

## Naveen abolishes contractual system

Over 57,000 employees will be benefited by the move while the govt will bear an expenditure of ₹1,300 crore per annum



The fragile financial conditions were the biggest challenges for him.

The state was running on overdraft and the government was dependent on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for ways and means, said Patnaik, adding, "It was indeed a black period for Odisha's economy. The state exchequer was empty. There was tremendous pressure on our economy. We were lagging behind in various fields including health, education, infrastructure, agriculture, irrigation

and many others."

At that time his priority was to bring improvement in all these sectors within limited resources. With this condition, his government had stopped recruitment completely, he said.

"We were forced to abolish government posts and it was very painful for me. The youths of my state were running from pillar to post for employment with the government. I was really very sad," said the Chief Minister.

Patnaik said he was always worried for—when would the situation improve and when would the children get regular recruitment in the state government. With the blessings of Lord Jagannath, the support of people, better financial management and good governance, the situation started to improve slowly, he added. **Continued on P4**



**INDIA REIGN SUPREME:** Indian women's cricket team win the Asia Cup T20 tournament, their seventh continental title, with a comprehensive eight-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the final at Sylhet in Bangladesh, Saturday. PIC: ESPNCRICINFO

## Khurda girl kills self as intimate pictures go viral

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Khurda/Nirakarapur, Oct 15:** A minor girl under Nirakarapur police limits in Khurda district committed suicide owing to the mental trauma that she had after her intimate pictures went viral on social media. The deceased was a Plus II first-year student.

Sources said a youth of the minority community was having a one-sided affair with the girl. He would stalk and harass her when the latter was on her way to the college. Moreover, the youth's family members were also mentally harassing the girl.



When the girl's family members lodged a complaint in this regard with Nirakarapur police, the enraged the youth reached the girl's house Friday and threatened her of dire consequences. He hurled abuses at the girl and threatened to kill her by throwing acid. Unnerved, the girl's mother lodged a written complaint at Nirakarapur police station on the same day.

The victim took the extreme step after the youth uploaded some intimate pictures of her on social media which later went viral.

On being informed, Balugaon SDPO and Nirakarapur police reached the village and started an investigation. Police sent the body for post-mortem and detained the family members of the accused before interrogating them. Further investigations are on to unravel the truth, police said.

## Hunger in India 'serious'

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka have all fared better than India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 15: India has slipped six positions in Global Hunger Index 2022 and ranked 107 out of 121 countries with its child wasting rate at 19.3 per cent, being the highest in the world.

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional and national levels.

With a score of 29.1, the level of hunger in India has been labelled 'serious'.

In Asia, Afghanistan with a rank of 109 is the only country behind India. Neighbouring countries - Pakistan



In 2021, India ranked 101 out of 116 countries while in 2020 the country was placed at 94th position

Undernourishment prevalence rose in India from 14.6% in 2018-2020 to 16.3% in 2019-2021

At 19.3%, India's child wasting rate, a strong predictor of infant mortality, is the highest in the world

(99), Bangladesh (84), Nepal (81) and Sri Lanka (64) have all fared better than India.

In 2021, India ranked 101 out of 116 countries while in 2020 the country was placed at 94th position.

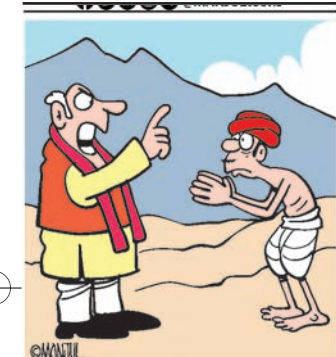
South Asia, the region with the world's highest hunger level, has the highest child stunting rate and by far the highest child wasting rate in the world, the report said.

"India's child wasting rate, at 19.3 per cent, is the highest of any country in the world and drives up the region's average owing to India's large population," it said.

India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan each have child stunting rates between 35 and 38 per cent, with Afghanistan's rate being the highest in the region.

**Continued on P4**

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We've given you so many religious places to pray. Now, please don't approach us with your prayers

### SHORT TAKES

#### 'Pak one of the most dangerous nations'

**Washington:** US President Joe Biden said Pakistan may be "one of the most dangerous nations in the world" as the country has "nuclear weapons without any cohesion". He made the remarks while addressing a Democratic congressional campaign committee reception, Dawn news reported. A transcript of the address, published on the White House's website Friday, quoted Biden as saying: "And what I think is maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world: Pakistan." **MORE P10**

#### Mother Dairy raises milk prices by ₹2

**NEW DELHI:** After Amul, another dairy major Mother Dairy has raised its milk prices by ₹2 per litre on full cream and cow milk variants with effect from Sunday. A Mother Dairy spokesperson said that the dairy industry has been experiencing a consistent surge in raw milk prices, which has increased by about ₹3/kg in the last two months alone, owing to multifold increase in varied input costs. "Increased fodder prices and low rainfall in some northern states have aggravated the situation," the spokesperson said.

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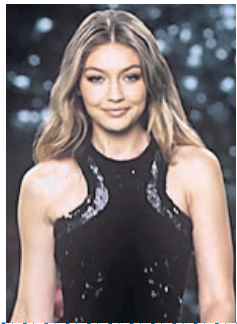
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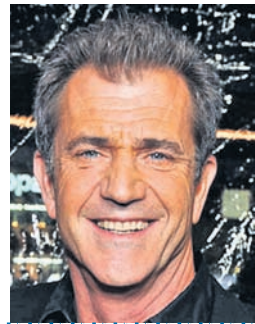


## GIGI CONFESSES SUFFERING FROM IMPOSTER SYNDROME

Supermodel Gigi Hadid expressed that she's not very different from the rest of us as she launched her fashion brand and admits that she has imposter syndrome.

## GIBSON TO TESTIFY AGAINST HARVEY WEINSTEIN IN LA TRIAL

Actor Mel Gibson to be called to testify against Weinstein at producer's upcoming Los Angeles rape trial, prosecutors want to call the actor to support the allegations of Jane Doe 3, who claims that Weinstein sexually assaulted her after she gave him a massage at his hotel in 2010



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Today, you will appreciate beautiful things and exotic artefacts. You may even seriously think of pursuing a business related to such commodities. However, you may not be able to make up your mind, says Ganesh. However, you will decide to keep an open mind about it.

**TAURUS**  
You may find it hard to stop the impending outflow of cash while shopping today, says Ganesh. You aren't the one to be dominated and God help anyone who tries to dictate terms to you today. You may end up spending a small fortune, more than lavish to be precise, on the opposite sex today.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you are likely to get encouragement and support for your endeavours from all quarters. You have a gift of gab and your ability to dispel tension with even the simplest of your remarks will be put to test. Still, you will rise to the occasion and prove your mettle.

**CANCER**  
If you are a stockbroker, you may feel that things are not going too well for you. Today, you may regret being a stockbroker. Manufacturers must delay the launch of a new product. However, after a waiting game, you may go on to launch the product with a fanfare.

**LEO**  
Everyone wants to be different. But little do they realise that they already are unique, says Ganesh. Today, you may meet a lot of such different people at work, some of whom may even test your patience. Always remember that working in a team means balancing a variety of egos and opinions.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh says don't let setbacks cow you down today as you will emerge stronger from each one of them. It will be your logic and reasoning abilities that will aid you in gaining the perfection in completing your work. You may look forward to spending the evening with your beloved or a special friend. You will be engrossed in an animated conversation.

**LIBRA**  
Being in charge was never easy, but it's not for nothing that leaders are made of sterner stuff. As a person in charge, you are expected to give directions in a manner that gets the best efforts out of your juniors. Move away from traditional dictatorial style, and build a consensus that enables you to pull off the spectacular, says Ganesh.

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

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

**CAPRICORN**  
You will starve for some free time, but will find it difficult to steal even a minute from your busy schedule, even if it is for unwinding your overworked soul, says Ganesh. In times like these, one can hardly think straight, let alone be innovative.

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

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

## Tamannaah has no time for personal life

**Tamil Nadu:** Working across Indian film industries has kept Tamannaah Bhatia on her toes. While she has kept herself focused, and is always on the move, her parents on the other hand hope and wish for something beyond.

Tamannaah says that her parents want to see her happily married and settled. She shares, "The thing is that I work 26 hours a day! Like while I am talking to you, I am getting calls from my mother that are going unanswered as I am busy working. She is just fed up with my busy schedule." She further adds, "Like every Indian household, my parents want me to get married too. But what do I do I have no time for my personal life."

She explains, "I do believe in the institution of marriage, and I do want to get married and have kids. But for now, I don't have much of a life. I really enjoy my work a lot. I think it (a film set) is a place where I feel most comfortable. Had I had more energy I would work all the more".



## (IDFFB): DAY 2 Films on LGBTQIA+ community challenge the audience



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** The second day of the three-day film festival began with the screening of 'Not Just Roads' in Zone 1, a film by Nitin Bathla depicts the massive urban transformation underway in India, capturing the story of a highway outside Delhi from the perspective of human and non-human actors.

This was followed by the screening of 'New Classroom' by Debankon Singh based in the capital City of India where a young boy is navigating virtual schooling at home, while the pandemic ravages the country. This film won the Best Short Documentary award at the (Kerala Film Festival) IDSFFK 2022.

Thereafter, 'Hriday Bosat' also called (A Home For My Heart) by Sankhajit Biswas was screened which portrays, Suvana Sudeb, a transgender person negotiating the conflict of body and mind by undergoing Gender

Affirmative Surgery. This was followed by an interactive session with the director in which he addressed the audience answering their questions on making of the film and how the movie was both his and Suvana Sudeb's, the protagonist. The film deals with the personal, psychological and social vulnerability experienced by transgender individuals undergoing transition. "Through this movie I have tried to plunge myself under the skin and explore the layers of complexity that comes with being transgender in the Indian society, their continuous yearning for love and appreciation", Biswas said.

Post lunch, screening resumed with a 17 minute film by Amit Dutta, screened in association with IFA, 'Wittgenstein Plays Chess With Duchamp: Or How Not To Do Philosophy' which attempts to push the boundaries of cinema by integrating in it ideas from philosophy, visual art, chess, mathematics, geometry, linguistics and psychology.



Director Sankhajit Biswas addressing audience. OP PHOTO



Director Debalina Majumdar interacting post film screening. OP PHOTO

Following that was 'Dukhu Majhi' by Somnath Mondal, about the titular old man who lives with his family in a remote village at the foothill of Ayodhya, about 350 kms from Kolkata. 'Gay India Matrimony' by Debalina Majumdar was screened next which revolved around three characters that are out exploring their same-gender marriage prospects with one of them documenting their travails. There was a lively interaction with the director who engaged with the audience and took their questions about her work.

She talked about her film making process and the situation of the LGBTQIA+ community in the contemporary India.

Another film that caught attention was 'Meiram' by James Khangenbam. This was in special focus alongside 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' by Payal Kapadia which had won the best documentary award at Cannes Film Festival in 2021, and explores the situation of public funded educational institutions, the pressures put on them and how they have to struggle for the dream of a just society.

## Parineeti braves for action sequence

**Mumbai:** Indian actress Parineeti Chopra, who is seen doing action sequences in 'Code Name Tiranga' talks about shooting for the film in Turkey under extreme weather conditions and temperatures below ten degrees. She said, "There was a scene which was shot on a boat. During the shoot, it was around -10 to -11 degrees and the whole unit was completely covered up with jackets, mufflers, and masks whereas I was given a black half-sleeve T-shirt. Nobody will know how many blankets were kept on my leg as we were on the boat and a strong wind was blowing and it was supposed to be my entry shot."

Parineeti, who is known for her roles in movies such as 'Shuddh Desi Romance', 'Hasee Toh Phasee' and others also, opened up about doing an action movie and not just confining herself to the romantic genre.

People calling me adorable, cute, and bubbly, honestly I was bored of hearing that. Being offered this action movie, I did not even think twice before being an action heroine. It's been 10 years in the industry. I really wanted to do something 'hatke' (different)," she concluded.



## Ranveer interacts with Bennett Univ students



**New Delhi:** Indian actor Ranveer Singh may be buzzing on and off screen, but despite his mercurial and off-kilter personality; he is a role model for millions of young Indians, too. Building on his aura, Ranveer today interacted with students of Bennett University in Delhi, entertaining the young minds with his wit and witticism.

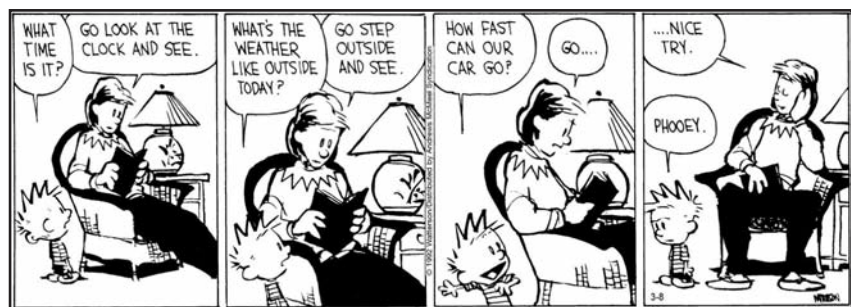
Addressing the students, Ranveer said, "Don't let anyone tell you what you can and what you can't do. You can be anything that you want to be". He further tried to inspire the young minds by saying, "If you are truly passionate about something nothing can stop you from excelling at doing it".

Emphasizing the privilege and importance of good education, he added, "You have been empowered by brilliant education, now use the power of that education and shape your own destiny. Above all be kind and compassionate people no matter what".

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

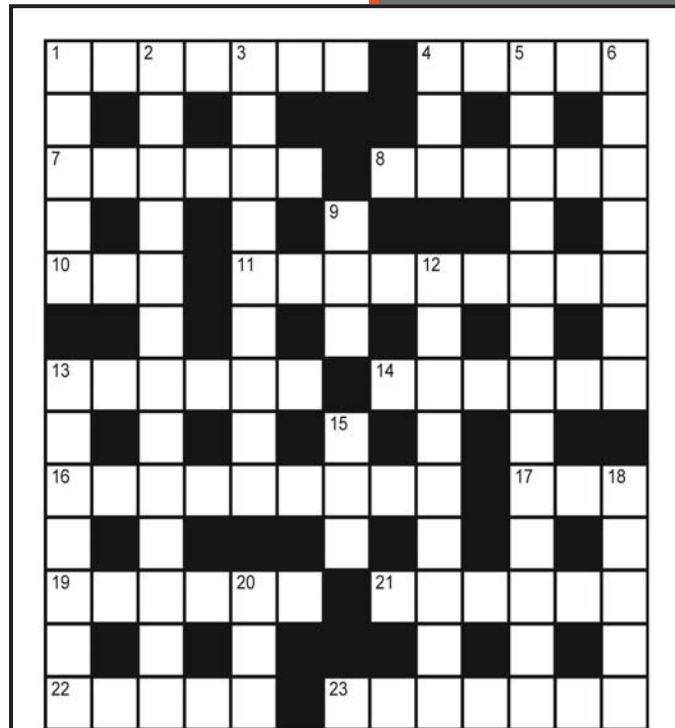


### BREVITY



### FUN post

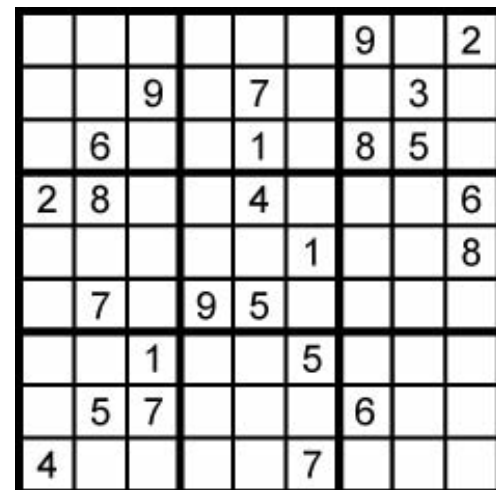
### CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- 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 Bar 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.



### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has been conferred the Lifetime Achievement award by Delhi-based Capital Foundation in recognition of his distinctive and outstanding leadership. The award was presented by former Chief Justice of India NV Ramana at a function in New Delhi in September 2022.



CM Naveen Patnaik was conferred with the 'Ideal Chief Minister' award during the 8th Indian Students' Parliament at Pune in January 2018. Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad Foundation, Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, UNESCO Chair of Humanity and MIT School of Government organised the event.



# NAVEEN: PEOPLE'S CM



Once known as a state of starvation deaths, Odisha has made giant strides under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to become a food-surplus state. The state is also no longer at the mercy of nature as it has become a role model in disaster management, thanks to Naveen's unique efforts. Soft-spoken and empathetic, Patnaik, in his 25-year long political career, achieved a level of success and popularity that a few leaders in the country can match. As Naveen turns 77, **Orissa POST** takes a close look at his steady success story

**N**aveen, who turns 77 Sunday, remains one of the longest-serving Chief Ministers of India. For the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo, age is just a number.

At this age, he is quite competent in countering his opponents and providing better service and governance to the people of Odisha, leaving behind many young politicians who are at the helm of different states.

With every passing year, he is garnering more and more support from the people of the state, which is reflected in all the elections starting from the panchayat to the legislative assembly. His journey from being a writer to becoming the longest-serving Chief Minister in India has been truly remarkable.

Since 2000, he has continued to remain the Chief Minister by winning the trust and hearts of the people of Odisha. Since then, Patnaik has been, at least in the public eye, a kurta-pyjama-wearing spartan. He has won four more consecutive assembly elec-

tions in 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019 and has thereby created a record of five consecutive wins for an incumbent Chief Minister in India.

It's apparent that in the 25 years of public life, Naveen has carved a niche for himself. Today, in India and abroad, Patnaik is seen as a role model of governance, with a remarkable work history. He has often said that he speaks less because he believes that his actions should speak.

When he took oath as the Chief Minister of Odisha in 2000, the state was devastated by the Super Cyclone of 1999. The treasury was empty. He took the state to financial surplus status and made it a role model in disaster management with single-minded devotion and commitment.

He has taken Odisha to a new height in the field of sports, disaster management, Covid management, food security, women empowerment, health, education and social security as well as expediting the progress of industry and agriculture.

The United Nations felicitated and applauded him for his efficient handling of disasters in the aftermath of cyclone Phailin with the model of zero casualty. During Covid-19, when the country needed oxygen, it was Odisha under his leadership that provided it to various states.

When the country did not have a sponsor for the men's and women's hockey teams, it was Naveen, who came forward to sponsor both the national teams, who later brought laurels to the country.

Naveen brought transformational changes

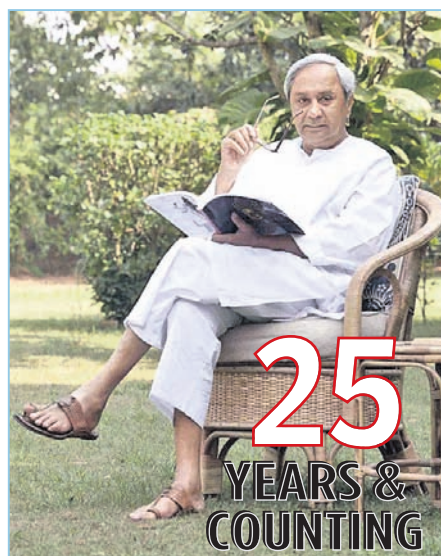
in the field of sports in Odisha which barely had a place on the sports map of India. Under his leadership, Bhubaneswar has achieved the status of the 'sports capital of India'. He rightly says, "Investment in sports is an investment in youth. Investment in youth is an investment in the future."

His 5T mantra of teamwork, technology, transparency and time leading to transformation has worked wonders at the grassroots, by bringing a silent revolution in areas of health, education, public governance and cultural development.

With some innovative creations, he has left a number of footmarks in the sands of time. He has turned Odisha a model in nutrition and food security, which was known in the eighties for hunger and starvation deaths, and transformed the state into an attractive place for investment, of which the whole nation is taking notice.

From the empowerment of women through seven lakh self-help groups (SHGs) having 80 lakh members to the Mamata scheme which was copied as National Maternity Scheme, the unbeatable CM has made a portfolio that's tough to replicate.

Ever since its inception, BJD has never tasted defeat in the assembly elections. Despite BJP's landslide victory in various states, the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD has successfully blocked its progress in the state. To say the least, despite their best efforts, the opposition has not succeeded in its mission to tarnish the image of Patnaik.



25 YEARS & COUNTING

- **1997:** After the demise of his father Biju Patnaik—a leader of the Janata Dal and former Chief Minister of Odisha—in 1997, Naveen Patnaik contested Lok Sabha by-election from Aska constituency. He was a member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Steel and Mines, Member of Standing Committee on Commerce, and Member of Library Committee of Parliament in the 11th Lok Sabha. Soon, the Janata Dal split and he founded Biju Janata Dal (BJD). BJD later in alliance with the BJP-led NDA performed well in the election and Naveen became the Union Minister for Mines in the Cabinet of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **2000:** In the Assembly election of 2000, BJD won the majority of seats in alliance with the BJP. Naveen resigned from the Union Cabinet, unanimously elected as the leader of the alliance and sworn in as the Chief Minister of Odisha.
- **2004:** The BJP led NDA lost the general elections in 2004, but the coalition led by Naveen emerged victorious in the Assembly elections and he continued as the CM. During this period, the differences between the ruling partners were more apparent.
- **2009:** In the run-up to the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls in 2009, BJD severed the alliance with BJP. The regional party had a resounding victory in both the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in that year and Naveen was sworn in as the CM. BJD won 103 Assembly and 14 Lok Sabha seats.
- **2014:** The Naveen Patnaik-led party swept the polls grabbing 20 of the 21 Lok Sabha and 117 of the 147 Assembly seats in the state propelled by a big jump in its vote share.
- **2019:** Despite a strong BJP wave across the country, the Naveen led BJD won as many as 112 seats of the 146 (poll for one was deferred) in the Legislative Assembly and 12 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 election. Naveen took oath as the Chief Minister for the fifth consecutive term, becoming one of the longest-serving CMs of India.



Naveen accompanied by his father Biju Patnaik and mother Gyan Patnaik

## Odisha scripting history in sports

**T**oday, if someone talks about sports, especially hockey in India, perhaps he will not forget to mention Odisha as the state has emerged as a sports hub in the country. For this, all credit goes to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who himself was a hockey goalkeeper during his school days. His love for sports has brought recognition to the state.

The iconic Kalinga Stadium has become a centre of excellence for sports personalities, while the largest hockey stadium in India will be inaugurated at Rourkela city very soon.

During the past few years, the state government has substantially increased its funding towards sports. The state had allocated nearly Rs 100 crore in its annual budget for 2016-17, which it increased to Rs 301 crore in 2020-21 and Rs 400 crore in 2021-22. This year, Rs 911 crore has been allocated to the sector.

Apart from the budgetary allocation, the infrastructure development initiatives have been taken up with funding from other departments and agencies.

The growth of Odisha as a sports hub or sports capital did not happen overnight but is a result of strong efforts made over a period of seven to eight years.

The state government, under Naveen's leadership, started giving priority to the sports sector in 2013, when Odisha franchised its own hockey team Kalinga Lancers for the Hockey India League. At that time, the state felt it necessary to have a world-class hockey facility to host the Kalinga Lancers' matches in the Hockey India League.

Since then, the state government has never looked back. It has hosted successfully many national and international sporting events in hockey, athletics, women's football, rugby and table tennis.

In the meantime, the state government has taken up several sports infrastructure projects in various places of Odisha.



Naveen unveiling the logo of 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar

## LIGHTER MOMENTS



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MALKANGIRI-BHADRACHALAM RAILWAY PROJECT

# Funds sanctioned, yet rail route remains non-starter



and will meet near Sabari river before entering the neighbouring state.

However, Odisha is yet to show the same keenness and take decisions to conduct a survey and start land acquisition like Telangana. On the other hand, Telangana government has already started a survey for land in its territory starting from Malkangiri border to Bhadrachalam two months before, reliable sources said. It is identifying land for the rail route to pass through till Bhadrachalam and launching efforts for their acquisition.

Meanwhile, funds worth ₹900 crore have been sanctioned for the much-awaited 130km-long Jeypore-Malkangiri rail route while the survey is on its last leg in Malkangiri district. Malkangiri, Mathili and Khairapat tehsildars were asked to conduct survey for the rail route project from Gobindpalli on the fringes of the district till MV-42 here. The three tehsils were learnt to be nearing completion of the survey works.

When contacted, Malkangiri sub-collector Akshaya Kumar Khemundu said talks are on with the Railways about the project. Now all eyes are fixed on the Odisha government as to when it will start the survey and subsequent land acquisition work for the project.

**STATE GOVT HAS ALSO DELAYED A SURVEY ON 130-KM LONG PROJECT, FOR WHICH ₹2,800 CR HAS BEEN SANCTIONED**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Oct 15:** The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned ₹2,800 crore in the Budget for expansion of the rail route from the southern district of Malkangiri to Bhadrachalam in neighbouring Telangana following consistent demands by both the state governments.

mained a non-starter in this part as the state government is yet to launch a survey on the project. Notably, the Telangana government has the survey works up and running for last couple of months.

The project is touted to bring a turnaround in improving railway connectivity in the state. Expansion of the rail route will help connect many states in southern India with Odisha and also be commercially viable as it will help Odisha earn more revenue.

Reports said recommendations have been made to construct 48 big bridges and 165 small bridges on the 173-km long Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam rail route. The rail route will pass from Malkangiri to Badli, Kuasiguda, Rajanguda, Maharajpalli and Lunimanguda

However, the project has re-

# Sambalpur University: Late arrival of question papers sparks concern

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 15:** A day after the authorities of Sambalpur University here drew flak for changing the examination schedule just 12 hours before the examination, they were again caught on the wrong foot for supplying question papers late to the examination centres, Saturday.

The examinations are being held for the Plus-III fourth semester in various colleges affiliated to the Sambalpur University. The examination timing was fixed at 1.30pm but the question papers were released to many colleges through email at around 1.50pm and to some others at 1.55pm. However, the stu-

dents were given extra time to write their answers.

This has sparked concern among the local intelligentsia and resentment among the candidates appearing the examination. The incident sparked unrest among students in some colleges of Sundargarh and Jharsuguda districts.

They alleged that the examination department is playing with the life of the students. As a result, the examination started 25 minutes later than the scheduled time. The development also inconvenienced the students as many of them coming from far-off places found it difficult to travel back to

their homes or places of their residence.

Guardians have demanded stringent action against the university authorities. Efforts to contact examination controller Rabindra Panigrahi over phone to get his response failed as he did not pick up the call.

When contacted, Professor Sanjukta Dash, Vice-Chancellor-in-charge of Sambalpur University confirmed the development stating that this is not a big issue. She said, "It is true that the question papers reached late at the examination centre but the students were given extra time to write their answers."

# Yet another tusker found dead in Angul

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Madhapur, Oct 15:** Forest officials recovered yet another tusker carcass from a jungle near Mundapada village under this forest range of Athamallik forest division in Angul district, Saturday.

On being informed, Forest officials reached the spot and started an investigation. Locals alleged that the animal might have been killed by poachers and raised doubts on the efficiency of the Forest department. Veterinarians conducted a post-mortem of the carcass and it was later buried at the spot.

When contacted, Madhapur forest ranger Santosh Bhoi said it is premature to make such claims as the actual reason behind the animal death can be ascertained only after availability of the post-mortem report. Notably, this incident comes just a day after a tusker was found dead at a farmland in Rankia village under Bhuban forest range in Dhenkanal district, Friday. Though the reason behind the death of the elephant is yet to be ascertained, it is being suspected that the animal was electrocuted.

# 40 soft-shell turtles seized

**Balasure:** Police Friday arrested two persons from Balasure and seized 40 soft-shell turtles while being illegally transported. Personnel of the Forest Division recovered the turtles from a passenger bus at Rajghat on NH-60. September 7, nearly 90 turtles were seized by Forest officials near the Odisha-West Bengal border.



**FESTIVAL OF LIGHT:** Roadside vendors at Gole Bazaar in Sambalpur sell earthen lamps as Diwali draws near

OP PHOTO

# Tribal woman buries dead hubby on her own

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Champua, Oct 15:** In an unfortunate incident reported from Badanai panchayat under this block of Keonjhar district, Friday night, a tribal woman had to dig a pit on her own to bury her dead husband, owing to the apathy of bystanders and kin. Locals and his family relatives did not come out to help her in performing the last rites of her husband.

As per reports, a couple - Bhanja Munda and Kati Munda - had been leading their lives by working as daily wagers in Badanai village. Last Thursday Bhanja Munda fell ill. His



wife Kati and her niece took him to Champua sub-divisional hospital, but he was referred to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) where he died.

From there, she hired a vehicle and brought the body to the village. She had no money with her to pay the fare. She borrowed from

others and paid the driver.

Then, she sought help of the villagers and relatives living nearby to bury the body. But no one came to support her. She had to dig a pit near her house and bury the body herself.

The matter came to the fore as the video of the incident went viral on social media.

When a local asked the reason behind her act, she narrated her plight. On enquiry, it was learnt that the couple has been deprived of housing, drinking water and electricity. Even hours after the incident, the administration had not yet come out to help the woman.

# Oxygen plant launched at BBMCH

**Bolangir:** An oxygen plant was inaugurated on the premises of Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital (BBMCH) in Bolangir, Saturday. Higher Education Minister Rohit Pujari unveiled the facility in the presence of Loisingha MLA Mukesh Mahaling, Collector Chanchal Rana, Dean of BBMCH Dr Sabita Mohapatra, superintendent Mahendra Nayak, zilla parishad chairperson Debaki Sahu, municipality chairperson Sarita Bagh. They said that the oxygen plant will cater to the growing oxygen supply needs of the patients at the medical college.

