw inspiration from him at every juncture. He has been my guru and his work inspires me to push boundaries and explore uncharted territories."

Ayushmann added: "I have been listening to Kishore Da's wonderful track *Aake Seethi Lagi Dil Pe* on loop since I have been shooting for *Dream Girl 2*. His voice is magical and he has effortlessly rendered both male and female voices for this song. It has helped me with massive inspiration."

AGENCIES



## DEEPIKA QUASHES SPLIT RUMOURS WITH RANVEER

**Mumbai:** Actor Deepika Padukone recently appeared on former actor and Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle's podcast. They covered various topics around mental health and spoke about their husbands, Ranveer Singh and Prince Harry, respectively. Deepika indirectly quashed all rumours suggesting trouble in her marriage, and confirmed that all was well between her and Ranveer.

While talking to Meghan, Deepika said that Ranveer has been away for a week attending some festival and that when he gets back he will be happy to see her.

"My husband was at a music festival for a week and he has just come back home. So, he is gonna be happy to see my face," said Deepika.

Last month, social media was abuzz with rumours about their separation. They more or less denied the rumours with their usual social media PDA. Ranveer and Deepika tied the knot November 14, 2018, after dating for six years.

Meghan also spoke about Harry and how he helped her out, when she wasn't feeling too well,

mentally and emotionally. She revealed to Deepika how Harry helped her in connecting with a mental health expert during the tough time in her life.

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

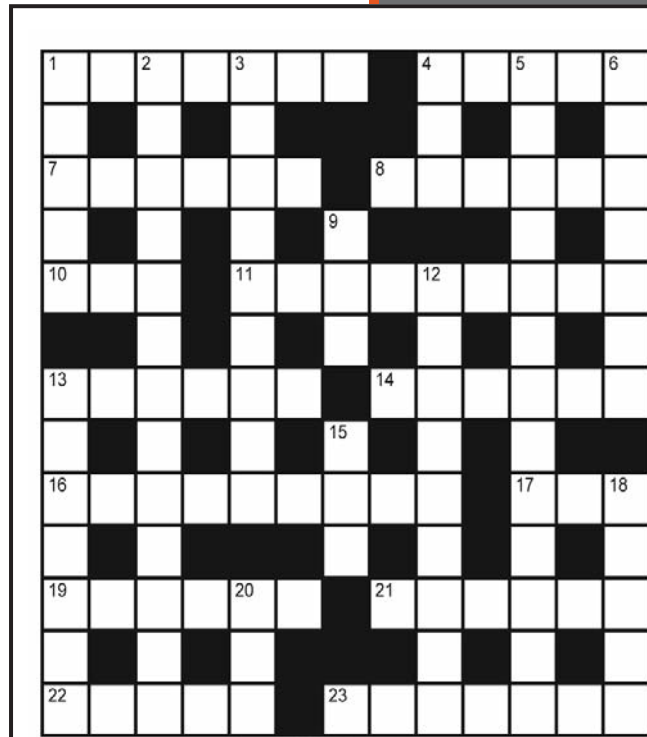


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Lone wolf
  - 4 Weighty books
  - 7 Hitchcock classic
  - 8 Early spring bloomer
  - 10 Safety device
  - 11 Type of heart
  - 13 Respectful
  - 14 Strong influence
  - 16 Aztec lily
  - 17 Grimm character
  - 19 Armagnac
  - 21 Sharp
  - 22 Give way
  - 23 Bricklaying
  - 3 Diseased
  - 4 Bluejacket
  - 5 Kitchen appliance (9,4)
  - 6 Person of interest
  - 9 Utmost degree
  - 12 Peignoirs
  - 13 Man-about-town
  - 15 Pub order
  - 18 Passenger vessel
  - 20 Washout
- Down**
- 1 Mature
  - 2 Former London landmark (7,6)

### 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.

1				8		2		
9						4	8	3
			5					
					2	7		
	4		8	3				
				9			3	
	8		3			5		
		3			5			
		6			7		1	8

### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD

P	U	R	I	F	Y	S	H	E	A	R	S	
A	G	R	E	E	W	E	U	T				
G	R	I	D	D	L	E	A	G	R	E	E	
O	G	O	L	D	E	R						
D	I	N	E	R	L	I	S	S	O	M	E	
A		A	S			L	O					
B	E	A	S	T	K	N	E	A	D			
I	P			A		A		R				
S	K	I	J	U	M	P	U	N	T	I	E	
L	S	P		R	G	A	F					
A	N	O	D	E	E	T	H	I	C	A	L	
N	D	R	E	A	S		S	T	I	E		
D	R	E	A	D	S		S	Y	N	T	A	X

#### SUDOKU

9	3	2	8	4	7	6	1	5
8	1	7	6	3	5	9	4	2
5	6	4	1	2	9	7	8	3
4	2	8	7	1	6	3	5	9
6	5	1	2	9	3	8	7	4
7	9	3	4	5	8	2	6	1
1	8	5	3	6	2	4	9	7
3	4	6	9	7	1	5	2	8
2	7	9	5	8	4	1	3	6

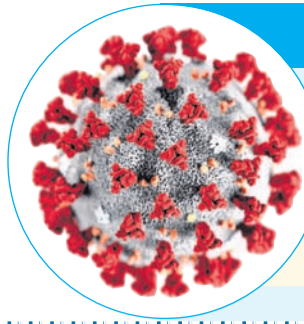
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## CREATIVE STROKES

An artisan busy preparing heads of earthen idols at Kumbhar Sahi in Cuttack, Thursday, ahead of Kali Puja



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	59,63,13,072	57,04,31,952	64,57,440
India	4,42,77,194	4,36,38,844	5,27,098
Odisha	13,23,307	13,11,394	9,157

# Nag trapped 3 ministers: BJP

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress Thursday criticised the Commissionerate Police over the slow progress of the investigation into blackmailer lady Archana Nag case. A BJP leader alleged that Archana honey-trapped 11 MLAs including three ministers of the state government.

BJP general secretary Prithviraj Harichandan alleged that police are trying to shield the leaders involved in the case. He also accused police of trying to erase data fetched during the course of investigation as done during chit fund probe to shield the fraudsters.

Another BJP leader Babu Singh said there are allegations that police are under severe pressure due to the involvement of senior officials and leaders in the case. Singh further claimed that Archana reportedly honey-trapped 11 MLAs including three ministers of the state government. Speaking to media persons, former Union minister and senior BJP leader and Balasore Lok Sabha MP Partap Sarangi Thursday sought investigation by an 'impartial agency' like CBI to find out the persons linked to the lady blackmailer.

On the other hand, senior



## POLICE SLAMMED FOR TARDY PROBE

■ BJP GENERAL SECRETARY PRITHVIRAJ HARICHANDAN ALLEGED THAT POLICE ARE TRYING TO SHIELD THE LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE CASE

■ HE ALSO ACCUSED POLICE OF TRYING TO ERASE DATA FETCHED DURING THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATION AS DONE DURING CHIT FUND PROBE

■ CONG MLA SANTOSH SINGH SALUJA SAID THE STATE GOVT IS RELUCTANT TO BRING TO THE FORE THE INFORMATION CONCEALED IN THE LAPTOP AND PEN DRIVE OF ARCHANA AS SEVERAL TOP OFFICIALS, MINISTERS AND LEADERS OF THE RULING PARTY ARE INVOLVED IN THE SCANDAL

Congress leader and MLA Santosh Singh Saluja stated that the state government is reluctant to bring to the fore the information concealed in the laptop and pen drive of the lady blackmailer as several higher officials, ministers and leaders of the ruling party as well as members from the opposition BJP are involved in the scandal. Saluja demanded special investigation team (SIT) probe into the case.

Meanwhile, some sources claimed as many as 25 influential persons including 18 political leaders are involved in the case.

Police sources also revealed that

the court will soon be requested to grant remand of Archana for further probe into the matter. The city police are currently examining the information shared by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) related to the history of financial transactions in various bank accounts of Archana and her husband Jagabandhu Chand.

Police are yet to record the statement of the victim girl, who accused Archana of forcing her to keep relation with film producer Akshaya Parija and blackmail him using photos and videos of intimate moments.

# Urgent need to stop online games, says Madras High Court

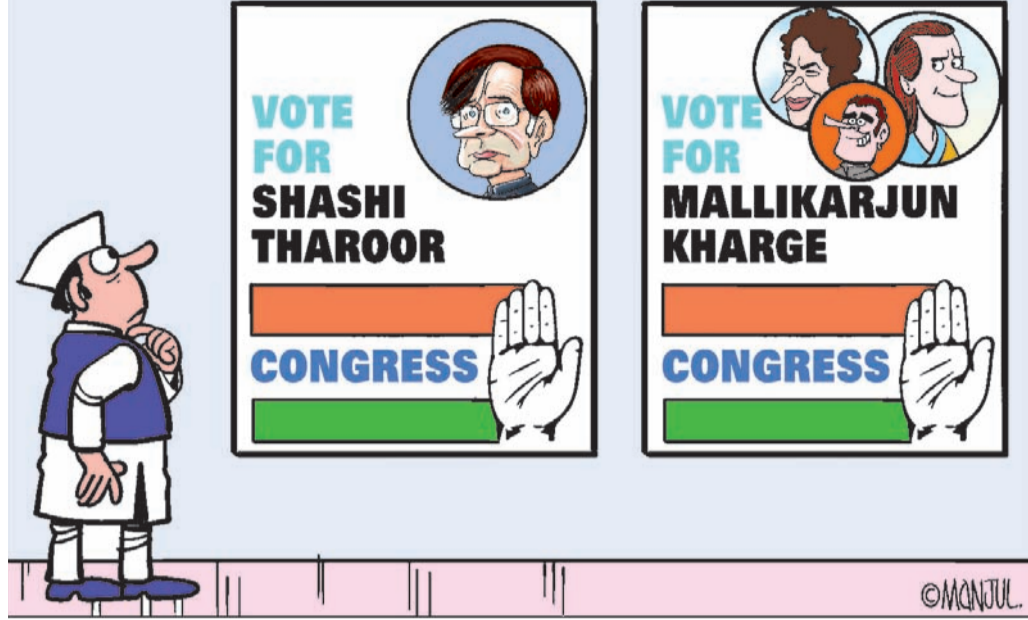
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Oct 13:** The Madras High Court Thursday commenced suo motu proceedings against online games to which students are getting increasingly addicted and observed that there is an emergent need to curb the menace of these types of online games.

A division bench of Justices R Mahadevan and J Sathya Narayana Prasad sought a response from the Union government and state government in this regard as well as from social media players on this.

The court observed that students are getting addicted to online games, most of which are violent and this leads to fights at home between these online game addicts and their parents and siblings.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Cuttack cancer centre gets PET-CT Scan facility

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday dedicated the sophisticated PET-CT scan facility at Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC) in Cuttack.

Joining the programme on virtual platform, Patnaik said PET-CT scan is considered as one of the central pillars in management of cancer. The PET-CT scan facility will be a first of its kind in a state government-run hospital. Along with an LINAC machine, more facilities are being developed for diagnosis and treatment of cancer, he added.

Patnaik also launched another in-patient department (IPD) and ICU at the institute. With this, the number of beds at IPD has increased to 507 from 281, while 20 ICU



beds have been added.

Saying that cancer takes protracted periods of treatment, he called upon the doctors and paramedical staffers to treat patients with empathy and create confidence in them. Patnaik said, "AHPGIC is a premier institute of education, research and treatment for cancer." He added that the state government is committed to transform it into one of the best cancer care institutes in the country.

"The government has included its further expansion under the SCB redevelopment plan. A new OT

complex, OPD, pathology, academic area and resident hostels will also be developed under this plan," said the Chief Minister.

Speaking on the government's initiatives on cancer care, he said that in order to strengthen cancer care, his government has approved cancer care units in 10 districts. "Besides, we have initiated steps to set up specialised cancer hospitals at Bargarh and Jharsuguda. We've also set up palliative care centres at district level," he added.

Patnaik hoped that these steps will help make Odisha a hub of

cancer care in eastern part.

Health Minister Naba Kishore Das outlined the CM's vision of a healthy and happy Odisha and how the state is implementing his vision by bringing in new technologies and infrastructures in health care. As a mark of respect, reflecting the CM's commitment and vision to improve healthcare services in the state, he appealed all to turn up in huge numbers to donate blood on his birth anniversary October 16.

Cuttack Choudwar MLA Souvic Biswal appreciated the CM's initiative to make Cuttack a leading healthcare centre of the state. Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian moderated the programme.

Health secretary Shalini Pandit gave the welcome address and director AHPGIC offered the vote of thanks.

# Migrant's limbs chopped: NCST seeks govt's reply

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued notice to the Chief Secretary of Odisha, and the Gajapati SP and Collector over the chopping of hands and leg of a poor tribal migrant in Uttar Pradesh. The commission issued the notice while hearing a petition moved by Radhakanta Tripathy, a

New Delhi-based lawyer and rights activist.

The apex panel for tribals directed the district administration to submit the reply within seven days of the receipt of the notice. Tripathy alleged that the state government's failure and apathy towards the plight of migrant labourers is the reason behind the unfortunate incident in which the labour contractor in Uttar Pradesh

chopped off the palm and leg of the victim, Shankar Murmu of Kalaba village in Gajapati district in September.

"The migrant labourers, who work at very low wages and without any record of their employment, lose their sources of livelihood due to lack of proper implementation of labour laws and their monitoring," alleged Tripathy in his plea.

## WORLD INVESTOR WEEK



# Understand risks. Diversify investments. Focus on your goals. And stay invested.

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# MUTUAL FUNDS

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# Ensure zero dengue deaths, BMC, Khurda Collector told

The BMC and Khurda district administration have been instructed to take steps as per the Standard Operating Protocol issued earlier for management of dengue in both urban and rural areas



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** With the rising dengue menace in Bhubaneswar and its periphery areas, Health and Family Welfare department has asked BMC commissioner, Khurda collector and all concerned authorities to make sure that no one dies of dengue. Health Department Special

Secretary (PH) Nit Kumar Mohanty has written a letter to Khurda collector, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) commissioner, director of Capital Hospital and all Private Health Institutions in Khurda district in this purpose.

Following the instruction of Health Minister Naba Das, the special secretary has written the

letter. In the letter, he said that there has been a sudden surge of dengue cases in Khurda district including the Capital city region.

In this connection, all medical institutions, including the ones privately owned, are requested to be on high alert for admitting and treating all dengue patients on a priority basis, he said.

"There should be 'zero deaths' due to dengue. Intensive information, education and communication (IEC) activities may also be undertaken, including the mainstream electronic media for creating awareness among the general public to prevent dengue," said Mohanty.

The BMC and Khurda district administration have been instructed to take steps as per the Standard Operating Protocol issued earlier for management of dengue in both urban and rural areas and to take necessary proactive measures to combat the spread of the mosquito-borne disease in the district and the Capital area.



OP PHOTO  
**RAZING DOWN:** An excavator deployed by BMC flattening an illegally constructed house at Balakati Jhantisan area on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Thursday

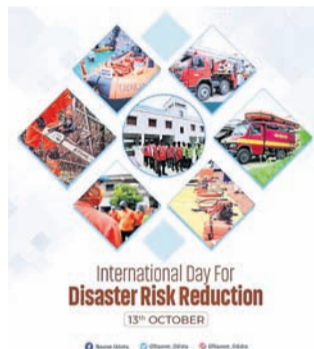
# Naveen pledges to enhance state's disaster preparedness

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pledged to protect the people of Odisha from natural disasters by enhancing the state's disaster preparedness and strengthening its infrastructure on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, Thursday.

