



## POSITIVE VIBES

Actor Yami Gautam, opening up on the nepotism debate, says one should move on forgetting the past

LEISURE P2



## CONGRESS SLAMS THAROOR

Madhusudan Mistry accuses Shashi Tharoor's team of having two faces - one for the party's poll body and one for the media

NATIONAL P9



## ASSAULT CONTINUES

Russia continues to fight to regain lost ground in Ukraine that Vladimir Putin's soldiers have illegally annexed

INTERNATIONAL P10



**FUN MOMENT:** A tourist enjoys a ride on a sledge at Gulmarg in Baramulla district of North Kashmir amid the first snowfall of the year

PTI PHOTO

## TRUSS THROWS IN TOWEL AMID CRISIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Oct 20: Embattled British Prime Minister Liz Truss resigned Thursday as the Conservative Party leader. Truss said she can no longer deliver the mandate she was elected on last month, ending her tenure at 10 Downing Street after just 45 days in the job following an open revolt against her chaotic leadership.

The 47-year-old outgoing prime minister will stay in charge until her successor is elected by the governing Tory party, with a speeded-up leadership election to be completed by next week.

Truss was Britain's third female Prime Minister after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May.

Truss' former leadership rival, Rishi Sunak, is seen as a frontrunner in the race for PM, but a consensus within a divided Tory party remains elusive, with the Opposition Labour Party renewing calls for an immediate general election.

"I recognise though that given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party," Truss said in a brief statement outside 10 Downing Street.

The embattled leader also said



### SHORTEST TENURES

Liz Truss will go down in history as Britain's shortest-serving prime minister. Here's a list of those who had the shortest reign

LIZ TRUSS

Sept 6-Oct 2022

GEORGE CANNING

April 10-Aug 8, 1827

BONAR LAW

Oct 23, 1922- May 20, 1923

WILLIAM PETTY

July 13, 1782-April 5, 1783

she had spoken to King Charles III to notify him of her resignation and also met the 1922 Committee chair Sir Graham Brady, in charge of Tory leadership elections. **Continued on P4**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Helipads along national highways is a great idea, sir. But we need them in cities to beat traffic jams!

## Odisha may escape Cyclone 'Sitrang' fury

As per IMD predictions, the storm is expected to head towards West Bengal and Bangladesh after skirting some coastal districts of Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: In what may be a major relief for Odisha, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday that the anticipated Cyclone 'Sitrang' in all probability will skirt the Odisha coast and move towards West Bengal - Bangladesh coasts. However, due to its effect, a number of districts in Odisha are likely to experience heavy to very heavy rainfall.

In a special bulletin, the Regional Meteorological office of the IMD informed that a low pressure area has formed Thursday morning over north Andaman Sea and adjoining areas of south Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal Thursday morning. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and concentrate into a depression over east central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal around October 22 and into a deep depression October 23.

"Subsequently, it is likely to recurve northwards and intensify into a cyclonic storm over west-central and adjoining east-central Bay of Bengal by October 24. Thereafter,



it is likely to gradually move north-northeastwards and reach near the West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts by October 25, skirting Odisha," IMD DG Mrutunjay Mohapatra said. He however, said the IMD is yet to make a forecast on the intensity and wind speed of the cyclone.

Mohapatra said coastal Odisha will experience heavy to very heavy rainfall in isolated places. Rainfall due to the effect of Cyclone 'Sitrang' is likely to commence from the early hours of October 23 over coastal districts of Odisha.

Under its impact, heavy rain-

fall (7 to 11cm) would occur at one or two places in the districts of Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Puri October 23 and in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Cuttack, Khurda and Puri, the next day. Revenue Minister Pramila Mallik said that collectors of a number of districts, including Ganjam, Puri, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak and Balasore have been asked to keep adequate stocks of essential medicines, drinking water and other items in good quantities.

## Plea against lengthy court holidays

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 20: The Bombay High Court said Thursday it would hear after Diwali holidays, a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the practice of courts taking long vacations, thereby affecting filing and hearing of cases. The Bombay High Court's Diwali vacation is from October 22 to November 9.

It should also be stated here that the Supreme Court will be having Diwali holiday's October 24 to October 29. However, with October 30 being a Sunday the apex court of India will reopen October 31.

The PIL has been filed by Sabina Lakdawala challenging the vacations taken by the high court. Lakdawala's lawyer Mathews Nedumpara said the petitioner was not against judges taking holidays but members of the judiciary



should not take leave at the same time so that the courts remain functional throughout the year.

The plea was filed before a division bench of Justices SV Gangapurwala and RN Laddha seeking urgent hearing. The bench asked the lawyer why the petition was filed now when the high court calendar for 2022 was made available in November last year itself. The Bombay high court said it would hear the plea November 15.

It is pertinent to mention here that earlier also, such pleas had

been filed, but to no avail. On this occasion however, the Bombay High Court has decided to hear it.

Courts in India usually take three breaks every year - summer vacation (one month), Diwali (two weeks) and Christmas (one week). However, during the holidays, special vacation benches are available for urgent judicial work.

In her petition, Lakdawala said the long court vacations are relic of the colonial era and have contributed to a collapse of the judicial delivery system. The plea has sought for a declaration that closing courts for more than 70 days for any kind of vacation is a violation of fundamental rights of litigants because it leads to courts becoming unable to hear cases for lack of time.

"Requisite break for lawyers and judges can be provided without the entire institution being shut down," the plea said.

## Tusker kills woman in Sundargarh village

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Oct 20: An elderly woman was killed by an elephant while another person was injured at Kulba village under Ujjwalpur Forest Range in Sundargarh district Thursday morning.

The deceased was identified as Renuka Sahu of Kulba village while the injured was Binod Luhara, who belonged to a neighbouring village. Sources stated that Renuka was attacked by the tusker when she had stepped out of her house early in the morning. A few minutes later Binod who was treading the same path was also attacked. However, despite being injured he managed to flee the spot. He was later rescued by others and rushed to the district headquarters hospital where he is undergoing treatment.

The attack took place after the Forest department personnel who were on night patrolling had left the place. Sources said that the elephant has been roaming in the nearby forests for some time now. They informed that the pachyderm stays inside the forest during the day and sneaks into neighbouring villages at night in search of food.

Locals demanded adequate compensation for the family of the deceased when police officials reached the spot. They also demanded free treatment for the injured person.

This is the second such incident in a week. An elderly woman had been trampled to death by an elephant in the village October 14.

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VIATION
SENSEX	59202.90	↑ 95.71
NIFTY	17563.95	↑ 51.70
DOLLAR	82.25	↓ ₹0.02
EURO	81.05	↓ ₹0.05
GOLD	₹50,200	↑ ₹1
SILVER	₹56,235	↑ ₹221

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.7°C	32.0°C
TEMP MIN	23.6°C	23.4°C
Humidity	82%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Light rain very likely	

## Jeypore airstrip gets DGCA permission

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 20: The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granted Thursday the licence to Jeypore airport in Koraput district to start flight operations under the UDAN scheme.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) informed about this development through its Twitter handle and also shared the license certificate. "Another milestone a day ahead of #UDANDiwas! Jeypore Airport of Odisha, gets the license to carry out scheduled air operations under #UDAN. This will help boost tourism and development of this tribal region," the MoCA said. The DGCA also shared the news

in a statement. "This licence authorises the Jeypore aerodrome to be used as regular place of landing and departure to all persons on equal terms and conditions for operation by aircraft requiring specifications of runway," the DGCA said.

The Jeypore airstrip has become the third after Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda to have commercial flight operations. Earlier, the width of the runway was 900 metres which has now been extended to 1500 metres.

Earlier, the Jeypore airstrip was used during the visit of ministers or VIPs to the district. In the 1980s, Vayudoot operated flights from the Jeypore airstrip. However, services were halted after a flight crashed.

## India incurs \$159bn loss due to heat in 2021

Unless temperatures are controlled and not allowed to spiral, India will only see an increase in flood situations and cyclones

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 20: India suffered an income loss of USD 159 billion, 5.4 per cent of its gross domestic product, in the service, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction sectors due to extreme heat conditions in 2021, according to the 'Climate Transparency Report 2022'. It said that heat conditions led to the loss of 167 billion potential labour hours, a 39 per cent increase from 1990-1999.

Labour productivity in India is projected to decline by five per cent



from the 1986-2006 reference period if global temperatures increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius, the report said. The decline will increase to 2.1 times more if global temperatures increase by 2.5 degrees Celsius, and 2.7 times at a three-degree Celsius scenario.

The report also said that drastic reduction of green cover in India is leading to the rise in temperatures. Unless green cover is increased and water conservation maintained in a proper manner there will be no respite from extremely high temperatures.

From 2016 to 2021, extreme events such as cyclones, flash floods, floods, and landslides caused damage to crops in over 36 million hectares, a USD 3.75 billion loss for farmers in India, the report said.

The annual damage from river flooding in India is likely to increase by around 49 per cent at 1.5 degree Celsius of warming. The damage from cyclones will increase by 5.7 per cent, if temperatures do not decrease, the researchers pointed out.

"The annual expected damage from tropical cyclones and river flooding at three degrees Celsius is 4.6 to 5.1 times that from 1.5 degrees Celsius," the report said.

The rainfall pattern in India has changed in the past 30 years, impacting many economic activities such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. **Continued on P4**

# leisure



## JESSICA CHASTAIN LENDS HER SUPPORT TO IRANIAN WOMEN

Actress Jessica Chastain insists it is really important for her to raise awareness about the ongoing protests in Iran and she has hailed the women-led revolution taking place in the country.

## TILLY LOVES SHOOTING INTIMATE SCENES

Actress Jennifer Tilly has been in a relationship with poker player Phil Laak since 2004 and said that while most performers say intimate scenes are awful, she enjoys them because she has the opportunity to get disrobed with someone other than her partner.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
Your sportsman spirit will find its way into both your professional and personal life. Today may be an important day in your life, and Ganesha says you must not forget your special quality.

**TAURUS**  
Today, you will be as creative and competent as you can get. Your work style, the deft way you handle things will awe and amaze your colleagues and superiors. Your subordinates will be highly impressed and motivated. They will be eager and compliant and will support and assist you to the utmost.

**GEMINI**  
Dress to kill today! People around you may or may not comment, but they will definitely notice you. Your sense of style and taste will bowl everyone over. People would scramble for a glimpse of you. In short, you will be a celebrity.

**CANCER**  
You are at your industrious best today. You will be able to think the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable, and impress an emotionally impregnable boss. Your confidence level will be sky-high; in fact, it will make overconfidence wallow in self-doubt.

**LEO**  
If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesha. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some. Remember that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution; it is always the slow and steady who wins the race. Consider executing your ideas in phases, advises Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
An unusual dose of creativity will motivate you to make a trip to some exotic place and mingle with new people. You will have some experiences that will enrich you mentally and emotionally. But don't unpack yet, there may be another adventure on the cards. Ganesha says you will be very flexible and adaptable today.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesha says you will be getting good news from abroad, which will make you happy. Those of you who are searching for jobs will get good news coming your way. Ganesha says that you should not expect too much or you would feel dejected and disappointed when it is not met.

**SCORPIO**  
You might just blow your fuse today, warns Ganesha. Anger will melt all sense and sensibilities. But if logic does prevail eventually, things may just improve as the day passes. Ganesha says it is high time you awakened your softer side.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesha. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your extraordinary skills, passion for perfection, and an overpowering personality will inspire and motivate those around you, says Ganesha. Many will, in fact, emulate your actions, so much so that you could most likely have a fan following. But while the inspired lot may achieve success and move on to target higher goals, you are likely to miss out on the best of opportunities to make money.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the king! Ganesha says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullabaloo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

**PISCES**  
Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesha.

## Disha sets new workout goals



**Mumbai:** Disha Patani is one of the fittest actresses in Hindi film industry. With her toned body, Patani can give any supermodel a run for money. Apart from flaunting her curves in beautiful outfits, the actress often gives a peek into her workouts. Making another addition to the same, she took to her social media handle and shared a video from her intense boxing session.

The video features the diva along with her trainer. She can be seen practising kickboxing. In her full-on combat mode, she can be seen defending the punches thrown at her

by her trainer during practising.

While seeing her hardcore kickboxing session may leave you in awe of her; it's the caption that will grab your attention. In her short write-up, the actress wrote, "Tryna earn my holiday sweets."

The video has managed to garner over 5 million views and thousands of likes. On the other hand, a section of her Insta fan took to the comments section and lauded Disha. They flooded it with fire and red-heart emoticons. Meanwhile, celebrity dance coach Dimple Kotecha, pro fighter Alan Fernandes, and actress-stunt woman Caitlin Dechelle, among others, also dropped their reactions to the video. AGENCIES



## Yami wants to move on



**Mumbai:** Yami Gautam, who started her movie career with Ayushmann Khurrana in their debut film *Vicky Donor*; recently decided to interact with her fans on social media.

The actress, who is married to her URI director Aditya Dhar, has been busy with her OTT films and discussed about fame, stardom, nepotism, and South films with

the Twitterati gang in her #AskQuestions sessions on social media. During the same, the actress responded to some interesting questions about nepotism.

It is a known fact that, unlike some of her contemporaries, the actress didn't have any prior connections in the industry. When one of her fans questioned her if she faced any nepotism because of her non-film background, the

actress responded, "What happened in the past is done! We have to focus on NOW to make this place better with brilliant films & talent, regardless of our respective backgrounds! And I feel that change is definitely happening now."

On Bollywood vs South debate she said, "There is no versus :) Any industry that is doing great is eventually great for Indian cinema! Hindi films need to invest more time in better scripts, good actors, different visuals, and stories etc." AGENCIES

### DEBATE ON NEPOTISM

## Lara opens up on menopause

**Mumbai:** Actress Lara Dutta, who was last seen in the streaming show *Hiccups* and *Hookups*, feels that women in India particularly don't have proper access to healthcare facilities, especially reproductive health. Menopause can significantly impact a woman's everyday life. Yet, conversations about this topic are limited. The actress recently attended an event organised to

raise awareness around menopause.

She said in a statement, "Being on stage and listening to the panel of doctors has been an eye-opener for me as well. I know this even when I was a goodwill ambassador for the UN - that women's health and well-being is barely discussed in the

way that it should."

The actress added, "Menopause is so back on the burner as a priority that I think it is really fantastic that big pharma companies are taking these initiatives and making information accessible. As we discussed today - it's about the 'Next Chapter' and not the 'Last Chapter'. Stories are what drives conversations - shows and movies on such topics should definitely be made." IANS



## DIFF to showcase 80 films from 32 countries

AFTER TWO YEARS OF BEING ONLINE DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE 11TH EDITION OF DHARAMSHALA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (DIFF) IS BACK WITH A PHYSICAL EDITION



Thomas and Sushmit Sen; and The India premieres of these acclaimed international features will also take place at DIFF

2022: *Eternal Spring* (Canada, 2022) by Jason Loftus; *In Viaggio* (Italy, 2022) by Gianfranco Rosi; *Lullaby* (Spain, 2022) by Alauda Ruiz de Azua; *Mother Lode* (Italy, France, Switzerland, 2021) by Matteo Tortone; *Navalny* (US, 2022) by Daniel Roher; *Neptune Frost* (Rwanda, US, 2021) by Anisia Uzeyman, Saul Williams; *They Carry Death* (Spain, Colombia, 2021) by Helena GirAn and Samuel M. Delgado; and *Tukdam: Between Worlds* (Finland, Ireland, Estonia 2022) by Donagh Coleman. IANS

**Shimla:** Eighty films from 32 countries, including 21 feature narratives and 43 short films, will be showcased at the 11th Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF) at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA) in McLeodganj of Dharamshala next month.

The highlights include the India premieres of Cannes Jury

Prize Winner and 2022 Oscar Nominee, *Joyland* (Pakistan, 2022) by Saim Sadiq; *Once Upon A Time in Calcutta* (India, 2022) by Aditya Vikram Sengupta; the Anurag Kashyap-presented debut feature by Parth Saurabh, *Pokhar Ke Dunu Paar* (On Either Sides of the Pond) (India, 2022); 2022 Oscar Nominee, *Writing with Fire* (India, 2021) by Rintu

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

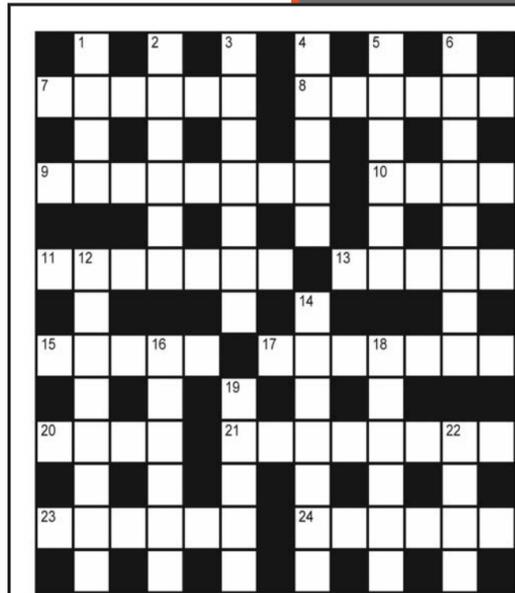


### BREVITY



### FUN post

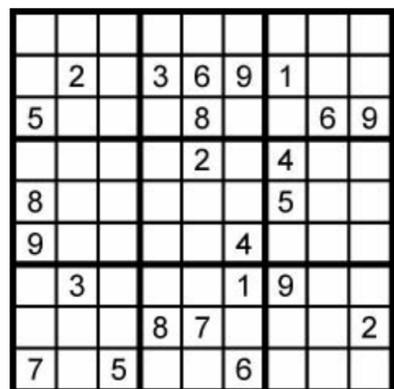
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Colouring tool
  - 8 Large-eyed insect
  - 9 Luge
  - 10 Greasy
  - 11 Collectively
  - 13 Styptic weed
  - 15 Pronounce
  - 17 Disobedient
  - 20 See the sights
  - 21 Take to the lake, maybe (5,3)
  - 23 Chinese soup (3,3)
  - 24 Cantaloupes
  - Down**
  - 1 Descartes's "therefore"
  - 2 Migrate
  - 3 Cuddle
  - 4 Harbingers
  - 5 Make secret
  - 6 Frequent flier
  - 12 Traditional
  - 14 Music with a syncopated melody
  - 16 Marsh birds
  - 18 Yodel
  - 19 Wild boars
  - 22 Picture card

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



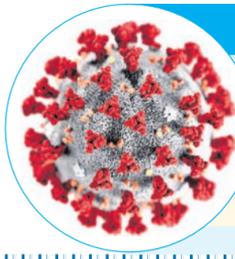
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## NEW ASSIGNMENT

Shreemayee Sweta Snigdha Mishra took charge as the chairperson of Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,16,73,955	61,05,50,989	65,77,790
India	4,46,36,517	4,40,82,064	5,28,943
Odisha	13,35,694	13,26,031	9,202

# RTI exposes Sentence Review Board's inertia



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 20:** Close on the heels of Orissa High Court's recent concerns over overcrowded jails in the state, a Right to Information (RTI) plea has exposed 'poor' functioning of the State Sentence Review Board (SSRB), which helps in decongesting the jails after a review.