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**“** The Divine Truth is greater than any religion or creed or scripture or idea or philosophy. **”**  
SRI AUROBINDO



# 22 Crore Sleep Hungry

Sometimes important things fall out of the news cycle and for this reason must continue to be emphasised. Journalists and columnists must not let go of their primary role merely because the entertaining material generates more response from readers and viewers.

In 2014, India's ranking on the Global Hunger Index, which was then measuring 76 nations, was 55. In 2020, out of 107 nations, India fell to 94. Last year, in 2021, India's rank was 101 out of 116 countries. On 15 October was published a report that in 2022, India's rank was 107 out of 121 nations. The score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where zero is the best score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. India's score of 29.1 puts us in the 'serious' category. In 2020, the fall in our score was because the prevalence of child wasting (low weight for height) in the five years between 2014 and 2019 increased to 17.3 per cent from 15.1 per cent in 2010-2014.

This year, India's child wasting rate has increased to 19.4, the highest in 20 years and not only does India's poor performance make the regional average worse, it is the highest for any nation in the world. Undernourishment rose in the country from 14.6% in 2018-2020 to 16.3% in 2019-2021. That means more than 22 crore Indians sleep hungry.

Five United Nations agencies published the 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' report earlier this year. This report said that 40% of Indians suffered from food insecurity in 2019-2021 and that India alone accounted for more than one third of the world's total severely food-insecure population. This should not surprise us because the government takes pride in the fact that 800 million Indians, meaning 60% of the population queues up for five kilos of free grain and one kilo of dal every month, and has been queuing up for over two years.

The question is how does the state in India respond to such reports? When the previous year's report came, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala told the Rajya Sabha that the government questioned the methodology of the findings. He said: "Some NGO has done the survey. We have asked them on what basis they have reached this conclusion? They have not replied yet. Whenever a street dog gives birth in our village, even though it bites, our women provide them with sheer (sweet dish). So, in a country where such a tradition exists, and an NGO comes and releases such a report about our children, we should not be sensitive to such reports. As far as these surveys are concerned, even healthy and strong children are counted...there should be awareness in society, our dynamic minister Smriti (Irani) ji has started a Jan Andolan, and 13 crore events have been done."

In 2012, Narendra Modi, who was then the Chief Minister of Gujarat, was asked by the Wall Street Journal why half of Gujarati children under five were stunted, or too short for their age, as of 2006, according to the latest available figures from the Indian government. His response, which was reported by the Times of India was that "the middle class is more beauty-conscious than health-conscious that is a challenge. If a mother tells her daughter to have milk, they'll have a fight-she'll tell her mother, I won't drink milk. I'll get fat."

India's ranking on the index is behind Pakistan and Bangladesh, but such things appear to no longer affect us. It goes without saying that Nepal and Sri Lanka are way ahead of us. China, which we think of as being our competitor, is one of the top 17 nations which are not assigned an individual score because there is little hunger there. India's per capita income is now behind Bangladesh's but that is also not really something that we are concerned about. The decline here in the economy is something another government would have been hauled over the coals for, but today we merely look away.

I have said here before that for one of my recent books I looked at 53 global indices on which the government was trying to improve its standing. In 49 of them, India has fallen since 2014. We are using grand and vague terminology — amritkaal and atmanirbharta — to cover up what is essentially failure of the state. It is the sacred task of the elected to govern competently. This means to improve the lives of Indians, who are some of the most poor and wretched in the world. It does not mean to take what was built by previous governments and squander it. That is what we have done. The price for it is being paid daily by the poorest Indians while the media has allowed the government to get away. Which is precisely why these things, even at the cost of serial repetition, must be brought to the notice of all who are willing to listen.



Aakar Patel

**This year, India's child wasting rate has increased to 19.4, the highest in 20 years and not only does India's poor performance make the regional average worse, it is the highest for any nation in the world**



Gargee Ghosh

**WILD POLIO REMAINS ENDEMIC IN ONLY TWO COUNTRIES - PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN**

When I took my children to receive their polio vaccines a few years ago, I thought about how lucky we are to live in a place where we can access life-saving interventions with such ease. We didn't need to take a long bus ride or walk great distances to get to the clinic, and there was no reason to think that there would be no doses in stock.

Although I was fully aware of the protection my children were receiving, I never considered that poliovirus could pose a real threat in Washington, DC. After all, the virus hadn't been found in the United States for years. But recent developments are a wake-up call, underscoring just how critical something as simple and routine as vaccination can be.

In July, health authorities confirmed that polio had paralysed an unvaccinated person in New York. It was the first US case in nearly a decade. Then, the virus was found in wastewater in other parts of New York State, which followed the news that London had also detected poliovirus in its sewage. The World Health Organisation has now declared both the US and the United Kingdom outbreak countries for variant poliovirus.

Globally, such stories are not unique. Earlier this year, wild polio cases were confirmed in Africa for the first time in over five years, serving as a chilling reminder of how fragile the world's progress against polio is. While cases have plummeted by more than 99% since the 1988 launch of a global effort to eradicate the disease, the final stretch to absolute zero has been difficult, even though it is essential.

Fortunately, there is a global strategy in place to finish the job; but to succeed, it will need to be funded properly. Launched last year, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's (GPEI) five-year Strategy is already being implemented to stop and prevent additional outbreaks. At the strategy's core are two priorities: working with at-

## FOCUS POLIO

# FIGHTING TO FINISH



**The final stretch in the race against polio has proven the most difficult, and recent events have made the goal even more challenging. To finish the job, global donors must rise to the occasion and provide sufficient financial support for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative**

risk countries to protect every child with vaccines, and improving surveillance to track the spread of the disease. The same strategy is also helping to deliver other lifesaving vaccines to communities in remote areas, as well as working to strengthen health systems.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined the GPEI, alongside the WHO, UNICEF, Rotary International, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2007, because we recognised the opportunity the world had to ensure that polio never paralysed a child again. That opportunity is even more apparent today. Wild polio remains endemic in only two countries - Pakistan and Afghanistan - and though case numbers have risen slightly this year, they are still at extremely low levels.

There is not only a moral case for ending polio. As a health economist, I also focus on the broader impact that such achievements can have. For polio, the financial benefits of eradication would be enormous. If we wipe out the poliovirus within the timeframe set by the current strategy, the world

could save more than \$33 billion this century, compared to the cost of continuing to control future polio outbreaks.

A growing chorus of stakeholders recognises this financial dimension and the opportunity it represents. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private partnership that provides support for routine immunisation in 73 of the world's poorest countries, joined the GPEI in 2019. And just this month, more than a thousand global health experts and scientists from around the world signed a declaration urging countries to fund the global polio strategy fully.

Donors must heed this call and ensure that the GPEI receives the \$4.8 billion it needs. A fully funded strategy will be able to vaccinate 370 million children every year for five years, while also better preparing countries against future health threats. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, GPEI infrastructure was the first line of defense for many countries. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the polio programme has lent support for contact tracing, dis-

ease surveillance, and community engagement, as well as facilitating the rollout of vaccines. This is not a one-off example: GPEI has responded to threats such as Ebola, measles, and yellow fever, consistently demonstrating a high return on investment.

To be sure, the final stretch in the race against polio has proven the most difficult, and recent events have made matters more challenging. The pandemic reversed progress on routine immunisation globally. Violent conflict, vaccine mistrust, and misinformation continue to present barriers in the last areas where polio hides. Owing to this year's devastating floods in Pakistan, efforts to stop polio from spreading there must be redoubled.

Still, while the destruction in Pakistan is staggering, it has been heartening to see the impressive response mounted by the government and the international community. Additional support is still needed to prevent further hardship, because the high waters are impeding access to health care and accelerating the spread of waterborne diseases like polio, cholera, and typhoid. There is no doubt that such conditions make it more difficult to stop polio.

But these challenges are not insurmountable. GPEI partners and governments around the world have the collective experience and a clear plan to overcome them. And this month at the World Health Summit in Berlin, donors have an opportunity to help achieve a polio-free world by pledging resources to the GPEI.

When we invest in polio eradication, we invest in a healthier world today and for generations to come. That is why our foundation remains steadfastly committed to the GPEI's mission. We urge others to join us so that we can finally complete it.

*The writer is President of Global Policy and Advocacy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.*  
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## SPECTRUM AGRICULTURE

# Tech vital for farm sector growth



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE ESTIMATES THAT INDIA WOULD BE FACING A 16 PER CENT DROP IN FOOD PRODUCTION BY 2030 DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged states to step up domestic production by accelerating the process for modernisation of agriculture, animal husbandry and food processing to help India become self-sufficient and a global leader in the farm sector. At the 7th meeting of Niti Aayog Governing Council, he sought to impress upon states to focus on reducing imports, increasing exports and identifying opportunities for shipping goods out of India, more so due to supply constraints and the war in Ukraine.

With import of edible oil being around ₹1 lakh crore annually, Niti Aayog member, Ramesh Chand, lamented that nearly half of the country's requirement for the cooking medium was met from foreign supplies. As usual the need for crop diversification was rightly stressed keeping in view the precarious problem of groundwater in states such as Punjab and Haryana. The agriculture economist wanted more attractive MSP for pulses and oilseeds to wean away farmers from paddy and wheat, the mainstay of India's procurement programme.

However, paddy and wheat output cannot be ignored as their requirement has been increasing. Recent reports indicate that production of kharif foodgrains is expected to decline by nearly 4 per cent

with the biggest slide of 6 per cent being recorded in the output of paddy during 2022-23 crop year over 2021-22 due to drought conditions in some states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab, that witnessed significant monsoon rainfall deficit this year.

Meanwhile, recent reports indicated that there is a fall in the summer crop acreage due to drought conditions in six states, including UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. The overall acreage of kharif crops was dragged down largely due to fall in nearly 5 per cent in sown area of paddy as also in sowing of pulses and oilseeds due to inadequate rainfall. Additionally, the average retail prices of rice, wheat and atta increased by 8 to 19 per cent this past year; according to government data with the maximum increase being in the case of atta prices.

Scientists generally agree that Indian agriculture faces diverse problems. These include lack of proper infrastructure and knowhow, faith in conventional styles of functioning, lack of awareness and scarcity of farmer capital while fragmentation of land holdings has been another big hurdle. The country, which accounts for 18 per cent of the global population, is expected to surpass China by 2023, thereby necessitating more food production. Estimations by the

Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) showed that by 2050, demand for pulses, cereals, rice, eggs, fruits, vegetables and milk will be more than twice of what it was in 2000, while the demand for foodgrains is expected to jump by over 85 per cent.

While foodgrain production has to be increased to keep pace with demand, the International Food Policy Research Institute estimated that India would be facing a 16 per cent drop in food production with the number of those at risk for hunger increasing by 23 per cent by 2030 due to climate change. This revelation is significant since it comes in the wake of India's poor showing in the Global Hunger Index 2022, wherein it ranked 101 out of 116 nations. A need-based minimum core essentially means that states need to ensure that a minimum acceptable level of food is provided for citizens' needs and survival.

However, India has been trying to comply with the commitment of guaranteeing adequate daily calorie requirements of its populace through a judicious mix of legal and policy initiatives like Green Revolution, Public Distribution System and National Food Security Act, 2013. But in reality, a section of the rural population is undernourished as it does not have the pur-

chasing power to have a balanced diet with necessary proteins and minerals. Thus lies the need of enhancing farm productivity.

Agricultural experts believe that climate change has been impacting the sector and nutritional stability. Increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall and droughts at odd times are having adverse effect on plant growth, causing shorter grain filling periods, reduced yield and biomass. Keeping in view the need to safeguard the nutritional requirement of the population, millets, which include sorghum (jowar), pearl millet (bajra), finger millet (ragi), barnyard and other such varieties, offer a viable option as these nutraceutical crops are rich sources of macro-nutrients and micronutrients with high levels of calcium, iron, zinc, potassium and protein. Thus, diversification of crops is very much necessary.

Productivity has to increase in states that are below national average. Plus, one cash crop must be grown to increase farmers' income. There is need for allocation of more resources from Centre, promoting good nutrition, better local farming methods, increasing local food processing and, of course, better technological inputs which India's scientific institutions can provide. Only then can India emerge as a major food hub in the world. **INFA**

## WISDOM CORNER

- “ Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one. ”** BRUCE LEE
- “ When you've seen beyond yourself, then you may find, peace of mind is waiting there. ”** GEORGE HARRISON
- “ At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can. ”** FRIDA KHALO

## WORDSWORTH

### Caparisoned

Don't be confused by the first syllable: this English word doesn't imply a head covering, though it can be used for clothing. But there is a historical link, as some experts believe that caparisoned ultimately derives from the Latin word for a cap. The original caparison wasn't for humans. It was a cloth spread over the saddle or harness of a horse. Its source — through French — was Spanish caparazón for a saddlecloth (which may also be the source of carapace, for the upper shell of a tortoise, by inversion of the p and r through what's called metathesis). This probably came from capa, a short cape or hood, itself from late Latin cappa, a cap. Our cape is from the same Latin word, though via Provençal and French instead. The link may be the idea that a cloth on the back of a horse is equivalent to a cape for a human. Medieval caparisons could be richly decorated, though that wasn't implied by its original meaning. However, almost as soon as it came into English it was being used for any sort of splendid or expensive covering, including that of the person. In The Winter's Tale Shakespeare created the confidence trickster Autolycus, the original "snapper-up of unconsidered trifles" (meaning he appropriated anything that had been left unguarded). When he appears, he wittily bemoons his caparison of rags and tatters, to which he had been reduced after too much gambling and wenching. Caparisoned often features in historical novels, especially nineteenth-century ones by writers such as Sir Walter Scott. It has dropped off in popularity since then and has become a semi-cliché, often preceded by words such as richly, ornately and finely. *The feasts and pageants that mark coronations, births, marriages and deaths are good for juicy details. Imagine giving birth under a mink-edged cloak of velvet on a richly caparisoned pallet bed, then being removed to an even more splendid bed of state. The Independent (London), 16 Nov. 2013.*

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### New torchbearer

Sir, Justice DY Chandrachud, who is to take over as India's new Chief Justice in November first week, will have a tenure of a little more than two years. Judiciary is not exactly in the pink of health nowadays. Slanderous social media campaign has not spared the judiciary. India is fortunate to have brilliant and upright judges. However, when a few judges go astray, the habitual troll is bound to sharpen his arsenal against all judges unmindful of individual reputation. As the government is a major litigant in courts, "for and against" judgements will be the order of the day. Justice Chandrachud, as the torchbearer of the Indian judiciary, has the important task of keeping the flock together while protecting with care honest and sincere judges. It should also be his endeavour to bring-in exceptional talents to the country's higher courts. Known to be tech-savvy, the new Chief Justice should promote transparency in the functioning of the Supreme Court by ensuring more and more matters of national interest are telecast live for the benefit of the people.  
**Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