On the occasion, through his Twitter account, the CM said, "Odisha is frequented by natural disasters that threaten lives, livelihood and destroy progress in an instant. On International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, I pledge to protect every precious life by strengthening our famed disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure."

The 1999 Super Cyclone had devastated more than half of the state, taking around 10,000 people's lives. The state was unprepared then to meet such a gigantic disaster. There were inadequate safe buildings for



people to take shelter. IMD's predictive technology was primitive. Odisha has come a long way since then, facing some nine cyclones since 1999 and successfully reducing the loss of lives to less than two digits and lately to almost zero. For which, the state has been appreciated at the national and international levels.

Technological advancement in the field of Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS)

with national and international partnerships to achieve timely predictions has made it possible to strengthen preparedness measures. Still, there is a need for further strengthening the system for precise and impact-based forecasting in a simple language for common people to reduce the time lapse between prediction and dissemination of the warnings.

The state government recently decided to spend Rs 400 crore on the disaster management system in the state, empowering front-line organisations engaged in mitigating the impact of disasters.

Organisations like Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and fire service units are to be provided with modern equipment to enhance their skill capacity. They would be further trained in modern techniques to deal with various disaster-related issues, considering the changing climatic scenario.

# Khimji Jewellers' Dhanteras Offer

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** Khimji Jewellers, one of the most trusted and leading jewellery brand of Odisha is all set to celebrate the extended festive season with its exclusive 'Subh Dhanteras Offer'.

To delight and share the happiness among its valued customers, Khimji Jewellers has announced an exclusive 'Subh Dhanteras Offer' of flat 4.5 per cent off on the total value of gold jewellery, and flat 20 per cent off on diamonds. Also flat 20 per cent off will be available on making charges on silver jewellery.



SBI credit card holders would get additional 5 per cent cash back during this period, subject to their terms and conditions. These attractive offers are valid from 14/10/2022 to 30/10/2022 and are available across the Khimji Jewellers' showrooms located in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Jharsuguda, Rourkela and Berhampur.

Expressing happiness on the festive occasion, Mitesh Khimji, Director of Khimji Jewellers said, "This Diwali season we have come up with the exclusive 'Subh Dhanteras Offer' which will help our customers to invest in jewellery and get the best value for money to celebrate the occasion.

# ₹10.35cr business in Handloom Expo

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The National Handloom Expo organized by Odisha State Handloom Weavers Co-op Society Ltd (Boyanika) at Exhibition Ground and Ekamara Haat, Bhubaneswar concluded Wednesday.

In the expo which was inaugurated September 12, with an aim to avail opportunity to sell the different handloom products of the country had done the business of Rs 10.35 crore in one month that includes Rs 1.80 crore sales of Odisha handloom products. In the Expo, more than 215 stalls were opened and products from 15 states were exhibited including Odisha.



On the concluding day, Arabinda Padhee, Secretary of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts, visited the Expo and felicitated/thanked participants/organizations. He said that in spite of inclement weather, business crossed last year's figures.

Rita Sahu, Minister, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts, had inaugurated this mega event September 12. The Expo was sponsored by Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Department.

Boyanika is working as the Implementing Agency and committed for all round socio-economic development of the weavers of the state. Boyanika has been exploring new horizon of marketing, for which the active cooperation of all media persons is highly solicited.

The 1999 Super Cyclone had devastated more than half of the state, taking around 10,000 people's lives. The state was unprepared then to meet such a gigantic disaster. There were inadequate safe buildings for

## DUBURI-CHANDIKHOLE NH EXPANSION

# NGT notice to state, Centre over procurement of minor minerals

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notice to the authorities of state government, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Environment and Gammon Infrastructure Projects Limited (GIPL), a Mumbai-based company, over alleged illegal procurement of minor minerals such as murrum, soil, stone aggregates and sand for widening of National Highway 53 from Duburi to Chandikhole.

Hearing a plea filed by three environmental activists, the tribunal directed the authorities to submit their responses within three weeks from the receipt of the notice.

The complainants alleged that GIPL has been awarded the work for rehabilitation and up-gradation of existing 2-lane to 4-lane from Duburi to Chandikhole Section of NH 200 (New NH 53) from 388.376km to 428.074km - length of 40km in 2018. The contracting firm has allegedly been extracting and procuring minor minerals required for the road expansion without securing valid permission and environment clearance from the local authorities.

"The trading of minor minerals like soil, murrum, road metals, stone, bajiri, sand and stone crusher dust, are not available in open market and the trading of such materials are regulated by the state government under the Orissa Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as 'OMMC Rules 2016'), which require permission for quarrying and transit permit for transportation of these minor minerals from source to destination. It is also alleged that these minor minerals are being transported by the end user agency without any valid transit permit," noted the NGT.

The incident happened Wednesday night near Sarla yard when the cement-laden goods train en route to Sambalpur city station from Jharsuguda jumped off the tracks, they said.

There was no report of any casualty in the mishap, they said. The incident forced the railway authorities to cancel four trains and divert four other trains. The Jharsuguda-Sambalpur passenger train, Rourkela-Bhubaneswar express, Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Passenger and Bhubaneswar-Rourkela Express, were cancelled, officials said.

# Goods train derails in Sambalpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** At least four wagons of a goods train derailed in Odisha's Sambalpur district affecting train services in the Sambalpur-Jharsuguda railway line, officials said Thursday.

The incident happened Wednesday night near Sarla yard when the cement-laden goods train en route to Sambalpur city station from Jharsuguda jumped off the tracks, they said.

There was no report of any casualty in the mishap, they said. The incident forced the railway authorities to cancel four trains and divert four other trains. The Jharsuguda-Sambalpur passenger train, Rourkela-Bhubaneswar express, Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Passenger and Bhubaneswar-Rourkela Express, were cancelled, officials said.



The Puri-Indore express was diverted through Sambalpur while Rourkela-Gunpur express and Dhanbad-Bhubaneswar express departed from Sambalpur station. "The exact reason behind the derailment was being probed. The restoration work has been completed. The matter will be investigated and the exact cause will be known", Sambalpur Divisional Railway Manager Pradeep Kumar told reporters.

# BJP moves EC over poll code violation

**New Delhi:** A delegation of BJP leaders met the Election Commission of India (EC) here Thursday to complain against the 'illegal' transfers and postings by Odisha and Telangana governments ahead of bypolls in both states early next month.

# French delegate meets S&ME secy

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha School and Mass Education department secretary Aswathy S met Consul General Didier Talpain of Consulate General of France in Calcutta and discussed French language teaching to Odisha students in the state. The French delegate discussed the plan to teach French language in the state like they did in Rajasthan and New Delhi. Secretary Ashwaty assured them that he will discuss the matter with the department and government.

# Split verdict ...

Continued from P1

Justice Gupta said another question framed in his verdict is whether the wearing of hijab is considered as essential religious practice and the students can seek right to wear headscarf to school as a matter of right. "The answers, according to me, of all these questions are against the appellants. I am proposing to dismiss the appeals," Justice Gupta said. The Karnataka High Court had dismissed the petitions filed by a section of Muslim students of the Government Pre-University Girls College in Karnataka's Udupi seeking permission to wear the hijab inside classrooms, ruling it is not a part of the essential religious practice in Islamic faith. Since then the hijab row has simply escalated.

# Lab-grown brain cells learn to play video game Pong

Scientists have grown 800,000 brain cells in a lab that they say have learned to play the 1970s tennis-like video game, Pong.

The research, published recently in the journal Neuron, has for the first time shown that brain cells living in a dish can perform goal-directed tasks.

The team, including researchers from Monash University, RMIT University, University College London and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research is now going to find out what happens when their DishBrain is affected by medicines and alcohol.

To conduct the experiment, the researchers took mouse cells from embryonic brains as well as some human brain cells derived from stem cells and grew them on top of microelectrode arrays that could both stimulate them and read their activity.

Electrodes on the left or right of one array were fired to tell Dishbrain which side the ball was

on, while distance from the paddle was indicated by the frequency of signals.

Feedback from the electrodes taught DishBrain how to return the ball, by making the cells act as if they themselves were the paddle, the researchers said.

"We have shown we can interact with living biological neurons in such a way that compels them to modify their activity, leading to something that resembles intelligence," said study lead author Brett Kagan, Chief Scientific Officer of Melbourne-based biotech start-up Cortical Labs.

"DishBrain offers a simpler approach to test how the brain works and gain insights into debilitating conditions such as epilepsy and dementia," said Hon Weng Chong, Chief Executive Officer of Cortical Labs. While scientists have for some time been able to mount neurons on multi-electrode arrays and read their activity, this is the first



The research, published recently in the journal Neuron, has for the first time shown that brain cells living in a dish can perform goal-directed tasks

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time that cells have been stimulated in a structured and meaningful way.

"In the past, models of the brain have been developed according to how computer scientists think the brain might work," Kagan said.

"That is usually based on our current understanding of information technology, such as silicon computing. But in truth we don't really understand how the brain works," said Kagan.

By building a living model brain from basic structures in this way, scientists will be able to experiment using real brain function rather than flawed analogous models like a computer.

The researchers, for example, will next experiment to see what effect alcohol has when introduced to DishBrain. "We're trying to create a dose response curve with ethanol - basically get them 'drunk' and see if they play the game more poorly, just as when

people drink," said Kagan.

That potentially opens the door for completely new ways of understanding what is happening with the brain, the researchers said. "This new capacity to teach cell cultures to perform a task in which they exhibit sentience - by controlling the paddle to return the ball via sensing - opens up new discovery possibilities which will have far-reaching consequences for technology, health, and society," said Adeel Razi, director of Monash University's Computational & Systems Neuroscience Laboratory.

The findings also raise the possibility of creating an alternative to animal testing when investigating how new drugs or gene therapies respond in these dynamic environments. "We have also shown we can modify the stimulation based on how the cells change their behaviour and do that in a closed-loop in real time," said Kagan.

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# Dhamnagar set for a triangular tussle

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, Oct 13:** After the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Congress announced their nominees for the bypoll to the Dhamnagar Assembly constituency in Bhadrak, electioneering is picking up the pace with each passing day while keen political observers have predicted a triangular contest. However, they have pointed to a tough fight between the ruling BJD and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Congress after fielding Harekrushna Sethi is also leaving no stone unturned to wrest the seat. Thursday, Congress took out a massive rally escorting Sethi to file his nomination. Lawyer Harekrushna Sethi has thanked the party's top Central and state leaders for reposing faith on his leadership in the bypoll.

Sethi sounded confident about his electoral success in the upcoming bypoll. "I have always worked for the people of Dhamnagar. The people will give me chance this time to serve them. I am confident that people of Dhamnagar will ensure my win," he exuded hope.

Saffron party nominee Suryavanshi Suraj, who has already filed his nomination, is visiting and meeting people at their doorsteps along with his supporters and seeking their votes.

BJD nominee Abanti Das too has started campaigning and will file her nomination Friday. Many leaders of the BJD have been campaigning for Abanti. She said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has reposed faith on her by field-



Abanti Das (BJD) Suryavanshi Suraj (BJP) Harekrushna Sethi (Cong)

**Nomination filing ends today while the last date for withdrawal is Oct 17. The bypoll results will be announced Nov 6 after counting of votes**

ing her to fight the bypoll. "I will be working hard for development of Dhamnagar. The people of Dhamnagar will support me to win the bypoll," Abanti asserted.

However, after Abanti was nominated for the bypoll, there has been mixed reaction in the party cadres in the coastal constituency. Former MLA Rajendra Das was hopeful to get the BJD ticket. His camp of supporters was left disgruntled. The BJD state leadership was initially in dilemma over a number of aspirants, before picking Abanti, who is the chairperson of Tihidi block. However, Rajendra Das has not come out with any reaction over being denied the chance.

Political pundits pointed out that the BJD has taken a calcu-

lated step in choosing a woman candidate given the fact that former legislators like Rajendra Das and Mukhtikant Mandal were aspiring for tickets. Had Rajendra been nominated, Mandal who is an influential leader would have had a good chance of raising a banner of protest.

It remains to be seen what next course of action would be taken by Rajendra Das.

Political circles are waiting to watch the unfolding scene whether Das is going to support Abanti or will contest as an independent candidate. It will be clear Friday, the last date for nomination filing.

After death of MLA Bishnu Sethi, the BJP has banked on popularity of the late leader and the sympathy factor to work in favour of his son Suryavanshi Suraj.

Suraj expressed confidence that people of Dhamnagar will vote in his favour as his father used to treat the entire constituency as his family.

"The people of the constituency will ensure my win by a huge margin of votes to fulfill the unfulfilled dreams of my father," he said.



**FOOTBALL TOURNEY:** Girls displayed their soccer skills during a match of under-17 inter-school football tournament at Angul stadium, Thursday. Five matches were played on the inaugural day. Students from Chhendipada, Pallahara, Athamallik and Kishorenagar took part in the matches

## Man gets 10-yr prison for rape

**Baripada:** A court in Mayurbhanj district Wednesday sentenced a 27-year-old man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him of raping a woman at knife-point four years ago. Additional sessions judge of Baripada, Durga Charan Mishra, found Ganesh Kisku guilty of raping a 35-year-old woman in a village under Rasgobindpur police station. The court also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict. On the night of September 18, 2018, Kisku entered the woman's home where she was sleeping alone and raped her at knife-point. He had threatened to kill her if she raised an alarm. He was arrested after the victim filed a complaint with the police.

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## 6 officials hurt as jumbo attacks patrolling vehicle

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nilagiri, Oct 13:** Six Forest department officials were injured after an elephant attacked their patrolling vehicle at Khumkut in Kuldaha sanctuary in Balasore district Wednesday night.

According to sources, the elephant was wreaking havoc in the area. The officials had reached



the spot in an SUV at around 10pm to drive away the animal. However, the elephant attacked

their vehicle and pushed it into a nearby stream. As a result, six Forest department officials inside the vehicle received injuries.

They somehow managed to come out of the vehicle. They were later treated at Nilagiri hospital. The vehicle was also recovered. Kuldaha ranger Ananta Jena rushed to the spot and admitted the injured staff to the Nilagiri hospital.



**EXCHANGE PROGRAMME:** BSF flagged off the 14th tribal youth exchange programme bus on the premises of its MV-3 camp in Malkangiri Thursday

## 36 rescued from labour trafficking

**Lathore:** Police seized two vehicles and rescued 36 people including 9 children from being trafficked as bonded labourers from Bolangir to Tamil Nadu, Thursday. A labour broker has been arrested and produced in court, said IIC Jhasaketa Bhoi. As per reports, the middleman identified as Kauser Khan, a resident of Kandatera village in Nuapada district, wanted to shift 11 women, 16 men and nine children in two pick-up vans to Tamil Nadu to engage them in various manual works. The IIC of Lathore got a tip-off about labour trafficking and instructed ASI Debarchan Mirdha to conduct raids at a place near Lanth river. The police squad raided the area and rescued the labourers who were later sent to their homes.

## ATTACK ON LAWYERS

### 12-hour bandh in Kamakhyanagar



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Dhenkanal, Oct 13:** Hundreds of lawyers affiliated to the Kamakhyanagar Bar Association observed a 12-hour bandh in the town over alleged attack on lawyers. The agitating lawyers accused police of inaction in the case. All government and private offices, educational institutions, and business establishments have been closed in view of the bandh.