It is learnt that most of the jails, especially the district and sub jails, are holding inmates far more than their sanctioned strength.

Replying to the RTI application filed by rights activist Biswapriya Kanungo, the state Prisons Directorate and Correctional Services revealed that the board had met nine times against the mandatory 13 times during the period from January 2019 to April 2022.

Rules prescribe that the board has to meet at least once in a quarter while the chairman can also convene more number of meetings, if needed. However, the authorities did not deem it necessary to con-

Rules prescribe that the board has to meet at least once in a quarter while the chairman can also convene more number of meetings, if needed

However, the authorities did not deem it necessary to convene more number of meetings despite the pitiable conditions in the overcrowded jails during Covid-19 pandemic

venue more number of meetings of the board despite the pitiable conditions in the overcrowded jails during Covid-19 pandemic.

Similarly, the SSRB has been mandated to consider release of prisoners serving life terms and those who have already spent 14 years of actual imprisonment. The directorate also said in its reply that as the board has recommended the state for the release of 405 inmates between 2019 and April 2022. Out of that, the board has recommended for the premature release of only one woman prisoner.

As per rules, prisoners convicted

of serious offences are also eligible for premature release after 20 years.

The guidelines further enjoined that the period of incarceration even in such cases should not exceed 25 years.

As per the information, the board considered the premature release of five inmates each who served 26 and 27 years, four persons who served 28 years and one convict who served 29 years in jail.

As many as four convicts were selected for premature release after they spent 30 years while one each after they served 34, 35 and 36 years respectively in jail.

The board recommended the release of 28 prisoners who had served 20 years during the above period. Interestingly, a person aged above 75 years was released from jail during the above period.

Although the Odisha Human Rights Commission has suggested the names of six convicts for premature release, the SSRB has rejected the cases citing various technical issues.

"The board has never been taking into consideration the socio economic condition of the convicts' families while scrutinizing the suggestions sent by jail authorities for premature release. A convict is not sent to jail as a punishment but to bring changes in their behaviour. But, keeping convicts in jails for so long, in spite of NHRC suggesting a maximum period of 25 years, is shameful and a cruel joke on the jail reforms," Kanungo said.



**MAKING DIFFERENCE:** Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das felicitated woman entrepreneurs with 'Shakti Awards' during a programme organised at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar Thursday. Industries and MSME Minister Pratap Keshari Deb and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Altogether 50 woman entrepreneurs were awarded during the programme organised by CI's Indian Women Network in partnership with MSME department, Startup Odisha and Mission Shakti

# Raising farm income prime focus: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 20:** Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment department in association with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) organised a policy roundtable on "Transforming Odisha's agri-food systems and doubling farmers' income" Thursday.

Inaugurating the event, Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said that Odisha is primarily an agrarian economy with agriculture being the state's dominant sector with 70 per cent of the state's population being dependent on agriculture and allied



sectors in some way or other: "So, our focus should be always on increasing the farmer's income and for that there is a need for necessary changes in the sector," the minister added.

Farmer's income can be increased by enhancing agricultural production and facilitating market access for produce at the right

price, Swain suggested. He also mentioned that the state government is providing zero interest loans to farmers who have repaid their previous loans.

The minister further added that though climate change and calamities such as flood, cyclone and draught create a lot of problems for the farmers of the state, the Agriculture sector has shown great performance in recent years.

On the occasion, Agriculture and Farmer's Empowerment secretary Arabinda Padhee said, "Odisha Millet Mission has been a great success and we must undertake more such missions for success in agriculture sector."

# Subroto Bagchi among top 10 philanthropists

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Oct 20:** Odisha's Subroto Bagchi has found a place in the top 10 of the Most Generous Person' in India list published by 'Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022'. Bagchi and NS Parthasarathy, co-founders of Mindtree donated Rs 213 crore each to be among the top 10 group headed by HCL founder Shiv Nadar.



Nadar has been named the 'most generous person' in India with an annual donation of Rs 1,161 crore, the list released Thursday said. Approximately Nadar donates Rs 3 crore per day. Wipro's Azim Premji, 77, is in second position with an annual donation of Rs 484 crore after being at the top position for the last two consecutive years, the report said. However, India's richest man Gautam Adani is in the seventh spot among the philanthropists with an annual donation of Rs 190 crore.

The report further revealed that in India a total of 15 individuals made an annual donation of over Rs 100 crore, 20 over Rs 50 crore and 43 over Rs 20 crore.

AM Naik, group chairman of L&T, who donated Rs 142 crore, is the country's most generous professional manager, the report stated.

It further said that Nithin Kamath and Nikhil Kamath of Zerodha increased their donation by 300 per cent to Rs 100 crore. With donations of Rs 213 crore each, Bagchi and Parthasarathy entered into the top 10 of the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2022.

# STA inks pact with BSNL for developing vehicle tracking app

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 20:** Following Centre's direction to make vehicle location tracking (VLT) system mandatory in public transport vehicles and goods carriages under Nirbhaya Scheme for women's safety, the State Transport Authority (STA) Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for development, management and operation of an application.

The agreement was signed by additional commissioner of Transport (Technical) Dhananjaya Senapati and BSNL, Cuttack general manager Pradeep Kumar Mallick.

The STA will implement VLT application for safety and enforcement as per AIS-140 Standard to track the public transport and

commercial vehicles in the state. BSNL under 'Vahan Suraksha' model will develop, deploy, integrate and commission a VLT software for tracking and monitoring of vehicles covered under the project. The telecom service provider will also develop mobile application for various stakeholders and users and commission Geographic Information System (GIS) map for vehicle location tracking system.

Speaking at the event, state transport commissioner Arun Bothra said, "The objective of the project is to introduce a tracking system as required for implementation of central notifications for continuous monitoring of public transport vehicles for safety of passengers, better road safety and better support for enforcement services. This will also help in keeping track of public buses running as per the permit."

A command control centre is



being set up in Bhubaneswar to track the vehicles plying across the state. The 24x7 integrated command control centre will use both Global Positioning System (GPS)-based vehicle tracking and the GSM/GPRS channel for triggering emergency alerts. The common emergency toll lines, motor vehicles wing, the police control room and related enforcement units will

be looped into a real-time data sharing network with the command centre functioning as an interface for stakeholder agencies.

Senapati said, "The Union government has approved vendors who would fit VLT devices and panic buttons in vehicles. The state will publish the standard operating procedure for empannelment of these vendors within a

## THRUST ON WOMEN'S SAFETY

The STA will implement VLT application for safety and enforcement as per AIS-140 Standard to track the public transport and commercial vehicles in the state

Except auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws, all passenger transport vehicles, including private buses, school and college buses and cabs/taxis will be equipped with VLT panic buttons

New commercial vehicles to be registered on or after Jan 1, 2023 and the ones registered on or before Dec 31, 2022 will have to comply with the norm by March 31, 2023

few days. These vendors will be empannelled and they will start affixing the devices to both new and old vehicles."

To enhance security of women and children while travelling in public transport, the state government has made installation of VLT devices with panic button mandatory for all new commercial vehicles to be registered on or after January 1, 2023 and the vehicles registered on or before December 31, 2022 will have to comply with the norm by March 31, 2023.

Except auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws, all passenger transport vehicles, including private buses, school and college buses and cabs/taxis will be equipped with VLT panic buttons for safety of women and children.

All goods vehicles transporting explosive and hazardous materials have to install VLT devices.

# Most states failed to collect mining data



No states, barring Chhattisgarh and Odisha, have started the system of collecting data related to mining operations and thus failed to detect production loss and verify the mineral output claimed by miners, according to a report.

This apart, states like Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal could not furnish the extraction figures of major minerals, said the Natural Resource Accounting report.

The report prepared by the government accounting standards advisory board under the aegis of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India further said that since states like Gujarat, Kerala, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal could not provide the extraction figures of major minerals, their accounts had to be based on production figures only.

Further, Madhya Pradesh did not have extraction as well as production figures and accordingly their asset accounts

STATES LIKE GUJARAT, KERALA, RAJASTHAN, UTTAR PRADESH AND WEST BENGAL COULD NOT FURNISH THE EXTRACTION FIGURES OF MAJOR MINERALS, SAID THE NATURAL RESOURCE ACCOUNTING REPORT

ASSESSMENT OF REVENUE IS DONE SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF RETURNS FURNISHED BY THE LESSEES

were based on dispatch figures only.

"Consequently, these states remained unaware of the production loss depicted and claimed by the lessees," it said.

The royalty is collected on the minerals dispatched and therefore more the production loss, higher is the revenue leakage. Moreover, cases of irregular claims of production loss also remained undetected on account of such system lacunae.

Only Chhattisgarh could provide the detailed position of extraction, production and dispatch of resources along

with the production loss, which was within five per cent.

Most of the states have not prepared a comprehensive mineral map of the state. States, it said, should be encouraged to prepare the mineral maps as it would be the first step towards effective management of mineral resources.

Besides, there are funds earmarked for this purpose under the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) for carrying out the surveys.

There is no system for issuance of permits/transit passes for coal on advance payment of royalty, which is a pre-requisite as per the MMDR Act, 1957.

There is no control and monitoring of the mining officers on production and dispatch of coal from the mine head. The lessees have their own system of issuing permits/passages and weigh-bridges for measurement, which has no involvement of mines department personnel, it said.

The department also does not have any weigh-bridges or check gate to monitor actual dispatch of coal.

Assessment of revenue is done solely on the basis of returns furnished by the lessees.

"This system is highly susceptible to illegal mining, pilferage of minerals leading to windfall gains to the lessees and connected parties and commensurate loss to the state exchequer," it said.

The state government may take suitable action to establish control and monitoring system and may also look into any case of pilferage of resources leading to revenue loss to the state exchequer.

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**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

(See proviso to rule 6(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for sale of property/ies under SARFAESI Act 2002)

**Sale of property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATSOEVER THERE IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com>

Sl. No.	SAMBALPUR BRANCH, Mob.: 8249920891 / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees	Description of the Immovable / Movable Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Outstanding dues (As per 13(2) notice)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	<b>Borrower: M/s. Bisi Advertising, Prop.: Sri Ranjit Kumar Bisi (Mortgagor), S/o- Sri Madhusudan Bisi / Guarantors &amp; Mortgagees: 1) Sri Ranjit Kumar Bisi, S/o- Sri Madhusudan Bisi, 2) Sri Satyajit Bisi, S/o- Sri Madhusudan Bisi, All are At: Mahanadi Vihar, Dhama Road, Bhatra, Ward No. 1, PO: Dhanupali, Sambalpur-768005.</b>	All that piece and parcel of land & building situated at Khata No.: 351/1050, Plot No.: 1995/3721, measuring Area: Ac.0.060decimals, Kisam: Malpani, in the name of Sri Ranjit Kumar Bisi and Khata No.: 351/1158, Plot No.: 1995/3841, measuring Area: Ac.0.060 decimals, Kisam: Gharabari, in the name of Sri Satyajit Bisi, (Total Area: Ac.0.120 decimils), Mouza: Sambalpur Town, Unit No. 1, Bhatra, PS: Sambalpur No. 36, Tahasil: Sambalpur No. 212, Dist.: Sambalpur, bounded by- North: Property of Uday Behera, West: Road, North : Nimai Behera and South: Sanu Behera.	21.02.2022 / 28.04.2022 / ₹35,08,844.94 as on 19.09.2022 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹81.70 Lakhs / ₹8.17 Lakhs / ₹0.50 Lakh
2.	<b>Borrowers &amp; Mortgagees: 1) Sri Nepal Pruseth, S/o- Late Chandra Sekhar Pruseth, 2) Smt. Janhabi Pruseth, W/o- Late Chandra Sekhar Pruseth, 3) Sri Gopal Pruseth, S/o- Late Chandra Sekhar Pruseth, 4) Sri Jugal Kishore Pruseth, S/o- Late Chandra Sekhar Pruseth, Borrower: Smt. Nirupama Pruseth, W/o- Sri Nepal Pruseth, All are At: Badabazar, Telipara, P.O.: Khetrajpur, Dist.: Sambalpur, PIN-768003.</b>	All that piece and parcel of the immovable property consisting of Land in the name of Smt. Janhabi Pruseth, W/o- Late Chandra Sekhar Pruseth, Sri Nepal Pruseth, Sri Gopal Pruseth, Sri Jugal Kishore Pruseth, S/o- Late Chandra Sekhar Pruseth, situated at Khata No.: 567/1301, Plot No.: 1919, Area: Ac.0.040Dec. and Plot No.: 1921, measuring Area: Ac.0.425Dec., Kisam: Gharabari, Sambalpur Town, Unit-13, Baraipali, Dist.: Sambalpur, bounded by- North: Property of Jit Singh, South: Mahabali Breakdown (Kalu), East: Babulal Agarwal, West: Road.	14.05.2022 / 25.08.2022 / ₹26,79,361.25 as on 19.09.2022 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹295.00 Lakhs / ₹29.50 Lakhs / ₹1.00 Lakh

**DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION:**  
**25.11.2022 from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration**  
**LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE 24.11.2022 upto 05.30 PM by online**  
**Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: 15.11.2022 to 23.11.2022 between 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses.** Details of Encumbrances if any: Nil

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit: (1) <https://www.indianbank.co.in> (2) <https://www.ibapi.in> (3) <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

Statutory 30 days sale notice under Rule 8(6) / Rule 9(1) Rule of Statutory Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

This may also be treated as notice u/r 8(6) / Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower's, guarantor's and mortgagor's of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 17.10.2022

Sd/-Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

**AIIMS observes World Osteoporosis Day**

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 20:** Osteoporosis is a common problem which affects around 30 per cent people after the age of 50. It is usually seen in postmenopausal women because of estrogen hormone deficiency. Osteoporosis cases have increased in the post-covid era because of rampant steroid use, said experts on the occasion of "World Osteoporosis Day" at AIIMS Bhubaneswar Thursday.

To mark the occasion, AIIMS's Orthopaedics department organised a public awareness event in the OPD premises. The event was inaugurated by the Medical Superintendent Sachidananda Mohanty and Dean Prashant Ragahav Mahapatra.

There is low bone mass in osteoporosis and it is usually evaluated by DEXA scan that measures the bone mineral density. All post-menopausal women and elderly man should undergo yearly BMD estimation using DEXA scan, said Mohanty.

Osteoporosis may lead to back pain, knee pain and can cause fracture after trivial fall. People should do regular exercise and take proper diet and medication to prevent osteoporosis.

**Child marriage stopped in City**

**Bhubaneswar:** Childline officials along with the help of Infocity police Thursday stopped the marriage of a child at Sikharchandi Temple here. The child was later produced before the Additional Child Welfare Committee (CWC). As per the directions of the CWC, the victim girl has been kept in an open shelter at Kalinga Vihar area. Following a tip-off, Childline officials informed the police who carried out a raid at the temple and prevented the marriage of the 15 year-old girl. A case has been registered with Infocity police against the organisers of the marriage.

**India incurs ...**

**Continued from P1**  
"Snowfall in India is expected to decrease under 15 degrees Celsius scenario by 13 per cent when compared with the reference period's snowfall levels. At three degrees Celsius of warming, the decrease is expected to be 2.4 times the 1.5 degrees Celsius scenario. It will then create unbearable heat conditions in India," the report stated. Earth's global surface temperature has increased by around 1.1 degrees Celsius compared with the average in 1850-1900.

To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit global temperature rise in this century to well below two degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. Suruchi Bhadwal, director at "The Energy and Resources Institute" said, "Extreme weather events in our regions have shown that the effects of climate change are increasing, and more and more people are being affected. So a preventive system has to be put in place."

**Truss throws ...**

**Continued from P1**  
"We have agreed that there will be a leadership election to be completed within the next week. This will ensure that we remain on a path to deliver our fiscal plans and maintain our countries economic stability and national security," a downcast Truss told mediapersons with her husband by her side. The latest turmoil comes a day after Suella Braverman's explosive exit from the Cabinet after admitting a breach of the ministerial code by discussing government policy in private emails and a scathing parting attack on her boss. The outgoing prime minister attempted to move on from the latest crisis by swiftly appointing Grant Shapps as the new Home Secretary. But coming just days after she sacked Kwasi Kwarteng as chancellor and brought in Jeremy Hunt who has since reversed all of her economic agenda, the latest Cabinet upheaval was widely expected to only speed up Truss' exit from 10 Downing Street.

