



**NO BODY-SHAMING PLEASE!**  
Actor Huma Qureshi says she resonates with every woman who has been criticised for their look, size or colour

LEISURE P2



**GRIM SITUATION**  
More than 2 million children are still missing from the regions devastated by floods recently in Pakistan

INTERNATIONAL P10



**JABEUR MARCHES ON**  
Ons Jabeur rallies for a victory over Jessica Pegula, to keep alive her hopes of winning the WTA Finals

SPORTS P12

**SHORT TAKES**

**WINTER SESSION TO START NOVEMBER 24**

**Bhubaneswar:** The Winter Session of the Odisha Assembly will begin November 24 and continue till December 31, a notification issued here by the secretariat Thursday informed. The session will have 33 working days and five 'no meeting' days, the notification stated. The first supplementary statement of expenditure for the year 2022-23 will be presented in the House November 24. The Appropriation Bill on the first supplementary statement of expenditure will be tabled December 2, the notification informed. Private members' business (bills & resolutions) will be taken up in the House on six days.

**GUJARAT POLLS IN TWO PHASES**

**New Delhi:** Assembly elections in Gujarat will be held in two phases, December 1 and 5, with the counting of votes December 8 along with that of Himachal Pradesh, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced Thursday. Polling for the Himachal Pradesh legislative Assembly will be conducted November 12. Of the total 182 Assembly seats in Gujarat, voting for 89 will be held December 1, and the remaining 93 December 5, Kumar told a press conference here. The term of the Gujarat Assembly ends February 18, 2023 and the elections have been announced 110 days in advance, Kumar added.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VALUE	CHG	VAR
SENSEX	60836.41	↓	69.68
NIFTY	18052.70	↓	30.15
DOLLAR	82.66	↑	₹0.04
EURO	80.91	↓	₹0.28
GOLD	₹50,040	↓	₹566
SILVER	₹57,237	↓	₹1553

**WEATHER**

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.2°C	31.0°C
TEMP MIN	22.8°C	22.6°C
Humidity	87%	79%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry	weather likely



**DIFFUSING TENSION:** Security personnel disperse two warring groups of BJD, BJP supporters at a booth in Kalyani panchayat

## MHA contradicts its own security bodies

Figures regarding the presence of foreign terrorists in J&K provided by security agencies do not match with those in possession of the Home Ministry

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** In a bizarre development, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has contradicted its own security agencies regarding the number of foreign terrorists currently present in the Kashmir Valley. According to the Home Ministry, 134 ultras belonging to various terror outfits are currently active in Jammu and Kashmir. Among them 83 are foreigners and 51 are locals. The government has also claimed that 167 terrorists have been killed so far this year, with 41 being foreigners. In comparison, last year, 184 terrorists were active. Among them, 85 were foreigners and 99 were locals. "The figures are self-explanatory. If 83 foreign terrorists are still active this year and 41 have been killed, then it clearly means fudging of figures. The number of foreign ultras operating in the Valley should have come down to 44, keeping in mind those killed," an MHA source said Thursday. However, MHA has the information that more than 80 foreign terrorists are still



present in Jammu and Kashmir. It means that there is some miscalculation by the security agencies. Either they are not putting up a clear picture before the ministry or they are failing to report about the infiltration taking place," the source added. A senior police officer who used to command forces in Kashmir on condition of anonymity informed that at the recent United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Counter-Terrorism Committee's meeting in Mumbai, the MHA had conceded that violence in the Kashmir Valley is again escalating. At the UNSC meeting, Home Ministry officials said that the number of cross-border terror bases had declined by 75 per cent when Pakistan was on Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) 'grey list'. The moment it was clear that Pakistan would be out of the 'grey list' the number of these terror bases went up by 50 per cent, a senior official had told delegates in Mumbai.