Two lawyers and two court staffers had gone to a hotel at Baligorada September 28 night to have some food. A group of six to seven youths attacked them over a trivial issue. As a result, all four of them fell unconscious. Later police rescued them and admitted them to Kamakhyanagar hospital.

Hours later, senior lawyer Shasadhar Mohanty was shifted to Cuttack while the three others were treated there. 15 days have passed, but the police have arrested only one person while the rest of the miscreants are moving freely, it was alleged.

Lawyers accused the police of taking no action against the culprits. The Bar Association called for a 12-hour bandh Thursday. Many other organisations including Private Bus Owners' Association, Taxi Association, Journalists' Association, and Senior Citizens' Forum supported the bandh.

## Timber mafia, pangolin smugglers active in two Kandhamal forest ranges



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Phulbani, Oct 13:** Green cover in Khajuripada and Phulbani forest ranges in Kandhamal district has been depleting fast with timber mafia carting away trees with impunity. Besides, a pangolin smuggling racket has been active in the region, sources said adding that the Forest department is doing little to check the illegal tree felling.

It was alleged that the Forest department has failed to seize timber smuggled away from various parts of the two ranges. On the other hand, Forest officials have pre-occupied themselves with keeping tabs on pangolin smuggling and taken credit on busting its rackets while timber smugglers have been plundering the sylvan wealth at their will.

It was learnt that in the last four days, Forest officials have seized 565 scales of pangolins in Khajuripada area, pointing to the fact that poaching of these endangered reptile species is going on in the forested pockets. Some officials had allegedly tried to hush up the seizure

of the pangolin scales and secretly settle the issue. After media reports about it, the Forest officials had no way but to register a case under various sections of the Wildlife Protection Act and arrested four people involved in it. Timber smuggling is also rampant in Phulbani range where valuable species of trees have been carted away. Besides, many sal trees alongside the Phulbani-Gochhapada main road have been cut down. It was suspected that it was the handiwork of some land sharks who have been grabbing forest and government lands by clearing trees.

The land mafia is selling the lands, but neither the Forest nor the Revenue department has taken any step to check such illegal activities.

Locals alleged that all such activities are happening in the knowledge of some Forest officials.

Local residents demanded that the Forest department take up proactive measures to check timber and pangolin smuggling in the two ranges.



75  
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FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# STRAINED INDO-US TIES



If the US is to prevail in its escalating rivalry with China and Russia and avoid strategic overreach, it needs India more than ever. But without mutual respect, the bilateral partnership is doomed

The strategic partnership between the United States and India is pivotal to maintaining the balance of power in the vast Indo-Pacific region and counterbalancing China's hegemonic ambitions. The US is India's second-largest trading partner, and deepening the ties between the two countries is one of the rare bipartisan foreign policies that exists in Washington today.

The upcoming October 18-31 joint military exercise known as Yudh Abhyas (War Practice), in a high-altitude area less than 100 kilometers (62 miles) from India's border with China, highlights the partnership's growing strategic importance. India holds more annual military exercises with the US than any other country, as the two powers seek to improve their forces' interoperability. As Admiral Michael M. Gilday, the US Navy's Chief of Naval Operations, put it recently, India is a "crucial partner" in countering China's rise.

But President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan and effectively surrender the country to a Pakistan-reared terrorist militia, in addition to tensions related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have strained the relationship between the world's most powerful and most populous democracies.

Like many other countries, including US allies such as Israel and Turkey, India has taken a neutral stance on the war in Ukraine. Much to the chagrin of the US and Europe, the country has continued to purchase discounted oil from Russia, rebuffing the Biden administration's offer to replace Russian oil with US supplies. Instead, India has increased its imports of Russian crude.

At the heart of India's decision is fear of losing out to China. Since 2019, the US has used the sanctions on Iran's oil exports to deprive India of cheaper Iranian oil, thereby turning it into the largest market for US energy exporters. The main beneficiary of the sanctions is China, which has increased its purchases of Iranian oil at a discount and developed a security

partnership with the Islamic Republic without facing US reprisal.

While the US has already surpassed Russia as India's largest weapons supplier, the American defence sector views the war in Ukraine as a "great opportunity" for arms sales to India to "surge." Moreover, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has urged Indian officials to avoid buying Russian equipment and purchase US-made weapons from now on.

Yet Biden's overriding focus on punishing Russia could exacerbate India's security challenges, especially if the international efforts to pressure Russian President Vladimir Putin inadvertently empower an expansionist China. The US-led sanctions and Europe's shift away from Russian energy effectively put Russia – the world's most resource-rich country – in the pocket of the resource-hungry Chinese. Its alliance with Russia has allowed China to build an energy safety net through an increase in land-based imports, which, unlike sea-borne deliveries, cannot be blockaded if Chinese President Xi Jinping decides to invade Taiwan.

Meanwhile, America's recent \$450 million deal to modernise Pakistan's F-16 fleet – unveiled days after the US helped the country stave off an imminent debt default through an International Monetary

Fund bailout – has evoked bitter memories of the US arming Pakistan against India and supporting the initial development of the Pakistani nuclear-weapons programme during the Cold War.

The Biden administration's disingenuous claim that upgrading Pakistan's US-supplied F-16 fleet would advance counterterrorism has prompted a sharp response from India. During a recent visit to Washington, Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar publicly condemned the deal, saying that the American explanation "is not fooling anyone": Pakistan would undoubtedly deploy the upgraded fighter jets against India.

Against this backdrop, some observers have revived the old theory that US-India ties fare better under Republican administrations. Bilateral relations thrived during President Donald Trump's administration, which relied heavily on India in developing its Indo-Pacific strategy. Trump instituted new US policies on China and Pakistan, whose increasingly close partnership has raised the prospect of India fighting a two-front war. In a major policy shift, Trump ended the 45-year US policy of aiding China's rise. He also cut off security aid to Pakistan for not severing its ties with terrorist groups.

Biden, on the other hand, has re-

sumed America's coddling of Pakistan, made outreach to Beijing a high priority, and said nothing about China's encroachments on Indian territory in the Himalayas. But by locking horns with China in a 30-month military standoff, India has openly challenged Chinese power in a way no other world power has done in this century.

Nothing better illustrates Biden's neglect of the relationship with India than the fact that, since he took office, there has been no US ambassador in New Delhi. Meanwhile, the US ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, caused an uproar during a visit to the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir, which he called by its Pakistani name – "Azad [Liberated] Jammu and Kashmir" – instead of "Pakistan-administered Kashmir," as the United Nations calls it.

Moreover, the Biden administration has been trying to leverage human-rights issues against India. In April, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken alleged a "rise in human-rights abuses" in the country, prompting Jaishankar to counter that India is similarly concerned about the state of human rights in the US. Likewise, prominent members of the US Democratic Party can barely conceal their hostility to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his brand of Hindu nationalism.

Given that the US and India are both bitterly polarised democracies, officials should avoid statements that could inflame domestic tensions. If the US wishes to shift strategic focus to the Indo-Pacific, it must improve relations with its most important strategic ally in Asia. To that end, Biden must not squander the historic opportunity to forge a "soft" alliance with India. If the US is to prevail in its escalating rivalry with China and Russia and avoid strategic overreach, it needs India more than ever. But without mutual respect, the bilateral partnership is doomed.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Brahma Chellaney

NOTHING BETTER ILLUSTRATES BIDEN'S NEGLECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA THAN THE FACT THAT, SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE, THERE HAS BEEN NO US AMBASSADOR IN NEW DELHI



Daniel Russel

Kim will likely seek to exploit America's diplomatic ructions with Russia and China

## New Crisis Brewing

A new geopolitical crisis is stirring against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, tensions around Taiwan, and the sharpening US-China rivalry. North Korea, after a three-year pause in nuclear provocations, is gearing up for what intelligence agencies warn could be a seventh nuclear test – possibly before the US midterm elections on November 8.

Five years ago, the world faced the prospect of "fire and fury" as North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un and then-US President Donald Trump traded threats of nuclear war. A phony peace followed, as Kim met with several world leaders to gain sanctions relief in exchange for vague promises to scale back parts of his nuclear programme.

After his failed Hanoi summit with Trump in 2019, Kim returned to Pyongyang and soon ordered a national lockdown in a futile effort to escape the COVID-19 pandemic. But North Korea's nuclear-weapons and missile programmes continued to advance rapidly.

Kim had signaled his intention to expand the North's nuclear capabilities when he began his diplomatic outreach in early 2018, and he has been good to his word. Kim's arsenal is now estimated to include about 50 nuclear weapons. Moreover, in 2020, shortly after test-firing a new type of submarine-launched ballistic missile, Kim unveiled a massive new long-range missile at a night-time military parade meant to showcase the regime's formidable weaponry. The following year, the International Atomic Energy Agency reported that North Korea had restarted its plutonium-enrichment operations. Soon after, it test-fired long-range cruise missiles and a new nuclear-capable hypersonic missile.

So far this year, North Korea has launched more than 40 ballistic missiles in violation of the United Nations Security Council's resolutions, including during US Vice President Kamala Harris' visit to Japan and South Korea last month. One missile flew over Japan. The regime also has resumed the illegal reprocessing of plutonium at its Yongbyon facility, and satellite images have revealed construction work at its nuclear-test site, Punggye-ri, reinforcing concerns that a seventh nuclear test could be imminent.

Kim's determination to use his nuclear arsenal to intimidate his enemies, together with the changing geopolitical landscape as a result of the war in Ukraine, increases the likelihood that North Korea will reprise its "fire and fury" posturing. The threat to the region's stability and to global security is serious.

It is unclear whether Kim or his predecessors – his father, Kim Jong-il, and his grandfather, Kim Il-sung, the regime's founder – were ever serious about denuclearisation. Nevertheless, for decades, the United States and other governments have tried in vain to nudge North Korea to give up its nuclear-weapons programme through a combination of pressure, security assurances, and economic inducements.

World leaders should believe Kim when he says that North Korea's nuclear capabilities are the country's "trusted shield" and "treasured sword" and that he would never relinquish them. In announcing a new law that authorises a nuclear strike if a foreign power tries to remove him from power, Kim declared last month that his regime would "never give up" any of its nuclear weapons. "There is absolutely no denuclearisation, no negotiation, and no bargaining chip to trade in the process," he said.

Kim's behaviour reflects his unwavering determination to be accepted – however reluctantly – as the leader of a nuclear power, akin to how the international community has come to accept Pakistan or even India. But he has abandoned North Korea's previous "action-for-action" approach – the step-by-step bartering of sanctions relief for limitations on his nuclear activities. As a result, he has not even acknowledged the Biden administration's repeated efforts to resume denuclearisation talks.

Instead, Kim demands that the US withdraw its forces from South Korea and remove strategic assets from the region – clearly a non-starter. Next, North Korea will most likely call for nuclear-arms reduction talks with the US as a sign that it has finally been recognised as a nuclear peer rather than a rogue state.

Kim will also likely seek to exploit America's diplomatic ructions with Russia and China. The Kims' regime long ago mastered the art of using disagreements between the major powers to their advantage. After the end of the Cold War, however, the regime had limited opportunities on this front, owing to America's generally positive relationship with North Korea's principal patrons – China and Russia.

But the rapid deterioration of relations between the US and Russia, and between the US and China, have changed the game. The strategic alliance between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin has assured that neither would align with the West to discipline Kim. Xi and Putin are currently courting the West's adversaries, not seeking to punish them. And while his patrons block any action against North Korea in the UN Security Council, Kim can pursue his nuclear ambitions unimpeded.

In principle, both China and Russia oppose North Korea's nuclear programme. China's leaders have been haunted by the prospect of a nuclear test going wrong so close to its border. But while Kim will most likely not hold a seventh bomb test until sometime after the Communist Party of China's 20th National Congress concludes, he knows that neither Xi nor Putin can afford to crack down on North Korea in a meaningful way at the moment.

In fact, Xi and Putin have an interest in Kim diverting US attention and resources from Taiwan and Ukraine, respectively. With this in mind, the recent spate of North Korean missile launches may mark the beginning of a dangerous cycle of escalation that could end up turning the rhetoric of "fire and fury" into reality.

The writer is Vice President for International Security and Diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul - and sings the tunes without the words - and never stops at all. EMILY DICKINSON
- The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves. VICTOR HUGO
- Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the secret of success. SWAMI SIVANANDA

### WORDSWORTH

**Cancrine**  
This one is a defunct word – it seems to have utterly disappeared from the English lexicon. Like its close relative cancrroid, it derives from Latin cancrinus, relating to a crab. It has been used on rare occasions to mean crab-like but more usually a specialised type of backwards motion, curious in view of its derivation, which would imply a sideways movement to match that of the crab. In this sense, cancrine refers to a type of Latin verse that reads the same backwards as forwards, which we would now refer to as palindromic.

### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## A milestone in women's rights



Bhala Chandra Shadangi

THROUGH THIS VERDICT, THE SUPREME COURT HAS OPENED THE DOOR FOR DEBATE ON MARITAL RAPE

On 29 September, the Supreme Court delivered a historic judgement regarding women's right to abortion by ruling that women, irrespective of their marital status, will have the right to abortion. This judgment is going to be a milestone in the history of women's rights in our country and place it ahead of many countries in granting legal rights to women for safe abortion.

Of course, India is not the first country to give women the right to abortion. In 1920, the erstwhile Soviet Union became the first country to legalise abortion. So far, 67 countries have given women the right to abortion. Even Islamic theocratic countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran have given abortion rights to women. But still, in at least 24 countries abortion is completely banned and declared as crime. Surprisingly, the US Supreme Court took away this right of women this year.

In 1971, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act (Abortion Act) was enacted in our country. But the law was not comprehensive. Even the right to abortion was not equal for all women. Women were being discriminated on the basis of their marital status. While married women were legally given the right to abortion, unmarried women were de-

nied except for some exceptions like in case of rape victims. Such discrimination against citizens was violation of one's fundamental rights under Article 14 of the Constitution. Apart from this, the MTP Act and its subsequent amendment in 2021 violated Article 21 of the Constitution. It violated the reproductive rights, self-respect and privacy of women. The SC verdict has completely reaffirmed these rights.

Behind the discrimination in our current abortion law, religious bigotry is more at work than any rationality or scientific reason. The Court also said that this discrimination between married and unmarried women in the abortion law is artificial and not constitutionally valid. Through this verdict, the SC has opened the door for a debate on marital rape. This has been a controversial issue and women's rights organisations have been demanding to criminalise marital rape for many years. Even a petition is pending before another Constitutional Bench of the SC to decide on this issue. For the first time, the top court has defined forced sex by husband with his legally wedded wife as marital rape.

Abortion is considered a sin and immoral in our society on the basis of religious ethics. However, vari-

ous studies and data show that existing restrictions on abortion are not logical or effective. A United Nations study found that unsafe abortions are 45 times more common in countries where abortion is illegal or restricted. On the other hand, legal crackdown on abortion pushes pregnant women, especially those from rural and poor families, out of reach of government healthcare system and forces them to have unsafe abortions. According to the WHO, the lack of safe, low-cost, timely and dignified abortions and the stereotypes about abortion in our society, lead to lifelong physical and psychological problems for women who have abortions. According to several studies, daily eight women die due to unsafe abortion. India contributes 20% of the world's total maternal deaths and these are mainly due to unsafe abortions. A study found that 67% of abortions performed between 2007 and 2011 in India were unsafe.