### Climate lessons

Sir, The US state of Florida has been struggling with the aftermath of Hurricane Ian that has left behind a huge trail of destruction. The Floridians have been the worst-affected by floodwaters that have overwhelmed and submerged so many dwelling areas and houses out there. Literally speaking, the people out there have been under water, still scrambling for help from the government and authorities concerned. There have been so many sad stories of hard-working people like boatmen emerging from Florida. Well, the other day a boatman had vented his outpourings of feelings and helplessness in the wake of Hurricane Ian to a newsmen on CNN. And that was difficult to see and hear. So do the stories of other people affected — having been left orphaned and jobless. Advanced forecasts of weather patterns and conditions apart from appropriate and immediate ways of alerting people to bad weather conditions like tropical storms will go the extra mile to save the people and ecosystems. Added to this, the international community should wake up to the impending threats from climate change. All things considered, countries from Australia to the US, and continents from Asia to Africa to Europe should come forward to chalk out immediate plans for handling the ill effects of nature.  
**P. Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI**



**The BJP people give speeches of making India 5 trillion economy but we are at 107th place in the Hunger Index....106 countries including even Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh are better than us in providing two square meals**  
MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

**CONTROLLING POLLUTION**  
Keeping in view the air quality of Delhi and NCR which has already started deteriorating, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas has urged all concerned including industries and construction agencies to strictly follow the statutory directions issued by the Commission



**of the day quote**

The protest will be intensified outside Tamil Nadu too and taken to New Delhi, with the Chief Minister's permission, if Hindi is imposed disregarding the feelings of the Tamils  
**UDAYANIDHI STALIN**  
DMK'S YOUTH WING SECRETARY

Elders must change their children's mentality towards Hindi and make them feel proud of the language so that they accept it easily  
**SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN** | MP CM

The country will be experiencing 'Amrit Kal' in the next 25 years  
**BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI**  
MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR

# ANOTHER KASHMIRI PANDIT SHOT DEAD SIT to investigate rape allegations

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**Srinagar, Oct 15:** A Kashmiri Pandit was shot dead allegedly by militants in the Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir Saturday, officials said.  
Deputy Inspector General of Police Sujit Kumar said the Kashmir Freedom Fighter (KFF) group, the proxy name of a militant outfit, has claimed responsibility for the attack. Puran Krishan Bhat was attacked near his residence in the Chowdhary Gund area of the south Kashmir district. He was rushed to Shopian hospital where doctors declared him dead, they said.



Kashmiri Pandit employees block Jammu-Poonch highway during a protest against alleged killing of Kashmiri Pandit Puran Bhat, in Shopian district

Officials said the area has been cordoned off and a hunt has been launched to nab the assailants. "Terrorists fired upon a civilian (minority) Puran Krishan Bhat while he was on his way to an orchard in Chowdhary Gund, Shopian. He was immediately shifted to a hospital for treatment where he succumbed. Area cordoned off. Search in progress," the Kashmir Zone Police wrote on Twitter.  
DIG Sujit Kumar said the initial investigation has revealed that one militant fired upon Bhat. "There was security, our guard, for this cluster. We are looking at the reason (for the lapse). He had gone out on a scooter and just returned to his home," he added.

Kumar said in case of any lapse, action will be taken against the security guards and the in-charge officials in the area. Investigations are underway and more details will be made public once things become clear, the police officer said.  
Deputy Commissioner of Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, said Bhat's body will be taken to Jammu where the last rites will be performed. "All arrangements are being made. We are extending help to the family."  
Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political leaders condemned the killing. "Attack on Puran Krishan Bhat by terrorists in Shopian is a dastardly act of cowardice. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. I assure the people that the perpetrators and those aiding and abetting terrorists will be severely punished," Sinha tweeted.  
The National Conference condemned the "brazen and cowardly attack" and expressed "heartfelt commiserations" with Bhat's family. The party's vice president Omar Abdullah termed the attack reprehensible. "I unequivocally condemn this attack in which Puraan Krishan Bhat has lost his life. I send my heartfelt condolences to his family. May Puraan Ji's soul rests in peace," he said in a tweet.  
The PDP said while the Kashmiri

Deputy Inspector General of Police Sujit Kumar said the Kashmir Freedom Fighter (KFF) group, the proxy name of a militant outfit, has claimed responsibility for the attack  
Officials said the area has been cordoned off and a hunt has been launched to nab the assailants

pandits have been protesting for the last five months demanding their relocation after Rahul Bhat was shot dead in May, the "LG administration in their hubris kept turning a blind eye to their plight".  
"Today yet another Kashmiri Pandit, Puran Krishan, was shot dead in Shopian. Thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family," the party said.  
CPI(M) leader MY Tarigami said the government must ensure foolproof security for the minorities in the Kashmir Valley. "Pained beyond words by the despicable attack which snuffed out the life of Puraan Krishan Bhat. There does not seem any letup in the killing of innocent people. The government must ensure foolproof security to the minorities," he tweeted. BJP General Secretary (organisation) Ashok Koul also condemned the "barbaric" killing and offered his condolences to the family.

*The woman alleged she 'was gangraped' by the two officials after she met them for a job. She said as her father and step-mother did not take care of her financial needs, she needed a job*



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Port Blair/New Delhi, Oct 15:** A Special Investigation Team has been constituted to probe allegations that a 21-year-old woman in Andaman and Nicobar Islands was lured to the chief secretary's home by promising a government job and then raped by top officials there.  
The police registered a case earlier this month after the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Port Blair ordered its filing based on a petition by the young woman. The court which took cognisance of the complaint accusing the then chief secretary of the island Jitendra Narain, a 1990 batch IAS officer; and a labour commissioner R L Rishi of raping the woman besides naming a police officer and hotel owner as among accomplices in the crime, also ordered the probe on August 30.  
The Aberdeen police station registered the case and a Special Investigation Team headed by a Senior Superintendent of Police was formed to probe the serious

allegation against Narain, who is currently posted as the chairman and managing director of the Delhi Financial Corporation.  
The woman alleged she "was gangraped" by the two officials after she met them for a job. She said as her father and step-mother did not take care of her financial needs, she needed a job and was introduced by some people to the labour commissioner as he was close to the then chief secretary.  
The woman claimed that the chief secretary appointed "7,800 candidates" in various departments in the administration of the islands "on the basis of recommendation only" and without any "formal interview".  
When contacted, Narain said that he cannot comment on the issue as the matter is sub judice.  
The woman lodged the complaint with the police on August 21 in which she gave a detailed account of the alleged sexual attack on her twice - on April 14 and May 1 - and requested that the CCTV footage of the then chief secretary's residence be preserved as evidence.

**SHORT TAKES**

**Two Arunachal youths missing**  
**Itanagar:** Two youths of Arunachal Pradesh are missing for over 50 days now after they went in search of local medicinal herbs and for hunting at a mountain along the India-China border, their families said Saturday. The disappearance of Bateilum Tikro and Bayingso Manyu of Duiliang village of Anjaw district near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was also confirmed by various official agencies, including police, though they said that it was not clear if the duo had actually crossed the LAC or not. Tikro's younger brother Dishanso Chikro told the media that the two youths went to Chaklagam area in search of medicinal herbs on August 19 and the villagers last saw them on August 24.

## Delay in justice big challenge: for citizens: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kevadia (Gujarat), Oct 15:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday said delay in getting justice is one of the major challenges faced by the people of the country, and added that a sensitive judicial system is essential for a capable nation and a harmonious society.  
Since obscurity of law creates complexity, new laws should be written in lucid manner and in regional languages to bring in "ease of justice" so that even the poor can easily understand them, he said, noting that legal language should not become a hurdle for citizens.  
In his video message aired at the inaugural session of the two-day 'All India Conference of Law Ministers and Law Secretaries' at Ekta Nagar in Kevadia near the 'Statue of Unity' in Gujarat, Modi also said that in the last eight years, his government has scrapped more than 1,500 old, obsolete and irrelevant laws, many of which continued from the time of British rule.  
"Delay in getting justice is one of the major challenges being faced by the people of our country," Modi said. "But our judiciary is seriously working towards resolving this issue. In this 'amrit kaal', we will have to work together to tackle this," he said.  
Systems like alternative dispute resolution and Lok Adalats have helped reduce the burden on courts and the poor get justice easily, the prime minister added. Stressing the use of regional languages in the legal system, he said that they have to play a big role for the "ease of justice".

## CLEANLINESS DRIVE



Army personnel during a cleanliness drive at the pond of the Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple as part of the Swachhata campaign 2.0, in Thiruvananthapuram  
PTI PHOTO

**Close shave for Nitish**

**Patna:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had a narrow escape Saturday when the steamer carrying him collided with a pillar of JP Setu here when he went to inspect Chhath Ghat on the bank of the Ganga. The boat did not suffer any significant damage and all people onboard were safe, district magistrate of Patna Chandrasekhar Singh said.

**Bodies found**

**Jamnagar:** Bodies of two children were recovered from a well in Gujarat's Jamnagar district. The bodies of Devraj and Riya were recovered Friday. Kalavad Rural Police Sub Inspector S V Patel said that Dahod native Badiya Palash and his family were residing at a farm of Nitesh Dangariya where he works as a labourer.

**NOTICE**  
It is informed to all concerned that for our proposed Multistoried Residential Apartment Building at Mouza - Dumduma, Bhubaneswar, the Environment Clearance has already been accorded by State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Odisha, Bhubaneswar dated 31.05.2022. Copies of the clearance letter are available with State Pollution Control Board and also can be seen on the Website of SEIAA, Odisha.  
C.K.Tekariwal, Partner, Harshpriya Neelachala

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES / HOSPITALS FOR RADIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**  
No. ECoR/MD/CH/BBS/Radiology/Tie-up/922 Date: 13.10.2022  
Central Hospital/East Coast Railway/Bhubaneswar (BBS) is a 70 bedded hospital offering Medical Service to around 6,000 employees, their dependants, 1805 RELHS employees, their dependants as well as referred patients from the Divisions. Though Central Hospital/Bhubaneswar has a functioning X-Ray and USG unit for routine radiological investigations, the hospital plans to outsource high end radiological investigations from tie-up referral hospitals.  
Central Hospital/East Coast Railway/Bhubaneswar is planning to empanel Diagnostic Centres/Hospitals in Bhubaneswar to provide the above investigation facilities to the Railway beneficiaries as per the Railway Board guidelines on "Standard Operating Procedure in outsourcing work of Radiological investigation vide Rly Bd's L. No. 2011/H/6-4/policy, dt. 03.02.2015".  
Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited through sealed application from Diagnostic Centres/Hospitals in Bhubaneswar intending to enter into mutual agreement with Central Hospital, East Coast Railway, Bhubaneswar for providing above services.  
The Centre/Hospital fulfilling the above criteria and intending for empanelment for providing the investigation facilities may submit Expression of Interest (EOI) in sealed envelope with the prescribed documents to the Medical Director, Central Hospital, East Coast Railway, Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar-751017 on or before Dt. 14.11.2022.  
For clarification, please contact the Medical Director/Central Hospital/East Coast Railway/Bhubaneswar-751017, Tel. No.: 0674-2748895, E-mail: medicaldirector8@gmail.com  
For complete details, other terms & conditions and eligibility criteria please visit website www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in → Tenders → Expression of Interest.  
PR-610/N/22-23 Medical Director/Central Hospital/Bhubaneswar

# Aadhaar enrolment for newborns to be expanded in all states soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 15:** Aadhaar enrolment for newborns along with birth certificates is expected to be available in all states in the next few months, expanding beyond 16 states currently offering the facility, government sources said.  
At present, 16 states have Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration. The process began more than one year ago, with various states getting added over time.  
Work is on in remaining states and Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) - the government agency that issues Aadhaar numbers - expects that over the next few months all states will be able to offer the facility, bringing added convenience to new parents.  
For children up to 5 years, no biometrics is captured. Their UID is processed on the basis of demographic information and facial photograph linked with the UID of their parents. Hence, biometric update is required



(ten fingers, iris and facial photograph) once the child turns 5 and 15.  
More than 1,000 state and central government schemes today leverage Aadhaar for identification and authentication of beneficiaries, transfer of benefits, and ensuring de-duplication.  
Of these, nearly 650 schemes are of state governments and 315 central government-run schemes - all of which use Aadhaar ecosystem and its biometric authentication.  
As many as 134 crore Aadhaars have been issued till date. Last year, updates and enrolments for this 12-digit bio-

metric identifier added to nearly 20 crore. Of this, 4 crore were new enrolments, a number that includes newborn babies and children up to 18 years. Only 30 lakh were related to new adult enrolments.  
The sources said the aims is now to ensure that at the time of birth along with the birth certificate, Aadhaar is issued. UIDAI is working with the Registrar General of India regarding the system of birth registration, and such states that had full computerisation have been onboarded.  
The full list of states with Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration was not immediately available. Sources said that in 16 states whenever a birth certificate is issued, a message pings to the UIDAI system, following which enrolment ID number is generated. Aadhaar is generated as soon as details such as photo and address of the child is captured in the system.