**Continued on P4**

## 2 girls die by suicide in City

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Two girls aged above 20 years, died by suicide in different parts of the Odisha capital in the last 24 hours, police said Thursday. A 25-year-old girl hanged herself due to an alleged dispute with her boyfriend at Chintamaniswar locality under Laxmisagar police limits here late Wednesday evening while the a 22-year-old girl student of Rama Devi Women's University took the drastic step in her room at Gandilo in Balianata area on the outskirts of the city. The girl who died by suicide at

Chintamaniswar locality has been identified as Snehalata Swain. She was a resident of Saranakula area in Nayagarh district. Police sources said Snehalata worked as a graphic designer and stayed at a ladies hostel. Her roommate informed the police that Snehalata had a heated argument with her boyfriend, Tuesday night and did not attend office Wednesday. The 22-year-old deceased in Balianata has been identified as Anupama Nayak. Police are yet to ascertain why she took such a drastic step. They suspect family dispute as the probable reason behind her suicide.

## Ailing Dhamnagar polling officer dies

**Bhadrak, Nov 3:** A polling officer who had requested higher-ups not to assign him for election duty in the Dhamnagar bypoll died Thursday while undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The deceased, Natabar Munda was working as an assistant teacher at Olanga Nodal Upper Primary School in this district. According to reports, Munda started feeling sick Wednesday night following which his family members rushed him to the DHH here. After his health condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the

SCB hospital in Cuttack where he breathed his last. Source said that Munda's request for relief was turned down and he was posted as the first polling officer of Booth No-139 in Anandapur panchayat of Dobaal zone. Meanwhile State CEO SK Lohani announced that an ex-gratia of ₹15 lakh would be provided to the family of Munda. Meanwhile Lohani said till 5.00pm 66.63% of the 2.38 lakh voters had exercised their franchise. Sporadic cases of violence was also reported from some parts of the constituency in which two persons were injured.

**MORE P3**

The deceased had asked authorities not to assign him as he was ill

## Four persons die as truck-car collide in Keonjhar district

**Keonjhar, Nov 3:** Four persons including two siblings and a former block chairperson of Ghatagaon block were killed Thursday after a speeding Hyva truck collided head-on with their car near Badapasi village under Sadar police limits in Keonjhar district. The deceased were identified as Prakash Nayak, 45, a former block chairperson, Chitta Ranjan Nayak, 50, of Sarasapi village and siblings Narottam Singh, 65 and Hrushikesh Singh, 58 of Pipilia village under Ghatagaon block, a senior official in Sadar police station informed. He said that the driver of the car, Tapan Kumar Naik and the person behind the steering of the Hyva truck have suffered serious injuries and are currently undergoing treatment at the DHH hospital here. The identity of the Hyva truck driver is yet to be ascertained as he is unconscious. Eye-witnesses said that due to the impact, both the vehicles fell into a dry ditch besides the road. They informed that the area where the mishap took place has turned into an accident-prone zone as one side of the two-track road has been closed for repair. They informed that renovation has been going on for a long time now and in the past also accidents have occurred

## Imran survives assassination bid

**Islamabad, Nov 3:** Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was injured Thursday when an unidentified gunman opened fire on the container-mounted-truck carrying him during his protest march in Pakistan's Punjab province, but he was out of danger in what his party claimed was an 'assassination attempt.' The incident occurred near Allahwala Chowk of Wazirabad town in Punjab when Khan was leading the long

march to this city demanding early elections. Asad Umar, senior leader of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, told the media that a bullet hit Khan's leg. "Khan is being taken to Lahore by road. He is not critical but he received a bullet injury," Umar said. He however, didn't blame anyone for the attack. Meanwhile the man, who was overpowered and arrested immediately after the incident, said he tried to 'assassinate' Khan because 'he was misleading the public' and he could not tolerate it.

# BE THE SOLUTION NOT THE POLLUTION

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## Climate change killing fishermen

Due to global warming, fishes are going deeper into the seas forcing fishermen to tread on uncharted territories full of perils

**Bangkok, Nov 3:** More than 1,00,000 people die in fishing-related accidents annually, more than triple the figure of earlier estimates, and many of those fatalities are preventable, according to a report released Thursday. The report on fishing-related deaths also claimed that deaths have increased due to climate change and global warming. Private, traditional fishing has become increasingly risky now because fishermen must travel further as waters closer to shore are overfished or fishes migrate to more distant seas due to climate changes, the report said. Due to temperatures rising, fishes are going into deeper waters forcing fishermen to tread uncharted territories.