**Delegation visits Birsa Munda Int'l Hockey Stadium**



**TAKING STOCK:** Hockey India president Dillip Tirkey and secretary Bholanath Singh visited Thursday the Birsa Munda International Stadium in Rourkela to review the development work ahead of the men's World Cup which is scheduled to be held next year

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Oct 20:** A high-level delegation of the Hockey India visited the construction site of the Birsa Munda International Hockey stadium at BPUT campus in Rourkela Thursday.

Along with the main stadium, the delegation members also visited the construction work of the spectators' gallery, practice ground, players' accommodation and changing rooms.

President, Hockey India Dilip Kumar Tirkey, general secretary Bholanath Singh, executive director RK Srivastava and other members of the delegation heaped praises on the Odisha government for initiating various steps in making the biggest hockey carnival of the world, FIH Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023, a memorable event.

Speaking to mediapersons, Tirkey said that the largest Hockey stadium in India is being constructed at Rourkela. The work is in full swing. Hockey India is happy with the preparations for the Hockey World Cup.

He said that they saw the construction works at the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium. It is of high quality. The state government has done well and is keen on successfully hosting the Hockey World Cup. Hockey India will extend all necessary cooperation for the smooth conduct of the World Cup, said general secretary of Hockey India Bholanath Singh.

The Hockey India delegation after its arrival Wednesday evening held discussions with officials of the Sundargarh District Hockey Association on the preparations for the successful conduct of the 2023 Hockey World Cup.

The delegation members lay special importance on making the event attractive and memorable as it is being hosted for the first time in the cradle of Indian Hockey, Sundargarh.

Odisha is playing host to the World Cup Hockey to be held in January 2023. The matches of the grand tournament have been split between Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. For the purpose, India's largest Hockey stadium is being built in Rourkela which has seating capacity for 20,000 spectators.



**PULLING DOWN:** An excavator engaged by BDA demolishing an illegally constructed structure at Satya Nagar in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

**Colleges to bear all expenses except hostel fees: HE dept**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 20:** The Higher Education department directed again all the government degree and autonomous colleges coming under the department to not collect any fees from the UG Odia (Honours) students except for the hostel fees.

In a letter, the department said that the principals of all government degree colleges coming under it were requested not to collect any fees from the UG Odia (Honours) students except for the hostel fees.

However, some higher education institutions presented before the department that with all types of fees being exempted, they are finding it difficult to deposit the examination fees as well as the certificate and mark-sheet fees to the Controller of Examinations of concerned universities for the students of UG Odia (Honours).

Again after considering these concerns, the Higher Education department has clarified that except for hostel fees, all other expenditures should be borne by the higher education institutions themselves, from their own college development or examination funds.

**State hikes daily wages of all workers by ₹7**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 20:** The state government has revised minimum daily wages of unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled labourers in the state.

According to an official notification issued by the state Labour Commissioner N Thirumala Naik, the daily wages of the labourers has been increased by hiking their Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) by ₹7.

"Dr. N. Thirumala Naik, I.A.S., Labour Commissioner, Odisha in exercise of the powers delegated in the aforesaid Notification do hereby notify that the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) @ ₹7.00 per day (after rounding off) shall be payable to the unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled categories of employees in all 89 scheduled employments w.e.f. October 1, 2022 in addition to the minimum rate of wages," read the notification.

With the hike in VDA, the minimum daily wages for unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled workers have been increased to ₹333, ₹373, ₹ 423 and

**Ganja worth ₹32L seized, six held**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, Oct 20:** Six people have been arrested after 253 kg of cannabis worth around ₹32 lakh was seized from their possession in Odisha's Ganjam district, police said Thursday.

The narcotic substance was recovered in two separate seizures. Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided a residential house at Dharmapur on Wednesday and seized over 153 kg of the contraband, an officer said.



The house owner and three persons, who were engaged in packing the cannabis, were arrested, Patapur Police Station inspector Sabyasachi Malla said. In another incident, the excise department seized around 100 kg of cannabis that was being transported in a car at Kalasandhapur under the Aska police station limits, another officer said.

**CP issues guidelines for sale of firecrackers**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 20:** The Commissionerate Police issued guidelines for the sale of firecrackers ahead of Diwali celebrations.

The police have instructed the traders to sell crackers with reduced emission and especially green crackers as approved by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO).

The police, in the guidelines, have strictly prohibited the sale of illegally imported foreign origin fireworks.

"Use of sound emitting fire crackers and Chinese fire crackers generating noise exceeding the prescribed limits i.e. 125 db is strictly restricted," read the guidelines. Ban has also been imposed on the sale and use of serial bomb crackers. The traders, with valid



**The revelers have been allowed to burst crackers between 8pm to 10pm on Diwali in the silence zones only i.e. an area comprising not less than 100 meters around hospitals, educational institutions and courts**

licenses, have been instructed to construct the temporary shops with non-flammable materials like AC sheets or tin sheets. The floor area for the shop has been limited to 10-12 Sq. meters.

The makeshift shops should be in one row and at a distance of at least three meters from each other. "No oil burning lamp, gas lamp, candle or naked light shall be used in the shed or within the safety dis-

tance of the sheds. Electrical lights, if used, shall be fixed to the wall or ceiling and shall not be suspended by flexible wire. Switches for each shop shall be fixed rigidly to the wall and a master switch shall be provided for each row of shed," the police said.

The traders have been instructed not to allow display of fireworks within fifty meters of any shed. A cluster should not have more than 50 shops. The traders have also been directed to keep adequate fire fighting equipments and first-aids in their shops in consultation with the fire service authorities.

The revelers have been allowed to burst crackers between 8pm to 10pm on Diwali in the silence zones only i.e. an area comprising not less than 100 meters around hospitals, educational institutions and courts.

**Erosion-hit villagers stage hunger strike**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kendrapara, Oct 20:** Residents of some villages in the state's Kendrapara district, which have been affected by sea erosion, launched an indefinite hunger strike Thursday, seeking immediate rehabilitation to safer places.

The proposed rehabilitation plan for the 40 affected families of the Satabhaya cluster of villages here is moving at a snail's pace, according to the protesters.

"We were forced to adopt such a path for the fulfilment of our demands," one of the protesters said.

Kendrapara sub-collector Niranjan Behera said the district administration would take proper steps for their rehabilitation after examining their demands.

Four years ago, the district administration had relocated 571 families of Satabhaya to a rehabilitation colony at Bagapatia, 12 km from the sea. Forty families that were "left behind", however, are yet to find a new home, the agitators said.

Around 200 people of these 40 families "have been left in the lurch" with the government yet to provide them any land in the rehabilitation colony, according to Sarbeswar Mallick, another resident.

"We're now spending sleepless nights as a cyclone is approaching the coast," added 65-year-old Karunakar Mallick. A low-pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal on Thursday, and it is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm over the next four days and approach the coast next week.

**India's typhoid burden decreasing, trend shows**

**T**yphoid burden is decreasing in India, although overall cases are higher than previously estimated, shows a multi-year study of nationally representative antibiotic prescription data. The researchers found that young adult patients account for close to one-third of the typhoid cases and children less than 10 years old account for more than a million cases annually. The study, published in the BMJ Open journal, calls for including Indian's own typhoid vaccine in its national immunisation programme.

"The key findings of the study include decline in cases from 9.9 million in 2013 to 7.9 in 2015 - largely in the north and west regions, but children less than 10 years account for more than a million cases an-

nually, males and boys have the highest burden," Dr. Shaffi Koya, Research Fellow at Boston University School of Public Health, US, told PTI.

"10 different antibiotics accounted for 73 per cent of all prescriptions. Combinations and cephalosporins were the most prescribed antibiotics. Cefixime-ofloxacin combination is the preferred choice except in south India," Koya said.

The data came from prescriptions of a panel of 4,600 private sector primary care clinicians selected through a multistage stratified random sampling.

The data had 671 million prescriptions for antibiotics extracted from the IQVIA database for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

The study provides the first age-



specific typhoid antibiotic prescription estimates for India, using a large volume of geographically representative medical prescription audit data. It shows a high rate of antibiotic

prescription (714/100,000 population) for typhoid indicating a higher disease burden than previously estimated, especially among young adults and children, the authors said. The team, including re-

searchers from Public Health Foundation of India, New Delhi and Qatar University, noted that the lack of laboratory confirmation of typhoid may lead to some degree of misclassification.

However, this is reflective of the real-world setting, where laboratory confirmation is not the norm in India, they said. There were 8.98 million antibiotic prescriptions per year for typhoid, accounting for 714 prescriptions per 100,000 population, according to the study.

Children 10-19 years of age represented 18.6 per cent of the total burden in the country in absolute numbers. 20-29 year age group had the highest age-specific rate, and males had a higher average rate (844/100,000) compared with females (627/100,000), the researchers found. Ten different antibiotics accounted for 72.4 per cent of all prescriptions. Cefixime-ofloxacin combination was the preferred drug of choice for typhoid across all regions except the south, they said.

- THE KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY INCLUDE DECLINE IN CASES FROM 9.9 MILLION IN 2013 TO 7.9 IN 2015 -- LARGELY IN THE NORTH AND WEST REGIONS
- THE STUDY PROVIDES THE FIRST AGE-SPECIFIC TYPHOID ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTION ESTIMATES FOR INDIA, USING A LARGE VOLUME OF GEOGRAPHICALLY REPRESENTATIVE MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION AUDIT DATA
- THERE WERE 8.98 MILLION ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS PER YEAR FOR TYPHOID, ACCOUNTING FOR 714 PRESCRIPTIONS PER 100,000 POPULATION

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INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN KEONJHAR

# Stick to anti-pollution norms, industries told



**HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE HEADED BY OPPN CHIEF WHIP MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI TAKES STOCK OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN JODA AND BARBIL AREAS OF KEONJHAR**

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
**Keonjhar, Oct 20:** The members of the sub-committee-2 of the House Committee on Environment have expressed concern over air, water and sound pollution by various industrial units and plants in Joda and Barbil areas of Keonjhar district. The members of the sub-committee have reportedly directed the industrial units to strictly adhere to pollution control norms. This directive came after they visited a number of industrial units here Wednesday and took stock of

their pollution control mechanism. The committee was headed by Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Charan Majhi with Rengali MLA Nauri Nayak and Rajgangpur MLA CS Raazen Ekka as members. The members of the panel first took stock of prevailing pollution status on the premises of Arya Iron and Steel Company, Sree Metaliks Ltd, JSPL and Brand Alloys Ltd before holding a review meeting with Collector Ashish Thakare, district level officials and officials of these companies at the Durbar hall of the collectorate here. The members shared data collected from the field visits. Speaking at the meeting, MLA Majhi said that there has been concern in the Assembly over air, water and sound pollution by industrial units. "Following a directive from the Speaker, the sub-committee members took stock of anti-pollution measures and mechanism adopted by industrial units in Keonjhar. A report in this regard will be submitted to the government, as all forms of pollution caused by industries and

factories are sensitive in nature. Many industrial units have not adhered to the norms governing the water pollution," Majhi said. He expressed his displeasure over lack of measures by the industrial units to contain water pollution. Majhi observed that officials of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and the regional office of the SPCB should make routine visits to industrial units and take action against the errant units. The panel members Nauri Nayak and CS Raazen Ekka shared their experiences during field visits and called for urgent action to ensure proper management of settling points of water treatment plants, water reservoir and ETP monitoring system on industrial premises. The members directed the Collector to take steps to ensure that industrial units abide by anti-pollution measures. The committee members also underscored the need for plantation and proper execution of CSR activities.

## Man kills wife, buries body in backyard; held

PNN & AGENCIES

**Jamankira, Oct 20:** In a shocking incident, a man in Sambalpur district killed his wife in a fit of rage after a spat over a domestic matter, and buried her body in the backyard of his house, police said Thursday. The incident took place nearly one and half months back at Badmal Rautapada village under Jamankira police station in Sambalpur. The deceased woman has been identified as Savitri Munda, 25, wife of Ranjan Badi, 30. The incident came to limelight when police interrogated Ranjan on the missing case of his wife. According to police, following an exchange of words between the couple, Ranjan killed his wife and buried her body in the backyard of his house. Later, he told the neighbours that Savitri was in her parental house. Smelling something fishy, some villagers informed the parents of the victim, who lodged a police complaint.



"Following a complaint, we had taken Ranjan Badi into custody. During interrogation, he confessed that he had killed Savitri and buried her in his backyard," said Rajkishore Mishra, sub-divisional police officer (SDPO), Kuchinda. The body was exhumed in presence of an executive magistrate and a scientific team, he said, adding further due procedure will be followed in the case. Sources said that Ranjan had gone outside for work nine years back. He fell in love with Savitri of Chhemunda village and started living as husband and wife after his return to village. The couple had two children.

## Lokayukta to probe ₹50L MGNREGS scam

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nayagarh, Oct 20:** Lokayukta has ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities worth ₹50 lakh in some Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) projects at Bhadikila panchayat under Odagaon block in Nayagarh district. As per reports, Lokayukta held a hearing of the case September 28. Now, a division bench of the Lokayukta pronounced the verdict that Lokayukta director will look into the matter and submit a report on this by December 5. Notably, funds worth ₹80 lakh sanctioned for some projects under MGNREGS had been misappropriated through forged bills in Bhapur block earlier. Now, funds worth ₹50 lakh for some MGNREGS projects have been embezzled in Odagaon block. Some media houses had reported on the matter September 25. According to the allegation, several projects were executed in Bhadikila panchayat in 2019-20 and 2020-21, but in most cases no work has been done and funds have been embezzled. Locals alleged that muster rolls have been forged in the names of

physically challenged, sick and elderly people. ₹9.70 lakh was sanctioned for a tank at Baligadia; ₹7 lakh for renovation of Nua Godipokhari pond; ₹5 lakh for restoration of a road from Gunduribari to Padia Bhagamati; ₹5 lakh for another road from Pump House to Padia Bhagamati; ₹5 lakh for a road from Bhadikila to Jokagadia; ₹5 lakh for a road from Bhadikila to Gunduribari and another ₹5 lakh for development of a playground at Bhadikila. In fact, the contractors concerned only put up information plaques at the project sites without doing any work, locals alleged. The fund misappropriation was exposed through RTI queries. Later, one Sarat Kumar Pradhan of Bhadikila filed a case at Lokayukta in this regard and submitted documentary evidence about involvement of the panchayat executive officer, the sarpanch, a junior engineer, an assistant engineer and the BDO in the scam. "The petitioner had urged the Lokayukta to order an investigation by Vigilance and sought action against those involved in the irregularities. Lokayukta had registered a case (165/202) in this connection," said Ranjit Das, the counsel of the petitioner.

## JE held over bribery

**Deogarh:** Vigilance officials Thursday arrested a junior engineer (JE) of Tilebani block in Deogarh district for accepting a bribe of ₹8,000 from a contractor. As per a complaint lodged by the contractor, junior engineer Bijayananda Behera had demanded the said amount for facilitating the release of the final bill of the work executed by the contractor. Acting on the complaint, Vigilance laid a trap and caught Behera with the bribe money. Simultaneous searches were carried out at two locations belonging to the junior engineer on suspicion of amassing disproportionate assets through illegal means.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/22-23/ E-Tender/100, Dt. 19.10.2022

1.Tender No. etender-South-KUR-240-2022, Date: 14.10.2022

Description: EXECUTION OF 15.00 KM. THROUGH SLEEPER RENEWAL WORK FROM KM. 654.00 TO 664.00 ON UP AND DOWN LINE PATCHES BETWEEN BARUA-PALASA SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹260.65 lakhs, EMD: ₹2.80,300/-.

2.Tender No. etender-South-KUR-276-2022, Date: 13.10.2022

Description: PROPOSED SOFT UPGRADATION OF BRAHMAMPUR RAILWAY STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹230.93 lakhs, EMD: ₹2.65,500/-.

3.Tender No. etender-South-KUR-282-2022, Date: 14.10.2022

Description: SUPPLY OF WELDING PORTION FOR 60 KG. 90 UTS AND FUSION WELDING OF 60KG./60E-R260 GRADE RAILS BY ATSKV PROCESS (SINGLE SHOT CRUCIBLE TECHNIQUE) AT SITE UNDER DIVISIONAL ENGINEER(SOUTH) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹116.62 lakhs, EMD: ₹2.08,300/-.

Completion Period of the work: 08 (Eight) Months ( For sl. no. 1), 10 (Ten) Months (For sl. no. 2) and 12 (Twelve) Months ( For sl. no. 3).

Date & time of Tender Closing: 04.11.2022, 1500 hrs (For all Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) Khurda Road PR-626/N/22-23

## Hillside villagers refuse to relocate

POST NEWS NETWORK

**R Udaygiri, Oct 20:** The district administration has provided land and financial assistance to the residents of three cyclone-ravaged tribal villages under this block in Gajapati district to build their houses at Bhuyanpada some months back. But the people of these villages are reluctant to abandon their villages. Notably, Kimbasingh, Badihar and Daleisahi villages of Nuagaon panchayat had to bear the brunt of Titli cyclone in 2018. Heavy rains, along with gale and repeated landslides had completely damaged houses in these villages. Over 50 tribal families of the three villages were rendered homeless. Roads were washed away and big boulders strewn across the villages. In view of the safety of the tribal residents, the administration took steps for their rehabilitation at a safe place along with provision of land and financial assistance, about a year back. Recently, BDO Lariman Kharsel along with some officials like APO Akshaya Bisioiratna, assistant engineer Nilanchal Mohapatra and some people's representatives visited the villages, 35 km from the block headquarters. The BDO tried to convince the villagers to move out explaining the need for their rehabilitation at a safe place as the hillside villages are fraught with dangers of landslide during rains and cyclones. However, the villagers instead argued for cutting a path through the hilly terrains to their villages and did not like the idea of being shifted to elsewhere. Most of the families admitted that they have got ₹1.19 lakh each as housing assistance from the government, but they do not want to leave their homes and farmlands and head for Bhuyanpada, the area identified by the administration for their rehabilitation.

## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF P.R. & D.W. INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) IDENTIFICATION No. KAN-01/2022-23

E-mail address: ori-kanhia@nic.in

1. Block Development Officer, Kaniha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage bids for the works 2 Nos. details in the table from class of contractors mentioned in Col.4 (Four) below registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Government/MES/Railways to be eventually drawn up in PWD(P-1) form for execution of Building (Civil Work). The proof of Registration from the appropriate authority enclosed alongwith the bid if successful, the bidders who have registered under the State Government has to register under 1 PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing the agreement. Bidders may submit bids for any or all the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of documents (Non-refundable)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Const. of Labour Room at Kuluma PHC (N).	14.17	'D' & 'C'	6000	Three Calendar Months
2	Const. of Labour Room at Bajrakote PHC (N).	24.62	'C' & 'B'	6000	Five Calendar Months

2. Bid documents consisting of plans, specifications, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions contract and other necessary documents can be seen if the office of the Panchayat Samiti Office, Kaniha during office hours everyday except on Sunday and Public Holidays till last date of sale and receipt of tender paper. Interest bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

3. No EMD (Bid Security) is to be required but bidders have to submit "Bid Security Declaration" certificate along with the bid as per works department office memorandum No 5984 dated 27.04.2021 and finance department Letter No 8943 dt 18.03.2021.

4. The sale of BID Documents shall start from 10 AM on dt.22.10.2022 in the office of the Block Development Officer, Kaniha during office hour. The cost of bid documents as mentioned in col. No-5 has to be paid by each bidders in shape of demand draft drawn in favour of Block Development Officer, Kaniha from any nationalized bank. Sale of Bid documents will be Closed at 05.00 PM on dt. 31.10.2022. Bid document will be received in the Office of the Block Development Officer, Kaniha through speed post or registered post only from during office hours only. No Box/hand delivery of Bid Document will be entertained. The undersigned is not responsible for any postal delay. If any, in the delivery of the documents or non-receipt of the same. The Bid document may also download from the website [www.angul.nic.in](http://www.angul.nic.in) during this period. The intending tenderers downloading the tender document has to pay the cost of tender paper for each set of Rs.6000/- in shape of bank draft payable at SBI. Telisingha in favour of Block Development Officer, Kaniha.

5. Bids must be received through speed post having Identification No.KAN-01/2022-23 kept in Kaniha Block for the purpose.

6. Bidders shall submit Original affidavit regarding authenticity of their documents along with their bids. Bids shall be accompanied with attested true copy of valid registration certificate, GSTIN and PAN Card, experience certificate otherwise his/her bids shall be declared as non-responsive and thus liable for rejection. The original certificates of the lowest bids shall be produced before Block Development Officer, Kaniha for verification.

7. Bidders shall submit tender paper for a particular work. Submission of more than one tender by same for a particular work will be liable for rejection.

8. Engineering Contractors desirous to avail the facility of exemption of EMD is required to submit affidavit effect that he/she has not yet availed the facility for more than two works during the current financial year in which his/her tender will be rejected.

9. The Bid will be opened at 10.30 AM on dt.01.11.2022, in the Office of the undersigned in the presence of all the bidders or their authorized representatives, who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the last sale and receipt/Opening of the bids as specified, the bid will be sold and received/opened on the next two dates on the same time and venue.

10. The lowest bidder has to submit the Additional performance security amount within 7 days of award of tender.

11. For building and other Construction Workers Welfare CESS @ 1% (One Percentage) of the cost of construction shall be deducted from bills.

12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

13. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel/reject in partly/fully or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

14. If the rate quoted by a bidder is less than 15% of tendered amount, then such a bid shall be rejected and the tender shall be finalized basing on merits of rest bids. If all goes with same price transparent Lottery system will be applied.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Kaniha

**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**  
**Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**  
4th Floor, Bangla Sahib Road, Behind Kali Mandir, Gole Market, New Delhi - 110001

## Vacancy circular for filling up various posts on deputation (Foreign Service term basis) at Regional Office, Chandigarh and State Office, Bhubaneswar

UIDAI invites applications for filling up the following posts on deputation (Foreign Service term) basis at its Regional Office, Chandigarh and State Office, Bhubaneswar from the suitable and eligible officers as per the details given under:

Name of Post	Regional Office, Chandigarh	State Office, Bhubaneswar
Private Secretary	1	-
Assistant Section Officer	1	-
Accountant	1	-
Section Officer	-	1

The application may be furnished in the prescribed proforma and forwarded to Director (HR) of concerned office. The last date for receipt of applications complete in all respect is 17.11.2022. Since these vacancies are to be filled up on deputation basis, private candidates are not eligible.

Further details including address for sending the application form may be obtained from the website [www.uidai.gov.in](http://www.uidai.gov.in)

**Director (HR)**

**Now Aadhaar Enrollment & Updation Facilities can also be availed at Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK). To locate one near you, visit UIDAI.GOV.IN or Call 1947.**

**REGIONAL OFFICE : BHUBANESWAR**  
3/1 A Civic Centre, IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

**GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**

This is to inform the public that in spite of repeated reminders the following gold loan borrowers have not repaid their loan. If they do not repay their outstanding debts before the auction, their gold ornaments we hold as collateral will be auctioned to the premises of our Concerned Branch on 07.11.2022 at 11.00 A.M. The Bank will not be liable for any inconvenience or loss to the borrowers and the Bank will take legal action against them if the Bank loses where necessary. Borrowers can take their jewellery by repaying the outstanding debt before the auction take place.

Sl No.	Loan Account No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)	Outstanding Amount as on 14.07.2022	Gross Weight (in Gram)	Net Weight (in Gram)
<b>KALINGA NAGAR BRANCH, K-7/351, Kalinga Nagar, P.O.- Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar, Dist: Khurda, Pin- 751029, Mob.:9583631506</b>					
1.	240116530000007	Mrs Rahiya Sajad, W/o: Sajad Yousaf, Flat No.1501, 15th Floor, Tower 7, Vipul Garden, Bhubaneswar-751029.	Rs.52,685/- + interest thereon	23.7	18.4
2.	240116530000008	Mrs Rahiya Sajad, W/o: Sajad Yousaf, Flat No.1501, 15th Floor, Tower 7, Vipul Garden, Bhubaneswar-751029.	Rs.61,827/- + interest thereon	32.3	22.0
3.	240116530000015	Shri Partha Sarathi Das, Plot No.321, K 7 Kalinga Nagar, P.O.: Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar- 751029.	Rs.4,07,317/- + interest thereon	15.45	12.20
4.	240130100006126	Shri Siddhartha Shankar Das, Plot No.321, K 7 Kalinga Nagar, P.O.: Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar- 751029.	Rs.2,83,571/- + interest thereon	107.06	74.00
5.	240130100006135	Shri Siddhartha Shankar Das, Plot No.321, K 7 Kalinga Nagar, P.O.: Ghatikia, Bhubaneswar- 751029.	Rs.2,23,380/- + interest thereon	60.66	40.20

**Person willing to participate in the auction should obey the following rules:**

- Person willing to participate in the auction must deposit Rs.1,000/- in the form of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) two hours before the scheduled auction time.
- After depositing the EMD, person who willing to participate in the auction can inspect the ornaments.
- The person who make the highest offer shall have to deposit 25% of the said offer immediately in the Bank. After making the highest offer, if the person unable to deposit the 25% of the said offer, then his EMD will be forfeited and that person will not be allowed to participate in the auction process further.
- Auction for another account will begin only after the auction and amount deposit of one account have been completed.
- The Bank is not completed to accept any auction calls. The Bank may cancel the auction without assigning any reason therefor.
- The person whose highest bid will be accepted by the Branch Office of the Union Bank of India will be compelled to deposit the remaining 75% of the auction amount within 3 days of receiving the notice of confirmation of the auction. Otherwise 25% of the deposited amount and the EMD deposit will be forfeited.
- If Union Bank of India, Branch Office cancel/postpone any higher Bid, then the 25% deposited amount, EMD amount will refunded to the depositor without any interest.
- Union Bank of India will not held responsible in any manner for the quality, weight and purity of the ornaments pledged for auction.
- Bank will forfeit the EMD Deposit Amount if any person does not obey the above rules.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date:20.10.2022

Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

**“We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves.”**  
THE MOTHER



## The Naked Ayatollah

The nationwide protests in Iran over women's rights and abuses by the religious morality police have once again shined a light on the country's ruling clerical class and the seemingly limitless powers of the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a two-tier government. The first tier, ostensibly representing the sovereignty of the people, includes a president who serves as the executive of a highly centralised state, a parliament charged with creating and debating laws, and a judiciary that vets and interprets those laws. The second tier, representing the sovereignty of God, consists of just one man: the Supreme Leader, or Faqih.

The Faqih has an absolute monopoly over state power. He appoints the head of the judiciary and can dismiss the president at will. He is the commander-in-chief of the army, and he can veto any law passed by Parliament. The office is both anachronistic and utterly unique, allowing for the institutionalisation of clerical control over all aspects of government.

It is also heretical. Far from being the foundation of Shia Islam, as Iran's clerical regime claims, the concept of the Faqih represents neither the historical consensus nor the current majority view of Shia political thought. It is a wholly made-up office, concocted by the man who first claimed the position for himself: Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Shi'ism, like Christianity, is messianic. Shia doctrine posits that the temporal world and all its imperfections will be swept away by the appearance of a figure known as the Mahdi, who will one day rule over the earth. Until then, all governments are temporary and illegitimate, as any exercise of direct political power would be considered a usurpation of the Mahdi's divine authority. Thus, for most of the last 1,400 years, Shia clergy have refused to interfere in governmental affairs, instead adopting a position of political quietism.

To be sure, Iran's leading ayatollahs did fight alongside the country's merchants and young intellectuals to create the first indigenous democratic movement in the Middle East. The Persian Constitutional Revolution of 1906, as it came to be known, resulted in the creation of a progressive constitution guaranteeing basic rights and freedoms for all Persians, an independent parliament (the National Consultative Assembly), free elections, and a clear separation of powers.

But the Constitutional Revolution was short-lived. In 1921, a British-backed military coup established the Pahlavi dynasty in Iran. The constitution was discarded, Parliament was defanged, and the state reverted to dictatorship.

The Pahlavis brutally suppressed any political activity by the clergy. While a few prominent clerics participated in Iran's second revolution of the century, the so-called Nationalist Revolution of 1953, it wasn't until Iran's third revolution, in 1979, that the clergy left the mosques and entered government.

That development owed everything to Khomeini's unprecedented interpretation of the Mahdi. Countering 14 centuries of Shia doctrine, he argued that, in the absence of the Mahdi – the sole legitimate leader of the Islamic state – political power should rest in the hands of the Mahdi's representatives on Earth: that is, the clergy. Put another way, rather than waiting for the Mahdi to return at the end of time to create the perfect society, the clergy should be empowered to create the perfect society for him so that he will return at the end of time. Khomeini called this theory the Valayat-e Faqih, or “the guardianship of the jurist.”

This was an astounding assertion and a radical religious innovation in Shia Islam. Yet Khomeini went even further, arguing that political authority should rest not with the whole of the clergy but with a single “supreme” cleric. He then insisted that, as the deputy of the Mahdi, the supreme cleric's authority should be identical not just to the Mahdi's, but to that of the Prophet Muhammad himself. “When a mujtahid [a qualified jurist] who is just and learned stands up for the establishment and organisation of the government,” Khomeini wrote in his political treatise Islamic Government, “he will enjoy all the rights in the affairs of the society that were enjoyed by the Prophet.”

No Muslim cleric had ever made so startling a proposal. The notion that any human being could have the same infallible, divine authority as the Prophet contradicts centuries of Islamic theology. The theory was so plainly heretical that it was immediately rejected by almost every other ayatollah in Iran, including Khomeini's direct superiors, the Ayatollahs Boroujerdi and Shariatmadari, as well as nearly all the grand ayatollahs in Najaf, Iraq – the religious centre of Shia Islam.

What made Khomeini so alluring was his ability to couch his radical doctrine in the populist rhetoric of the time. Once his colleagues had been intimidated into silence and Iran's pious masses had been stirred to action, Khomeini was free to seize control of the post-revolutionary government. Before most Iranians knew what they had accepted, he had injected his interpretation of the Mahdi into the political realm, transforming Iran into the Islamic Republic and proclaiming himself the country's first Faqih: the supreme temporal and religious authority.

In 1989, Khomeini died and the office of Faqih passed to his hand-picked successor, Ali Khamenei, with little clerical or popular resistance. Even though the Faqih was supposed to be Iran's most learned religious authority, Khamenei was little more than a mid-level cleric – not even an ayatollah – with thin credentials. Nevertheless, he was given the office largely because practically every other qualified religious authority in Iran – including Khomeini's first choice as successor, Grand Ayatollah Ali Montazeri – had decried the doctrine of the Faqih as anathema to Islam.

Now 83 and in ill health, Khamenei is widely believed to be grooming his eldest son, Mojtaba – a cleric of even lower rank than he was when selected – to succeed him as the next Supreme Leader. That would strip away any last remnant of religious legitimacy the office still maintains, exposing the Faqih for what it actually is: a synonym for Shah.

Should that happen, the protests that would follow could dwarf the uprisings we are seeing today. Already, one of the most frequent chants heard on the streets during the current protests has been “Mojtaba, Bemiri, Rahbari ro Nabini”: “Mojtaba, We'll See You Die Before Becoming Leader.”

The writer, an Emmy- and Peabody-nominated producer, is a professor at the University of California, Riverside.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

## WORDSWORTH

### Carwicket

This word for a pun, a hoaxing question or a conundrum pops up first in Ben Jonson's play Bartholomew Fayre of 1614 and appears a few times afterwards, but is effectively extinct by the middle of the nineteenth century. Notwithstanding the advantage which this age claims over the last we find Mr. Dryden himself, as well as Mr. Jonson, not only given to Clinches, but sometimes a Carwicket, a Quarter-quibble, or a bare Pun (London Magazine, August 1824). The origin of carwicket is obscure, though it has been suggested that it comes from colifichet, a French word of the time for a fantastic small object of no great value, but which now means any knick-knack or trinket (it's said to be from the older French word coefficient, an ornament that was fixed to one's hat).

# FINANCING GREEN INFRA

## FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

To spur development and fight climate change, emerging-market and developing economies (EMDEs) will need huge amounts of investment in green infrastructure over the next few decades. But many of these countries have limited fiscal space, especially after the shocks of the last few years. Given this, to meet the EMDEs' infrastructure needs, we must mobilise excess private savings in the advanced economies. The question is how.



Karim El Aynaoui & Otaviano Canuto

**MULTILATERAL FINANCE INSTITUTIONS HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DRAWING PRIVATE CAPITAL TOWARD LONG-TERM PROJECTS THAT COULD SPUR DEVELOPMENT IN COUNTRIES AND SECTORS THAT CAPITAL MARKETS PERCEIVE AS HIGH-RISK**



**Mobilising excess savings in advanced economies for much-needed investment in green infrastructure in emerging-market and developing economies will not be easy. But it is possible, if both the public and private sectors do their parts**

complexity of the instruments that are available – is yet another potential barrier to infrastructure investment in the EMDEs. Fixed-income instruments – including bonds (project, municipal, sub-sovereign, and green bonds, as well as sukuk), and loans (direct and co-investment lending to infrastructure projects and syndicated project loans) – can help solve this problem, as they could appeal to a broad range of institutional investors in the EMDEs.

Multilateral finance institutions have an important role to play in drawing private capital toward long-term projects that could spur development in countries and sectors that capital markets perceive as high-risk. By providing funding, guarantees, or both, such institutions can de-risk projects and crowd in private investment. They can also bring partners into specific deals through syndications.

For its part, the private sector has a number of instruments at its disposal with which to manage risk. For example, companies can use risk-transfer and credit-en-

hancement instruments, which are currently being piloted by national and multilateral development banks. These include guarantees, insurance policies, and hedging mechanisms under which, for a fee, a provider agrees to compensate the concessionaire (or its lenders) in case of default or loss arising from some specified circumstance.

Political-risk insurance is particularly important here. Some sectors – such as telecommunications or electricity – are more prone to regulatory volatility or the effects of political pressure (including on prices). This implies the need for greater scrutiny from infrastructure investors and customised risk-mitigation mechanisms.

A project's financial structure is key. Experience shows that a diverse mix of funders for a project – including domestic, international, and multilateral banks and owners – can deter political intervention and act as a buffer against shocks. And just as strategic alliances with foreign entities provide local actors with a hedge against political intervention,

partnerships with local companies can help an infrastructure operator transcend the “foreign investor” label.

In transforming today's savings-liquidity glut into much-needed investment in green EMDE infrastructure, the public and private sectors both have important roles to play. Policymakers must increase the transparency of legal frameworks and achieve political and regulatory stability, recognising that the public sector will ultimately bear the high transaction costs incurred by private investors when they channel financial resources to EMDEs.

Institutional investors and other financial intermediaries, as well as non-banking financial institutions, often highlight the lack of a pipeline of investment-ready projects. To improve their options, the public sector should take more responsibility for project design in situations characterised by significant complexity and regulatory risk, especially when risks are harder to identify and measure in advance. The costs of this process can largely be recouped when public-private partnerships (such as concessions) are established. Public-sector planning and priority-setting is essential.

But private investors must also embrace a more active role, including by taking advantage of the risk-management tools at their disposal. Sophisticated, developed financial markets and instruments would help, by enabling financial agents to take on risks that are in line with their appetites and capacities.

It will not be easy. But with these building blocks, we can construct the most important infrastructure of all: the bridge connecting advanced-country savings and EMDEs' financing needs.