Abortion, like pregnancy is the personal right of an adult woman. It is part of her right over her own body. There should be no interference either from family, society or government. In our patriarchal society, there are many examples of women falling victim to various social, economic and cultural cir-

cumstances and becoming pregnant against their own will. Therefore, she may be married or unmarried but once she becomes pregnant, whether out of her own free will or under circumstances, she has the right to abort her pregnancy. Under such circumstances, risking their lives without giving them the opportunity to have a safe abortion is unacceptable. The SC has rightly said a woman's marital status cannot be basis for depriving her of the right to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. Therefore, both married and unmarried women have the right to have an abortion within 24 weeks of pregnancy. The SC judgment is expected to remove all the legal barriers and prevent the unnecessary deaths of thousands of women in the country.

Although it came late, this judgment is a historic step in recognising the freedom of women in the country. It has further expanded the scope of women's rights in the society. It has undermined society's conservative and backward thinking about marriage, sexuality and abortion. Through this judgment many other legal rights of women can be derived in the future.

The writer is an Odisha-based columnist.

### Female literacy

Sir, Girl child is not a tension but is equivalent to having "ten sons", so goes a saying. This year, the International Day of the Girl Child, which was observed on October 11, had the theme: "One time now – our rights, our future." Catchy theme or not, aiming at neutralising gender inequality and bringing girls at par with boys on a war footing should be the agenda of every stakeholder. Every ten minutes a girl child succumbs to violence in this world. Girls want their voices to be heard clear and loud, and they not only want to change the present but also the future. Education of a girl is the biggest challenge to the society, and the biggest hindrance to education of girl children is the alarming incidence of school dropouts. A girl with basic education can pass on the baton to others of her ilk. Strong girls, who are financially independent, can stand on their own in case of crisis.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

### No pretty picture

Sir, The IMF cutting India's growth forecast to 6.8% this year is not a pretty picture. It cited the worsening Ukraine conflict, record-high inflation and effects of the pandemic as critical reasons for the slowdown. While India remains one of the fastest-growing large economies, despite the IMF's sharp downgrade in growth projections, more than a third of the global economy is set to contract.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

### Reminiscing JP

Sir, Jayaprakash Narayan is the architect of Janata Party that dislodged the well-entrenched Congress government. He launched a crusade against the Bihar government headed by Abdul Ghafoor which was neck-deep in corruption and succeeded in dislodging it. He underwent the trauma of emergency declared by the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. After the emergency was lifted, Jayaprakash Narayan cobbled up the opposition parties and fought the election under the umbrella of Janata Party resulting in the formation of first non-Congress government. Narayan was requested to head the government as Prime Minister. He turned down the plea and proved that he was not hankering after power and his movements were not motivated by the desire for power but to free the people from tyrannical rule. It is good that a 15-feet statue of the freedom fighter was unveiled by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his birth place in Sitab Diara in Bihar's Saran district.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

## 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

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



## of the day quote

Different judgments have come. We were expecting that there would be a unanimous decision in favour of the Karnataka Muslim girls who are going to schools wearing hijab

**ASADUDDIN OWAISSI** | (AIMIM) CHIEF

The government, under the leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, has accorded the highest priority to the diaspora engagement and it is clearly evident in the plethora of diaspora initiatives taken since 2014

**S JAISHANKAR** | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

India cannot and should not rely on imports of military hardware and the government is committed to achieve self-reliance in defence production to remain prepared to deal with any future security challenges

**RAJNATH SINGH** | DEFENCE MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Flood situation improves in Assam

**Guwahati:** The overall flood situation in Assam showed some improvement during the past 24 hours while 50, 836 people are still affected in three districts -- Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, officials said Thursday. Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said that the flood waters still inundated 3782.18 hectares of crop lands in seven districts -- Darrang, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Majuli, and Nagaon.

### SpiceJet plane makes emergency landing

**New Delhi/Hyderabad:** A SpiceJet plane coming from Goa made an emergency landing at Hyderabad airport on Wednesday night after smoke was observed in the cabin and aviation regulator DGCA is probing the incident, according to officials. The plane landed safely and passengers disembarked through the emergency exit. One passenger sustained minor scratches on the feet while disembarking from the aircraft, a DGCA official said. A Hyderabad airport official said there were 86 passengers onboard the Q400 aircraft VT-SQB and that due to the emergency landing, as many as nine flights were diverted Wednesday night after the incident at around 11 pm.

# Hijab ban to continue in K'taka

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Oct 13:** Karnataka Primary and Secondary Education Minister B C Nagesh Thursday said the Karnataka High Court order upholding the state government's ban on hijab at school and college campuses will remain valid following a split verdict by the Supreme Court on the issue.

The Supreme Court Thursday delivered a split verdict on a batch of pleas challenging the Karnataka High Court judgement refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions in the state.

While Justice Hemant Gupta dismissed the appeals against the high court verdict, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia allowed them.

At a time when there is a movement happening against hijab and burqa across the globe and the freedom of women is a talking point, the Karnataka government had expected a better judgment that will bring an order in the education system but a split verdict has come, Nagesh told reporters.

The matter has now been referred to a higher bench, Nagesh said adding the Karnataka government will wait for the verdict



by a higher bench.

"The Karnataka High Court order will remain valid. Hence, in all our schools and colleges Karnataka education act and rule, there will be no scope for any religious symbols. So our schools and colleges will run as per the Karnataka High Court order. Children will have to come to the schools accordingly," Nagesh said.

"The ban on hijab will continue. As you know that the Karnataka Education Act and Rule does not permit any religious items inside the class. So we are very clear that no student can wear hijab inside the class," Nagesh explained.

Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said he saw the hijab verdict in the media where one judge has dismissed the petition while the other has dismissed the Karnataka High Court order.

"There is a split verdict and the case has gone to the Chief Justice's bench. It depends on the decision taken by the CJI. The Karnataka government is awaiting an order by the CJI," Jnanendra told reporters.

On January 1 this year, six girl students of a college in Udipi attended a press conference held by the Campus Front of India (CFI) in the coastal town protesting against

**“If the people of Karnataka want to speak Kannada, if the people of Tamil Nadu want to speak Tamil and if the people of Kerala want to speak Malayalam then they should be allowed to do that”**

**RAHUL GANDHI** | CONGRESS LEADER

## SHOCKING REVELATION

About 39% of all job card-holding households seeking work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme did not get a single day of work in the Covid year of 2020-21 as against the average work demand for 77 days, shows a study



## MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

# Ch'garh: ED arrests IAS officer, 2 others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Raipur, Oct 13:** The Enforcement Directorate Thursday arrested Chhattisgarh cadre IAS officer Sameer Vishnoi and two other persons after it launched multi-city raids in the state early this week as part of a money laundering investigation, officials said.

Businessman Sunil Agrawal of Indramani group and Laxmikant Tiwari, uncle of "absconding" businessman Suryakant Tiwari, were also taken into custody in the morning by the federal agency from state capital Raipur, they said.

The three persons were arrested under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The three were produced before a local court that sent them to 8 days of ED custody till October 21, a senior official said.

Vishnoi, an Indian Administrative Service officer of 2009 batch, is currently working as the CEO of the Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (Chips). He was questioned by the agency at its office in Raipur Wednesday along with a few others.

The bureaucrat also holds additional charge of managing director of Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (Markfed) and has earlier served as the director of geology and mining department and MD of Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation (CMDC) in the incumbent Congress government led by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

The CMDC undertakes scien-



tific exploration, commercial exploitation and viable trading of minerals in the state. The premises of Laxmikant Tiwari, an advocate by profession from state's Mahasamund district, were also covered during the raids.

Raipur-based Agrawal has been in the coal business for over a decade and apparently has links with senior politicians.

The arrests came after the agency launched multiple raids in Chhattisgarh October 11 in a money laundering case linked to alleged illegal levy extorted from coal and mining transporters in the state by a purported nexus of government officials, businessmen and private entities.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender No. MCSW-IGP-22-23-12  
Name of the work: OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE INCLUDING SPARE PARTS DURING REPAIR OF INOCULUM GENERATION PLANT OF CAPACITY-100 M<sup>3</sup> AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.  
Advised Value: ₹49,78,384.50, EMD: ₹99,600/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹3,000/-, Completion Period: 24 Months.  
Bidding Start Date: 17.10.2022, Date & Time of Tender Closing: 31.10.2022, 1500 hrs.  
Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.  
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>  
Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer(Production), Carriage Repair Workshop, PR-603N/22-23, Mancheswar

## Human sacrifice: Post-mortem over

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kottayam (Kerala), Oct 13:** A post-mortem on the two women's bodies, which were exhumed on October 11 as part of an investigation into a gruesome human sacrifice case at Elanthoor in Pathanamthitta district, was completed Thursday, Medical College Hospital sources said.

The post-mortem began on Wednesday at the Kottayam Government Medical College Hospital where it was brought from Elanthoor. Sources said only the skeleton was available for the one of the victims - Roslin - while the body of Padma, the second victim, was found in 56 pieces.

"Roslin's post-mortem was completed on Wednesday itself. The inquest on Padma's body got completed today. The post-mortems were conducted after confirming that they were the bodies of women. The medical inquest was delayed as the bodies were in a decomposed state," sources said. Adoor RDO completed the procedural formalities after the post-mortem and the bodies were shifted to the mortuary. However, the bodies would be handed over to the relatives only after the results of the DNA test are out. It is learnt that a detailed report of the post-mortem including the nature of injuries and details on the internal organs of the deceases would be handed over to the special investigation team soon.



**FESTIVE FERVOUR:** Married women perform rituals on the occasion of 'Karwa Chauth' festival in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

## Gopal Italia appears before NCW, detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** AAP Gujarat unit chief Gopal Italia was on Thursday detained by Delhi Police after he appeared before the National Commission for Women (NCW) for his alleged comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi amid protests by party members outside the women's panel's office here.

Reacting to police action against the AAP leader, Delhi Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Italia's detention had triggered massive anger in the Patel community across Gujarat.

Taking to Twitter, the AAP national convenor also asked why "entire BJP" was after Italia. Kejriwal's deputy Manish Sisodia termed Italia's detention as "BJP politics" and alleged that he had been detained because he belonged to a party that knew how to transform schools.

NCW Chairperson Rekha

Sharma had summoned Italia for using "abusive and indecent language" against PM Modi and said his comment was "gender biased, misogynist and condemnable".

An NCW official said the commission had to rush to arrange a translator to record Italia's statement as he started speaking in Gujarati in the middle of the hearing.

After the hearing, the police detained Italia, drawing flak from the AAP.

## CONTROLLING STUBBLE BURNING

# CENTRE TO GIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**THE SETTING UP OF PLANTS WILL HELP RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF STUBBLE BURNING AND GENERATE INCOME FOR FARMERS, UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER BHUPENDER YADAV SAID**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** The central government Thursday said a one-time financial assistance will be given to individuals and companies to set up torrefaction and pelletisation plants to ensure a regular supply of paddy straw for co-firing in thermal power plants and industries.

The setting up of these plants will help resolve the problem of stubble burning and generate income for farmers, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said at a workshop on "Guidelines for grant of one-time financial support for establishment of pelletisation and torrefaction plants to promote utilisation of paddy straw".

Along with unfavourable meteorological conditions, paddy straw



burning in Punjab and Haryana is a major reason behind the alarming spike in air pollution levels in the national capital in October and November. Farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear off the crop residue before cultivating wheat and potato.

According to government data, Punjab and Haryana generate around 27 million tonnes of paddy straw a year, of which around 6.4 million tonnes is not managed.

To address the issue of air pollution and to reduce the carbon foot-

print of thermal power plants and industries, the government had earlier mandated co-firing of 5 to 10 per cent of biomass along with coal.

Though there is a demand for biomass by power plants, "the supply is on the lower side... Due to slow/limited growth of aggregators/suppliers", the government noted.

"Therefore, there is a need to facilitate setting up of pelletisation plants so that paddy straw is utilised and the issue of crop burning and pollution is further addressed," read the guidelines prepared by the Union

Environment Ministry. Financial support of Rs 14 lakh per tonne per hour plant production capacity (subject to a maximum of Rs 70 lakh per proposal) will be given for setting up new pelletisation units, according to the guidelines.

Rs 28 lakh per tonne per hour plant production capacity will be provided for torrefaction plants, subject to a total financial support of Rs 1.4 crore per proposal.

The government has earmarked Rs 50 crore for utilisation under the guidelines.

The financial assistance can be availed by individuals and companies setting up new plants and units using only paddy straw generated in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana, and NCR districts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

It is noteworthy that just a day before the Punjab government released guidelines, the Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav had held a virtual meeting with his state counterparts from Delhi, NCR and Punjab on controlling vehicular, industrial and dust pollution and stubble burning ahead of the winter season. During the meeting, stubble burning was one of the most crucial topics of discussion.

## Army dog 'Zoom' dies of injuries

**New Delhi:** Army Dog 'Zoom', who underwent surgery after getting injured in an encounter with terrorists in Kashmir's Anantnag, died Thursday, army officials said. "Army dog Zoom, under treatment at 54 AFVH (Advance Field Veterinary Hospital), passed away around 12 noon today. He was responding well till around 11:45 am when he suddenly started gasping & collapsed," the army said. In a combat operation in Kokernag of Anantnag, 'Zoom' attacked terrorists and sustained injuries after receiving two gunshot wounds.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**Bid Identification No. 27 of 2022-23**  
**No.O-1105:** The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balangir on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage bid through e - Procurement in single cover system according to norm of e - Procurement system in online mode for the different work in different blocks under Balangir District.  
**01. Nature of Work:** - Construction of Percolation well and Intake well in different villages of Balangir District.  
**02. Total No. of work :- 13 Nos.**  
**03. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 15.48 to 27.06 Lakh**  
**04. Eligible Class of Contractor :- " D, C & B"**  
**05. Period of Completion :- Three month.**  
**06. Other Details**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Balangir	27 of 2022-23	Dt.20.10.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.	Dt.03.11.2022 upto 17.00 Hrs

Further details can be had in the DTCN available in the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
RWS&S Division, Balangir  
OIPR-25033/11/0026/2223

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, ATHMALLIK DIVISION**  
**AT/PO-ATHMALLIK, DIST-ANGUL-759125**  
E-mail: dfoathmallik@gmail.com, Tel:06763-254236, Mob:+91 9437004236  
**QUOTATION CALL NOTICE**  
No. IF-6306/2022 Date: 07.10.2022  
**No.MM-213:** Sealed Quotations are invited from registered Architects in Odisha for Renovation of Divisional Forest Office, Athmallik Division.  
The quotation should reach through Speed Post/ Registered Post with AD only by 1 PM of 01.11.2022 and will be opened on the same day at 4 PM in presence of quotationers or their authorized representatives.  
**Final Deliverables are:**  
1. Detailed Plan with 3D Drawing  
2. Elevation of the building  
3. Section Drawing & Plan  
4. Structural Plan  
5. Electrification Plan  
6. Water Supply & Sanitation Plan  
7. Entire Site Plan.  
Alongwith detailed Estimate and Bill of quantity.  
Quoted are invited only from the Service Providers with GST Numbers and should satisfy following conditions.  
i. Quotes should be submitted on INR/Sqft basis.  
ii. Approx. size of the design work around 4900 sqft.  
Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Athmallik Division  
OIPR-08125/11/0004/2223

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, NAYAGARH DIVISION**  
Email: - dfo.nayagarh@odisha.gov.in  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement**  
**Bid Identification No. 03/2022-23**  
**No.MM-1.** Divisional Forest Officer, Nayagarh Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invite percentage bids in Single Cover in online mode for the construction works as detailed in the table, from the class of eligible contractors as mentioned in column -6 having valid license from competent authority for execution of works as detailed below. 2. The bidders may submit bid for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work	Concerned T.I.A.	Cost of bid document (Non-refundable)	Class of Contractor	Date of commencement of work	Date of Completion
1	Construction of Forester Quarter at Gumi	1613900.00	DFO, Nayagarh Division	6000.00	"D" & "C"	1st November 2022	28th March 2023
2	Construction of Forester Quarter at Bahadralola	1613900.00	DFO, Nayagarh Division	6000.00	"D" & "C"	1st November 2022	28th March 2023
3	Construction of Forest Guard Quarter at Kadarnihara	1204000.00	DFO, Nayagarh Division	6000.00	"D" & "C"	1st November 2022	28th March 2023

OIPR-08026/11/0008/2223 Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Nayagarh Division



EYE ON POLLS

# PM launches slew of projects

Ahead of the Assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh by the year-end, he launched a slew of development projects in Una and Chamba. In Una, Modi flagged off a Vande Bharat Express, the fourth train in the series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Una/Chamba (HP), Oct 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday accused the past governments of not providing facilities that were available to people elsewhere in the world even in the previous century and in his home state Gujarat a few years back.