When they fall in trouble or are in danger these fishermen do not have any back up plan. On the other hand, many governments have cut back on patrols and search and rescue missions, partly due to the rising cost of fuel. A range of other factors are contributing

to the problem, including abuses by fishing operators, use of child labour, over-fishing, armed conflicts and poverty, said the report, based on research by the 'Fish Safety Foundation' commissioned by the 'Pew Charitable Trusts'. "With 3 billion people reliant on seafood and the demand expected to rise, stronger policies are urgently needed to keep fishers safe, including ones that address the true drivers of these deaths," Peter Horn, a project director with 'Pew International's Fisheries Project, said in a statement. According to those estimates, which are based on industry and UN data, the highest fatality rates are in African fisheries and the Pacific Islands. However, in many other parts of the world the rate is over 1,000 per 1,00,000 persons.

# leisure



## 'THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA SEQUEL IS TEMPTING'

Hollywood star Anne Hathaway has admitted that a sequel to *The Devil Wears Prada* is tempting - but unlikely. Despite there being another book, *Revenge Wears Prada: The Devil Returns*, *The Intern* star doesn't believe a follow-up could be made today.

## SHARON STONE TO UNDERGO SURGERY AFTER MISDIAGNOSIS

Actress Sharon Stone is expected to go under the knife to have a large fibroid tumour removed following a misdiagnosis. The *Basic Instinct* actress will have the surgery 21 years after she suffered a brain haemorrhage and stroke that almost killed her, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
If you are about to begin some important work, today is not the day, says Ganesh. But keep yourself motivated, despite minor problems. Do something you've never done before. Think out-of-the-box: grow your own mint, make some chocolates.

**TAURUS**  
There is a fair chance that you will make heads turn at work today, forecasts Ganesh. It may not be an auspicious day for auction bids or tenders. Some of you may succeed in interviews and entrance tests this afternoon, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You will be more busy with religious pursuits rather than work today. Religious rituals, charity, philanthropic work, service to the needy, these are some of the issues that will take up your time today. You will feel the need to go to a place of worship today and spend some time there to get mental peace and calm, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
The day may not see you in best of the moods, yet you will manage to remain congenial, assures Ganesh. As a boss, you will be authoritative in your actions and that's not a bad thing at all. Although, on most occasions you are a lenient leader, today you will not spare the rod for those who cross lines.

**LEO**  
It is not an especially bright day for you. You will experience mental stress. Minor conflicts will seem like mountains to you. If you try to calmly solve these problems, then you will definitely be able to resolve these issues. Keep your emotions at bay and work on your problems with a clear and practical approach, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Ganesh warns that anger will run riot today. You will probably blow hotter than a volcano. During the afternoon, you could draw out the plans for a big business project. You will gain the support of your colleagues.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today you will try to master the technical aspects of your work. You will be full of happiness, enthusiasm and vigor today. You may get tensed or feel under the weather towards afternoon. Your hunches will prove right today and you may be able to score a good profit in the share market too.

**SCORPIO**  
You are on a creative high today. Be it personal or professional, your work speaks volumes about creativity, innovation and imagination. Romantic developments and friendly interactions during the latter half of the day will bring about a change in your life.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You are likely to get dominated by your soul mate today, and this is not working out. This may leave you grumpy for the entire day. Put aside your ego, and try to resolve your differences. This would pump in some oxygen in your relationship, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
Love is a sensitive issue for you, and today you will enter into a new phase of your life. If you are already in a relationship, you will strengthen the emotional bond with your sweetheart. Such expression of love will not be one-sided. You affection will reciprocated by equal amount of love by your beloved, predicts Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
You did try to be polite and affectionate while solving problems, but it didn't make any difference. Today, you will call a spade a spade and resolve pending issues, says Ganesh. You will be very sensitive today and the slightest of problem will irritate you. You will see the results of your efforts by the end of the day.