Karim El Aynaoui is Executive President of the Policy Center for the New South. Otaviano Canuto is a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

## SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

# Choosing between the US & China



DK Giri

**CHINA HAS MOVED FROM A ONE-PARTY TO A ONE-LEADER COUNTRY**

With confirmation of Xi Jinping for the third term in the 20th Congress of Chinese Communist Party the battle lines against the USA are re-confirmed. Contrary to speculations that Xi may be re-elected but his powers will be reduced, the military and foreign policies may be shared. Xi seems to have emerged stronger. Since China opened up half a century ago, no Chinese leader has acquired so much power with no limits to the number of terms in office. What is more, we are witnessing in China the homologation of positions which points to a personality cult, a practice no longer noticed in recent times.

International political analysts like to point that resistance to Jinping's autocratic style exists in places like Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinxiang, and it will grow. That perspective merits a debate and may be that, dissent can be exacerbated and exploited by China's adversaries like the West in future. But as of now, the prevalent political mood represented by Jinping consists of a few ambitions. One, China wants to collect political dividends for its economic successes. Second, Chinese dream is to become a world power. Beijing seeks to supplant US as the numero uno in the world politics, or share the leadership space. Third, Chinese leadership be-

lieves that their system is better for economic growth, political discipline and social security, and they should put forth their system as a viable and replicable option for the world.

The implications of the concentration of power in the hands of Jinping are twofold – national and international. Domestically, China has moved from a one-party to a one-leader country. Internationally, Beijing increasingly prefers greater assertion and continued claim to a world power status to an approach of maintaining a low international profile while steadily its economic growth. This trend has been evident in recent times as Beijing has been making stronger claims to territories and mineral rights in places like South China Sea and traditional Japanese Islands. These claims have alienated East Asian countries like Vietnam, Philippines, South Korea and Japan which are aligned with the USA in security terms, while accommodating China on limited trade and investment.

This is the stark and hard choice many countries have to make, between the USA and China. In doing so, there are at least three strategies adopted by different countries. One is hedging, which is no longer viable. As the competition between the two big powers intensifies, countries

will have to make a choice between security and trade. They would need the USA as an international guardian to defend their territorial integrity and political sovereignty although they realise that China has grown too big to be ignored.

Second variable is how countries like to play their respective world roles. They will be ‘contributor’ to a world order or ‘recipient’ of what is being shaped in other words, shaper or taker.

The third variable in building concrete partnership is ‘reliability’ of the USA as an international guardian. The US' reputation as a trusted ally and as a defender of democracy is not strong.

Where does India stand? New Delhi has been hedging in the name of neutrality. It has been non-aligned between USSR, now Russia and USA. But it is a different ball-game with China, especially when China is a border country occupying and demanding Indian territory. New Delhi goes with USA on security arrangements like Quad and with China on economic groupings like BRICS and SCO.

Admittedly, many countries want to retain their strategic autonomy – South Africa, Brazil, Chile for example. Such stances remind us of the non-aligned movement created in 1960s by India and others, immediately after the decolonisa-

tion process began. I have maintained in my writings, and in this column that it was an unviable strategy in an inter-dependent world which later began globalising. However, this strategy can be recalibrated as an ‘Alliance of the Progressives’, in actual terms, Alliance of the Non-Aligned. Since the latter term is an oxymoron, the former terminology is preferable.

What it means in practical terms is that the alliance of the progressives will be both dispositional and situational corresponding to a country's political values and to its legitimate national interest. India very well fits into this formation – ‘the third-way’ in international politics. Alliance of progressives will enjoy upon in open a country to speak up for progressive values irrespective of whichever country is offended by them. In the alliance of progressives, the national interest of a country will not be downplayed; it would be jointly defined among allies, not by a country alone leading to conflict with other countries. Let India be a leading part of the third way reformulating the strategy of non-alignment it initiated decades ago. The third way is certainly worth exploring.

The writer is Professor, International Relations, JIMMC, BANGALORE

## Fight against osteoporosis

Sir, Osteoporosis is a well-known bone disease that affects more than 200 million people worldwide. It is often referred to as the ‘silent disease’ that leads to weak and fragile bones. Millions of people worldwide suffer tragically from osteoporosis-related fractures, which have significant socioeconomic costs. Urbanisation and ageing populations are driving rapid increases in the osteoporosis disease burden. The annual observance of World Osteoporosis Day on October 20 is intended to raise awareness on osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease worldwide and their prevention, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment. According to the International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF), one in every three women and one in every five men over the age of fifty will suffer a broken bone as a result of osteoporosis, and fractures caused by osteoporosis can be life-threatening as well as a major cause of pain and long-term disability. The disease can be managed with medication, making certain lifestyle changes, dietary modifications, and taking supplements.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

## Cracker curbs

Sir, The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) circular restricting the bursting of firecrackers during Diwali to two hours is a welcome step. The order prohibits crackers that produce noise and allows only green crackers. KSPCB has installed devices to measure pollution in Bangalore and mandated that vendors stick to the rule and sell only green crackers failing which they have to face legal action. The measures must cheer the elderly, the sick and other citizens who dispense air and noise pollution.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

## Unwanted jokes

Sir, After an era of melodramatic family shows, comedy pieces and hysterical reality shows have exasperated television hookers. Comedy serials have degenerated into a show of jokers. Most comedy programmes continue to test the audience's patience with mundane jokes and liberal doses of double entendre. It is easy to make people cry than making them laugh. It is harder for a comedy show to sustain people's interest for long. Top comedians have gone on record about ‘comedy’ being totally different from ‘funny’. What comedy shows of today lack are simple narration, subtle but endearing humour, able acting by prominent characters, and stories close to the heart. The entire family should be able to view the show with little or no embarrassment.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

# Letters

## TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
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# national

## of the day quote

To control stubble burning, the state government has implemented a framework which includes in-situ crop residue management, ex-situ management, effective monitoring, enforcement and wide reach of Information Education and Communication activities

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER

Do we need leaders who show chappal and use abusive language. I don't think even street rowdies behave like this

YS JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | ANDHRA PRADESH CM

India is progressing towards a healthy and prosperous future through investments in health infrastructure

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Shrikant Tyagi released from jail

**Noida:** Politician Shrikant Tyagi, who was arrested in August for assaulting a woman in a Noida society, was released from jail Thursday, a senior police officer said. Tyagi was lodged in the Laksar jail in Greater Noida since August 9, and was granted bail by the Allahabad High Court two days ago. "He was released this (Thursday) evening after all legal formalities," Jail Superintendent Arun Pratap Singh told PTI.

### AIIMS Delhi launches SOPs

**New Delhi:** With a view to streamline treatment facilities for MPs, AIIMS Delhi has come up with a set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) that include providing a nodal officer to coordinate and facilitate medical care arrangements. The move has, however, drawn sharp criticism from a section of doctors who have called out the "VIP culture" at the premier health institute.

### Eldhose gets anticipatory bail

**New Delhi/Thiruvananthapuram:** A Kerala sessions court here Thursday granted Congress MLA Eldhose Kunnappilly anticipatory bail in a case of rape and attempt to murder. He is untraceable. The court granted him the relief subject to various conditions, a prosecutor in the case said. The conditions would be known after a detailed order is available, he said. Meanwhile, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief K Sudhakaran said it was embarrassing for the party, but it was not justifying Kunnappilly's action or conduct.



It is ironic that those people who have ruined the country for long are now using defamation as a tool against those who are working for people

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

# PM promises 1mn govt jobs as elections loom

**JOBLESSNESS IN THE COUNTRY OF 1.4 BILLION PEOPLE HAS STAYED AROUND 7% FOR MONTHS - SOMETHING THAT THE OPPOSITION HAS REGULARLY POINTED OUT IN THE RUN-UP TO ELECTIONS IN SEVERAL STATES STARTING NEXT MONTH**

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office said Thursday he would launch a drive this weekend to give government jobs to 1 million people, starting with 75,000 immediate appointments, as he tries to tackle criticism of widespread unemployment.

Modi's office said the 75,000 new recruits would join 38 ministries or departments of the federal government at various levels of seniority. "As per the directions of the prime minister, all ministries and departments are working towards filling up existing vacancies against sanctioned posts in mission mode," it said. It was not immediately clear if it meant there were 1 million vacancies in government departments, or if some jobs would be created.

The aim is to fill up the posts by September next year, Modi said in June on Twitter.

India's unemployment peaked at 23.5% in 2020 in the first full year of Covid-19, then fell back as restrictions eased. But it has remained around 7% since, according to data from Mumbai-based the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, higher than the global average.

The PMO said this will be a significant step forward towards fulfilling the continuous commitment of the prime minister to providing job opportunities for the youth and



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

ensuring welfare of citizens. The drive will also help the BJP counter the Opposition in the poll-bound states of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. In June this year, Modi had asked various government departments and ministries to undertake the recruitment of 10 lakh people on a "mission mode" in the next year and a half.

According to the Thursday's statement, the direction from Modi came following a review of the status of human resources in all government departments and ministries, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join 38 ministries or departments of the Government of India. The appointees will join the government at various levels in Group A and B

(Gazetted), Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C.

The posts on which appointments are being made include the central armed force personnel, sub-inspectors, constables, LDC, stenographers, income tax inspectors and MTS among others, it read.

These recruitments are being done by ministries and departments either by themselves or through recruiting agencies such as UPSC, SSC and the Railway Recruitment Board. For expeditious recruitment, selection processes have been simplified and made tech-enabled, the PMO said. Modi stormed to power in 2014 promising to create millions of jobs, but the economy has not grown fast enough to accommodate some 12 million people joining the labour force each year; a number that is rising.

## Indian, US militaries conduct 'Tiger Triumph' exercise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** The Indian and US militaries carried out a three-day joint humanitarian assistance exercise in Visakhapatnam in line with the growing strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The exercise concluded Thursday. "This week's Tiger Triumph exercise was the second collaboration between the Indian and US militaries to coordinate disaster relief in the region," a readout by the American side said.

The first exercise, also based out of Visakhapatnam, took place over the course of nine days in November 2019 and featured more than 500 US Marines and sailors and approximately 1,200 Indian sailors, soldiers, and airmen. "This year's exercise involves fifty combined participants, and is focused on staff planning, with an emphasis on processes for streamlining diplomatic, operational, and logistical coordination," the readout said.

Tiger Triumph marked the third time in 2022 that the Indian and US militaries have worked together in Visakhapatnam. In February the US joined India and more than thirty other nations for India's bi-annual Exercise Milan.



## Nitish may ditch 'Mahagathbandhan'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, Oct 20:** Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor on Thursday took a fresh jibe at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his former mentor, reiterating that the latter may ditch the 'Mahagathbandhan' and return to the BJP-led NDA.

Kishor, who had on the previous day claimed that Kumar could do yet another volte face and return to the NDA, attacked the JD(U) de facto leader for letting party MP Harivansh continue as the Rajya Sabha deputy chairman.

The election strategist had also told PTI on Wednesday that Kumar has kept a line of communication open with the BJP through Harivansh.

"After having snapped ties with the BJP, Nitish Kumar should have



asked Harivansh to step down. If he insisted on occupying the post, he could have been expelled from the JD(U). But Nitish is having this arrangement to keep options open for the future," Kishor alleged at a public meeting in West Champaran district, where he has been for three weeks as part of a state-wide 'padayatra', after which he is expected to float a political party. Kishor, who seems to have a love-hate relationship with Kumar, added Thursday that the Bihar CM 'sought votes in the name of de-

## Bihar BJP MLA stirs row with comments on Hindu deities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, Oct 20:** In an embarrassment to the BJP in Bihar, one of its MLAs has been accused of hurting Hindu sentiments by pointing out that even those who did not worship Goddess Lakshmi, Saraswati and Lord Hanuman were not denied the attributes that worship of these deities was expected to bestow.

Lalan Paswan, who represents Pirpainti assembly seat in Bhagalpur district, while announcing his decision not to hold a feast in the memory of his mother

who died last week, purportedly rationalised that those who do not worship these Hindu deities still enjoyed wealth, education and power.

A video clip, which has now gone viral on social media and is being flashed by news channels, shows the MLA questioning the custom of 'Mrityubhoj' and making a pitch for rationality and scientific temper.

He also pointed out, "Saraswati and Lakshmi are not worshipped by Muslims and Christians. This has not deprived these communities of wealth and learning. Bajrang Bali (Lord Hanuman) is not revered

## HC REJECTS PLEA AGAINST ABSOLUTE FIRECRACKER BAN

Noting pendency of issues related to firecrackers before the Supreme Court, the Delhi High Court Thursday refused to entertain a petition challenging the Delhi Pollution Control Committee's complete ban on sale and use of firecrackers, including those classified green



## Kerala HC cancels 'Civic' Chandran's anticipatory bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kochi, Oct 20:** The Kerala High Court Thursday set aside a sessions court order granting anticipatory bail to writer and social activist 'Civic' Chandran in a sexual harassment case against him on a complaint by a Dalit woman, saying he had knowledge that she belonged to SC community.

The sessions court had granted him the relief on the ground that the accused was a reformist and against the caste system and it was highly unbelievable that he would touch the body of the victim fully knowing that she belongs to the Scheduled Caste (SC).

Disagreeing with the findings of the lower court, Justice A Badharuddeen said the fact that the accused and the complainant woman were very familiar to each other was discernible from prosecution records and therefore, his knowledge about her being a Dalit can be discerned from the materials available on record. "Having appraised the facts of the case with a view to find whether a prima facie case is made out alleging commission of offences under section 3(2)(va) and 3(1)(w)(i) of the SC/ST Act, the said case is specifically made out," the high court said. It also said that a non bailable offence under section 354 (molestation) of IPC was also made out in the instant case.



LOVE FOR ANIMALS: A woman with her pet dog participates in a demonstration against bursting of firecrackers during Diwali celebrations in Kolkata

## WB TEACHERS' RECRUITMENT SCAM

# Arrest of Bhattacharya not illegal, says top court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Delhi, Oct 20:** The Supreme Court Thursday declined to interfere with the arrest of Trinamool Congress leader and West Bengal Board of Primary Education's former Chairman Manik Bhattacharya by Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the money laundering matter regarding the teachers' appointment scam.

Dismissing Bhattacharya's plea, a bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Vikram Nath said: "We cannot hold the arrest of the petitioner by the Enforcement Directorate illegal as the issue of money laundering or there being proceeds of crime had not surfaced before the Single Judge or the Division Bench of the High Court."

During the hearing, Bhattacharya's counsel, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, had argued that the court had granted him protection from arrest in the CBI matter and it should be extended

in the case of the ED. The counsel further argued that Bhattacharya appeared before the ED on every occasion, but they claim that he was not cooperating.

The bench said "while testing the legality of an arrest made by an agency otherwise empowered to take into custody a person against whom such agency considers subsistence of prima facie evidence of money laundering, we do not think a general protective order directed at another investigating agency could have insulated the petitioner from any coercive action in another proceeding started by a different agency, even if there are factual similarities vis-a-vis the allegations".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the ED, had opposed the extension of protection granted to the Trinamool MLA in the CBI case, to the money laundering probe, saying the ED is an independent agency and investigating the matter separately.



## A video clip shows the MLA questioning the custom of 'Mrityubhoj' and making a pitch for rationality and scientific temper

Bhagalpur town. State BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal also voiced disapproval of the MLA's conduct and sought an explanation from Paswan. However, parties opposed

to the BJP were quick to latch on to the opportunity. "We hope the MLA does not need the votes of those who worship gods and goddesses," quipped RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari. Paswan, meanwhile, claimed that the video clip was "edited" and showered effusive praise on BJP and RSS, "to which people like me, born in a caste deemed to be untouchable, owe their standing".

A first-term MLA, Paswan, has remained in news in his less than two years-long tenure, often for the wrong reasons.

# More people support internet shutdown: Survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** A study on Thursday claimed that more people were in support of internet shut down to maintain law and order than those opposing it, and a sizable number of people were in favour of surveillance as well.

The survey was done in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

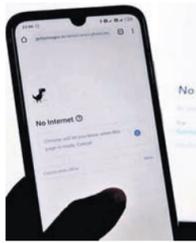
"Support for internet shutdowns by governments on law and order grounds was also greater than opposition to it. The only issue, perhaps, on which a not so conservative opinion was seen, was that

of government regulation of social media content," the study stated.

Among all respondents, 36 per cent were in support of the idea of internet shut down for law and order purposes, while 26 per cent found it wrong, and 38 per cent expressed no opinion.

A similar sentiment was found about government surveillance in the survey, while it was acknowledged, it was not considered immoral by many. "A sizeable proportion of them (respondents) saw nothing wrong with it (surveillance)," it said.

"Most smartphone and internet users were found to hold the be-



The Lokniti-CSDS survey on Media in India also found that social media, though used a lot by internet users, was least trusted, and half of all social media users admitted to have been misled by fake news or information on the net at some point

lief that the government monitors what people do on the internet or their phone, they acknowledged that it takes place. However this acknowledgment

does not mean that they disapprove of government surveillance," the survey stated.

As per the statistics on perception about surveillance, 34 per

cent were of the view that government monitors what people do on mobile or internet, 14 per cent said it doesn't, and 52 per cent were not committal to the idea. Similarly 28 per cent were in favour of the government regulating the social media content, 33 per cent were against it, and 39 per cent gave no opinion.

The survey points out that more than half of the internet users are concerned about fake news and the same number of social media users "admitted to have been misled by fake news or information online at some point," the survey on Media in India said.

## Woman's gangrape claim 'false': Ghaziabad police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ghaziabad, Oct 20:** The police Thursday dismissed as "false" a Delhi woman's claim that she had been gang-raped and brutalized by five men here.

Police claimed that the entire "conspiracy" was hatched to grab property over which the woman had a dispute with the accused.

Three people who helped the woman with the plan have been

arrested, police said. The woman had claimed that she was raped by five men for two days.

Following the incident, the Delhi Commission for Women chief Swati Maliwal also claimed that the 36-year-old woman was found wrapped in a jute bag, with her hands and legs tied, and an iron rod was inserted in her private parts. The police are still interrogating the four people who had been taken into custody.