Ahead of the assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh by the year-end, he launched a slew of development projects in Una and Chamba. In Una, Modi flagged off a Vande Bharat Express, the fourth train in the series.

Addressing public meetings, he hoped that the state will break the trend this time of electing different parties every election. Modi also stressed on the benefits of the "double-engine" government, a reference to the BJP being in power both in Himachal Pradesh and at the Centre.

"We will provide you facilities of the 20th as well as the 21st centuries," he said, addressing a rally at the Indira Gandhi stadium in Una. "Our government is fulfilling the aspirations of 21st-century India. New India is overcoming challenges of the past and growing rapidly," Modi added.

"Earlier governments at the Centre and in the state failed to understand your needs. My government is not only fulfilling the needs of the people, but is doing it with full strength," he said.

Modi also hit out at the opposi-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Arlekar and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur during the flagging-off ceremony of Vande Bharat Express train, in Una

tion, saying 'Dev Bhoomi' Himachal has the grace of nature but previous governments did not work to fill the development gap. "After coming to power, we not only filled that gap but also wrote a new chapter of development," he said.

In an apparent reference to the "double-engine" government, Modi said earlier, Himachal BJP chief ministers PK Dhumal and Shanta Kumar had to go to Delhi with BJP workers to seek approval for even small projects.

Now, he added, the chief minister goes to Delhi to inform about the completion of projects. Modi recalled a saying that the youth and

**“Earlier governments at the Centre and in the state failed to understand your needs. My government is not only fulfilling the needs of the people, but is doing it with full strength”**

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

the water in the hills is of little use locally, a reference to migration and the flow of water downhill. The prime minister said his government has changed the proverb.

He launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III in

Chamba to upgrade 3,125 km of rural roads, saying the government wants to build roads in every village of the state.

So far, the double-engine government of the BJP has built 12,000 km of rural roads in eight years in Himachal Pradesh, Modi said, adding that several new villages will be connected with under the scheme. More than Rs 420 crore has been sanctioned by the central government under this phase of the PMGSY-III for upgrading 440 km of rural roads in 15 border and far-flung blocks of the state.

Modi further said the BJP's double-engine government has made domestic gas connections available for every home. Hundred per cent piped water coverage has been made in tribal areas of Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur under the 'Har Ghar Jal Yojna', he said. Referring to recent grant of the Scheduled Tribe status to the Hatti community, the prime minister said it showed the government cared for the tribal people.

"I feel contented while serving you as you have given me this opportunity by voting the BJP to power," Modi told a rally at the Chogan maidan in Chamba. In Una, he said pharma, education and railway projects launched in the region will have positive impact on its progress. "I am pleased to announce gifts worth several thousand crores for Himachal before Dhanteras and Diwali," he said.

# Bleak Diwali for powerloom workers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 13: Powerloom workers in Tamil Nadu are facing a bleak Diwali this year as there are no orders from the master weavers due to the high yarn prices. There are 2.5 lakh powerlooms in Tiruppur district alone which is the textile capital of South India with export orders to various European countries as well as the US.

The sector employs two lakh workers directly and 4 lakh workers indirectly, but with the high yarn prices there is much less work compared to earlier years.

Sundar Rajan, a powerloom employee at Tiruppur, said that "The owners of the looms told us that there is no work due to high yarn prices and that they won't be able to pay us the bonus during Diwali. We regularly get around 10-12% of our salary as bonus but this year the owner told me that even he is finding it difficult to make ends meet and the bonus won't be paid."

He said that he couldn't understand the difficulties faced by the owner with no work and maintaining the unit that includes power charges, salaries to existing employees, and other incidental expenses. In Pallapalayam village near Coimbatore, around 1500 powerlooms are idle due to the reduction in work.

Somasundaram Raja, a powerloom owner in Tiruppur, said that "The high price of cotton is responsible for the plight of the sector. In July, the price of cotton went up to Rs 1.15 lakh per candy which was earlier available at Rs 50,000. Even though the price has now come down to Rs 70,000, master weavers are apprehensive and orders are not being placed. We are ourselves struggling so how can we pay the work-

ers the Diwali bonus."

The powerloom owners and workers said that the central government must immediately intervene to regulate cotton prices. Somasundaram said that if there is no intervention, then the Tiruppur powerloom industry would not survive.

He said that the recent hike in power tariff has also affected the powerloom industry and asked Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to reduce the tariff. With the powerloom sector facing a crisis, many workers have commenced shifting to other industries. Most of the women workers have started working in the

THE SECTOR EMPLOYS TWO LAKH WORKERS DIRECTLY AND 4 LAKH WORKERS INDIRECTLY, BUT WITH THE HIGH YARN PRICES THERE IS MUCH LESS WORK COMPARED TO EARLIER YEARS

THE POWERLOOM OWNERS AND WORKERS SAID THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MUST IMMEDIATELY INTERVENE TO REGULATE COTTON PRICES

garment industry, even though at reduced pay.



# NEW FRUIT FLY SPECIES FOUND

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Oct 13: A new fruit fly (Tephritidae) species, earlier confused with *Bactrocera nigrofemoralis*, was found during survey studies conducted for fruit flies in Himachal Pradesh by researchers of Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry in Nauni.

The discovery was made during the doctoral research of Maneesh Pal Singh, who was working under the guidance of Divender Gupta, Professor and Head of the Department of Entomology.

After characterisation and consultation with UK-based fruit fly taxonomy expert David Lawrence Hancock, the species was characterized based on morphological characters as well molecular analysis based on cytochrome oxidase and was named this species as *Bactrocera divenderi*.

Gupta said earlier this species was confused with *Bactrocera nigrofemoralis*. Maneesh Pal Singh during his research described it as a new species i.e. *B. divenderi* separating it from *B. nigrofemoralis*, mainly on the characters present on thorax and genitalia along with molecular characterisation.

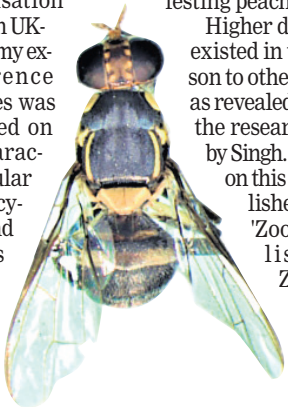
This species is mainly prevalent in mid hills - parts of Solan, Sirmour, Mandi, Shimla and

The discovery was made during the doctoral research of Maneesh Pal Singh, who was working under the guidance of Divender Gupta, Professor and Head of the Department of Entomology

Kangra districts -- of the state, infesting peaches and nectarines. Higher diversity of fruit flies existed in the state in comparison to other north Indian states as revealed from the findings of the research work carried out by Singh. The research findings on this aspect have been published in the July issue of 'Zootaxa' Journal published from New Zealand.

The type specimens of the same have been deposited at the High Altitude Regional Centre of Zoological Survey of India in Solan for reference record. According to Gupta, the fruit flies as a group are pests of international importance and quarantine significance.

These are direct pests and cause damage to a number of fruits like peaches, guava, mango and vegetables, mainly the cucurbits. They adapt to new environments and keep on increasing host range.



# Himachal's wild hazelnut finds market in Hyd

Indian School of Business facilitated this partnership between the SHG and Dry Fruit Basket under the forest economy initiative

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Oct 13: Indian wild hazelnuts, locally called thangi, harvested by self-help group Jarhuh Nag Swayam Sahayata Samooch of Chamba in Himachal Pradesh are now reaching consumers through a retail store in Hyderabad.

Indian School of Business (ISB) facilitated this partnership between the SHG and Dry Fruit Basket under the forest economy initiative. The global hazelnut market is expected to grow at the fastest



growth rate amongst nuts, i.e., of 5.8 per cent, from 2022 to 2028, according to an industry estimate.

Rising awareness about hazelnut's nutritional benefits, higher disposable incomes, and easy avail-

ability of the nut in various forms through retailers is driving the demand. Through this partnership, the Himachal-based women self-help group has extended market access and sells hazelnuts at a better

price compared to the price they receive from local traders currently.

The model also propels self-reliance and financial independence amongst the women. In this transaction, Dry Fruit Basket procured hazelnuts with a 50 per cent advance, incurred the transportation costs and facilitated full price realisation immediately upon receipt of hazelnuts, thereby building trust with the self-help group. Dry Fruit Basket has also placed their next order for a higher quantity of hazelnuts and walnuts with two self-help groups.

"Enabling a direct relationship among the local communities and industry and retail creates a win-win for all. The women harvesting the hazelnuts get a higher price for the produce, the retailer can access premium quality wild nuts,

and consumers get quality hazelnuts at competitive prices. The community enterprises will be able to not only cater to the domestic market for wild nuts and foods but also expand to export markets, at scale, very soon," said Ashwini Chhatre, Executive Director, Bharti Institute of Public Policy (BIPP), Indian School of Business. Such partnerships also bring greater transparency to the entire supply chain and ensure sustainable livelihoods for the local communities, he added.

Women collected, shelled, and packed the wild hazelnuts for sale. For packaging, they used pine cones, a natural substitute for bubble wrap and other plastic-based alternatives, to ensure that hazelnuts are safe and undamaged in transit from Himachal to Hyderabad in Telangana.

# TN power utility gears up for NE monsoon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 13: The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Company (Tangedco) has geared up for the northeast monsoon to hit the state in the last week of October.

While the Public Works Department is yet to complete the storm water drain works in many parts of the state, the Tangedco has geared up for the monsoon.

State Minister for Electricity, Senthil Balaji in a statement said that Tangedco has already set up special teams in all the districts for maintenance and repair during the northeast monsoon period.

The centralized consumer cell of



the department, 'Minnagam' will be in operation 24x7, the minister said. He also said that the people can call this number to register any complaint during the monsoon season, and said that instructions have been given to the Tangedco employees to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the northeast monsoon.

The power utility, according to the minister, has 14,442 trans-

formers, 1,50,932 electric poles, and 12,759 km cables in stock as preparations for the northeast monsoon. The department has also replaced 39,616 damaged electric poles and 31,197 fallen poles.

According to the minister, the call centre, Minnagam can receive 60 calls at a time and during monsoon, it will be increased to 75 calls at a time.

Tangedco is already coordinating with the Public works department in the stormwater drain regarding the underground cable work. The power utility is into underground cable work in five zones in Chennai in coordination with the public works department.

# Campaign unveiled to protect sea cucumbers

Despite several measures taken by the department, smuggling of the marine animal continues unabated across the shores of Tamil Nadu in the wake of a surging global demand for live and processed sea cucumbers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 13: The Tamil Nadu forest department has commenced a major campaign for the protection and conservation of sea cucumbers which are designated as endangered species under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

Despite several measures taken by the department, smuggling of the marine animal continues unabated across the shores of Tamil Nadu in the wake of a surging global demand for live and processed sea cucumbers.

According to a senior forest of-

ficer, the smugglers resort to collecting the sea cucumbers that get trapped in fishing nets and even at times use shallow nets, so that plenty of them are caught.

So far this year, the forest department has registered 30 cases in the Mandapam range which comes under Ramanathapuram area. A department official said that around 9 tonnes of sea cucumber was caught this year alone.

The department will now conduct awareness programmes across the coastal region on the preservation and conservation of the endangered species. Fishermen, fishermen unions, boat owners, and fish sellers will be educated on the importance of the sea cucumber and why it should not be hunted and smuggled out of the country.

The department will also rope in marine biologists to give talks and lectures. However, a section of the fishermen's community said that after two decades odd conservation efforts, the sea cucumber population has drastically increased and called upon the government and the forest department to lift the ban.



# TN to have first sanctuary for Slender Loris

THE KADAVUR SLENDER LORIS SANCTUARY IS TO COME UP AT 11,806 HECTARES IN KARUR AND DINDIGUL DISTRICTS, COVERING AREAS OF VEDASANDUR, DINDIGUL EAST, AND NATHAM TALUKS IN DINDIGUL AND KADAVUR TALUK IN KARUR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 13: The Slender Loris sanctuary, the establishment of which was notified by the Tamil Nadu government, will be the first of its kind in the country.

The Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary is to come up at 11,806 hectares in Karur and Dindigul districts, covering areas of Vedasandur, Dindigul East, and Natham taluks in Dindigul and Kadavur taluk in Karur.

The state government notified the establishment of the Kadavur Slender Loris sanctuary under Section 26 A(1)(b) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Slender Loris are small nocturnal mammals that generally live in trees and are arboreal in nature. They are listed as



an endangered species by the International Union For

Conservation of Nature (IUCN), State Additional Chief Secretary,

Environment, Climate Change, and Forests, Supriya Sahu, in a statement, said that the survival of the species depends on its habitat improvement conservation efforts and mitigation of threats.

The DMK government had announced the establishment of India's first Slender Loris sanctuary in the state in the Assembly in April this year. The Tamil Nadu government has notified India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, the Kazhuvelli Bird Sanctuary in Villupuram, the Nanjarayan Tank Birds sanctuary in Tiruppur, and the fifth elephant reserve at Agasthyamalai in Tirunelveli district. Sahu in the statement said that 13 wetlands in the state were also notified as Ramsar sites.





The North East should be a torch bearer in spreading knowledge and inculcating scientific temperament

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

FREIGHT VERSION OF VANDE BHARAT TRAIN

The Railways has decided to introduce a freight version of the semi-high speed Vande Bharat Express, the first service of which will be operated between the Delhi-NCR and Mumbai regions



of the day quote

I have discussed UK visa issue with Home Minister Amit Shah. It will be sorted out soon



PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

India has maintained accelerated growth momentum, after the contraction in 2020, by balancing the immediate needs of the economy with long-term structural reforms



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

Don't waste your vote by voting for the party that has lost. After winning the MCD elections, the Aam Aadmi Party government will make Delhi a clean and beautiful city, and get rid of garbage mountains



ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

TN backs release of Rajiv convicts

The state government said both convicts had served over 30 years in jail and it had approved the remitting sentence of all seven convicts over four years ago



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 13: The DMK government in Tamil Nadu has, in the Supreme Court, supported a plea made by two life term convicts in 1991 Rajiv Gandhi assassination case seeking premature release.

The state government, in response to separate pleas filed by convicts S. Nalini and R.P. Ravichandran, said the law is well-settled that the Governor is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers of a state under Article 161 of the Constitution.

It pointed out that it had sent recommendations on September 11, 2018, however the Governor did not decide on it for two years, and then, forwarded the file to the President on January 27, 2021, and the issue still remains undecided.