**Bank of India**  
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249  
**GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**  
It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges /expenses) by Dt.29.10.2022, then from 11.00 AM of Dt.31.10.2022 their pledged gold ornaments will be sold in public auction at **Respective Branch Premises given below and/or Sriram Automall India Ltd. (SAMIL), Cuttack, At: Sriram Automall Yard, Nuapatana, NH-42, Choudwar-Angul Road, Cuttack-754007, Contact Person: Mr. Prabhat Kumar (Mob-8658738320), Mr. Debashish Subudhi (Mob-9861342494).** For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time and place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. The purity & net weight & the reserve price of the gold ornaments / coins etc. will be made available to the intending bidders on the date and at the site of auction / auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers	Gross Wt. In Gms.	Net Wt. In Gms.	Balance 0/s as on specified date	Total Dues (Excluding Unapplied Charges)
<b>DERIKI BRANCH, AT/PO- DERIKI, VIA: NAUGANHAT, DIST.: JAGATSinghpur, ODISHA-754113</b>						
1.	510565310000984	Linu Swain, D/o.: Alekha Kumar Swain, At: Bhatana, PO.: Angeswarpada, Naugaon, Jagatsinghpur - 754113	7.75	6.2	₹22,225.88	₹23,446.38
2.	510577610002731	Ullasha Nayak, S/o.: Ghanashyam Nayak, At: Dhuanpada, PO.: Korua, Naugaon, Jagatsinghpur	6.13	4.9	₹14,547.38	₹14,906.54
<b>CHANDRASEKHARPUR BRANCH, AT: PLOT NO.: HIG(S), PRAGATI ENCLAVE, NILADRI VIHAR ROAD, CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR, DIST-KHURDA, ODISHA-751016</b>						
1.	516877610000183	Pravas Lenka, Plot No.: D-29, Defence Colony, Niladri Vihar, Near Ishaneswar Temple, Bhubaneswar - 751021	17.74	17.00	₹63,596.07	₹68,042.71
<b>BHUBANESWAR BRANCH, 129, ASHOK NAGAR, UNIT-II, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA-751009</b>						
1.	555077610000326	Raj Kumar Khatter, At: Vivekananda Marg, Old Town, Bhubaneswar	46.265	45	₹1,58,912.49	₹1,58,912.49
2.	555077610000367	Raj Kumar Khatter, At: Vivekananda Marg, Old Town, Bhubaneswar	145.15	131	₹4,19,189.74	₹4,19,189.74
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 16.10.2022						Zonal Manager, Bank of India

BHARAT JODO YATRA

# K'taka's response leaves ruling BJP worried

A large number of party workers and people gathered in Bellary as the Congress party celebrated the foot march led by Rahul completing the 1,000-km milestone



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi waves at supporters during the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra, in Bellary district

**Bangalore, Oct 15:** As he marched ahead on his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi noticed an old woman standing with two cucumbers in her hand and struck up a conversation with her. The woman explained that she had grown the cucumbers in the land allotted to her under 'Land to the Tiller Policy' at the time when Rahul Gandhi's grandmother, Indira Gandhi, was Prime Minister. He looked visibly moved towards the end of their conversation. Karnataka is one of the few states where the policy under which the land was given to a poor farmer who tilled it, was very effectively implemented. The then Chief Minister D Devaraj Urs ensured distribution of land

to poor tillers from landlords who owned hundreds of acres. Lakhs and lakhs of beneficiaries of this policy still keep a photo of Indira Gandhi in their homes and have deep respect for the Congress party for giving them a new lease of life through ownership of land, which remained a distant dream for generations. The Bharat Jodo Yatra has

been successful in reminding the people of one of the greatest achievements of the party. The youngsters who are observing the tumultuous developments in the state are taking note and researching about the social revolution which was brought without bloodshed nearly five decades ago. The yatra entered Karnataka

through Chamarajanagar, considered as one of the most backward districts. Then it reached Mysuru district during Dussehra and passed through Mandya, Tumakuru and Chitradurga. It is now passing through Ballary district. While Rahul Gandhi has claimed that the party would win the 2023 Karnataka Assembly elections, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

called the Congress leader "a small boy who is treating senior leaders according to his whims and fancies and they are readily dancing to his tunes". In a similar remark, former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa also called Rahul Gandhi a "bachcha" (child). Karnataka State Congress President DK Shivakumar who was summoned to attend an inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) amid the Bharat Jodo Yatra, was also used by the party to its advantage. Shivakumar stated that he is being troubled to disturb the rally and attended the inquiry in New Delhi. The yatra which will be taken up for 21 days in Karnataka will cover 511 km. The Grand Old Party is also confident of making an impact in the state's north and the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. In response to the yatra, BJP leaders in the state have launched tours, with Chief Minister Bommai announcing one under his leadership. Congress leaders confide that the unity shown by Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar when Rahul Gandhi is around is maintained till the Assembly elections so that they can wrestle power.

# No govt benefits for families with over 4 kids in Manipur

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Imphal, Oct 15:** The Manipur government has restricted the number of children to four in a family to be eligible for government jobs or benefits in various schemes. Manipur's Information and Public Relations Minister S Ranjan Friday said that the council of ministers in its meeting Thursday decided that any person or family having more than four children would be excluded from various government schemes besides jobs. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh presided over the cabinet meeting which took the decision and approved establishing the Manipur State Population Commission. Ranjan said that the state Assembly had earlier adopted a

private member resolution to establish the population commission in Manipur. BJP legislator, Khumukcham Joykisan had moved the resolution over the alleged infiltration of outsiders into the state affecting the demographic pattern in the state. Referring to the official statistics, the MLA had told the house that the population growth of 153.3 per cent in Manipur's hill districts from 1971-2001 increased drastically to 250 per cent from 2001-2011. Naga, Kuki and Zomi and other tribals mostly reside in the hill districts. The Assam government had also, more than a year ago, adopted a two-child policy which would be criteria to get government jobs and to avail benefits from state-sponsored welfare schemes.



# 500 rendered homeless by Brahmaputra erosion

**Morigaon, Oct 15:** Over 500 people in Assam's Morigaon district were rendered homeless due to heavy erosion by the Brahmaputra river, officials said Friday. The river swallowed about 3 km area, including cropland, roads and houses around Murkata village, they said. Around 80 domestic animals

were killed, and the century-old Durga temple of the village was also swallowed by the river, they added. The homeless people are at present living on a roadside in Mayong area of the Morigaon district, and in Chandrapur area in the neighbouring Kamrup Metro district. They have been provided with tar-

paulins and other relief materials, officials said. The Water Resources Department is working to arrest the erosion, but the situation is yet to be brought under control, they said. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, a habitat of the famed one-horned rhinoceros, was also under threat by the unabated erosion, forest officials said.



AWAY FROM WATER: Villagers use a boat to shift to a safer place in flood-ravaged Morigaon, Assam

# MHA UPGRADES SARMA'S SECURITY COVER TO Z PLUS



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi/Guwahati, Oct 15:** The Union Home Ministry has accorded Z plus security cover to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, from his existing Z category, officials said Friday. Officials said that the security arrangement of Assam Chief Minister was recently reviewed in consultation with the central security agencies. "The Chief Minister would be provided Z plus security cover on an all India basis," an official said. Sarma's predecessors - Sarbananda Sonowal, Tarun Gogoi, and Prafulla Kumar Mahanta - enjoyed NSG protection based on threat perception in insurgency-hit Assam. Three-term Chief Minister (2001-2015) Gogoi's NSG cover was replaced with the CRPF in 2016 after BJP came to power. Similarly, Mahanta's NSG cover was reduced by the Union Home Ministry in 2019 but he was granted Z plus security in 2017. Sarma had been a CRPF protectee since 2017 while he was minister in the previous Sonowal government.

# WAR OF WORDS

# CMO Nagaland, NDDP deny Rio being interrogated by ED

The Chief Minister's Office issued a statement Friday evening calling the news item carried in a national newspaper as 'Fake News'



The denial by the CMO came after a day Saturday while NDPP had reacted Friday itself. The CMO statement says, "The Media Cell, Chief Minister's Office Nagaland has issued a press release stating that on 13th October 2022, Amit Mukherjee representing the 'New Indian Express' published a fake news item in which it is alleged that the Enforcement Directorate had questioned Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio in connection with 'the non-existent High Court, etc.' for several hours in a military facility at Rangapahar in Dimapur." "The same news has been circulating through various media and social media platforms. In this regard, it is made explicitly clear that the Chief Minister of Nagaland was never called by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with any matter connected with the High Court," the CMO said adding, "Action, in accordance with the

law, is being initiated against those concerned and those who are responsible for this reckless dissemination of this fake news. And the concerned department will clarify the other aspects of the news item." Meanwhile, the newly-floated Rising People's Party (RPP), in a statement, said, "The Chief Minister is now a 'prisoner' of the BJP and this will have intense ramifications for the state." Secondly it has come to the notice of the RPP that the ED is also vigorously chasing 10 NDPP sitting MLAs. Speculation is rife that the ED has built up cases of corruption against the 10 MLAs. According to sources, these 10 MLAs may strike a bargain with the BJP to join the party. The RPP, headed by Joel Naga, also states, "It's not surprising that the ED should interrogate the Chief Minister for 6 hours. This interrogation is not the last and we expect more grilling in the days to come. Despite the NDPP table thumping and their protests that the ED grilling the CM is fake news, there's no smoke without fire. Firstly, according to newspaper reports the army has declined to comment which means that something is fishy." The BJP and the NPF - two allies of Rio in Nagaland - have maintained silence.

# Kaziranga kicks off online ticket booking for tourists

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, Oct 15:** The Kaziranga National Park in Assam Saturday started an online ticket booking service for tourists, officials said. Tourists visiting Kaziranga can now book e-tickets through the designated portals. Earlier, booking for the park safaris could be done only once the tourists would reach Kaziranga. The online ticket booking process was officially inaugurated by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ramesh Kumar Gogoi at Mihimukh Saturday morning. Gogoi said that local and foreign tourists will now be able to do

enjoy a safari hassle-free by booking tickets in advance through the e-portal of Kaziranga National Park. The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, famous for its one-horned rhinos, opened for this tourist season from October 2. However, as per the officials, the park now provides jeep safaris in the two ranges - Kohora and Bagori - due to inclement weather. In this regard, Gogoi told IANS, "Some parts of the Kaziranga are still submerged due to the rising water level of Brahmaputra. We are looking into the condition and hope that by November, the entire park can be opened for tourists."



# World's largest passenger plane arrives in B'lore airport

CURRENTLY, EMIRATES OPERATES AIRBUS A380 TO MORE THAN 30 DESTINATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Oct 15:** The world's largest passenger plane Airbus A380 operated by Emirates' arrived at the Kempe Gowda International Airport in Bengaluru Saturday. Bangalore became the first southern city in the country where services of world's largest passenger aircraft is launched. Minister for Co-Operation, ST Somashekar and Bangalore International Airport (BIAL) Managing Director and CEO Hari Marar described the moment as historical and thanked Emirates for reposing faith in Karnataka government. Satyaki Raghunath, Chief Strategy and Development officer at BIAL, said that Bangalore has become the first city in southern India to be served by Emirates flag-



ship A380 services. The arrival of this wide-body aircraft shows the operation capability and rising passenger demand at Bangalore airport. The enhanced premium experience that the new A380 service brings to the Dubai-Bangalore route will not only meet the strong travel demand but also help to stimulate traffic between the two markets, Raghunath added. Adnan Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer, Emirates, said, "The special relationship that we share with Bangalore and the state of Karnataka is one of mutual growth and prosperity." "We are delighted to introduce

A380 services to this vital gateway for travellers in south India. Today's flight is testament to the fruitful relationship that we share with the city and we look forward to providing the flagship experiences across all cabins for travellers travelling to and from Bangalore when we begin our scheduled daily A380 services later this month," he added. Emirates' flight took off from Dubai at 10 am and landed in Bangalore at 3.40 pm. The occasion was marked by celebrations. The special flight operating as EK562 was greeted with a procession of follow-me vehicles, arrived ahead of the launch of scheduled A380 services, which will begin

October 30, an official statement said. Starting October 30, Emirates' A380 flights between Dubai and Bangalore will operate as EK568 and EK569. The daily flight leaves the airline hub at 21:25 hour, arriving in Bangalore at 23:00 local time the next day. The return flight departs Bangalore at 4:30 hour and arrives in Dubai at 7:10 hour. Currently, Emirates operates A380 to more than 30 destinations across the globe. The airbus is loved for its extra legroom. The flight has premium economy. The other features include shower spa and onboard lounge. Business class cabins provide superior lev-

# MIA to add pep to 'Deepavali'

**Mangalore:** Passengers travelling through the Mangalore International Airport (MIA) are in for a fun-filled, memorable time this 'Deepavali', the festival of lights, with the airport decked up with dazzling lights. A release from the MIA here said several passenger-centric activities would be introduced from Saturday as part of the festivities. These include shopping promotions, artistically-created selfie points and craft classes to add pep to the festival. Starting October 15, passengers would get their chance to 'spin the wheel' in the domestic security hold area and get exciting shopping offers from select retail outlets. A décor of 'Kalpavriksha', the wish-fulfilling tree, has been placed in the forecourt of the lower ground floor, which has emerged as the new selfie hotspot at the airport. The terminal would also be lit up to add to the festive ambience, the release said. els of comfort and privacy and spacious seats in economy class.



## of the day quote

Self-reliance and the secured borders are central to making India a powerful nation



**RAJNATH SINGH** | DEFENCE MINISTER

Did you ever think that Article 370 would be abrogated? If you talk to Congress leaders and workers about Article 370, they remain mum as its provision was made by Jawaharlal Nehru



**AMIT SHAH** | UNION HOME MINISTER

From day one, NCP leaders Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil and Congress' Nana Patole had claimed that this government will fail, but that has not happened. The state government is taking new decisions every other day for the betterment of people



**CHANDRAKANT PATIL** | MAHARASHTRA MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Ganja seized

**Guwahati:** The Assam police Saturday seized a huge consignment of ganja valued at ₹1.5 crore in the market. The incident took place in the Thanamukh area of the Sonitpur district, a police officer said. On a tip-off about the smuggling of ganja and other narcotic substances through this route, police deployed a check post there. Saturday morning, when the police signalled a vehicle to stop, the driver ignored it and tried to flee.

### IED recovered

**Srinagar:** Security forces Saturday recovered an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by the militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district. Police said an IED weighing 18 kgs was recovered by the security forces at Ashtingo village on Bandipora-Sopore road Saturday morning.

### Smuggler killed

**Jalpaiguri:** A suspected cattle smuggler was shot dead by BSF personnel near the India-Bangladesh border in North Bengal, officials said Saturday. The incident took place early Friday in Phansidewa area of Darjeeling district when a Border Security Force (BSF) patrol party apprehended some people at Murikhaowa village who were trying to smuggle cattle into Bangladesh, an official said.

### Four booked

**Thane:** An offence has been registered against four persons for allegedly cheating an elderly doctor and taking over his hospital using fabricated documents in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said Saturday. Based on a complaint lodged by the 79-year-old doctor, the police on Friday registered a case under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, an official from Kalwa police station said.

### ED summons Mondal's daughter

**Kolkata:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned the daughter of arrested Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal in the cattle scam to appear before it in New Delhi to interrogate her about the source of the huge wealth she has amassed in the last few years, an ED official said Saturday. Sukanya Mondal, who is a primary school teacher in Birbhum district, has been summoned to appear at the ED New Delhi office on October 27, he said.



**Ground realities are perhaps not visible from aerial surveys**  
**VARUN GANDHI** | BJP MP

# Saibaba to stay in jail

*The top court rejected Saibaba's request to order his release from jail due to his disability and health conditions and put him under house arrest after the Maharashtra government opposed the prayer, saying nowadays, there is a new tendency of 'urban Naxals' to seek house arrest*



ing day to hear the matter said, "We are of the opinion that this is a fit case to exercise powers under Section 390 CrPC and to suspend the impugned judgment and order passed by the high court."

It said, "We are of the firm opinion that the impugned judgment and order passed by the high court is required to be suspended. For the reasons stated, the impugned judgment and order passed by the high court is ordered to be suspended till further orders."

It issued notice to Saibaba and others and sought their replies by December 8 on a plea moved by the Maharashtra government against the high court order and stayed the release of all the accused in the case from jail.

It said that the offences for which the accused were convicted by the trial court are very serious and against the sovereignty and integrity of the country and a detailed scrutiny of the judgment is required as the high court did not consider the merits of the case. "The high court has not at all dealt with and considered anything on the merits of the judgment and order passed by the trial court, though even according to the coun-

sel appearing on behalf of A-6 (Saibaba), the detailed submissions were made on behalf of the accused on merits of the appeal and on the judgment and order of conviction and sentence imposed by the trial court," it said.