# BJP, BSP in tussle for Muslim votes in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Oct 20:** The BJP and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Uttar Pradesh are now locked in a tussle for the Muslim votes, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

In an unprecedented move, BSP president Mayawati appointed former MLA Imran Masood as party's coordinator for western UP, within an hour of his quitting the Samajwadi Party (SP) to join the BSP on Wednesday.

The BSP, which does not have any Muslim leader worth his name left in the party, is now banking solely on Imran Masood to woo Muslims in western UP. Masood, who belongs to an influential Muslim family in Saharanpur, has hopped from the Congress to SP and now BSP within the past one year, eroding his own credibility.

Mayawati said, "Masood and others joining the BSP after the Azamgarh parliamentary by poll and before the urban local body polls, is a positive sign for the politics of UP as it shows that the Muslim community believes that it was not the SP but the BSP that was needed to get rid of the malicious politics of the BJP."

Mayawati's declared dependence on Imran Masood, especially for the upcoming municipal polls, shows the BSP's desperation to win back Muslims and regain its relevance in UP politics before the general elections.



IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE, BSP PRESIDENT MAYAWATI APPOINTED FORMER MLA IMRAN MASOOD AS PARTY'S COORDINATOR FOR WESTERN UP, WITHIN AN HOUR OF HIS QUITTING THE SAMAJWADI PARTY TO JOIN THE BSP ON WEDNESDAY

THE BJP, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS GOING FULL THROTTLE TO WIN OVER THE PASMANDA COMMUNITY AMONG MUSLIMS, WHICH REPORTEDLY ACCOUNTS FOR AROUND 70 PER CENT OF THE MUSLIM POPULATION AND ARE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD

The BJP, on the other hand, is going full throttle to win over the Pasmada community among Muslims, which reportedly accounts for around 70 per cent of the Muslim population and are socially and economically backward. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked party leaders to reach out to the Pasmadas for elevating their social status through implementation of various public welfare schemes.

The week, earlier this week, held a Pasmada Sammelan in Lucknow where its leaders impressed upon the community that while other parties merely used them as vote bank, the BJP was genuinely concerned about their welfare.

The party is preparing to give

a substantial number of tickets to Pasmada Muslims in the upcoming municipal polls. The mood in the BJP is upbeat, especially after the party won the bypolls in Azamgarh and Rampur, both dominated by Muslims.

UP chief of All India Pasmada Muslim Mahaz, Waseem Raen, said that results are a clear indication that Muslims are no longer averse to the BJP. He said that the All India Pasmada Muslim Mahaz has got a boost after PM Narendra Modi emphasized on reaching out to the marginalised Pasmada Muslims.

The group is now focussed on projecting "the right picture" to the marginalised sections of Muslims. "In UP, we are already trying to reach out to the community and

tell people that no discrimination has been done against them in providing benefits of PM Awas Yojana or free distribution of ration," Raen said.

As per the All India Pasmada Muslim Mahaz, 85 per cent of Muslim population in the country is of Pasmada Muslims or OBC Muslims (like Ansari, Raen and others) while the remaining 15 per cent is of "Muslim-Brahmins", like Kidwai, Bukhari, Khan, Pathan who constitute the upper layer of the population.

If the BJP succeeds in wooing Pasmada Muslims, there would be no stopping the party from returning to power in 2024 -- a fact that is making the BSP work doubly hard towards regaining lost ground among Muslims now.



Tourists walk under umbrella as they visit Taj Mahal in Agra

PTI PHOTO

# Prisoners to prepare diyas using cow dung

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Agra, Oct 20:** Diyas made from cow dung will light up homes here this Diwali. The district jail has roped in 12 of its inmates to prepare one lakh such diyas ahead of the festival.

According to an official, there are about 80-85 cows in a gaushala which is built in the jail premises and their dung is being used in making the diyas.

Jail superintendent P D Salonia said Thursday that he came across



the unique way of making diyas during a visit to Vedmata Shree Gayatri Trust in Anwalkheda in the district. He said the inmates have al-

ready prepared 25,000 diyas and each of them get a daily wage of Rs 25. Each diya will be sold at 40 paise. "They will make about one lakh

Jail superintendent P D Salonia said Thursday that he came across the unique way of making diyas during a visit to Vedmata Shree Gayatri Trust in Anwalkheda in the district

According to the officer, the jail inmates also prepare cow dung logs, which are used as an alternative to wood in cremations

diyas. We have received an order for 51,000 diyas from Vedmata Shree Gayatri Trust in Anwalkheda here. The rest will be put up for sale near the jail gate. An exhibition will also be organised at Kothi Meena Bazar fair," Salonia said.

"If the inmates manage to make more than 1,00,000 diyas, we will use them to light up the jail premises on Diwali," he added. According to the officer, the jail inmates also prepare cow dung logs, which are used as an alternative to wood in cremations.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** The Delhi government Thursday issued an order withdrawing the Rs 500 fine for not wearing masks in public places in the national capital.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in a meeting last month decided to stop levying the penalty after September 30, amid a decline in COVID-19 cases.

The authority in its meeting on September 22 noted that the positivity rate of the COVID-19 infection has come down substantially and majority of the population has been vaccinated, the order read. "And, whereas, the DDMA has decided that compulsory wearing of masks under the Epidemic Act may not be extended beyond September 30 and hence, a fine of Rs 500 for not wearing masks in public places would also stand withdrawn after September 30," it read.

The order advised people to wear masks in crowded public places. Earlier, even as an official order abolishing the mask mandate was awaited, several district authorities in Delhi had either stopped fining people Rs 500 or given relaxations.

Delhi recorded 107 fresh COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 1.64 per cent on Wednesday, according to health department data. On Tuesday, the positivity rate was 2.04 per cent, 3.61 per cent on Monday, 1.59 per cent on Sunday, 2.12 per cent on Saturday and 1.75 per cent on Friday. The number of active cases now stands at 488. The number of daily cases in the city had touched a record high of 28,867 on January 13 during the third wave of the pandemic.

On April 2, the Delhi government had lifted the Rs 500 penalty for not wearing face masks at public places as COVID-19 cases were fairly under control for a few weeks before that, but within three weeks, it had to bring it back amid a surge in infections. Even the decision to revoke the mask mandate during the September 22 DDMA meeting was



The Delhi Disaster Management Authority in a meeting last month decided to stop levying the penalty after September 30, amid a decline in Covid-19 cases

On April 2, the Delhi government had lifted the Rs 500 penalty for not wearing face masks at public places as Covid-19 cases were fairly under control for a few weeks before that, but within three weeks, it had to bring it back amid a surge in infections

anything but unanimous and there were many differences, according to the minutes of the meeting.

Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar had in the meeting said that the current situation was comfortable but people cannot lower their guard as variants keep coming up. Niti Aayog member (health) Dr V K Paul had in the meeting emphasised that surveillance was still needed as the virus is still present, and its mutations and variants have emerged from time to time.

The chief secretary had suggested that a "self discipline mode" could be tried now as people are well aware of their responsibilities and about Covid-appropriate behaviour. Delhi Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot in the same meeting had reiterated that there were

"practical difficulties" in the enforcement of the mask mandate, and had stressed the need to relax the rule.

The meeting, chaired by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in attendance, had summarily agreed that though wearing of masks was useful in maintaining Covid-appropriate behaviour, the order of compulsory wearing of masks under the Epidemic Act may not be extended beyond September 30.

Experts had mixed views on the lifting of the mask mandate, with some saying the government could have waited for two months for the festive season to end, while others said people should voluntarily be allowed to discipline themselves.

# Over 28 tonne fake cumin seeds seized

More than 400 sacks of fake cumin seeds weighing a total of over 28 tonne were recovered, police said, adding the value of recovered items exceeds ₹1 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** Delhi Police's Crime Branch has busted an illegal factory in Kanjhawala which allegedly made fake cumin seeds and arrested its owner, officials said Thursday.

The 43-year-old accused was identified as Suresh Gupta, resident of Budh Vihar, Phase-I. He was running the factory making fake cumin seeds by using grass, jaggery vinegar and stone powder, the officials said.

More than 400 sacks of fake cumin seeds weighing a total of over 28 tons were recovered, police said, adding the value of recovered items exceeds Rs 1 crore. Special Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ravindra Singh Yadav said police had received input about the factory in which fake cumin seeds were being made.

Considering it a matter of grave concern related to public health, information was further worked upon, Yadav said. On the inter-



vening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, it was confirmed that Gupta was running an illegal factory in Kanjhawala area and was manufacturing fake cumin seeds in huge quantity. Police were also tipped off that he will transport a large consignment of the same outside Delhi. Immediate raid was planned to bust the illegal factory, the senior police official said.

"Our team acted swiftly and raided the place of information and Gupta, owner of the illegal factory, was apprehended and more than 400 sacks of fake cumin seeds weighing around 70 kg each were recovered," he said.

"The staff of Food Safety Department was also called at the place of recovery and the samples of fake cumin seeds were collected. The fake cumin seeds were made so well that nobody can discern that they are not real," he added.

# As dengue cases rise, no leave for docs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Lucknow, Oct 20:** The Director General (DG) of medical health office has issued a directive stating that leave of doctors and paramedical staff associated with government hospitals in Uttar Pradesh should not be approved.

This has been done in view of dengue outbreak and the upcoming festival season. A letter sent by the DG to chief medical officers, additional directors, and heads of all government hospitals states: "Keeping in view dengue cases and upcoming festivals, leave to doctors and paramedical staff should not be allowed unless the circumstances are unavoidable."



**Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio, has asked health officials to set up dedicated desks to handle patients complaining of fever**

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio, has asked health officials to set up dedicated desks to handle patients complaining of fever.

"Cases of fever should be attended to separately. Such patients should not be made to wait in long queues," he said.

The Minister asked officials to facilitate easy registration and check-up for fever cases and provide such patients with seven to 15 days of medicines as per the need.

He also pointed out that the state is reporting lesser number of dengue cases this year as compared to the last year. "Hospitals have reserved beds for dengue cases. All measures should be taken to prevent the spread of the mosquito-borne disease," he directed.

# Delhi's air quality to turn 'very poor' ahead of Diwali

In a meeting, the CAQM sub-committee comprehensively reviewed the air quality scenario in the region and noted that the air quality parameters are likely to dip October 22 in the region making it to move into the 'very poor' category

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** With air quality in the national capital likely to deteriorate to 'very poor' category ahead of Diwali, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in Delhi-NCR has directed the authorities to enact Stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which includes banning

the use of diesel generators, coal and firewood in hotels, restaurants and open eateries.

In a meeting on Wednesday, the CAQM sub-committee "comprehensively reviewed the air quality scenario in the region and noted that the air quality parameters are likely to dip on October 22 in the region making it to move into the 'very poor' category".



"...the sub-committee today (Wednesday) has taken the call to invoke all actions as envisaged

under Stage 2 of the GRAP - 'Very Poor' Air Quality (Delhi AQI ranging between 301-400), three days

in advance to the projected levels i.e. today with immediate effect in the entire NCR in right earnest by all the agencies concerned. This is in addition to the restrictive actions mentioned in Stage 1 of GRAP," the CAQM said in an order, adding that various agencies responsible for implementing measures under GRAP have been advised to ensure strict implementation of actions under Stage 2 of GRAP.

Under Stage 2 of GRAP, the use of diesel generators is also not allowed except for essential services related to national security, defence-related activities, projects of national importance, telecommunication, data services, med-

ical, railway and metro rail services, airports, inter-state bus terminals, sewage treatment plants, and water pumping stations.

The CAQM has also suggested the use to water sprinklers and vacuum based road sweepers. Further, the dust prone areas must be identified and fog guns be set up over there.

The CAQM has advised the people to follow a few steps to combat air pollution.

It said that people should use public transport and minimise the use of personal vehicles. The CAQM also said that dust generating construction activities should be avoided and air filters should be replaced regularly.

of the day quote

The government is making efforts to take domestic defence production from the current USD 12 billion to USD 22 billion by 2025



RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

People will have to choose between 'Vigyan ki Rajniti' (politics of advertisement) and 'Vikas ki Rajniti' (politics of development)



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The Centre should implement schemes and programmes launched by the Rajasthan government at the national level. If they have anything good to offer from the Gujarat model, they should tell us, we will implement those too



ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

ED freezes Bitcoins, cash

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has frozen ₹7.12 crore worth of Bitcoins and seized ₹1.65 crore in cash as part of an ongoing money laundering investigation against the promoter of a Kolkata-based mobile gaming app that is alleged to have duped many people.

Plaint lodged against Chetan

Udupi: Hindu Jagaran Vedike has lodged a police complaint against Kannada actor Chetan Ahimsa for allegedly 'hurting' Hindu sentiments in Udupi district of Karnataka, police said Thursday.

SL Navy arrests 3 TN fishermen

Chennai: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested three fishermen from Tamil Nadu's Pudukkottai district on charges of poaching in the island nation's territorial waters, sources said Thursday.

PARTIES SPENT 33% ON PUBLICITY DURING POLLS: ADR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 20: The political parties that contested the 2022 Assembly elections in Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, spent 33.9 per cent of the overall expenditure on publicity.

neous expenses, ₹29,568 crore on expenses on virtual campaign through social media platforms/Apps/other means by party and ₹23,368 crore on expenditure incurred on publishing criminal antecedents of the candidate(s).



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

miscellaneous expenses, lumpsum amount paid to their contesting candidates, expenditure incurred on publishing criminal antecedents of the candidate(s) and expenses on virtual campaign through social media platforms/Apps/other means by party.

According to the report, total funds collected by 13 political parties during Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Assembly elections held in 2022, was ₹1441.797 crore and total expenditure incurred was ₹470.101 crore.

The funds collected by the parties at the central headquarters was ₹1209,588 crore and expenditure was ₹284.92 crore.

Uttar Pradesh state unit spent ₹73.238 crore, Punjab unit spent ₹33.95 crore, Uttarakhand spent ₹33.678 crore, Manipur spent ₹22.495 crore while Goa spent ₹21.82 crore.

Cong slams Tharoor for being 'two-faced'



The campaign team of Tharoor, who lost the party's presidential polls to Mallikarjun Kharge, had written to Mistry, flagging "extremely serious irregularities" in the conduct of the election in Uttar Pradesh

Besides demanding that all votes from Uttar Pradesh be deemed invalid, Tharoor's campaign team had also separately raised "serious issues" in the conduct of the election in Punjab and Telangana

Tharoor's chief election agent Salman Soz, according to sources.

In his letter to Mistry, Soz had said the facts are "damning" and the election process in Uttar Pradesh is "devoid of credibility and integrity".

In his response to Team Tharoor, Mistry said, "You say in your letter that 'we kept quiet in the party's interest and we saw unjust and unfair treatment that prevented us from operating on a level playing field'.

To put the record straight, Mistry said he must state that the party's poll body showed Tharoor's team the list of all the voters two days before the candidate filed their nomination.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 20: Congress's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry Thursday accused Shashi Tharoor's team of having two faces -- one for the party's poll body and one for the media -- and rejected allegations of irregularities during the just-concluded AICC presidential poll, sources said.

In his response to Team Tharoor's letter in which "extremely serious irregularities" were flagged in the conduct of the election in Uttar Pradesh, Mistry said the poll body satisfied the candidate on every complaint but despite that he raised all those points in the media before bringing them to "our notice".

"I am sorry to say that you had one face before me which communicated that you're satisfied with all our answers and action and different face in the media which made all these allegations against us," Mistry said in his letter to

"You alleged that we were putting 'I' for voting because Mr. Kharge had 'I' against his name as serial number which may indicate as if someone is suggesting to vote for serial number-1. We accommodated your request and changed it to tick mark...And despite that you went to the media alleging that Central Election Authority was conspiring against you," Mistry said.

After Team Tharoor's letter dated October 18 came in public domain, Soz had said on Twitter, "In light of complaints from our UP team yesterday, we wrote to @INCIndia's CEA immediately, a standard practice. Subsequent discussions with the CEA have assured us of a fair inquiry."

Kharge to assume role as Cong chief Oct 26

NEW DELHI: Newly elected Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will take over his new assignment at a function at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters October 26.



The certificate of his election to the post will also be presented to him at the function on the day and he will assume his new role from then on. The 80-year-old Kharge trounced his 66-year-old rival, Shashi Tharoor bagging over 84 per cent of the votes in the presidential election. Kharge polled 7,897 Pradesh Congress Committee delegate votes out of 9,385, while Tharoor bagged 1072.

PM Modi, UN chief launch Mission LIFE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kevadia (Gujarat), Oct 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday gave the mantra of 'reduce, reuse and recycle' for sustainable development and reaffirmed India's commitment to tackle the menace of climate change.

He said people are experiencing the ill-effects of climate change and maintained the issue goes beyond the realm of policy-making.

The PM, who is on two-day Gujarat visit, and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launched 'Mission LIFE', a global plan of action aimed at saving the planet from the disastrous consequences of climate change.

The action plan - a list of ideas on lifestyle changes that can be taken up as climate-friendly behaviour - along with the logo and tagline for Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) were jointly launched by Modi and Guterres at Kevadia in Gujarat.

Mamata calls Sourav Ganguly victim of political vendetta

Earlier this week, the TMC boss expressed shock over Ganguly's "removal" as BCCI President and had sought PM's intervention so that the former India captain is allowed to contest the elections for ICC head

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 20: Miffed over the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) decision to not endorse the name of its immediate past president Sourav Ganguly for the chairmanship of International Cricket Council (ICC), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday launched a scathing attack against the BJP-led Centre, claiming that Ganguly has been made a victim of political vendetta.

"I have a few questions. For whom a position was kept in reserve in the ICC? For whose self-interest Sourav was made the victim? Why did he become a victim of political vendetta? Will not the Indian cricket suffer for this? This is a shameful political vendetta," Banerjee said

while interacting with mediapersons here Thursday. Her comments came after the BCCI made it clear that it will back current ICC chairman Greg Barclay to retain the post.

However, she avoided naming Union Home Minister Amit Shah and his son and BCCI secretary Jay Shah on this count, even after mediapersons specifically asked whether she was hinting at the father-son duo.