On September 26, the Supreme Court issued notice to the Tamil Nadu government and the Centre on the petitions of Nalini and Ravichandran, convicts in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

Citing release of convict AG Perarivalan in the same case, both convicts have moved the apex court seeking their release from the prison. Nalini and Ravichandran had moved the Madras High Court citing Perarivalan's release, however, it refused to entertain their plea seeking release from the prison. They moved the apex court challenging the high court order.

The high court had said that it cannot exercise powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to

pass a similar order, which was passed by the apex court to release Perarivalan, in the case.

"The directions sought by the petitioner cannot be given by the court, as it otherwise does not have power similar to what the apex court has under Article 142 of the Constitution of India. For the foregoing reasons, the writ petition is dismissed as not maintainable," said the high court in an order passed in June.

On May 18, the Supreme Court invoked its extraordinary powers to do complete justice under Article 142 of the Constitution, as it ordered the release of Perarivalan.

A bench comprising Justices L. Nageswara Rao (retired now), B. R. Gavai, and A S Bopanna said: "In the exceptional facts and circumstances of this case, in exercise of our power under Article 142 of the Constitution, we direct that the Appellant is deemed to have served the sentence in connection with crime.

The Appellant, who is on bail, is set at liberty forthwith". Perarivalan is currently on bail. His death sentence was commuted to life sentence and terrorism charges were withdrawn. The top court took into account Perarivalan's prolonged period of incarceration, his satisfactory conduct in jail as well as during parole, chronic ailments from his medical records, his educational qualifications acquired during incarceration and the pendency of his petition under Article 161 for two and a half years after the recommendation of the state Cabinet.

Army to conduct one of biggest exercises

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Oct 13: One of the biggest exercises in recent times, offensive formations of the Indian Army are preparing to participate in a military exercise in Western India this month, an official statement said Thursday.

The exercise is planned to validate newly converted mechanised formations also known as



Reorganised Plains Infantry Division, test efficacy of latest induction and upgrades in weapons and equip-

ment, and also test the enhanced force ratios accrued post rebalancing of forces on the entire Western Front.

The exercise will put into practice the synergy between all arms and services including attack helicopters in a semi-desert terrain

TMC, Cong criticise VP for remarks on Bengal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 13: The ruling TMC and opposition Congress in West Bengal Thursday criticised Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar for his comments on West Bengal's law and order situation saying they are not befitting for the post he holds.

The BJP state unit came out in support of Dhankhar and said it is good that he is portraying the "true picture" of the state.

Dhankhar speaking at a programme in New Delhi Wednesday said "Law of the ruler, not the rule of law, is the bane of human rights in the state (West Bengal)".

He was speaking at a programme of the NHRC in New Delhi where he recalled that a fact-finding committee of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), formed on the order of the Calcutta High Court over petitions related to alleged post-poll violence in 2021, had said in a report that law of the ruler and not the rule of law prevailed in West Bengal.

Dhankhar was the governor of the state for nearly three years before his elevation as the vice-president of India and had on many occasions engaged in tussles with the Mamata Banerjee government



Dhankhar speaking at a programme in New Delhi Wednesday said "Law of the ruler, not the rule of law, is the bane of human rights in the state (West Bengal)"

over the law and order situation and other issues in the state.

Senior TMC leader Sougata Roy said that it was wrong on Dhankhar's part to make such criticisms.

"The comments by Dhankhar do not behave the post he holds... It was wrong on his part to have

made such comments and we had opposed him back then too (when Dhankhar was the governor), as we do now," the veteran TMC MP added.

TMC MP Santanu Sen said it seems Dhankhar is yet to give up his anti-Bengal views. "Whatever post he may hold, it seems he is yet to shun his anti-Bengal views. We condemn his remarks," Sen said.

TMC had abstained from the vice-presidential election as it did not agree with the process the candidate was decided upon without keeping the party in the loop.

The Congress too slammed Dhankhar and its leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury wondered why he was silent on the worsening law and order situation in the BJP-ruled states.

ED files chargesheet against Rana Ayyub

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a chargesheet against journalist Rana Ayyub under the anti-money laundering law, accusing her of "cheating" the public and utilising charity funds worth Rs 2.69 crore for creating her personal assets, and also violating the foreign contribution law.

The federal agency filed its prosecution complaint against Ayyub before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, October 12. "Rana Ayyub launched three fundraiser charity campaigns on

the 'Ketto platform' starting from April 2020 and collected funds totalling Rs 2,69,44,680," the ED said in a statement issued on Thursday. Ketto is an online crowdfunding platform.

The campaigns, it said, were meant to raise funds for slum dwellers and farmers; relief work for Assam, Bihar and Maharashtra and help Ayyub and her team to help those impacted by COVID-19 in India. The probe found that the funds raised on the online platforms were received in the accounts of Ayyub's father and sister and subsequently transferred to her personal accounts, the ED alleged.



SHORT TAKES

Tree transplantation audit begins in Delhi

New Delhi: The Dehradun-based Forest Research Institute (FRI) has started conducting an audit to assess the "success and survival rate" of all transplanted trees in the national capital, officials said Thursday. The audit will also help ascertain the impact of the tree transplantation policy, an official said. The exercise started around a week ago and the trees transplanted in the south division are being covered at present, he said.

Army rescues 550 tourists

Gangtok: Army provided emergency assistance, including medical care and food, to 550 tourists, who got stuck in north Sikkim for more than eight hours due to landslides at multiple locations and heavy rainfall and brought them back to safe locations, defence officials said Thursday. Defence spokesman, Lt. Col Mahendra Rawat said that the tourists in approximately 150 vehicles were stranded till late Wednesday evening due to landslides at multiple locations and heavy rainfall in between Chungthang to the major tourist destination of Lachung in north Sikkim. Some of the tourists, shivering due to cold conditions, were brought back to the nearest medical facility for further assistance.

Student pushed in front of train, dies

Chennai: In a horrific incident, a 20-year-old woman college student was Thursday pushed in front of a train at St Thomas Mount Railway station here after a heated argument with a man, and crushed to death, police said. Police said that Sathya had a heated argument with Sathesh, 32 who suddenly pushed her in front of a train that was heading toward Tambaram from Egmore.



FLOOD WOES: Residents use a boat to travel at a flood-affected area, near the banks of the Rapti river in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

SHRINKING BIODIVERSITY

69% decline in global wildlife populations since 1970: Report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 13: Wildlife populations monitored across the globe have declined by a massive 69 per cent between 1970 and 2018, according to the WWF's Living Planet Report (LPR) 2022.

Featuring almost 32,000 populations of 5,230 species, the Living Planet Index (LPI) provided in the report shows it is within tropical regions that monitored vertebrate wildlife populations are plummeting at a staggering rate.

"Latin America and the Caribbean regions have seen the largest decline of monitored wildlife populations globally - an average decline of 94 per cent during the pe-

riod," the report said.

Wildlife populations have dipped by 66 per cent in Africa and 55 per cent in Asia Pacific. Freshwater populations have declined by 83 per cent on average compared to other species groups, according to the report.

The IUCN Red List shows cycads are the most threatened species, while corals are declining the fastest, followed by amphibians. Habitat loss and barriers to migration routes are responsible for about half of the threats to monitored migratory fish species, the WWF said.

The report said the main drivers of wildlife population declines are habitat degradation and loss,



- DROP CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, HABITAT LOSS, POLLUTION
NATURE WAS, STILL IS, IN DIRE STRAITS - WWF-UK DIRECTOR
RICH NATIONS TO BE ASKED FOR SUPPORT AT MONTREAL SUMMIT

exploitation, introduction of invasive species, pollution, climate change and disease.

Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International, said: "We face the double emergencies of human-induced climate change and biodiversity loss, threatening the well-being of current and future generations."

"WWF is extremely worried by this new data showing a devastating fall in wildlife populations, in particular in tropical regions that are home to some of the most biodiverse landscapes in the world."

DESPERATE NEED FOR SUPPORT
However, the report offered some glimmers of hope. While the east-

ern lowland gorilla population in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Kahuzi-Biega National Park fell by 80% between 1994 and 2019 due to bushmeat hunting, the mountain gorilla population near Virunga National Park increased from around 400 individuals in 2010 to over 600 by 2018.

Still, the wide-ranging declines have prompted desperate pleas for increased support for nature.

In December, delegates from around the world will gather in Montreal to hash out a new global strategy to protect the world's plants and animals. One of the biggest asks is likely to be increased financing for global conservation efforts.

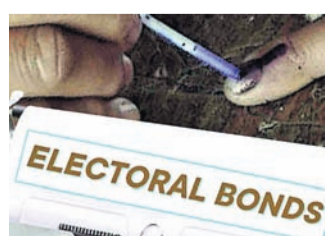
Top court to hear pleas challenging electoral bond scheme today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 13: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Friday a batch of pleas challenging laws permitting funding of political parties through the electoral bond scheme.

Electoral bonds have been pitched as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

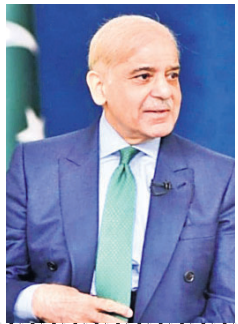
A bench of Justices B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna is likely to take up the PILs by NGO, Association for Democratic Reforms, Communist Party of India (Marxist) and other petitioners.



Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for the NGO, April 5 had mentioned the matter before the then CJI N V Ramana saying the issue was critical and needed an urgent hearing.



# international



**I am absolutely willing and ready to engage with India for the sake of regional peace and prosperity, but the onus is on New Delhi to take the necessary measures for meaningful and result-oriented engagement**  
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PM

## ALARMING SCENARIO

Under a worst-case scenario, half of the coral reef ecosystems worldwide will permanently face unsuitable conditions by 2035, if climate change continues unabated, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Hawaii



## of the day quote

Romania has taken many steps in the right direction in recent years...we can talk about accession to Schengen when all the conditions are met... But the Netherlands is not in principle against Romania's accession  
MARK RUTTE | NETHERLANDS PM

Syrian refugees will start returning to their home country by the end of next week  
MICHEL AOUN | LEBANESE PRESIDENT

The country's goal is to restart building nuclear reactors in order to have 45 nuclear reactors in operation by January 2023, compared to 30 out of 56 operational today  
EMMANUEL MACRON | FRANCE'S PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Bombing kills 18

**Beirut:** A bus bombing Thursday killed 18 Syrian soldiers in a Damascus suburb and wounded at least 27 others, Syria's state media reported citing a military source, as fighting in the country's north picked up. Similar attacks over the past years have killed and wounded dozens of soldiers in government-held parts of the war-torn country. Last March, militants attacked a military bus near Palmyra in central Syria, killing 13 troops and wounding 18 others.

### Nepalese PM sacks 4 ministers

**Kathmandu:** Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Thursday sacked four ministers representing the Janata Samajwadi Party (JSP), which left the ruling coalition last week after joining hands with the CPN-UML for the upcoming polls. "On the recommendation of the prime minister, the President has relieved four ministers of their responsibilities," the Kathmandu Post reported.

### Bomb threat leads to evacuation

**Copenhagen:** A bomb threat against a natural gas processing facility in central Norway forced the site's evacuation and briefly halted operations, police said, adding later that the threat wasn't credible. The incident came amid heightened security on key energy, internet and power infrastructures following last month's underwater explosions that ruptured two natural gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea that were built to deliver Russian gas to Germany.

## Senator from Imran's party held for tweet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Oct 13:** A lawmaker of ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party was arrested here Thursday for accusing Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa of legitimising corruption in the high echelon of the country.

Senator Azam Khan Swati was arrested following his scathing tweet targeting Chief of Army Staff Gen Bajwa. "Mr Bajwa congratulations to you and few with you. Your plan is really working and all criminals are getting free at the cost of this country," he tweeted after the acquittal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz in an alleged money laundering case on Wednesday.

Swati went on to add, "With these thugs getting free you have legitimised corruption. How you predict now the future of this country?". Swati was booked when the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered the First Information Report at its Cyber Crime Reporting Centre in Islamabad.

The FIR read that Swati tweeted with "malafide intentions & ulterior motives" against "State Institutes of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and its Senior Government Functionaries including Chief of The Army Staff of Pakistan Army".

"This is a calculated attempt to create hatred in the minds of people and Army Personnel/s against COAS and Pakistan Army and also created distrust towards the Judicial System. In such intimidating Tweet/s, the accused Muhammad Azam Khan Swati has attempted to provoke the general public and Personnel/s of Armed Forces by trying to create a feeling of ill-will among pillars of the State," according to the FIR.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and his son were absolved of any wrongdoing by a court in Lahore where they faced a case of about Rs 16 billion in money laundering.

# A woman is raped every two hrs in Pak: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Oct 13:** A woman is raped in Pakistan every two hours, according to a recent survey, highlighting the unsafe conditions for women in the country where cases of honour killing is also rampant.

The survey, which was conducted by Pakistani channel SAMAA TV's Investigation Unit (SIU) based on the data collected from the Punjab province's home department and Ministry of Human Rights, also found that while the rape cases of women spiked, the conviction rate remained an abysmal 0.2 per cent.

"Newly collected and compiled data showed that as many as 21,900 women were reported to have been raped in the country from 2017 to 2021. This meant that around 12

women were raped across the country daily, or one woman every two hours," said the survey.

According to the surveyors, these reported cases could be just the tip of the iceberg since societal stigma and fear of retributive violence prevent women from reporting the incidents to the authorities.

The data showed that in 2017, some 3,327 cases of rape were reported. This jumped to 4,456 cases in 2018, 4,573 cases in 2019, dipped to 4,478 cases in 2020 before rising to 5,169 cases in 2021, the report said. In 2022, the media reported 305 rape cases across the country. As many as 57 cases were reported in May, June (91), July (86) and August (71).

Previously media reports have said that in Punjab, around 350



rape cases were reported from May 2022 to August 2022 but no data was available for the first four months of the year. In 2022, as many as 1,301 cases of sexual violence against

women were heard in 44 courts in Pakistan. The police filed charge sheets in 2,856 cases. But only 4 per cent of the cases went to trial, the report said. The conviction rate in

rape cases during this period remained at an abysmal 0.2 per cent, the report highlighted.

In 2020, the United Nations Development Programme ranked Pakistan top among the 75 countries with an anti-women bias in courts. In July this year, a report released by the World Economic Forum placed Pakistan as the second-worst country in terms of gender parity and put it at the 145th spot in a survey of 146 countries. The only worse performer than Pakistan was Afghanistan.

Pakistan (145th) has a population of 107 million women, and in 2022 has closed 56.4 per cent of the gender gap that affects them. This is the highest overall level of parity Pakistan has posted since the WEF report was launched.

## RUSSIA STRIKES MORE UKRAINIAN TOWNS

# NATO CHIEF WARNS RUSSIA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Brussels, Oct 13:** Russian President Vladimir Putin would be crossing a "very important line" if he were to order the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warned Thursday, with the military alliance and Russia both due to hold nuclear exercises in coming days.

NATO is holding its exercise, dubbed "Steadfast Noon," next week. The long-planned maneuvers are conducted around the same time every year and run for about one week. They involve fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear warheads, but do not involve any live bombs.