The bench added that the high court has discharged the accused number 1-5 only on the ground that the sanction was invalid, mainly on the ground that some material which was placed before the appropriate authority at the time of sanction/review were placed were available on the very day and that no reasons are given while granting sanction.

"The same is required to be considered in detail considering provision of Section 465 CrPC. So far as the A-6 is concerned, the accused has been discharged on the ground that there was no sanction the day on which the trial court took cognizance and even famed the charge. However, the same question is required to be considered in detail..." it said. Appearing for Saibaba, senior advocate R Basant said his client is paraplegic with 90-95 per cent disability and wheelchair-bound with almost zero per cent mobility.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 15:** The Supreme Court Saturday suspended the Bombay High Court order acquitting former Delhi University (DU) professor G N Saibaba and others in a Maoist-links case, saying the merits of the case was not considered while granting them the relief.

The top court rejected Saibaba's request to order his release from jail due to his disability and health conditions and put him under house arrest after the Maharashtra government opposed the prayer, saying nowadays, there is a new tendency of "urban Naxals" to seek house arrest. It, however, allowed Saibaba to move a fresh bail application in the case.

The high court acquitted Saibaba and others in the case on Friday. An apex court bench of justices M R Shah and Bela M Trivedi, which sat on a non-work-

## MHA's security advisor resigns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 15:** Decorated police officer K Vijay Kumar, who was credited for eliminating forest brigand Veerappan, has resigned as the senior security advisor in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Kumar, who put in his papers sometimes ago due to personal reasons, has vacated his accommodation in Delhi and relocated to Chennai. "I am now based in Chennai after I decided to end my stint with the MHA due to personal reasons," he said. Kumar expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, MHA officials and the chiefs of police forces of all the states for extending cooperation throughout his tenure.

Kumar was mostly advising the government on issues of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), besides on Jammu and Kashmir.

The 1975-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was appointed as the senior security officer of the MHA after his superannuation from service in 2012 as the director general of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He served as the advisor to the governor of Jammu and Kashmir before being re-appointed as the senior security advisor in the MHA in 2019.



An artist makes clay lamps ahead of Diwali in Prayagraj

PTI PHOTO

# Top court stops seer's coronation in Uttarakhand

*Shankaracharya is a commonly used title of heads of monasteries called mutts in the Advaita Vedanta tradition of Hinduism*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 15:** The Supreme Court has stopped the coronation of Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati as the new

Shankaracharya of the Jyotish Peeth in Uttarakhand.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna passed the order after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the bench that the Shankaracharya of Govardhan Math in Puri has filed an affidavit that the appointment of Avimukteshwaranand as the new Shankaracharya of the Jyotish Peeth has not been endorsed.

"This application is allowed in terms of prayer clause," the bench



said. The top court was hearing an application alleging that Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati falsely claimed to have been appointed as a successor

Shankaracharya of Jyotish Peeth by the deceased Shankaracharya Swami Svaroopanand Saraswati.

The matter is pending before the top court from 2020. The plea said there is a deliberate attempt to ensure that the proceedings before this court become infructuous and a person who is not qualified and is ineligible, unauthorisedly assumes the office.

"Such attempts need to be prevented by an interim order of the court and hence this application

may be admitted and allowed." It is most respectfully stated that the necessary documents are being filed to show that appointment of new Shankaracharya is patently false as it is in complete violation of accepted procedure of appointment," the plea said. According to Hindu scholars, a peeth can't remain without a Shankaracharya. Shankaracharya is a commonly used title of heads of monasteries called mutts in the Advaita Vedanta tradition of Hinduism.

# Women in this village are waging war against air pollution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Oct 15:** For years, 48-year-old Suman Verma Kujra cooked food for her seven-member family using solid fuels, mostly wood, in her kitchen in Jharkhand's Lohardaga district.

Kujra, a resident of Hendlaso village, about 80 km from here, experienced health difficulties, such as eye inflammation and respiratory issues, due to smoke emanating from chulha (oven) in her kitchen having an asbestos roof. But, she thought it was normal, and every kitchen functions this way.

Till then, the woman had been ignorant about household air pollution and its impact on health. "I

never heard that smoke coming out of chulhas is not good for health and it can cause multiple diseases," Kujra said.

However, the housewife's perception changed after she attended a programme on air pollution and climate change on December 2, 2020, organised by a Jharkhand-based NGO, where she came to know for the first time about household air pollution.

"Later, we were trained on how to measure in-house air quality and ways to reduce the impact of pollution to some extent. We were also given an air quality monitoring device," Kujra said. When she measured the air quality of her kitchen for the first time with



such a device after burning the chulha, the count of fine particulate matter PM 2.5, a pollutant, was near about 900 ug/m3 as

against the normal range of 40ug/m3.

"I was told that the range is very dangerous for health. In a

bid to lower the pollution impact, I immediately constructed a window for proper ventilation in the kitchen and stopped burning plastics, papers in the chulha. At present, I use both LPG stove and chulha for cooking food," she said.

Kujra now runs a self-help group (SHG) under the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS), a nodal agency for the implementation of national rural livelihood mission (NRLM) projects. "Since I am associated with SHG, I decided to create awareness about household air pollution among women in villages with the support of the NGO. Till now, I have reached out to around 400 women and they have also joined

the campaign against pollution," she said.

A similar view was aired by Reena Oraon, a resident of Hariharpur village. Oraon said, "I was not aware of household pollution earlier. Now, I decided to build a kitchen outside the living room so that smoke goes out easily. I have also joined the mission to make people aware of health impacts due to air pollution in my village."

Household pollution, mainly in rural areas, is hardly discussed in seminars even though "its impact is huge on those who are cooking using fossil fuel," said Manorama Ekka, the founder of HOPE, a civil society organisation.

## MP SHOCKER

More than 20,800 cattle were found infected with lumpy skin disease in Madhya Pradesh and 336 of them have succumbed to the infection so far, officials said Saturday



## 140 exotic animals seized in Mizoram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Aizawl, Oct 15:** In a significant success, the Mizoram police have rescued 140 exotic animals and seized drugs worth ₹34.18 crores and arrested four persons in this connection, the police said on Saturday.

The police said that the exotic animals and seized drugs were smuggled in from neighbouring Myanmar and smugglers from both the countries were involved in the clandestine trade.

Officials said that the police in a joint operation with the Excise and Narcotics Department personnel intercepted three vehicles (two Boleros and one Scorpio) and rescued 140 wild animals and birds on Saturday in eastern Mizoram's Champhai district.



The rescued wild animals included 30 tortoises, four monkeys, 22 pythons, 18 Sumatran water monitors, 55 crocodiles (hatchlings), four Flame powerbirds, four Servel cats, and one Albino wallaby.

Three persons were arrested in connection with the biggest ever seizure of wild animals. They have been identified as Lalemruata (38), Tinkhuma (38) and E. Lalmanpa. They were handed over to the Superintendent of Customs Preventive Force, Champhai, for further legal proceedings.

In another incident, heroin weighing 6.836 kg valued at ₹34.18 crore was seized from a vehicle at Champhai. The police said that the consignment was concealed in 500 soap cases.

# Four J&K employees sacked for terror links



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Oct 15:** Four government employees, including a policeman, and a bank manager were dismissed from service by the Jammu and Kashmir administration for their alleged involvement in anti-national activities, officials said Saturday.

With this, the number of employees who were terminated from service for "anti-national activities" in the Union Territory in the past over one year rose to 44. The dismissal of the five -- most of whom have cases registered against them for terror activities -- was ordered under Article 311 of the

Indian Constitution, an official spokesperson said. Article 311 provides for the dismissal of a person employed in civil capacities under a Union or a state.

"The activities of these employees had come to the adverse notice of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as they have been found involved in activities prejudicial to the interests of the security of the state," the spokesperson said.

Those who have been dismissed from service are Manager of Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank Ltd Afaq Ahmad Wani, Constable in Auxiliary wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police Tanveer Saleem Dar, village-level worker Syed Iftikhar Andrabi, orderly-cum-chowkidar in Jal Shakti Department at Baramulla, Irshad Ahmad Khan and assistant lineman in Public Health Engineering sub-division, Handwara, Abdul Momin Peer, he said.

The spokesperson said the committee constituted by the government on July 30, 2020, for scrutinising the inputs, records and cognisable material, recommended the dismissal of the five, taking the number of such em-

ployees who were terminated from service for "anti-national activities" in the Union Territory to 44.

The process of dismissal began in April last year and among those dismissed from the government service included three sons of Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen supreme Syed Sallahuddin and tainted deputy superintendent of police Devender Singh (now removed), who was caught with a most wanted terrorist and two others travelling along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

Afaq Ahmad Wani, Syed Iftikhar Andrabi and Abdul Momin Peer are among several persons chargesheeted by the National Investigation Agency in a major narco-terrorism racket, which was unearthed in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on June 11, 2020.

A total of 21 kilograms of heroin and over ₹1.35 crore was recovered. "Wani has been part of a narco-terror module and involved in sale, purchase, transportation, warehousing and possession of heroin," the spokesperson said. Peer, also involved in narco-terror financing, has been part of the distribution network, he added. Peer visited Pakistan in 2016 and 2017 with the aim of developing an understanding of the broader objectives of terror-separatist campaigns, the spokesperson said.

Andrabi has also worked as over ground worker (OGW) for Lashar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahidin terror outfits, he said. "He had developed close links with Pakistan Occupied Kashmir-based terrorists and got involved in narco-terror financing. He can be described as a double agent as he maintained very close relations with the Indian law enforcement agencies," the spokesperson said. He said Tanveer Saleem Dar has always subscribed to the "secessionist and radical" ideology and two cases stand registered against him.

**With this, the number of employees who were terminated from service for "anti-national activities" in the Union Territory in the past over one year rose to 44**

# international



In any case, direct contact, direct clash of (NATO) troops with the Russian army is a very dangerous move which could lead to a global catastrophe. I hope that those who are saying this are smart enough not to take such a step  
VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

## CPC'S BIG DAY TODAY

China's ruling party, National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will hold its key Congress from Sunday. A new set of senior officials will be appointed except for President Xi Jinping who is set to get endorsed for a record third term, breaking over the three-decade norm for top leaders to step down after a 10-year tenure



## of the day quote

The current wave is largely driven by the XBB strain, and reinfections are also contributing to the wave. The wave will likely peak by around mid-November  
ONG YE KUNG | HEALTH, MINISTER SINGAPORE

Indians have made sacrifices across the world in the service of humanity. They inspire us as we strive to create a more contemporary and equitable global order  
S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA

We are already invested in clean energy partnership, in making the global supply chain more resilient and in harnessing the value of new and emerging technologies  
TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU | INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US

## SHORT TAKES

### Dutch Princess faces threats

**The Hague:** Dutch Crown Princess Catharina-Amalia has moved from her student flat in Amsterdam to the royal palace for security reasons, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima told local media. "That has enormous consequences for her life. That means she doesn't live in Amsterdam and can't really go outside," Queen Maxima said. King Willem-Alexander described the situation with his daughter as "very difficult", reports Xinhua news agency. "I'm really proud of her for keeping it all up, to be honest," Queen Maxima said.

### Ex-chief justice shot dead in Pak

**Karachi:** A former chief justice of the Balochistan High Court was gunned down as he came out of a mosque after offering prayers Friday evening in Kharan area of Pakistan's restive Balochistan province. Muhammad Noor Maskanzai, who received multiple gunshot wounds, died while he was being taken to a hospital in Quetta, around 280 kilometres from the town of Kharan. A senior police official said that the former CJ was critically injured in the targeted firing as he came out of the mosque.

### Two charged for van Gogh's incident

**London:** Two women have been charged with criminal damage after climate change protesters threw soup over Vincent van Gogh's painting "Sunflowers" at London's National Gallery, British police said Saturday. A video posted by the Just Stop Oil campaign group, which has been holding protests for the last two weeks in the British capital, showed two of its activists on Friday throwing tins of Heinz tomato soup over the painting, one of five versions on display in museums and galleries around the world.

### SpaceX ferries 4 astronauts back

**Cape Canaveral:** Four astronauts returned to Earth in a SpaceX capsule, ending their nearly six-month space station mission with a splashdown in the Atlantic off Florida. Wet and windy weather across Florida delayed their homecoming. SpaceX and NASA finally gave the all-clear Friday, and the three Americans and one Italian departed the International Space Station, their residence since April. The capsule parachuted into the ocean, just off Jacksonville, Florida, about five hours after it left the space station.

# World's largest active volcano in a 'state of unrest'

## MAUNA LOA IS NOT ERUPTING AND THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF AN IMMINENT ERUPTION AT THIS TIME

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Honolulu, Oct 15:** A magnitude 5.0 earthquake was the strongest of a series of tremors that struck Friday on Hawaii's Mauna Loa, the largest active volcano on the planet that scientists say is in a "state of heightened unrest."

Smaller aftershocks followed, according to the US Geological

Survey. The series started with a 4.6 magnitude quake seconds before the larger one, which the USGS previously reported as having magnitude of 5.1.

The first one was slightly offshore and south of the town of Pahala, followed by the larger quake just south of Pahala beneath a highway, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said in a statement.

Hawaii County Mayor Mitch Roth said there were no immediate reports of major damage or injuries. He said later there was some minor damage in Pahala, including tiles that fell in a county building.

"Shaking from the larger earthquakes may have been strong



enough to do minor local damage, especially to older buildings," the observatory's statement said. "The two earthquakes occurred within 24 seconds of each other creating shaking of longer duration and possibly greater intensity than either of the earthquakes would have created on their own."

The aftershocks could continue for several days to possibly weeks and may be large enough to be felt, the observatory said.

"This sequence of earthquakes appears to be related to readjustments along the southeast flank of Mauna Loa volcano," the observatory said. "On several occasions large earth-

quakes have preceded past eruptions of Mauna Loa, though these have typically been larger than today's earthquakes. It is not known at this time if this sequence of earthquakes is directly related to the ongoing unrest on Mauna Loa."

Scientists at the observatory were monitoring Mauna Loa closely for changes. Hundreds of responses on the USGS earthquakes website reported feeling varying degrees of shaking across the vast island.

Those near Pahala reported strong shaking, while others further away felt weaker tremors. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said there was no tsunami threat to Hawaii.

## TRUSS FIGHTS FOR HER JOB

# New UK finance minister warns of tough decisions

The fact that Hunt is Britain's fourth finance minister in four months is testament to a political crisis that has gripped Britain since Johnson was ousted following a series of scandals



There were some mistakes made in the last few weeks. That's why I'm sitting here. It was a mistake to cut the top rate of tax at a period when we're asking everyone to make sacrifices  
JEREMY HUNT | FINANCE MINISTER, UK

**London, Oct 15:** Britain's new finance minister Jeremy Hunt said Saturday some taxes would go up and tough spending decisions were needed, signalling further reversals from Prime Minister Liz Truss as she battles to keep her job just over a month into her term.