**PISCES**  
You must have realised by now that financial planning is important. It is a good day to rethink your finances. By noon you will be able to see new opportunities at work. Ganesh has blessed you and so all your issues will be resolved.

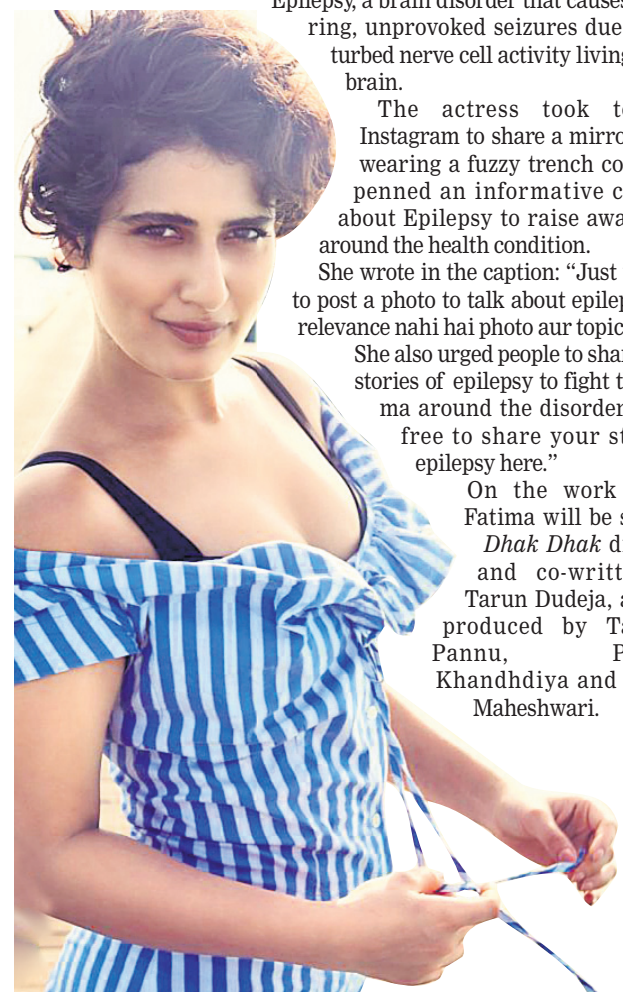


## Lollapalooza to make its India debut in Jan 2023

MUMBAI: As the popular global music festival Lollapalooza is all set to make its debut in India in January 2023, popular names such as AP Dhillon, Imagine Dragons and Cigarettes After Sex would be seen performing. Taking stage are the meteoric music giants *Imagine Dragons* and indie rock legends and global headliners making their India debut. *The Strokes* who will headline the inaugural festival, while American classic rock geniuses Greta Van Fleet, electronic dance music's global heavy-weight and pioneering dance music producer Diplo, Grammy nominee and revolutionary EDM artist Zhu, Indo-Canadian Punjabi music and rap-star AP Dhillon, Dream-pop artists *Cigarettes After Sex*, will also perform at Lollapalooza India 2023 in its debut edition for the Asian continent. Lollapalooza is all set to breach a new frontier in the eighth destination of the festival in India marking its inaugural, first-ever edition in Asia. It brings its multi-genre music experience along with its brand of unique, diverse and exciting flavours from the world of music to Indian shores in a two-day musical extravaganza at Mahalaxmi Race Course, in the heart of Mumbai on January 28-29. BookMyShow, India's leading entertainment destination, is spearheading Lollapalooza India as the promoter and co-producer for the festival's Indian edition along with global producers, Perry Farrell and C3 Presents.

## Fatima urges people to share stories on epilepsy

MUMBAI: Actress Fatima Sana Shaikh, who will be soon seen essaying the role of former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi in the upcoming biopic, *Sam Bahadur*, did her bit to spread awareness about Epilepsy, a brain disorder that causes recurring, unprovoked seizures due to disturbed nerve cell activity living in the brain.