Russia usually holds its own maneuvers around the same time, and NATO is expecting Moscow's exercise of its nuclear forces sometime this month. Stoltenberg said NATO will "closely monitor" what Russia is up to. Asked what NATO would do if Russia launched a nuclear attack, Stoltenberg said: "We will not go into exactly how we will respond, but of course this will fundamentally change the nature of the conflict. It will mean that a very im-



**Over 40 cities and towns hit by Russian strikes**

**Russian official warns of World War Three if Ukraine joins NATO**

**UN resolution condemns 'illegal' Russian annexation**

**Mykolaiv town 'massively bombed', local officials say**

portant line has been crossed." He added that "even any use of a smaller nuclear weapon will be a very serious thing, fundamentally changing the nature of the war in Ukraine, and of course that would have consequences." Stoltenberg's remarks came after a meeting of NATO's secretive Nuclear Planning Group, which was held among defense ministers

## POLICE ON HIGH ALERT

# Rare protest against Xi days before meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Oct 13:** A rare protest against Chinese President Xi Jinping and his government's rigid zero-Covid policy took place in Beijing, days before he is expected to be handed an unprecedented third term in office at a landmark meeting of the ruling Communist Party.

Photos circulating in social media Thursday showed two banners hung on an overpass of a major thoroughfare in the northwest of the Chinese capital, protesting against Xi's unpopular zero-Covid policy and authoritarian rule.

Unfazed by the rare protests, China Thursday ruled out a rollback of the zero-COVID policy, saying no timeline can be fixed over the restrictions to fight the deadly pandemic, amidst growing frustration over the damage it is inflicting on jobs, businesses, economy and public life.

China has no timeline for an exit from its COVID strategy, a



senior government advisor heading an expert panel bluntly said over the state-run CCTV, dashing hopes that the 20th Congress of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) beginning here on October 16 may modify or reverse the tough policy.

Liang Wannian, who heads China's expert panel on COVID-19, said, "it's not scientifically possible to clearly delineate" while acknowledging public expectations of the rollback of the policy ahead of the Congress, which was widely expected to confer a third term to the President Xi, who is an ardent advocate of the zero-COVID policy.

# Pak epicentre of global terrorism: Lekhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Astana, Oct 13:** India said Thursday that it desired normal relations with all its neighbours, including Pakistan, and advised Islamabad to create a conducive atmosphere, including by taking "credible, verifiable and irreversible actions" to stop cross border terrorism against it and enable the two countries to engage and address issues bilaterally.

Describing Pakistan as the "global epicentre of terrorism," Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi said the neighbouring country continues to be the source of terrorist activities, including in India.

Lekhi's strong statement came after Pakistan Prime Minister

## CICA SUMMIT



Shehbaz Sharif raised the Kashmir issue in his address to the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Astana, Kazakhstan.

In his address, Sharif said that he was "willing" to engage with India, but asserted that the onus remains on New Delhi to take the

**Pakistan is thereby advised to walk the talk by creating a conducive atmosphere, including by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible actions to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross border terrorism against India in any manner**

MEENAKASHI LEKHI | MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

necessary steps "for meaningful and result-oriented engagement". He also accused India of human rights violations in Kashmir.

Hitting back, Lekhi said Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on India's internal affairs.

## TURNING TO GARBAGE DUMPS TO SURVIVE

# Argentines feel the pain of 100% inflation

A century ago Argentina was one of the world's most affluent countries. But in recent years it has slid from one economic crisis to another and has struggled to keep inflation in check

REUTERS



**Buenos Aires, Oct 13:** Argentines facing an inflation rate set to top 100% this year are grappling to survive, turning to recycling from garbage dumps or lining up to trade their belongings in barter clubs.

The South American country is set to post its sharpest rise in prices this year since a period of hyperinflation around 1990, an extreme case even in a world widely battling to tame inflation pushed up by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"My income is no longer enough," said Sergio Omar, who spends 12 hours a day trawling through mountains of waste from a landfill in Lujan, 65 kilometers (40 miles) outside capital Buenos Aires, in search of cardboard, plastic and metal

which he sells.

Omar, 41, said food costs had spiked so much in recent months that it had become hard to feed his family with five kids. He said an increasing number of informal workers would come to the waste dump to find any items they could sell in the struggle to survive.

"Twice as many people are com-

ing here because there is so much crisis," he said, explaining he could make between 2,000 and 6,000 pesos (\$13-\$40) per day selling recyclable waste. At the dump, Reuters saw men and women searching for usable clothing and even food, wading through piles of rubbish where gas given off by the decomposing waste created sudden fires. There were many rats, wild dogs and scavenger birds.

A century ago Argentina was one of the world's most affluent countries. But in recent years it has slid from one economic crisis to another and has struggled to keep inflation in check. Now, prices are rising at the fastest since the 1990s - with existing problems caused by money printing and vicious cycles of price hikes by businesses now compounded by global increases in the costs of fertilizers for farming and gas imports.

Inflation likely rose 6.7% in

September alone, analysts polled by Reuters said, ahead of official data expected to be released on Friday. That has led the central bank to hike the interest rate to 75%, with the possibility of more rises.

Poverty levels were over 36% in the first half of 2022 and extreme poverty rose to 8.8%, some 2.6 million people. Government welfare programs helped prevent it rising higher, but there have been calls by some for more social spending despite limited state funds.

In 2001, during one of Argentina's worst economic crises, Sandra Contreras set up the Lujan Barter Club. That's now taking off again as Argentines, unable to keep up with prices, look to exchange things like old clothes for a bag of flour or pasta. "People come very desperate, their salaries are not enough, things are getting worse day by day," Contreras said.

# 18 flood victims killed in Pakistan bus fire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**Karachi, Oct 13:** At least 18 Pakistanis, including 12 children, were killed in a bus fire as they journeyed home after fleeing catastrophic monsoon flooding, officials and rescue workers said Thursday.

Pakistan has been hit by unprecedented monsoon rains this year, putting a third of the nation underwater, displacing eight million people, and causing \$28 billion worth of devastation.

As the waters slowly recede, thousands of the displaced - many living in ramshackle tent cities - are travelling back to their sodden homes to remake their lives.

Police said the passengers died when the fire broke out overnight on a northbound bus outside the city of Karachi, where they settled after fleeing one of the worst flood-hit areas.

"They were going back to their village when they were overtaken



by this accident," Vinod Kumar, a district health official present at the scene, said.

"Apparently, the fire broke out in the air-conditioning system of the bus but investigations will reveal the real cause," said police officer Hashim Brohi, who was also present.

Pakistan has a dismal record of fatal traffic accidents due to badly maintained vehicles, poor roads, reckless driving and poorly trained emergency services.



# business

## of the day quote

ICRA estimates that the 13 state governments have the fiscal space to incur capital spending of as much as ₹7.4 trillion in FY2023, rivalling the size of the GoI's capex budgeted for this fiscal

**ADITI NAYAR** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

The bank will diversify the asset base and exposure to secured loans will grow to 70 per cent by 2025

**CHANDRA SEKHAR GHOSH** | MD & CEO, BANDHAN BANK

Domestic capital is seen to flow across asset acquisitions, with credit in multiple asset classes with varied pooled structures

**PYVUSH GUPTA** | MD (CAPITAL MARKETS AND INVESTMENT SERVICES), COLLIERIES INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Infosys Q2 net profit rises 11%

**New Delhi:** Infosys Thursday posted an 11 per cent year-on-year rise in consolidated net profit to ₹6,021 crore for the September quarter and also announced a share buyback programme worth ₹9,300 crore. The IT major will also pay an interim dividend totalling ₹6,940 crore to the shareholders. The company has fixed October 28 as record date for interim dividend and November 10 as the payout date. The net profit of India's second largest IT services company stood at ₹5,421 crore in the same period a year ago. According to a regulatory filing, the revenue rose 23.4 per cent year-on-year to ₹36,538 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal. The same stood at ₹29,602 crore in the year-ago period. Infosys has also announced a share buyback worth ₹9,300 crore. Under the buyback programme, the price will not exceed ₹1,850 per equity share. The price is 30 per cent higher than the company's closing price of ₹1,419.7 apiece Thursday.

### US inflation edges down to 8.2%

**Washington:** US inflation jumped more than expected in September with price increases for food, shelter, and medical care weighing on consumers, according to data out Thursday, the final consumer inflation report before midterm elections. Prices rose 0.4 percent in September compared to August, twice the 0.2 percent projected by analysts even as the annual rate slowed slightly to 8.2 percent from 8.3 percent. Meanwhile, US markets rose sharply before the opening bell October 13 ahead of US inflation data that could buttress the Federal Reserve's position on the need for more aggressive interest rate hikes.

### Wipro shares fall 7% on lower profit

**New Delhi:** Shares of Wipro Thursday dipped 7 per cent after the IT Services major reported a decline in profit for the September quarter. On the BSE, the stock fell 7.03 per cent to end at ₹379.10 apiece. The scrip tanked 6.95 per cent to settle at ₹379.60 apiece on the NSE. On both the bourses, the company's shares hit their respective 52-week lows in early trade. It further reached the intra-day low of ₹381.50 on the BSE and ₹381.30 on the NSE. Wipro reported a 9.3 per cent fall in net profit for the September quarter at ₹2,659 crore Wednesday. In the year-ago period, the same was at ₹2,930.6 crore. However, on a sequential basis, profit rose 3.72 per cent in the quarter under review, from ₹2,563.6 crore in the previous June quarter.

# OPEC+ oil supply cuts could tip world into recession: IEA

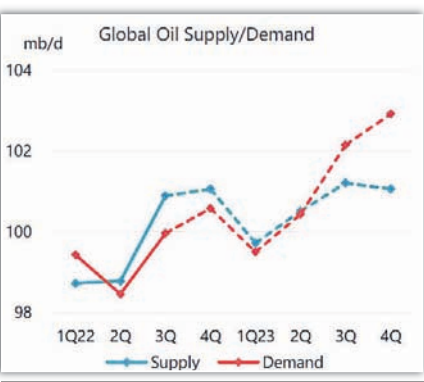
Any big disruption to Russian oil flows even to non-EU and non-G7 buyers could raise prices worldwide, however, and heap economic pain on citizens of the sanctioning nations already grappling with high inflation and costs of living

REUTERS

**London, Oct 13:** A decision by the OPEC+ oil producer group last week to rein in output has driven up prices and could push the global economy into recession, the International Energy Agency said Thursday.

"The relentless deterioration of the economy and higher prices sparked by an OPEC+ plan to cut supply are slowing world oil demand," the Paris-based agency, which includes the United States and other top consumer countries, said. "With unrelenting inflationary pressures and interest rate hikes taking their toll, higher oil prices may prove the tipping point for a global economy already on the brink of recession," it added in its monthly oil report.

The warning from the agency highlights a rift with Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and OPEC's de facto leader. OPEC+, the producer group comprising the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) plus allies including Russia, announced its new production tar-



US accused Saudi of kowtowing to Moscow, which objects to a Western cap on the price of Russian oil in response to its invasion of Ukraine

get after weeks of lobbying by US officials against such a move. US President Joe Biden vowed unspecified "consequences" for relations with Saudi Arabia after the OPEC+ move, but Riyadh rejected criticism and said the move was not

political and aimed at balancing the market and curbing volatility. Actual supply losses will likely be around 1 million barrels per day and not the 2 million barrels announced by the OPEC+ bloc, which unites the producer club

## Saudi defends OPEC+ oil cut decision

Saudi Arabia rejected as "not based on facts" criticism of an OPEC+ decision last week to cut its oil production target despite US objections, and said Washington's request to delay the cut by a month would have had negative economic consequences. The OPEC+ decision was adopted through consensus, took into account the balance of supply and demand and was aimed at curbing market volatility, the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement Thursday. The OPEC+ cut has raised concerns in Washington about the possibility of higher gasoline prices ahead of the November US midterm elections, with the Democrats trying to retain their control of the House of Representatives and Senate. The Saudi foreign ministry statement Thursday referred to consultations with the United States prior to the Oct 5 OPEC+ meeting in which it was asked to delay the cuts by a month. The Saudi foreign ministry statement, quoting an unnamed official, stressed the "purely economic context" of the oil cut.

and allies like Russia, the IEA said. The EU this month endorsed a plan by the G7 club of wealthy nations to impose a cap on prices for

Russian oil exports, a complex set of new global sanctions aimed at depriving Moscow of revenue for its invasion of Ukraine.

# 'India needs key reforms for \$10trn GDP'

The slowdown between 2022-23 is going to reflect basically, the fact that the global economy is slowing down. The external factors are weighing down on today's economy resulting in high energy prices, the slowdown in external demand and the weakening of global confidence in general

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Oct 13:** India has emerged as "a bright light" at a time when the world is facing imminent prospects of a recession, the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Wednesday, noting that the country, however, needed key structural reforms in order to achieve the ambitious target of being a \$10 trillion economy.

Responding to a question on the ambitious goal of India becoming a \$10 trillion economy, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, chief economist of the IMF told PTI that he certainly believes this is achievable. "Well, India is, I want to say, sort of bright light. The Indian economy has been doing reasonably well," he said. "I mean, we've seen a number of countries grow at very fast rates in the past and really develop very rapidly. So, I think it's certainly, now it's not necessarily an easy task, but I think, yes, there is certainly an enormous potential for an economy like India," he added. To do so, India needs to carry out a number of structural reforms, he observed. "Well, there are certainly a number of structural reforms that are or improvements are needed in the economy like India.

India is one of the largest economies. So, when it's really growing at solid rates like 6.8 or 6.1, it is really noticeable. In a picture where all the other economies and advanced economies, rarely grow at that speed, but even other large countries don't do as well in the current year or next year in our projections. So it's certainly extending out

■ 'India's ambitious goal of becoming \$10 trillion economy achievable'

■ IMF projected a growth rate of 6.8% in 2022 as compared to 8.7% in 2021 for India. The projection for 2023 slides down further to 6.1%

There have been a number of reforms already," he said. For instance, India is very much at the forefront of digitalisation, he said. The way these digital tools can be deployed to improve financial inclusion or to facilitate access to administrative services, and things like that. And that is a testimony to the sort of innovation in that sector that is happening in India, he observed. "But beyond that, there are needs for reforms that will actually boost potential growth. It's not just about stabilising the economy around the potential growth that it has right now. In order to unleash India's potential, a lot of reforms have to be implemented that will



boost productivity growth," Gourinchas replied to a question. "Here, of course, we can think about improvements on the health side, we can think about improvements on the education side, social spending, digital literacy and access, we can think about infrastructure," he suggested.

"There is a range of areas where, you know, public infrastructure broadly defined, not just in terms of buildings and roads, but also investing in human, investing in people and human capital, health, education, etc. Is going to help the economy really, really grow very fast on a continuous basis," said the IMF chief economist.

## Deployment of cash transfer scheme is a logistical marvel: IMF

**Washington:** India's deployment of a direct cash transfer scheme and other similar social welfare programmes is a "logistical marvel", the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said. "From India, there is a lot to learn. There is a lot to learn from some other examples around the world. We have examples from pretty much every continent and every level of income. If I look at the case of India, it is actually quite impressive," Paolo Mauro, Deputy Director of the Fiscal Affairs Department at the IMF, told reporters at a news conference here. "In fact, just because of the sheer size of the country, it is a logistical marvel how these programmes that seek to help people who are at low-income levels reach literally hundreds of millions of people," he said in response to a question on the impressive direct cash transfer programme being successfully implemented by the Indian government. "In the case of India, one thing that is striking is the use of the unique identification system, the Aadhaar," Mauro said. "So being somewhat innovative in identifying people, in processing their applications for transfers through digital means, deploying funds through, again, mobile banking. This is something that countries can learn from each other. We also try here to be a little bit of a convening place where people can compare these types of experiences," he said.