"You all are journalists. You surely have some information... You will understand this better," the Chief Minister said. Immediately after it was made clear that Ganguly will not get another term as BCCI president, Banerjee had said that she would talk to Prime Minister Narendra Modi so that the former India captain is nominated for ICC chairmanship.



Heavy rains wreak havoc in Bangalore



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 20: Heavy overnight rains here threw normal life out of gear and parts of the city were flooded while a compound wall of the Metro Rail collapsed and cars parked close by came under mounds of rubble, officials said Thursday.

Waterlogging, incidents of tree fall, damage to civic infrastructure and power outage were reported from various areas and the 70 mm rainfall brought parts of the city to its knees.

Over a month after the flooding September 7, the city once again received heavy downpour affecting most the areas. The worst effect of the rain was seen at Seshadripuram where the compound wall of the Metro Rail collapsed damaging seven cars and a few bikes. No one was present when the wall came down crashing. One of the car owners demanded that the government compensate for the loss alleging that shoddy work led to the wall collapse. Shivajinagar resembled a river and cars and bikes were seen floating in water. People struggled hard to save their belongings. At HSR Layout, nearly 200 families were affected when water gushed into their houses including the basements of a few apartments.

Anugraha Layout in Bilekahalli was badly affected as the entire colony was waterlogged. The road in front of Disha Centre in Balagere in Varthur ward resembled a river even 12 hours after the rain.

According to Jagadish Reddy, a resident of the area, the basement of many apartments in the area was flooded submerging many vehicles after the downpour.

The Outer Ring Road, which was badly hit a month ago due to heavy rains remained unaffected, an office-bearer of the Outer Ring Road Companies' Association told PTI.

84% of Indians say global warming is happening

GLOBAL WARMING IS NOW AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR CONTEMPORARY INDIANS AND ITS EFFECTS SEEM VISIBLE IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY LIVE

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 20: A massive majority -- 84 per cent -- of Indians seem convinced that global warming is a reality that can no longer be ignored.

This is 15 per cent higher than in 2011 when 69 per cent of Indians were of the opinion that global warming was now a reality.

The survey was conducted between October 2021 and January 2022 and covered a scientifically designed random sample size of 4,619 adult Indians who were above 18 years of age. A similar

survey on climate change was conducted in late 2011 and the responses have been compared to get an inkling about awareness levels of Indians.

Awareness levels were not very high without the respondents being provided with a definition and a short description. For instance, the survey reveals that 54 per cent of Indians either know just a little about global warming or have never heard of it while a small minority of 9 per cent stated that they know a lot about global warming.

Speaking on the subject, Dr Anthony Leiserowitz of Yale



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

University said, "It is important to note, however, that lack of awareness of the issue does not mean that individuals have not observed changes in local weather and climate patterns, as evidenced in the Observations, Vulnerabilities, and Resilience to Local Weather Events section later in this report."

About three in four people in India have noticed changes in rainfall in their area in the last 10 years. India is geographically diverse, and different parts of the country experience different patterns of heat, rainfall, and extreme weather. A large majority of people in India

say they have observed changes in local climate and weather patterns in their own area.

Nationally, more than four in ten people in India (46 per cent) say the average amount of rainfall in their local area has increased over the past 10 years, while 30 per cent say it has decreased, and 22 per cent say it has stayed about the same. Compared to 2011, a higher percentage of people in India now say the average amount of rainfall in their local area has increased over the past 10 years (+12 percentage points), while a smaller percentage say it has decreased (-16).

# international



Tehran is ready to use all its capacities and potential to help end the conflict in Ukraine  
EBRAHIM RAISI | IRANIAN PRESIDENT

**DOMES OF JAKARTA MOSQUE COLLAPSES**  
The large dome of a grand mosque in Indonesia's capital Jakarta collapsed after a major fire, without causing any casualties



## Who could replace Truss

**Rishi Sunak**  
Britain's former finance minister was the most popular candidate among Conservative lawmakers at Westminster in a leadership contest earlier this year but, after getting through to a run-off against Truss, he lost out in a vote involving some 170,000 party members who made the final decision. The Telegraph reported Thursday that Sunak was 'certain' to stand in the leadership contest.

**Penny Mordaunt**  
A former defence secretary, Mordaunt was a passionate supporter of leaving the European Union who only just missed out on the final two-place run off in the recent leadership challenge. Mordaunt won plaudits for her performance in parliament on Monday, when she defended the government even as it reversed most of its policies. One lawmaker has described Mordaunt as having "broad appeal", referring to her ability to find friends in the various tribes of the party.

**Jeremy Hunt**  
After Truss's economic programme collapsed and she fired her finance minister, she turned to Hunt, a former health and foreign minister, to put things right. A series of confident performances on television and in the House of Commons, as he ripped up Truss's economic manifesto, have already led to some Conservative lawmakers referring to Hunt as the "real prime minister".

**Ben Wallace**  
Britain's defence secretary is one of the few ministers to have emerged from recent political turmoil with his credibility enhanced. Wallace, a former soldier, was defence minister for both

Johnson and Truss, leading Britain's response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Popular with party members, he surprised many earlier this year when he said he wouldn't run for the leadership, saying he wanted to focus on his current job.

**Boris Johnson**  
Former Prime Minister Johnson, a journalist, has loomed large over British politics ever since he became London Mayor in 2008. After causing trouble for leaders such as David Cameron and Theresa May, he finally became Prime Minister in 2019 and went on to win a landslide election victory. Johnson was the face of the Brexit vote and won votes in parts of the country that had never voted Conservative before. But he was forced out by a string of scandals. The Times reported that Johnson is expected to stand in the Conservative Party leadership contest.

## Nominations open for new UK PM, cut-off set at 100 MPs

**London, Oct 20:** The nominations for Conservative Party members planning to contest in the leadership election to replace Liz Truss as Tory leader and British Prime Minister officially opened Thursday evening, with a high threshold of 100 members of Parliament set for the final shortlist.  
Graham Brady, chair of the 1922 Backbench Committee in charge of Tory elections, said that potential candidates are expected to file their nominations by 2 pm local time on Monday for a final two contestants to be shortlisted.  
Unless there is parliamentary consensus struck around a single candidate, the final two will be put up for an expedited online voting

process before the wider Tory party membership to be concluded by October 28. "It [100 MPs] should be achievable by any serious candidate, who has a realistic prospect of going through," said Brady, as he confirmed the likelihood of three possible candidates emerging, given the 357 Tory MPs in the House of Commons. "It is up to the Members of Parliament whether we have one or two candidates. If there are two candidates acting in the national interest, our members can make their views known," said Tory Party chairman Jake Berry, who will oversee the online voting for the membership.  
In case only one candidate emerges with the requisite support in time for the 2 pm deadline on Monday, the party would have



a new leader in place later that day. If there is a clash between two final contenders, the leader would be in place by next Friday.  
Rishi Sunak, the British Indian former chancellor, had garnered the support of 137 MPs in the last round of voting within the Tory parliamentary party back in July and was the clear frontrunner of the race among his colleagues.  
However, second-placed Liz Truss

at 113 votes zoomed ahead as the favourite when the poll opened out to the estimated 170,000 Tory members, who voted in online and postal ballots between July and early September. Many Sunak loyalists within the party hope he would emerge as the favourite to replace Truss after she resigned Thursday.  
However, the governing party remains deeply divided as former Prime Minister Boris Johnson supporters still consider Sunak as having betrayed his partygate scandal-hit former boss by resigning from his Cabinet and hastening his exit from Downing Street in early July.  
If Sunak does throw his hat in the ring and wins over the support of enough of his party colleagues, it would mark one of the most remarkable comebacks in

British politics for the UK-born Indian-origin politician.  
The 42-year-old former finance minister, the son-in-law of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, has attracted much praise in recent weeks as many of his forewarnings about Truss' "fairytale" tax-cutting economic agenda came true.  
"I'm going to stay as a member of Parliament... It's been a great privilege to represent my constituents in Richmond in North Yorkshire as their member of Parliament and I'll love to keep doing that as long as they'll have me," he had said at the end of the Tory leadership race last month, which he lost with a much closer margin than was forecast - with Sunak polling 43 per cent of his party's votes compared to Truss' 57 per cent.

## RUSSIA SEEKS TO REGAIN GROUND

**Kyiv, Oct 20:** Russia's troops fought Thursday to regain lost ground in areas of Ukraine that Russian President Vladimir Putin has illegally annexed while Moscow tried to pound the invaded country into submission with more missile and drone attacks on critical infrastructure.  
Russian forces attacked Ukrainian positions near Bilohorivka, a village in the Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine. In the neighbouring Donetsk region, fighting raged near the city of Bakhmut. Kremlin-backed separatists have controlled parts of both regions for 8½ years.  
Putin declared martial law in Luhansk, Donetsk and southern Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions on Wednesday in an attempt to assert Russian authority in the annexed areas following a string of battlefield setbacks and a troubled troop mobilisation.  
The unsettled status of the illegally absorbed territory was especially visible in the Kherson region's capital, where military officials have replaced Kremlin-installed civilian leaders amid a mass evacuation and an ongoing



Firefighters work to put out a fire in an energy infrastructure facilities, damaged by a Russian missile strike, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues

**KHERSON CITY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST URBAN AREAS CAPTURED BY RUSSIA WHEN IT INVADED UKRAINE, AND IT REMAINS A PRIME TARGET FOR BOTH SIDES BECAUSE OF ITS KEY INDUSTRIES AND MAJOR RIVER PORT**  
RUSSIA'S SUSTAINED ATTACKS ON UKRAINE'S INFRASTRUCTURE PROMPTED AUTHORITIES TO ASK RESIDENTS TO REDUCE THEIR ENERGY CONSUMPTION FROM 7:00 AM TO 11:00 AM STARTING THURSDAY AND TO DIM CITY STREET LIGHTS

Ukrainian counteroffensive.  
Kherson city was one of the first urban areas captured by Russia when it invaded Ukraine, and it remains a prime target for both sides because of its key industries and major river port. Thousands of the city's 250,000 residents streamed out of the city in anticipation of intensified assaults.  
President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said on Thursday that Ukrainian forces continued to engage the enemy, mounting 15 attacks on Russian military strongholds in the Kherson region. Meanwhile, Russia continued its stepped-up attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, dispatching drones and missiles to eight regions.  
At least three civilians died and 14 were wounded in overnight attacks across Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian president's office. In Kryvyi Rih, Russian strikes damaged a power plant and another energy facility, cutting electricity to the central Ukraine city of about 600,000 residents.  
Apart from being Zelenskyy's hometown, Kryvyi Rih is home to several large metallurgical factories that are key to Ukraine's economy. Regional governor Valentyn

Reznichenko said the city sustained serious damage.  
Ukrainian authorities said missile and drone strikes ignited several fires in the southern city of Mykolaiv, with four drones hitting a school. Another school in Komyshevukha, a village in the Zaporizhzhia region, also took four drone strikes and sustained damage. Authorities reported no casualties.  
Russia's sustained attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure prompted authorities to ask residents to reduce their energy consumption from 7:00 am to 11:00 am starting Thursday and to dim city street lights. They warned of rolling blackouts.

## Syrups banned after death of 99 children

**Jakarta, Oct 20:** The deaths of nearly 100 children in Indonesia have prompted the country to suspend sales of all syrup and liquid medication, the media reported.  
It comes just weeks after a cough syrup in The Gambia was linked to the deaths of nearly 70 children, the BBC reported. Indonesia said some syrup medicine was found to contain ingredients linked to acute kidney injuries (AKI), which have killed 99 young children this year.  
It is not clear if the medicine were imported or locally produced.  
On Thursday, Indonesian health officials said they had reported around 200 cases of AKI in children, most of who were aged under five.  
Earlier this month, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a global alert over four cough syrups that were linked to the



Indonesia said some syrup medicine was found to contain ingredients linked to acute kidney injuries (AKI), which have killed 99 young children this year

deaths of almost 70 children in The Gambia.  
The WHO found the syrups used there - made by an Indian pharmaceutical company - contained "unacceptable amounts" of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol. The syrups have been "potentially linked with acute kidney injuries", said the organisation.  
Indonesia's Health Minister on Thursday said the same chemical compounds were also found in some medicines used locally.

## Relief for Zardari

**Islamabad, Oct 20:** A Pakistani court Thursday dismissed appeals by the country's top anti-corruption watchdog against the acquittal of former President Asif Ali Zardari in a slew of graft cases filed against him over two decades ago.  
The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had filed these graft cases against 67-year-old Zardari in the 1990s.  
The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader was later acquitted in 2014 and 2015. However, the NAB challenged Zardari's acquittal in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).  
But after its failure to present any evidence, the NAB on Wednesday filed an application expressing its desire not to further pursue these cases, as the available evidence was based on photocopies, which did not comply with the country's laws of evidence. The anti-corruption body also told the court that it wanted to withdraw its appeals.



The US Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon perform during the Joint Service Drill-Off at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington

## Xi likely to join G20 summit in Indonesia

**Beijing, Oct 20:** China Thursday dropped a subtle hint that President Xi Jinping, who is widely expected to get endorsed by the ongoing Congress of the ruling Communist Party for a record 3rd term, will attend next month's G20 summit in Indonesia.  
Also, the Chinese Foreign Ministry flaunted the "diplomatic success" achieved under the 10-year rule of Xi, saying during his reign China has "robustly" upheld its sovereignty and security. The once-in-a-five-year Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) being held here from October 16 is widely expected to endorse an unprecedented 3rd five-year term or perhaps a lifelong tenure in power to Xi later this week besides enhancing his powers through constitutional amendments. Barring Xi, the Congress would endorse a whole set of new top-level leaders and officials, including the Premier,



### UNEXPECTED ATTACK

## Woman charged with sending bee swarm on deputies at eviction

**THE INCIDENT UNFOLDED WHEN RORIE WOODS, A 55-YEAR-OLD PROFESSIONAL BEEKEEPER, DROVE UP TO THE HOME IN LONGMEADOW WHILE DEPUTIES WERE IN THE PROCESS OF ENFORCING THE EVICTION NOTICE, THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SAID IN A STATEMENT WEDNESDAY**

**Springfield (US), Oct 20:** A Massachusetts woman stands accused of using a swarm of bees as a dangerous weapon, according to a county sheriff, after she allegedly unleashed a hive of angry insects on deputies trying to serve an eviction notice last week.  
The incident unfolded when Rorie Woods, a 55-year-old professional beekeeper, drove up to the



Rorie Sussan Woods, 55, unleashes a swarm of bees on deputies serving eviction papers in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, US

home, trying to stop the eviction. At that point, deputies arrested her.  
"I support people's right to protest peacefully but when you cross the line and put my staff and the public in danger, I promise you will be arrested," Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi said.  
Attempts to reach a lawyer for Woods were unsuccessful.  
Woods, who lives in Hadley, Massachusetts, about 25 miles (40 km) north of Longmeadow, faces four felony counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and three counts of assault by means of a dangerous weapon.  
She also faces a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge. Local media reported that Woods pleaded not guilty to the charges.

When she arrived at about 9:15 a.m. local time, towing a stack of manufactured beehives with a SUV, Woods exited the vehicle and tried to open the lids to unleash the bees, the department said.  
"A sheriff's deputy tried to stop her, but as the agitated bees started getting out and circling the area, he pulled back," the office said.  
She then smashed the lid of one hive and flipped it off the flatbed, agitating the bees, the sheriff said on Wednesday.  
They swarmed the area, stinging several officers and bystanders who were nearby. One deputy was taken to the hospital where he was treated.  
Meanwhile Woods put on a professional beekeeper suit to protect herself, and she carried a tower of bees to the front door of

## of the day quote

Can we consider lower freight and power costs for exporters? It is not required to have subsidies but calibrated rates so that exporters are not cross subsidising other consumers

**SANJAY BUDHIA** | MD, PATTON GROUP

Although obviously, myself and the other investors are obviously overpaying for it with Twitter right now. The long-term potential for Twitter, in my view, is an order of magnitude greater than its current value

**ELON MUSK** | CEO, TESLA

We will aim to be a \$2 billion revenue company in four years

**SANDEEP KALRA** | CEO, PERSISTENT SYSTEMS

## SHORT TAKES

### Canara Bank Q2 profit jumps 89%

**New Delhi:** State-owned Canara Bank Thursday reported an 89 per cent rise in its net profit to ₹2,525 crore for the second quarter ended September of this fiscal. The bank had posted a net profit of ₹1,333 crore in the same period of the previous fiscal. The total income also rose to ₹24,932.19 crore during July-September this year against ₹21,331.49 crore in the same period of 2020-21, Canara Bank said in a regulatory filing. The bank's gross non-performing assets declined to 6.37 per cent of the gross advances as of September 30, 2022, compared to 8.42 per cent at the end of September 2021.

### Adani arm bags ₹1,300cr deal

**Mumbai:** Adani Transmission Thursday announced that it has bagged a deal to install and maintain 10.80 lakh smart meters for BEST Undertaking. Sources pegged the deal value for the multi-year-old engagement by Adani Transmission's distribution platform at ₹1,300 crore. Adani Transmission's subsidiary Adani Electricity Mumbai distributes power in the suburbs, where it competes with Tata Power. The company has also gone public with its ambitions to expand to other pockets in the state and capitalise on a liberalised policy once it is implemented.

### Axis Bank net profit jumps 70%

**New Delhi:** Axis Bank Thursday reported a jump of 70 per cent in its standalone net profit at ₹5,329.77 crore in quarter ended September 2022 on healthy core income aided by trimming of bad loans. The country's third largest private sector lender had posted a net profit of ₹3,133.32 crore in the year ago same quarter ended September 2021. Total income on standalone basis rose to ₹24,180 crore in September quarter of 2022-23 as against ₹20,134 crore in same period of 2021-22, Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing.