In an attempt to appease financial markets that have been in turmoil for three weeks, Truss fired Kwasi Kwarteng as her chancellor of the exchequer Friday and scrapped parts of their controversial economic package.

With opinion poll ratings dire for both the ruling Conservative Party and the prime minister personally, and many of her own lawmakers asking, not if, but how Truss should be removed, she has turned to Hunt to help salvage her premiership less than 40 days after taking office.

"We will have some very difficult decisions ahead," Hunt said as he toured TV and radio studios to give a blunt assessment of the situation the country faced, saying Truss and

Kwarteng had made mistakes. "The thing that people want, the markets want, the country needs now, is stability," Hunt said. "No chancellor can control the markets. But what I can do is show that we can pay for our tax and spending plans and that is going to need some very difficult decisions on both spending and tax."

Truss won the leadership contest to replace Boris Johnson on a platform of big tax cuts to stimulate growth, which Kwarteng duly announced last month. The appointment of Hunt, who ran to be leader himself and then backed her main rival ex-finance minister Rishi Sunak, has been seen as a sign of her reaching out, but the move did little to placate some of her party critics.

## 'N-WEAPONS WITHOUT COHESION'

# Pakistan one of the most dangerous nations: Biden

West has expressed concern over the safety and security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons. Many in the West are worried that Pakistan's nuclear weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists or jihadi elements



And the truth of the matter is - I genuinely believe this - that the world is looking to us. Not a joke. Even our enemies are looking to us to figure out how we figure this out, what we do  
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

**Washington, Oct 15:** US President Joe Biden has said Pakistan is "one of the most dangerous nations in the world" as it has "nuclear weapons without cohesion". He made the remarks while addressing a Democratic Party congressional campaign committee reception.

"...And what I think is maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world: Pakistan. Nuclear weapons without any cohesion," Biden said. The US president's remarks at the reception of the governing party were made in the context of the changing geopolitical situation globally.

"Ever since May 1998, when Pakistan first began testing nuclear weapons, claiming its national security demanded it, American presidents have been haunted by the fear that Pakistan's stockpile of nukes would fall into the wrong hands. That fear now includes the

possibility that jihadis in Pakistan, freshly inspired by the Taliban victory in Afghanistan, might try to seize power at home," Marvin Kalb, a nonresident senior fellow with the Foreign Policy programme at Brookings wrote last year.

The top US general Mark Milley had warned that a rapid withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan would pose an increased risk to the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. In his speech, Biden said the world was changing rapidly and countries were rethinking

## Pak 'surprised' at Biden's remarks

**Islamabad:** Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Saturday said Pakistan is "surprised" by the remarks of US President Joe Biden's on the country's nuclear assets and summoned America's Ambassador Donald Blome for an official demarche. Rejecting Biden's comments, Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal at a press conference here said that Pakistan was following the global standards. "As far as the safety and security of Pakistan's nuclear assets are concerned, we meet all, each and every international standard in accordance with the International Atomic Energy Agency," he said. Bilawal said he discussed the issue of Biden's statement with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and "we have summoned the Ambassador of the United States to Pakistan Donald Blome to the Foreign Office of Pakistan for an official demarche". "I am surprised by the remarks of President Biden. I believe this is exactly the sort of misunderstanding that is created when there is a lack of engagement," Bilawal said.

their alliances.

There was a lot at stake, Biden said, emphasising that the US had the capacity to lead the world to a place it had never been before.

Earlier this month, the US urged its citizens to reconsider travel to Pakistan, especially its restive provinces, due to terrorism and sectarian violence.

# Turkish mine explosion claims 41

Turkey's president Tayyip Erdogan visited the site and offered his condolences

AGENCIES

**Amasra, Oct 15:** The death toll from a coal mine explosion in northern Turkey rose to at least 41 people Saturday, officials said.

Desperate relatives had waited all night in the cold outside the state-owned TTK Amasra Muessese Mudurlugu mine in the town of Amasra, in the Black Sea coastal province of Bartin, hoping for news. There were 110 miners working in the shaft when the explosion occurred Friday evening.

Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said Saturday that 41 miners were confirmed dead. Eleven were injured and hospitalised, while 58 others managed to get out of the mine on their own or were rescued unharmed. The



status of one remaining miner was unclear.

Energy Minister Fatih Donmez said rescue efforts were almost complete. Earlier he had said that a fire was still burning in the mine's gallery where more than a dozen miners had been trapped. Work to isolate and cool the fire continued, he said.

Preliminary assessments in-

cluded that the explosion was likely caused by firedamp, which is a reference to flammable gases found in coal mines, Donmez said overnight.

Ambulances were on standby at the site. Rescue teams were dispatched to the area, including from neighbouring provinces, Turkey's disaster management agency, AFAD, said.

## SOLO AND UNAIDED

# UK Sikh 'Polar Preet' set for new record trek to Antarctica

Captain Harpreet Chandi, known as Polar Preet with reference to her Polar record, returned from the South Pole in January which she saw as the first phase ahead of the Antarctica trek

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Oct 15:** A 33-year-old British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist, who completed a trekking challenge to become the first Indian-origin woman to set the record of a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole, is all set for her second challenge, a over 1,000-mile solo and unaided trek to

Antarctica. Captain Harpreet Chandi, who recently won the Asian Achievers Award in the Uniformed and Civil Service category in London for her record-breaking efforts, will be pulling a sledge with all her kit and battling below freezing temperatures on her new adventure starting towards the end of this month.



My aim is to complete a solo and unsupported crossing of Antarctica  
HARPREET CHANDI | CAPTAIN

"My aim is to complete a solo and unsupported crossing of Antarctica," says Chandi. "This involves me travelling over 1,000 miles, pulling a pulk [sledge] with all of my kit, battling temperatures

of up to minus 50 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of up to 60mph. This journey will take approximately 75 days. This expedition will make me the first female to complete a solo and unsupported

crossing of the continent," she said. It was around three years ago when she was learning about Antarctica that she decided she wanted to do a crossing of the continent.

But she did not put in her application into the Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions (ALE), which handles the permissions for such expeditions, immediately because she wanted to build up some experience.

"After a year of training and completing expeditions in Norway and Greenland, I put my application into ALE. A few weeks later, I received an email and my application had been rejected, I still did not have enough experience. To be honest, I felt deflated," she recalls.

"It is never nice to have any kind of rejection. What could I do to gain the experience that was required? I created phase one - a 1126.54 kms solo expedition to the South Pole," she said, a challenge she has completed since.

Her application was completed earlier this year and it has been all about preparing for this ultimate goal. Now, she will be setting off on her journey in less than two weeks to start her journey to Antarctica.

"There have been tough times to get here but I made it this far. I don't always remember to look back and reflect. But I know for a fact my 15-year-old self would be amazed at where we are now," she writes this week on her blog, where she logs her trekking journey.

## of the day quote

As market regulators, we cannot overlook the challenges that market power and business practices of gatekeeper platforms pose to other market participants -- those who are competing with them and, more so, those who deal with them (and rely upon them)

**ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA** | CHIEF, COMPETITION COMMISSION

We remain excited about the proactive conversations we are having with our customers and see increased traction in the cloud and analytics space.

**SUDHIR CHATURVEDI** | PRESIDENT (SALES AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER), LTI

During the quarter FMCG and staples segment of the business has performed better than the general merchandise and apparel segments

**NEVILLE NORONHA** | CEO & MD, AVENUE SUPERMARTS

## SHORT TAKES

### HDFC Bank posts 22.30% jump in Q2

**Mumbai:** HDFC Bank Saturday reported a 22.30 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit for the September quarter at ₹11,125.21 crore. The city-headquartered lender had reported a consolidated net profit of ₹9,096.19 crore in the year-ago period. On a standalone basis, the largest private sector bank's net profit rose by over 20 per cent to ₹10,605.78 crore as against ₹8,834.31 crore in the year-ago period and ₹9,196 crore in the preceding June quarter. For the reporting quarter, its total income rose to ₹46,182 crore from ₹38,754 crore in the year-ago period, while the expenditure, excluding provisions and contingencies, climbed to ₹28,790 crore from ₹22,947 crore, the bank said. The overall share of gross non-performing assets increased to 1.23 per cent of the book as against 1.35 per cent in the year-ago period and 1.28 per cent three months ago.

### PM to launch urea bags under 'Bharat'

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch subsidised urea bags under a single brand 'Bharat' as part of the 'One Nation, One Fertiliser' scheme and inaugurate 600 PM Kisan Samruddhi Kendras at a two-day event starting October 17 in the national capital. At the event to be held at Mela ground in Pusa complex, Modi will also electronically transfer ₹16,000 crores to the bank accounts of over 8.5 crore farmers as part of the PM-KISAN scheme, aimed at providing direct support of ₹6,000 annually to them. The PM will also unveil an international weekly fertiliser e-magazine called 'Indian Edge' and inaugurate an agri-startup conclave and exhibition at the event 'PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022' organised jointly by Agriculture and Fertiliser Ministries.

### Power demand set to double by 2030

**New Delhi:** India's power demand is set to double by 2030, which will require capacity addition and this will entail huge capital investment, Minister for Power RK Singh said. He also noted that to achieve energy transition towards green hydrogen, distribution companies or DISCOMS across the country will have to follow prudent and sustainable financial practices to ensure that they are viable. He also sought states' cooperation to achieve the investment target of ₹50 lakh crore in the power sector against the backdrop of estimates of doubling of electricity demand in the next decade.



The impact of a global recession, which is increasingly being feared by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, is unlikely to be as pronounced in India as compared to other countries

**DINESH KHARA** | CHAIRMAN, STATE BANK OF INDIA

## REVIEW FINANCIALS OF BYJU'S: LS MEMBER

Lok Sabha member Karti Chidambaram has asked chartered accountants' apex body ICAI to review the financials of edtech firm Byju's. In a letter to ICAI President Debashis Mitra, the Parliamentarian said there are various red flags in the company's financials for 2020-21 period



BYJU'S

## DESPITE GLOBAL HEADWINDS

# Economy will stay on course: FM

The IMFC meet is being held at a juncture when the global economic outlook is clouded by key downside risks growth slowdown in major economies, cross-border effects due to the ongoing geopolitical situation, inflationary pressures led by escalating food and energy prices that have adversely impacted vulnerable economies



Indian economy is projected to grow at 7% in FY23  
India's Q1 growth highest among large economies  
The country's quota in the IMF is 2.75 per cent

In a world of uncertainties, India is one of the very few standout performers

**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | FINANCE MINISTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Oct 15:** The Indian economy will stay on course despite global headwinds and is projected to grow at seven per cent in fiscal 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, attributing this to the conducive domestic policy environment and focus on key structural reforms.

Sitharaman's remarks came during her intervention at the plenary session of the international Monetary Finance Committee (IMFC) Friday.

"Despite global headwinds, the Indian economy will stay on course and is projected to grow at seven per cent in FY 2022-23. This is an outcome of the conducive domestic policy environment and the government's focus on key structural reforms to boost growth," she said.

The government has ensured the availability of free food grains to more than 800 million vulnerable families for the past 25 months,

through the country's massive public distribution network, she said.

Last-mile delivery of financial services to the poor has been a key priority of the government and this has been aided by India's digital public good infrastructure.

"Today, India is leading the world in terms of digital payments innovations with our transaction cost being the lowest in the world," Sitharaman said.

Of the view that the IMF needs to increase resources available for emerging and low-income countries to safeguard the global financial system, Sitharaman underscored that concluding the 16th General Review of Quotas (GRQ) by December 15th, 2023 is vital for increasing the voting rights of emerging market economies (EMEs) in line with their relative positions in the world economy.

India's quota in the IMF, which determines voting shares in the multi-lateral lending agency, is 2.75 per cent. China's quota is 6.4 per cent and that of the US is 17.43 per cent.

A general review allows the IMF to assess the adequacy of quotas in relation to both the members' bal-

ance of pay-

ments in financing needs and the Fund's ability to help meet those needs. She said India's National Statistical Organisation (NSO) has now placed the GDP growth for Q1 of the current financial year 2022-23 at 13.5 per cent on a year-on-year basis -- the highest among the large economies.

Sitharaman said this was achieved despite the fact that India started the monetary normalisation process quite early: surplus liquidity is being absorbed with the Standing Deposit Facility instituted in April 2022 and interest rate hikes from May this year.

The government, she noted, is on a consolidation path and has budgeted to prune the GFD-GDP ratio to 6.4 per cent from 6.7 per cent in 2021-22 and 9.2 per cent in 2020-21.

Observing that a key downside risk to global recovery is the exacerbated debt distress in many low-income countries, Sitharaman said it is therefore important that the IMF provides the necessary support to deal with the balance of payments-related vulnerabilities.

As such she welcomed IMF's re-

## BIZ BUZZ

### Union Bank of India holds intra-school quiz competition

**Bhubaneswar:** Union Bank of India has organised intra-school quiz competition named as 'U-Genius'. More than 100 schools participated in the event out of which



two teams will be selected from Odisha, who will be competing with other students from Pan-India at Mumbai. In that level, three teams will be selected and will be awarded suitably. Sarvesh Ranjan, Field General Manager, Union Bank of India, Regional heads of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar regions were present on this occasion.

### 2nd half-yearly TOLIC review meet organised by UCO Bank

**Balasure:** The second half-yearly review meeting of Town Official Language (Hindi) Implementation Committee, Balasure was held October 12 presided by Debabrata



Mohanty, Deputy General Manager and Zonal Head, UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Balasure. In-charge of Regional Implementation Office, East, Nirmal Kumar Dubey was present as the chief guest. The winners of the competitions organised by Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) were awarded with memento and certificates of commendation. About 40 officials from 28 government offices of the city registered their presence in this meeting. The programme was coordinated by Raju Ranjan, Manager (OL).

# India allows exports of wheat flour made from imported grain

**WHEAT EXPORTS FROM INDIA, ALSO THE WORLD'S SECOND BIGGEST CONSUMER OF THE STAPLE, SURGED AFTER RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE HIT SUPPLIES FROM THE BLACK SEA REGION, RESULTING IN A JUMP IN GLOBAL PRICES**

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 15:** India has allowed export-oriented units and the firms set up in Special Economic Zones to export flour made from imported wheat, a government order said Friday, conceding to the demands of food processors to allow shipments of value-added products.

India will allow food processors to import duty-free wheat against a commitment to export flour, the order said.

After a sudden rise in tempera-



tures in mid-March shrivelled the wheat crop, India, the world's second-biggest producer of the grain, banned overseas sales of the staple to secure supplies for its 1.4 billion people.

Wheat exports from India, also the world's second biggest consumer of the staple, surged after Russia's invasion of Ukraine hit supplies from the Black Sea region, resulting in a jump in global prices.

After banning wheat exports in May, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi restricted wheat flour exports in August to

keep a lid on local prices.