## Digitisation a game changer for Indian economy: IMF chief

Applauding India's digitisation efforts, the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the move was a game changer as it had allowed the Indian government to do things that would have been extremely difficult otherwise. "Digitisation is helping along a number of dimensions. One is financial inclusion, obviously because there are a lot of people in countries like India that were unbanked. And having access to digital wallets is a way in which they can enter into transactions that are not just cash transactions, which are very inefficient," Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the chief economist of IMF, told PTI in an interview in response to a question about India's digitisation efforts. "I think it (digitisation) has allowed the (Indian) government to do things that would have been extremely difficult to do otherwise. Yes (it is a game changer). It is certainly something that is a very welcome development," Gourinchas suggested. "So that's a huge plus in terms of bringing people into a more modern economy. That's a factor for growth," he said, adding that your market becomes very different if you are plugged into this digital instrument.

## Ranjan new FGM of Union Bank of India

**Bhubaneswar:** Sarvesh Ranjan has joined as the new Field General Manager (FGM) of Union Bank of India, Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar. Prior to this, he was working as the General Manager in Strategy Department of Union Bank's Head Office. Ranjan, joined the bank in 1996, having wide experience of working in various key positions in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar and West Bengal. During his 26 years services he has worked 8 years in various branches and rest of the time worked in administrative office and also as a principal in staff training college, Bangalore. It is to be noted that, the bank has 6 regional offices under Bhubaneswar Zone and the bank is rendering customer service through the branches, having 2nd largest branch network in the state next to SBI branches. Ranjan, who prioritises customer satisfaction utmost, will likely to give more emphasis to satisfy the customers leading to multifold business growth.



## Stop building offshore mkt positions: RBI to banks

**Mumbai:** The Reserve Bank of India, seeking to arrest the rupee's slide, is asking local banks to not build additional positions in the non-deliverable forward market, a move that could lead to offshore volatility spilling into local markets, bankers and traders said. The build-up of positions in this segment of the market is forcing the RBI to spend more reserves to defend the rupee, one of the bankers said. The RBI's informal communication to local bankers is a step back from the directions it issued in June 2020, when it allowed banks operating from the International Financial Services Centre Banking Units to trade in the NDF segment. The central bank's move in 2020 came after studies showed that the foreign bank-dominated NDF market, over which the RBI had little influence, fuelled volatility and often led the spot rupee lower in times of stress. However, increased trading in the segment has created higher demand for dollars at a time when the spot rupee is already under pressure, forcing the RBI to intervene through dollar sales.

## 1 IN 2 INDIAN SWAMPED WITH PROMOTIONAL TEXTS

# Meta-owned WhatsApp now a spam factory

Financial services, real estate services, and pathology services are top sectors sending spam SMS as well spam WhatsApp, indicating the same offenders are now spamming using both channels

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** Meta-owned WhatsApp has become a spam factory as more than one in two Indians now say that they are facing four or more spam messages each day,

a report showed. Despite clear norms laid by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on unsolicited communication, consumers still face unwanted calls, SMS (short messaging services) and WhatsApp messages from vendors, telemarketers, banks, insurance brokers, car dealers, pathology labs, property and other investment agents, among others. About 68 per cent mobile subscribers, on an average, receive 4 or more promotional or spam messages every day with every subscriber surveyed getting spam, according to online community platform LocalCircles. About 95 per cent of WhatsApp



subscribers surveyed got spam while every mobile subscriber surveyed got it. About 77 per cent mobile subscribers surveyed want the TRAI to work with telcos and enable mark spam feature with each SMS. There were reports that the Department of Telecommunication

(DOT) has decided to levy fines ranging from ₹1,000 per violation for zero-10 breaches, ₹5,000 each for 10-50 violations, and ₹10,000 each for more than 50 violations by registered telemarketers. However, the telecom authority has not issued any notification in the regard. "Unsolicited SMS, not to be confused with communication from government or any other authorised source, is a misuse of citizens' personal data. Many people face issues of unwanted messages and calls made to them by fraudsters, spammers, telemarketers, despite registering on TRAI's Do Not Call Registry (NDNS)," the findings showed. Last year, around 93 million phone numbers registered with

the TRAI's NDNS were kept on sale on the Darknet, according to reports. WhatsApp Business was rolled out a few years ago and in 2021, the company mandated that users of the platform must receive messages from WhatsApp Business (based on their usage of WhatsApp and parent platform Facebook) for them to continue using the platform, according to LocalCircles report. While users resisted this initially and started using alternate platforms like Signal and Telegram, over time most gave up and accepted the revised terms. About 77 per cent said that TRAI should work with telcos to mandatorily embed mark spam in each SMS message so users can easily report spammers.

## ROBUST FESTIVE DEMAND

### PV wholesales scale 10L peak in Sept qtr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 13:** Passenger vehicle wholesales in India crossed the 10 lakh quarterly mark for the first time in the September quarter as automakers pushed units to dealers to cater to the festive demand, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers said Thursday. As per the latest data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), passenger vehicle wholesales in the September quarter increased by 38 per cent to 10,26,309 units, as against 7,41,442 units in the similar period of the last fiscal. "More than half of the overall passenger vehicle dispatches are utility vehicles so there is a strong demand for models in this particular segment," SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal told reporters here.

While the utility vehicles comprising popular sports utility vehicles continue to do well, other segments like entry level cars and sedans continue to struggle with tapering demand, he added. Utility vehicle dispatches in the September quarter stood at 5,17,898 units; passenger cars at 4,68,513 units and vans at 29,904 units. The passenger vehicle segment had recorded the previous best quarterly figures in the fourth quarter of 2020-21 with dispatch of 9.33 lakh units to dealers.



# INDIA SAIL INTO FINAL, FACE SL Eves look to salvage pride

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sylhet, Oct 13: A dominant India crushed minnows Thailand by 74 runs to storm into the final and remain on course for a record-extending seventh women's Asia Cup title here Thursday. The win over Thailand took India to their eighth straight Asia Cup final — four each in ODI and T20 formats. Before 2012, the tournament was a 50-over-a-side affair.

The semifinal contest against Thailand was always expected to be a cakewalk for India and it turned out to be so. India posted 148/6 after being sent in to bat and then restricted Thailand to 74/9 in the lopsided contest.

India play Sri Lanka in the final Saturday. Sri Lanka eked out a thrilling one run win over Pakistan in the second semifinal. Chasing the target against India, Thailand were never in the hunt as they lost wickets at regular intervals.

The Thai women, however, fared much better than their previous outing against India in the league stage, where they were crushed by nine wickets. In that match, the Indians bundled out Thailand for just 37 runs in 15.1 overs and then chased down the target with consummate ease.

Thursday, the Thai women gave a better account of themselves with the bat despite being reduced to 21/4 in the eighth over. Deepthi Sharma (3/7) did most of the damage with her off-spin, picking up the first three Thai wickets in consecutive overs. Medium pacer Renuka Singh (1/6) then



**PERFORMERS OF THE DAY:** Deepti Sharma (without cap) celebrates a wicket with her skipper Harmanpreet Kaur; Shafali Verma plays a shot to leg-side during her innings against Thailand, Thursday

cleaned Chanida Sutthiruang as Thailand's chase fell apart.

Captain Naruemol Chaiwai (21) and Nattaya Boochatham (21) showed some resistance with the bat with a 42-run stand for the fifth wicket. Once the duo departed, the Indian bowlers ran through Thailand lower-order batting line-up. Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/10), Shafali Verma (1/10) and Sneha Rana (1/16) were the other wicket takers for India.

Earlier, invited to bat, Shafali was at her destructive best, top-scoring for India with a 28-ball 42

with the help of five boundaries and one hit over the fence. Together with Smriti Mandhana, Shafali shared 38 runs in 4.3 overs before the former hit a low full toss from Phannitha Maya straight to Onnichia Kamchomphai at mid on.

Jemimah Rodrigues (27) then joined Shafali, who departed after a 29-run stand. Jemimah too got out in the 14th over. Tippoch had two wickets, including the wicket of Harmanpreet Kaur, in successive overs to reduce India to 132/5 in the 18th over. Kaur looked in good nick

and laced her 30-ball 36 with four hits to the fence.

Towards the end, Pooja Vastrakar hit a quick 13-ball 17 with the help of a six to take India close to the 150-run mark. Sornnarin Tippoch was the best bowler for Thailand with figures of 3/24.

**Brief scores:** India Women 148/6 (Shafali Verma 42, Harmanpreet Kaur 36; Sornnarin Tippoch 3/24) beat Thailand 74/9 (Naruemol Chaiwai 21, Nattaya Boochatham 21; Deepti Sharma 3/7, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/10) by 74 runs.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 13:** A crushing 0-8 defeat in the opening match denting their confidence severely, India would look to pick up the pieces and salvage some pride when they play Morocco in their second group match of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup here Friday.

The hapless Indians suffered a 0-8 thrashing at the hands of rampaging USA in their opening match Tuesday, and Thomas Dennerby's side will look to forget the disappointing result and focus on getting at least a point against Morocco in the Group A battle between the debutants.

It won't be an easy match for India though, as Morocco had made it to the age-group showpiece after a strong show in the African qualifying tournament where they had beaten Ghana in penalty shootout. India, on the other hand, were automatic qualifiers as tournament hosts. The Indians were simply overwhelmed by a technically and physically far superior American side, but they would hope to 'play their game' against Morocco.

"We have a good chance against Morocco tomorrow. If we can show the right attitude, we can score and get some points," Dennerby said Thursday. "We need to fight it out, we have no other option left."

The match against Morocco will be the best chance for India to get points as they will be up against traditional powerhouse and title contenders Brazil in their last group match October 17.

Before the tournament Dennerby



Indian players go through their training drills in the presence of head coach Thomas Dennerby in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

had said that India would be a difficult team to score against, but the defence, of which captain Astam Oraon was a part, had an off day against the Americans letting in goals after goals.

The taller and stronger Americans scored multiple goals from corner kicks and India would look to avoid repeating the same mistake against Morocco, who will not have that much physical advantage.

The Atlas Lionesses, who lost 0-1 to Brazil, are an unknown side for India, more so because teams do not play many international matches at this age group beyond continental or global tournaments.

Against Brazil Tuesday, Morocco were left to defend for most part of the match though they had four shots at the opposition goal. Brazil could have won by a much bigger margin had their forwards not

missed easy chances. They had 17 shots at Morocco goal.

India need to try their own game Friday, and Dennerby would be hoping that his players will do that against a less fancied Morocco.

"Morocco are a strong team, who defends well. They are technically good with their passing game, the accuracy is also impressive," said the Swede.

"We have watched them play against Brazil and scoring against them will be a challenge. But for us, it is either a win or out of tournament. It's a chance to handle the game in a better way and show India certainly can play a better brand of football," Dennerby said.

"The girls need to play free football and they should avail every chance that comes their way. If they are afraid to hold on to the ball, then they may lose the game immediately."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### SHOOTERS BAG BRONZE AT WORLDS

**CAIRO:** India began their ISSF World Championship campaign with a bronze in the women's 25m pistol team junior competition here Thursday. The trio of Esha Singh, Naamya Kapoor and Vibhuti Bhatia demolished team Germany 17-1 in the bronze medal match to get India on the medal tally on day one of the competition. Esha, Naamya and Vibhuti finished fourth in the first round of qualification with a score of 856 to make it to the next stage in third position. In the next round they shot 437 to finish behind the Germans in fourth position to qualify for the bronze medal match. China won the gold in the event while Korea bagged silver. In the men's 50m rifle prone junior competition, Surya Pratap Singh (608.7) finished 13th, Pankaj Mukheja (608.5) 14th, Harsh Singla (606.0) 20th while Adriyan Karmakar (603.7) ended in 27th place. In the 50m rifle prone mixed team junior competition, Surya Pratap Singh and Nishchal shot 619.1 to finish second in the stage while Nupur Kumawat and Pankaj Mukheja shot a combined 612.4 to finish seventh.

### INDIA LOSE SECOND WARM-UP GAME

**PERTH:** India's star-studded batting line-up belied expectations as the team lost to Western Australia by 36 runs in their second T20 World Cup warm-up match here Thursday. Inaugural edition champions India laboured to 132/8 in 20 overs chasing 169. India had won the opening warm-up match by 13 runs. D'Arcy Short smashed 52 off 38 balls and Nick Hobson hammered 64 off 41 balls to take Western Australia to 168/8 in the stipulated 20 overs. R Ashwin was the pick of India's bowlers, taking three wickets in an over. Pacer Arshdeep Singh was impressive again in his three overs while under-fire Harshal Patel returned with tidy figures of 2/27 in four overs. Stand-in captain KL Rahul batted well for India with a 74 off 45 balls.

### WOMEN'S IPL SET FOR MARCH WITH 5 TEAMS

New Delhi: The much-awaited inaugural edition of Women's IPL will have five teams and is set to take place in March 2023 before the start of men's IPL. As per a BCCI note accessed by PTI, the tournament will feature 20 league games with teams to play each other twice. The table toppers will get a direct entry into the final, while the second and third place teams will battle out in the Eliminator. Each team can comprise maximum of 18 players where no team can have more than six overseas players. Each team can have no more than five overseas cricketers in the playing eleven. The board also thinks with limited number of teams, the home-and-away format will not be feasible. The event is expected to take place soon after the Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa from February 9-26.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Geneva, Oct 13:** Barcelona were twice dragged back from the precipice of a humiliating Champions League elimination by Robert Lewandowski's late goals. An instant classic at Camp Nou Wednesday saw Barcelona draw 3-3 with Inter Milan and barely cling to a slim hope of advancing to the round of 16.

Atletico Madrid is also on the brink after failing to score for a third straight game. No such worries for Bayern Munich and unheralded Club Brugge who each advanced to the knockout stage with two rounds to spare as leaders of groups where Spanish powers are slumping in third place.

Free-scoring Napoli also progressed with a 4-2 win over Ajax to kick off a stunning evening in the Champions League that delivered 36 goals in eight games.

Mohamed Salah set a competi-



**TOUGH NIGHT:** Robert Lewandowski (No.9) reacts after scoring against Inter

tion record with a hat-trick in 6 minutes, 12 seconds — as a substitute midway through the second half — in Liverpool's 7-1 blitz at Rangers.

Though it may just have been a stay of execution for Barcelona, the five-time European champions were grateful to be alive after a thrilling

final few minutes against Inter.

Barcelona trailed 1-2 in the 82nd minute and were going out until Lewandowski's shot was deflected into the Inter Milan net. The Italians led again in the 89th, when Robin Gosens finished a fast break, but Lewandowski rose again two minutes into stoppage time to head

another leveler.

There was still time for Inter to waste chances to win, Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen to make two more saves, and Inter coach Simone Inzaghi to be shown a red card.

Still, Inter now hold the head-to-head tie-breaker over Barcelona and will join Bayern advancing from Group C by beating over-matched Viktoria Plzen in two weeks' time. Bayern had a four-goal lead after just 35 minutes at Plzen but let their perfect defensive record slip in the second half of a 4-2 win.

Brugge goalkeeper Simon Mignolet ran his clean sheet streak to four games in a 0-0 draw at Atletico, to move four points clear of Porto and six clear of Atletico with the head-to-head tie-breaker. Porto's 3-0 win at Bayer Leverkusen.

Tottenham lead Group D for the first time after beating Eintracht Frankfurt 3-2, with first goals from Son Heung-min either side of a Harry Kane penalty.



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