The actress took to her Instagram to share a mirror selfie wearing a fuzzy trench coat. She penned an informative caption about Epilepsy to raise awareness around the health condition. She wrote in the caption: "Just wanted to post a photo to talk about epilepsy. Koi relevance nahi hai photo aur topic ka." She also urged people to share their stories of epilepsy to fight the stigma around the disorder: "Feel free to share your story of epilepsy here." On the work front, Fatima will be seen in *Dhak Dhak* directed and co-written by Tarun Dudeja, and co-produced by Taapsee Pannu, Pranjali Khandhdiya and Ayush Maheshwari.

## 'I resonate with women who face body-shaming'

NEW DELHI: At a time when body-shaming and bullying is the easiest way to target an individual, Huma Qureshi is all set for the release of her upcoming film based on self-love and body positivity - *Double XL*.

The actress shares that she has faced body-shaming and has even got rejected for a film because of her weight. In a recent interview, the *Gangs Of Wasseypur* actress shared how the story of *Double XL* came to life. "This movie started as a fun conversation with my friends and family-we were all in my living room, and all the actors were complaining about the 'post lockdown weight gain' and Mudassar Aziz wrote a story around it," said Huma. The 36-year-old actress revealed that director Satram Ramani asked her to gain weight for *Double XL*: "We were just eating and eating. It was just burger lao, pizza lao between action and cut."

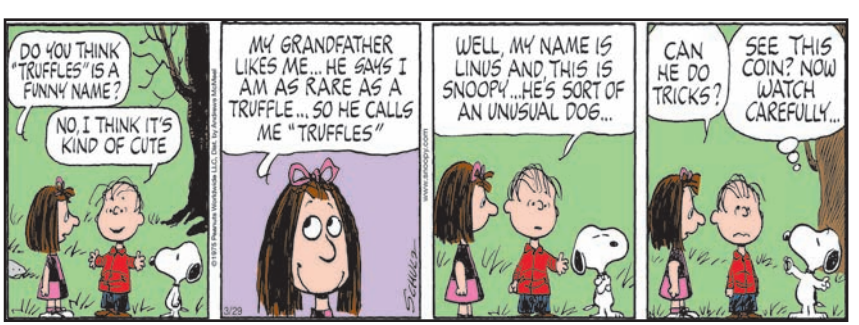
Asked how responsible is the Hindi film industry for setting a benchmark for beauty standards, Huma blames the society for making people believe that a "certain weight is acceptable." She shared that she had been rejected because of her weight in the past. Huma said: "I got rejected due to weight and in a review of my film, someone wrote, 'Huma adds too much weight to be a mainstream leading lady'." She shared that she resonates with every woman who has been let down by their looks, size, or colour: *The Bell Bottom* actress believes her movie *Double XL* will change the mindset of society.



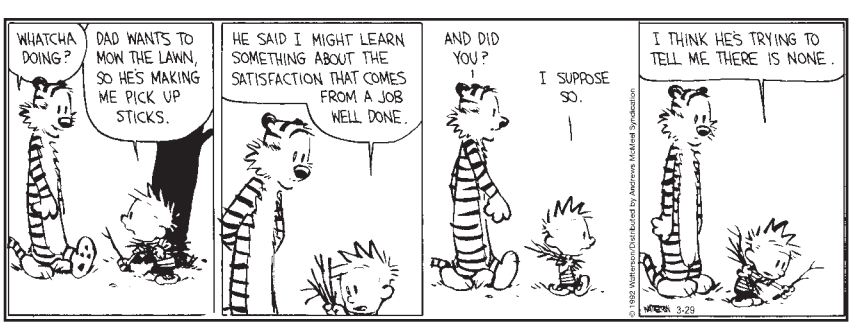
**THEATRE TREAT:** Members of Tridhara Natya Sangh of Nabarangpur presented Odia play *Facebook* at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Thursday on the third and final day of Natyadhara, the monthly drama festival organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi in collaboration with Culture Department and Odisha Natya Sangh. The drama was written by Jagannath Behera and directed by Premchandra Patnayak. Among the dignitaries eminent drama director Narendra Mishra, actor Satyanarayan Mishra and ONS president Haren Sahoo were present at the event