The ban on wheat exports boosted demand for Indian wheat flour and the country's flour exports jumped 200% during April-July 2022 from a year earlier, lifting prices in the local market.

Close on the heels of the ban on overseas sales of wheat, India restricted rice exports as scant rains in the east affected planting of the most water-thirsty crop.

India's protectionist measures have stoked fears of food shortages in some of the world's most needy and vulnerable countries in Asia and Africa.

## 12% wage hike for employees of PSU general insurers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 15:** The Finance Ministry has notified an average 12 per cent wage hike for employees of four public sector general insurance companies effective from August 2017.

"This Scheme may be called the General Insurance (Rationalisation of Pay Scales and other Conditions of Service of Officers) Amendment Scheme, 2022," a gazette notification dated October 14, 2022 said.

This wage revision is effective from August 1, 2017 and applicable to those who were in the service of these companies, it said, adding that officers and employees will get arrears for five years.

The next revision due from August 2022 will be in the form of a variable pay based on the performance of the company and the employee, it added. Unions are not happy with imposition of pay linked to performance of the company and their performance.

"We are having strong reservations against the way the wage revision has been done after the wait of 64 months. Linking wages with performance seems to be illogical as we employees undertake so many government schemes," General Insurance Employees' All India Association (GIEAIA) general secretary Trilok Singh said.

There is no level playing field for public sector insurance companies, he said, adding, employees of state-owned insurance firms make all the government schemes successful and not the private sector. Data year after year indicates that the private sector has been laggard, he added.

Singh emphasised that unions are not against reforms but it should be done keeping in mind the public sector nature of these companies.

Last year, the government notified the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Act which will allow the government to cut its stake in state-owned general insurers to below 51 per cent.

With the 12 per cent hike along with five years of arrears, wage bill for New India Assurance, National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance would be around Rs 8,000 crore, an official source said.

## WORLD BOSS DAY

# 'Bad bosses' not top reason for employees' job switch: Survey

A MAJORITY OF EMPLOYEES PREFER BOSSES WHO FOCUS ON MAINTAINING A WORK-LIFE BALANCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Oct 15:** Poor career growth and not 'bad bosses' is the top reason for employees' job switch, according to a survey.

Bosses who focus more on work-life balance are preferred by employees, it said.

The survey was conducted by Naukri.Com to understand the relationship between Indian em-

ployees and their managers, the job site said in a statement Saturday. World Boss Day is celebrated October 16.

The job site said the survey was conducted with over 4,600 employees across the sectors and experience levels, wherein 37 per cent of the total respondents were professionals with over 12 years of work experience.

The survey found that the op-



portunity to grow within an organisation is what makes professionals stay in their current organisations.

The majority of respondents (41 per cent) mentioned poor career growth as the key reason for leaving their last organisations, followed by bad work culture and company policies (34 per cent).

Interestingly, only 33 per cent mentioned that they left their last organisation due to bad bosses.

Over 31 per cent of employees prefer managers who motivate them to perform better and give timely feedback.

Indian managers usually follow one-way communication channels (from managers to subordinates), as mentioned by 36 per cent of employees who took

the survey.

As per the employee survey, male leaders are considered to be adaptive in nature when employees were asked to vote for them on various attributes.

"Apart from this, being approachable and open-minded are the other key traits that make males ideal bosses," said the job site.

In this context, when it enquired about what attributes make female employees good bosses, respondents said that they are better at promoting work-life balance and showing respectful behaviours to their subordinates.

INDIA ROMP TO SEVENTH WOMEN'S ASIA CUP TITLE WITH EASY WIN OVER SRI LANKA IN THE FINAL

# EVES ACE ASIA



WOMEN'S ASIA CUP 2022

## CHAMPIONS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Sylhet, Oct 15:** India maintained their dominance in the Women's Asia Cup with an eight-wicket demolition of a self-destructing Sri Lanka in the final here Saturday for their seventh title in eight editions.

Sri Lanka, who were playing their first tournament final in 14 years, imploded after opting to bat on a slow and turning pitch. They could only manage 65/9 which India knocked off in 8.3 overs. Smriti Mandhana struck a sublime half century (51 n o, 25b, 6x4 3x6).

It was a procession after Sri Lankan skipper Chamari Athapaththu got run out in the third over following a mix up with Anushka Sanjeevani who too got run out six balls later.

Renuka Singh Thakur (3/5), who has been in top form since the Commonwealth Games in August, sent back Hasini Perera on the very first ball she faced. The left-hander checked her shot only to be

caught at cover, leaving Sri Lanka at 9/4.

The Sri Lankans were in dire need of a partnership but Kavisha Dilhari's fall made it 16/5 as she was bowled while trying to play an incoming delivery from Renuka across the line.

Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/16) got her first wicket after Nilakshi de Silva played on to her stumps while trying to cut a ball close to her body. At 32/8, being bowled out for a sub-50 total was very much on the cards, but Ranaweera saved them from that ignominy with an unbeaten 18 off 22 balls.

The Indians bowled with discipline but poor shot selection contributed more to Sri Lanka's steep slide. After a memorable win over Pakistan in the semifinals, it seemed the occasion got the better of Sri Lanka.

India lost Shafali Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues cheaply in the run chase. However, both the batters did well in the tournament, with Shafali getting back to form and Jemimah making a successful

comeback from injury.

The elegant Mandhana played some exquisite strokes on way to completing the formality alongside skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (11 n o). Smriti, fittingly, she sealed the win with a maximum off Oshadi Ranasinghe.

The win is a shot in the arm for India's preparations for the T20 World Cup next year. They were able to test players for different roles during the competition, though that also contributed to their only loss in the tournament, against Pakistan in the league stage.

The Indians took a lap of the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium and, in a fine gesture, got clucked with the entire groundstaff after their triumph, which was witnessed by a sizeable turnout.

**BRIEF SCORES**

Sri Lanka Women 65/9 (Inoka Ranaweera 18 n o; Renuka Singh Thakur 3/5, Sneha Rana 2/13, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/16) lost to India Women 71/2 in 8.3 overs (Smriti Mandhana 51 n o; Inoka Ranaweera 1/17) by 8 wickets.



Smriti Mandhana

## OTHER REACTIONS

**RENUKA SINGH THAKUR (PLAYER OF THE MATCH):** Very happy because the last few games I didn't bowl well. I practiced with my coach and the staff and they really helped me get back my rhythm. Just focussed on my basics and got success. My whole team supported me really well and credit should go to my captain, coach and the staff

**DEEPTI SHARMA (PLAYER OF THE SERIES):** Really happy with the way we performed as unit from the first game till today. We executed what was discussed in the meeting. I just back my strengths and those things helped me a lot in this tournament. The wickets were slow and before this tournament, I worked a lot on my batting and those sessions really helped me. This win gives us a lot of confidence going into the upcoming series as well

## Liverpool still City's biggest threat: Pep



Jurgen Klopp (L) looks at Pep Guardiola during a Liverpool-Man City match

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Manchester, Oct 15:** Pep Guardiola is convinced that midtable Liverpool remains Manchester City's biggest threat in the Premier League this season ahead of their game at Anfield Sunday.

The City manager has warned his players they face defeat if they are as "soft" as they have been in recent encounters with their rival.

Second-placed City sit 13 points ahead of Liverpool, with Jurgen Klopp conceding his team is not in contention for the title after its early-season struggles. But Guardiola insists last season's runner-up is still the main challenger to defending champion City.

"Always has been, always it is and always will be," Guardiola said Friday. "I know the quality they have, they know the quality we have. So if I was asked this question with five or 10 games left, I will say I think Liverpool cannot catch the top of the league — in that case Arsenal. But being in the position that we are, with the World Cup, everything can still happen."

Guardiola has only managed one win at Anfield since taking charge of City in 2016 — a 4-1 victory in 2021 with no fans allowed because of COVID-19 restrictions. But Guardiola dismissed suggestions that Anfield, and its famously intense atmosphere, has been a significant factor in his struggles to win there.

"Of course the crowd is involved in every stadium, but basically because they have a good team," he said. "It is one (of) the biggest ones (for atmosphere), the nicest ones, and it's a joy to be there. But as I said before it is a football game, it's Liverpool and what is important is the quality that they have."

Liverpool beat City 3-1 in the Community Shield in August and also won 3-2 in last season's FA Cup semifinals. "Maybe in the last two games we were a little bit soft for different circumstances," Guardiola said.

"You have to win duels. When

they push you, you have to push. When they are there, you have to be there. The semifinals of the FA Cup, it was tough to recover the incredible effort we had done in Champions League. In the Community Shield, still we were not ready. They were in one pace higher than us and without that, against that team, you cannot compete."

Meanwhile, Klopp says Liverpool cannot afford to concentrate too much on City striker Erling Haaland, who has scored 20 goals already this season. "Like always when you play against the best striker in the world, you have to make sure he doesn't get that many balls," Klopp said.

"But against City the problem is if you close Haaland down with too many players, then you open up gaps for all the other world-class players, so that will not make life easier."

## Contract extension



**MANCHESTER:** England midfielder Phil Foden has signed a contract extension with Manchester City to 2027. Foden's previous deal was to expire in 2024 but the Premier League champion moved Friday to secure their home-grown talent for longer. He is the star graduate of City's celebrated academy, which has become one of the most successful in world football. The 22-year-old Foden has become a key player under City manager Pep Guardiola and played his part in four title-winning campaigns, collecting 11 trophies in total. "He's made me 10 times the player I was," Foden said. "He's improved all aspects of my game and I'm just thankful to have him here and I'm enjoying my football with him."



Renuka Singh Thakur

## CAPTAINS' TAKES

### HARMANPREET KAUR, INDIA

**About bowling:** We should credit our bowlers. Our fielding unit was good from ball one and we discussed that we should not give away easy runs. You have to read the wicket and accordingly place the fielders in right positions

**About chase:** We read the wicket well and positioned fielders accordingly. We were not looking at the scoreboard but only decided our five-over targets. We never thought about what is the total on the board and batted accordingly

### CHAMARI ATHAPATHTHU, SRI LANKA

**Team performance:** Tough day as a team, not a good batting display in the finals and I'm really upset today. Next we have T20 World Cup and we learned a lot of things in this tournament and as a batting unit, we have to stick with our plans. I'm really happy with my bowling unit

**Showing confidence:** We have a couple of young players and hope they continue their performances as a batting unit. We do not have a lot of experienced players, but they are good players and think they will play a lot of cricket in the future

## Sabita Toppo bags silver at Asian Youth Athletics



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, October 15:** Sabita Toppo, a 17-year-old 100m sprint hurdler from Odisha, secured a silver medal at the Asian Youth Athletics Championship in Kuwait with a timing of 14.17 seconds. The achievement came following the gold that she won in 100m hurdles at the National Youth (U-18) Athletics meet in Bhopal.

Sabita, who hails from Sundargarh and the youngest of six siblings, joined the Odisha Reliance foundation HPC in 2019. Since then, she has been working hard to improve which reflected in her performance.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Sabita on Twitter.

"Congratulate Odisha athlete, Sabita Toppo on clinching Silver medal in 100 mtr hurdles with a timing of 14.17s at the 4th Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Kuwait. May she continue to bring glory for the State & the nation. Wish her all the best for future endeavours," read the post.

Sabita was also delighted with her show. "I feel so happy winning this medal. There is a lot of hardwork and I would like to thank the Chief Minister Sir for his kind words, the support from the Odisha government and Odisha Reliance Foundation HPC and I am looking forward to improving my timing at every race and working with my coaches," said the Sundargarh girl.

## Odisha FC go down against Mumbai City

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 15:** Mumbai City FC notched up a 2-0 win over Odisha FC in a tightly contested affair in the Indian Super League (ISL) here Saturday. A Shubham Sarangi own goal and a 94th-minute Bipin Singh strike were enough to secure all three points for the Islanders.

In a lacklustre first half, neither side posed a threat in the opposition's penalty area. Both defences were alert to mop up the loose balls but it was the inability of players to find the decisive pass as well as the failure to apply the final touch that kept this game goalless at the midway point.

After a goalless first half, the Islanders broke the deadlock five minutes into the second half courtesy of an own goal. Lallianzuala Chhangte was found on the right flank by Ahmed Jahouh. Chhangte unleashed a shot on target after a quick exchange with Greg Stewart. Amrinder Singh saved the effort with his foot but the ball hit defender Sarangi and rolled into the goal.

In the 72nd minute, Diego Mauricio went down in the box, under pressure from Stewart. Appeals for a penalty were in vain as the referee only awarded a goal kick.

In the last action of the game, Mumbai City probed forward towards a scattered Odisha defence. Stewart unselfishly passed the ball to Bipin who smashed the ball past Amrinder to score his 15th league goal for the club with the last kick of the game.

## ICC T20 WORLD CUP CORNER



### SKIPPERS' DAY OUT

Australia captain Aaron Finch takes a grouse with other skippers of participating teams, including Rohit Sharma, during a photo shoot session for the ICC T20 World Cup, Saturday

**ROHIT SHARMA (India):** Injuries are part and parcel of the sport. If you play so many matches, injuries will happen. Our focus in the last one year has been on increasing our bench strength. There is no point being disappointed about it. What needs to be done is the important thing. It was a conscious effort to come here (Australia) early. We will be fully prepared before the first game (against Pakistan October 23). There is no last minute decisions to be made. All the concerned players have been informed in advance

**AARON FINCH (Australia):** You go into a World Cup knowing that the makeup of your 15 men is really important. It's not just 11 players that win you a World Cup, it's the contribution of all around. I feel as though we've got a really well balanced side. We've got some match winners all throughout the batting lineup and with the ball, as well. It's important that everyone within the squad knows their roles and what role they're most likely to play throughout the tournament, and we can tweak things here and there, but there's a really good feeling in the squad

**KANE WILLIAMSON (New Zealand):** We don't really have a choice in what people call us, but for us we came here and try and focus on the cricket that we want to play and address what's in front of us. Everybody has different tags and rankings that go up and down throughout the year, and I suppose they end up with different names. But you come here in tournament sport on any day, anything can happen, especially looking across all these teams with match-winners throughout

**TEMBA BAVUMA (South Africa):** I think it's not all doom and gloom for us. We're excited. We're looking forward to this tournament and how far we can go. To be honest, the guys are in good spirits. Probably not a lot of expectation around us as a team again. So I guess for us we'll be flying under the radar every day, doing the best that we can and preparing as well as we can for all the games and enjoy the journey, as well

## Off-the-field talks during Indo-Pak tie

**BABAR AZAM:** We don't even talk about cricket. Rohit bhai is elder than me. I try to learn about the game from him. He has achieved a lot and I try to pick whatever I can from him



**ROHIT SHARMA:** Babar is absolutely right. We understand the importance of the game but there is no point talking about it and creating that pressure within yourself. Whenever we meet, we ask about each other's families. I have met all his teammates. Even our former players told us what all they talk. It is usually about 'how their families are, how their life is, what new car they have bought or going to buy'. It is mainly that