### PhonePe invests \$200 million

**Mumbai:** Walmart-owned payment services provider PhonePe Thursday said it is investing \$200 million (around ₹1,661 crore) on building data centres in the country, a top official said Thursday. The investments are driven by the regulatory insistence on data localisation, which prevents a financial sector entity from storing its data overseas, and other aspects, company's co-founder and chief technology officer Rahul Chari said.



We can easily aim for doubling our exports and increasing our exports (share) to 10 per cent over a period of time and these opportunities exist even if somebody is saying that global trade scenario is looking bleak

**SUNIL BARTHWAL** | COMMERCE SECRETARY

## GAIL ISSUES SWAP TENDER FOR FOUR CARGOES

GAIL (India) Ltd has issued a swap tender offering two liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargoes for loading in the United States in exchange for two other cargoes for delivery into India, two industry sources said Thursday



## STUCK IN LOWER GEAR

# India growth outlook stagnates

WHILE GROWTH WAS EXPECTED TO BE FASTER THAN MANY OTHER ECONOMIES, IT WOULD BE TOO SLOW FOR THE JOB CREATION NEEDED TO PULL TENS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY IN A COUNTRY TYPICALLY RANKED AMONG THE WORST IN THE WORLD FOR HUNGER



### FALLING FIGURES

- Growth likely slowed sharply to an annual 6.0% in Q3 from 13.5% in Q2
- Economists expect growth to decelerate further to 4.4% in Q4
- Rupee has depreciated over 10% against the dollar this year

India has its own set of domestic challenges: weak employment, negative real wages and weakening industrial activity even in the lead up to the main festive season. This, we believe, will result in the RBI having to shift its focus toward supporting growth and away from anchoring inflation expectations by engineering a growth slowdown

**KUNAL KUNDU** | ECONOMIST, SOCIETE GENERALE

poll. The median expectation was for 6.9% growth in the 2022-23 fiscal year, slightly above International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank projections of 6.8%. It was forecast to slow to 6.1% next year.

While those figures were only trimmed from the previous poll medians, a deteriorating global economic outlook suggests there may be further downgrades in coming months.

The poll results underscore how the RBI's interest rate-hiking campaign, which only started five months ago and according to the poll will end in the first quarter of 2023, has done little to bring down price pressures. Inflation is felt most acutely by lower-income households who form a significant portion of the country's population of about 1.4 billion people.

Like other economies around the world, India has struggled with soaring energy prices stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a particularly devastating pan-

dem, from which businesses are still recovering.

India's retail inflation accelerated in September to a five-month high of 7.41% year-on-year as food prices surged, raising fears of further rate hikes when the central bank meets for its next policy review in December.

While the central bank's targeted band for inflation is 2%-6%, the poll showed inflation would average 6.7% in the year ending March 2023, and 5.2% in the fol-

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** India's economy will grow well below its potential over the next two years, with inflation staying above the mid-point of the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance band despite recent interest rate rises, according to a Reuters poll of economists.

Growth likely slowed sharply to an annual 6.0% in the third quarter from 13.5% in the second that was supported mainly by statistical comparisons with a year earlier rather than new momentum. It was expected to decelerate further to 4.4% in the fourth quarter, according to an October 13-19 Reuters

## SEBI clears govt proposal to turn Vi dues into equity

GOVT'S STAKE IN VODAFONE AFTER THE CONVERSION COULD BE OVER 30%, MAKING IT ONE OF THE LARGEST SHAREHOLDERS

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** India's capital market regulator approved the government's proposal to convert dues of over \$1.92 billion by telecom operator Vodafone Idea to equity, two senior government officials said Thursday.

Last year, India had approved a rescue package for debt-strapped telecom companies that allowed them to convert interest on deferred adjusted gross revenue owed to the government into equity.

Among the country's three major telecom players, in-

cluding Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries' Jio, the government package was seen as a bailout for Vodafone Idea, which was on the verge of bankruptcy.

"SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has approved the government's proposal to come in as a financial investor. This has been communicated to the telecom ministry," one of the officials, who did not want to be named, told Reuters.

The government's stake in Vodafone after the conversion could be more than 30%, the official added, which would make it one of the largest shareholders in the company along with UK's Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group.

SEBI has also approved the government's request to classify its shareholding in Vodafone Idea as public float, both the officials said.

The market regulator's guidelines state that only stakes up to 10% can be classified as public shareholding.

The government will sell its stake in the telecom operator once it is turned around, one of the officials said.



## UNFAIR BIZ PRACTICES

# ₹1,337.76cr penalty on Google for abusing dominance in Android

Google has perpetuated its dominant position in the online search market resulting in denial of market access for competing search apps. Also, it has leveraged its position in the app store market for Android OS to protect its position in online general search which violates the competition law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** The Competition Commission Thursday imposed a penalty of ₹1,337.76 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem.

Besides, the fair trade regulator has directed the internet major to cease and desist from unfair business practices. In a release, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it has also directed Google to modify its conduct within a defined timeline.

In April 2019, the regulator ordered a detailed probe in the matter following complaints by con-



sumers of Android-based smartphones in the country. Android is an open-source, mobile operating system installed by Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of smartphones and tablets.

The allegations of unfair business practices pertained to two agreements -- Mobile Application Distribution Agreement (MADA) and Anti Fragmentation Agreement (AFA) -- which were entered into by the OEMs of Android OS with Google.

In the release, the regulator said it has imposed a penalty of ₹1,337.76 crore on Google for abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem apart from issuing the cease and desist order.

As per the release, CCI said that mandatory pre-installation of entire Google Mobile Suite (GMS) under MADA, with no option to un-install the same, and their prominent placement amounts to im-

position of unfair condition on the device manufacturers and thereby contravenes competition law.

"These obligations are also found to be in the nature of supplementary obligations imposed by Google on OEMs and thus, in contravention of Section 4(2)(d) of the Act," it added. Section 4 of the Competition Act pertains to abuse of dominant position.

Further, CCI noted that the internet major has leveraged its dominant position in the app store market for Android OS to enter as well as protect its position in non-OS specific web browser market through Google Chrome App.

"Google has leveraged its dominant position in the app store market for Android OS to enter as well as protect its position in Online Video Hosting Platforms (OVHPs) market through YouTube and thereby contravened provisions of Section 4(2)(e) of the Act," the release said.

## UCO Bank, Yes Bank in talks with Russia to finalise trade mechanism

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 20:** Indian lenders UCO Bank and Yes Bank are in talks with their Russian counterparts over a payment mechanism for trade between the two countries, a senior government official said Thursday.

Reuters had reported large lenders are reluctant to process direct rupee trade transactions with Russia for fear of becoming the target of sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine, and New Delhi is counting on smaller banks like UCO and Yes.

Banks are discussing the currency pair for the payment mechanism and the options include the Indian rupee paired with the Russian rouble or Saudi Arabia's riyal, the official said.

"Few of the Russian banks are joining hands with UCO Bank and Yes Bank. It will be primarily rupee-basis trade, could be rupee-rouble or could be rupee-riyal," the official, who did not want to be named, told reporters in New Delhi.

The official did not explain how the rupee-riyal mechanism will be designed to settle trade between New Delhi and Moscow.



## RECORD TRADE DEFICIT

# Japan imports, exports balloon on energy costs, cheap yen

The Japanese yen has weakened drastically as the Bank of Japan maintains its negative interest rate policy, to keep economic activity going, while the US Federal Reserve tightens monetary policy to combat growing inflation pressures

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tokyo, Oct 20:** Japan marked a trade deficit for the 14th month in a row, government data showed Thursday, with exports and imports ballooning to record highs, as the declining value of the yen added to the soaring costs of imported energy, food and other goods.

Imports totalled 10.9 trillion yen (\$72.7 billion) in September, according to the Finance Ministry, up nearly 46 per cent from the same month a year ago on the back of rising oil and gas costs.

Imports have grown for 20 months straight on-year. But import costs were lower than the previous



month's, indicating some commodity prices have begun to stabilise.

Exports totalled 8.8 trillion yen (\$58.7 billion), with the strongest growth in autos and steel. It was the 20th straight month of year on

year monthly gains.

The Japanese yen has weakened drastically as the Bank of Japan maintains its negative interest rate policy, to keep economic activity going, while the US Federal Reserve

tightens monetary policy to combat growing inflation pressures.

Experts say that rate difference leads to a weaker yen. But the Bank of Japan has said Japan's inflation is not as serious as the problem in the US and some other nations. Until recently, Japan has instead been striving to keep deflation, or falling prices, at bay.

The war in Ukraine and other global factors have set off the recent steep rise in energy costs. Japan imports almost all its oil.

In the past, the weak yen has been a boon for Japan's giant exporters, like Toyota and Nintendo, by raising the value of overseas earnings when converted in yen.

But the perk has gradually diminished, hurting consumers and businesses that must pay higher prices for food, energy, raw materials and other necessities.

Japanese government leaders have indicated they might act to try to stem volatility in exchange rates as the yen has continued to slide, falling to about 150 yen to the dollar, or a fresh 32-year low. Junichi Makino, chief economist at SMBC Nikko Securities, said auto exports were recovering after months of parts shortages related to the coronavirus pandemic. Japan's exports of computer chips were also strong, underpinned by strong demand from China, Makino said.

# Man United beat Spurs

# Benzema enjoys award with goal against Elche

# Mixed team silver for Indian pair of Anish, Simranpreet

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Manchester, Oct 20:** With a few minutes remaining in the match, Cristiano Ronaldo left Manchester United's dugout and made his way along the side of the field and down the tunnel, shunning fans' attempts at a high-five off the soccer great.

He was in no mood for that, not after failing to even make it off the substitutes' bench. United didn't need him Wednesday.

Producing possibly their most complete performance under Erik ten Hag, United swept past Tottenham in a 2-0 win to move to the brink of the Champions League qualification positions in the Premier League.

Another of English football's storied clubs is stirring, too. Liverpool completed a redemptive week by beating West Ham 1-0 at Anfield, where three days earlier Jurgen Klopp's team had seen off Manchester City by the same score.

Darwin Nunez scored the first-half winner against West Ham, showing signs of life after a slow start at his new club. Much like United, Liverpool may have been written off too soon this season.



**IMPRESSIVE OUTING:** Manchester United goal scorers Fred (C) and Bruno Fernandes (R) celebrate the former's strike along with Antony, Thursday

After goals by Fred and Bruno Fernandes sealed their win, fifth-place United are now only a point behind Chelsea, which occupy the fourth and final Champions League place after they drew 0-0 at Brentford to stay undefeated under new manager Graham Potter. Liverpool are three points further back in

seventh but won't be discounted by its rivals higher in the standings.

### RONALDO'S EXIT

Ronaldo managed to cause a stir without even getting on the field. "I will deal with that tomorrow," Ten Hag said of the Portugal striker's premature exit down the tunnel, with

the clock yet to strike 90 minutes.

Ronaldo also showed his frustration Sunday after being substituted in the second half of the 0-0 draw against Newcastle, following his first Premier League start since August.

### NUNEZ'S RUN

Nunez is a striker in much better form. By scoring in three of his last four appearances for Liverpool, the Uruguayan striker has hit some good form just before the World Cup and ensuring the Reds might not miss the injured Luis Diaz and Diogo Jota as much as first feared.

Liverpool also had Alisson Becker to thank for the win. The Brazil goalkeeper saved a penalty from Jarrod Bowen in the first half after the forward had been fouled by Joe Gomez.

### NEWCASTLE IN FORM

Saudi-owned Newcastle sit right between United and Liverpool in sixth place and might also be a top-four contender this season. The team extended their unbeaten run to six games by beating Everton 1-0 thanks to Miguel Almiron's first-half goal.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Madrid, Oct 20:** Karim Benzema and referee Jesus Gil Manzano looked at each other and started to laugh. The Ballon d'Or winner couldn't bear seeing another one of his goals being disallowed. He had already found the net twice, but neither had counted because of offside.

That third one did, though, and Madrid defeated Elche 3-0 Wednesday to increase their Spanish league lead after defeating Barcelona in the first "clásico" of the season Sunday.

Madrid opened a six-point lead over their Catalan rival, which will host seventh-place Villarreal. It was the ninth win in 10 matches for the defending champions. Madrid remains the only unbeaten team in the league.

Benzema, who Monday won the Ballon d'Or award for best player of the year, had his goals disallowed for offside in the sixth and 61st minutes. He also caused a David Alaba goal to be called off for being offside in the 26th. All calls came after video review.



Benzema's goal from inside the area in the 75th after a back-heel assist by Rodrigo counted, though, and the French striker could laugh about it after Manzano finally confirmed the goal.

Federico Valverde had opened the scoring from just outside the area with a shot with the outside of his left foot in the 11th. Substitute Marco Asensio sealed the victory after another assist by Rodrigo in the 89th.

Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin, replacing the injured Thibaut Courtois, made a superb reflex save off a header by Carlos Clerc to avoid the equalizer in the 70th.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cairo, Oct 20:** Anish Bhanwala and Simranpreet Kaur Brar won a silver medal at the ISSF World Championship after going down 14-16 to the experienced Ukrainian pair of Yulia Korostylova and Maksym Horodnyets in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Mixed Team event, here Thursday.

The medal took India's tally to 26, including 10 gold, six silver and 10 bronze medals and they remain second behind China in the table.

Anish and Simranpreet shot solidly throughout the day at the Egypt International Olympic City (EIOC) Shooting Range, topping qualification stage with a combined 575 after 30 shots each. Stage two - narrowed down to eight from 14 teams - saw them come out on top yet again with a score of 383 out of a possible 400.

In the other highlight of the day, all three Indians made it through their elimination relays in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) competition, which has four Paris 2024 Olympics quota places at stake. Anjum Moudgil shot 587 to finish fourth in relay one.

# INDIA TO TOUR B'DESH FOR 3 ODIS, 2 TESTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dhaka, Oct 20:** India will tour Bangladesh for the first time since 2015 for three ODIs and two Tests beginning December 4, the country's cricket board (BCB) announced here Thursday.

Dhaka's Mirpur Stadium will host all the three ODIs December 4, 7 and 10 and the series will then move to Chattogram for the first Test from December 14 to 18. The teams will be back in Dhaka for the second Test from December 22 to 26, Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan said in a statement.

The two-match series will have crucial World Test Championship points at stake. India are currently placed fourth in the standings.

# Dhanuj, Pratik, Sai Shakti, Bikash bag top honours

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Oct 20:** A Dhanuj of Jagatsinghpur, Pratik Kushal Rout and Sai Shakti of Cuttack, and Khurda's Bikash emerge champions in their respective categories in the 1st Laxmikant Sahu Memorial Cuttack Cup chess tournament, organised by the IS Chess Centre, at the Budhi Mangala Vidyaipitha here.

Dhanuj clinched the U-7 category title with Cuttack's Advik Aditya and Satwik Swain of Khurda finishing second and third, respectively. In the U-9 category, Pratik reigned supreme, while E Divya - another Cuttack participant - finished second with Khurda's Suryakrish completing the podium.



Sai Shakti clinched the U-11 category title. Shradha Smaranika and Jayaditya finished second and third, respectively. In the U-13 segment, Bikash secured the winner's trophy, with Cuttack's Aditya finishing second and Pratyus third.

A total of 160 players from 10 districts participate in the one-day event.

# Kishan century sinks Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 20:** Ishan Kishan (102 n.o, 64b, 5x4, 7x6) struck a splendid unbeaten century to help Jharkhand hand Odisha a 71-run defeat in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament match in Lucknow, Thursday.

Courtesy Kishan's knock, Jharkhand posted 188/5 in their 20 overs after being invited to bat first. Odisha, in response, failed to put up a fight as they were bowled out for a paltry 117 in 19.2 overs.

Chasing a challenging 189-run target, Odisha were reduced to 61/6 in the 10th over. Opener Shantanu Mishra (54, 50b, 5x4, 2x6) was left stranded at one end with the other batters getting out one after the other at the other end.

It was Shantanu's half century which allowed Odisha total to go past 100-run barrier, avoiding humiliation to some extent. Sameer R Mohanty (19) was the second-best scorer as the duo's 45-run seventh wicket stand was the best for Odisha. Rakesh Pattanaik (11) was the only other batter to reach double figures.

Shahbaz Nadeem (3/21) was the wrecker-in-chief for Jharkhand, while Vivek Tiwary (2/12) and Anukul Roy (2/19) ably supported Nadeem.

However, the day belonged to Kishan. The wicketkeeper-batter showed his class with some fine strokes. Jharkhand were struggling to get going, losing three wickets at the halfway mark of their innings.

However, a superb 82-run fourth

wicket partnership between Kishan and Kumar Suraj (32) helped Jharkhand post a challenging total on the board. Tarini Sa (8/34) bowled well for Odisha, while Rajesh Mohanty (1/26) providing him some useful support.

### EVES GO DOWN

Odisha eves suffered a 10-run defeat against Tripura in their Senior Women's T20 tournament match in Bangalore, Thursday. Tripura were bowled out for 88 before Odisha finished their innings on 78/9.

Priyanka Priyadarshini (4/10) and Sushree Dibyadarshini (3/12) shared seven wickets between them for Odisha. Sarita Meher (23) was the top scorer for Odisha with the bat, while Sushree (12) also played a handy innings.

# Ankush claims U-23 World C'ships silver

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pontevedra (Spain), Oct 20:** Ankush settled for a silver after being overpowered by formidable Yui Susaki but Vikas (72kg) and Nitesh (97kg) won their bronze medal play-offs with ease as India's Greco Roman wrestlers cherished their best ever show at a global event by winning three medals at the U-23 World Championships, here.

Ankush was up against reigning Olympic and World Champion and eventually she proved no match to Susaki in the women's 50kg final Thursday.

Susaki created history with this win as she became the first wrestler to win wrestling's 'Grand Slam'. She now has won gold medal at the Olympic Games, and has four world titles - U-17, U-20, U-23 and senior championships.

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