### FUN post

#### PEANUTS



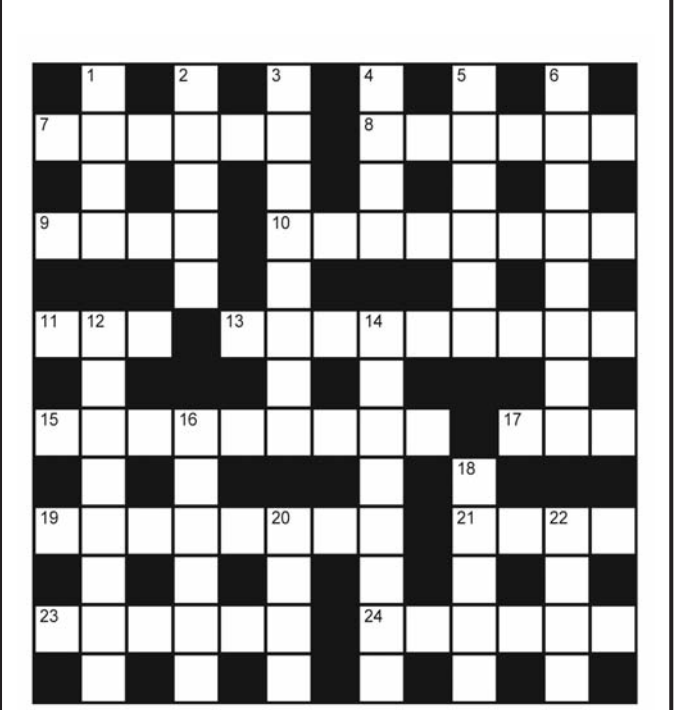
#### CALVIN AND HOBBS



#### BREVITY



#### CROSSWORD



- Across**  
7 Zephyr  
8 Proverbs  
9 Chigger  
10 Links play (4,4)  
11 Boxer's target  
13 Not lined up (3-6)  
15 Lute relatives  
17 Recipe word  
19 Aperitif wine brand
- Down**  
21 Barbecue entree  
23 It keeps the bugs out  
24 Light-footed  
5 Conan Doyle character  
6 Consumed  
12 Mexican resort  
14 Everlasting  
16 Stingless male bees  
18 Leftover  
20 Women in habits  
22 Round sound

#### 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



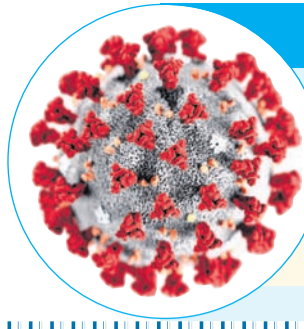
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## CONG RALLY

Thousands of Congress workers and leaders participated in Bharat Jodo Yatra by the age-old party in Cuttack, Thursday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,66,03,301	61,59,95,331	66,00,007
India	4,46,57,149	4,41,10,590	5,30,461
Odisha	13,36,217	13,26,768	9,203

## RWSS engineer on 2-day Vig remand

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** The state Vigilance Thursday took Nihar Ranjan Das, a senior official of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department, on two-day remand for further investigation in the disproportionate assets (DA) case. Das, who works as the additional chief engineer, Planning, Monitoring, Design & Investigation of RWSS Bhubaneswar circle, was found investing Rs 1.75 crore in cryptocurrencies.

The Vigilance Directorate had arrested Das on charges of amassing DA to the tune of 275 per cent of his known sources of income October 29, 2022. When the sleuths reached his Kharavel Nagar residence Friday last, Das, who was scheduled to retire October 31 this year, tried to destroy documents related to his investments in crypto. During the raid, the Vigilance claimed to have found details about Das's investment in cryptos to the tune of Rs 1.75 crore.

"During further searches, apart from the documents of 38 crypto wallets, further evidence and details of 50 more crypto wallets have been recovered through contact with various crypto exchanges and during further investigation. With this, total crypto wallets unearthed so far comes to 88. These were in different exchanges like TRX-Trons, Trust wallets and PLCU. All these wallets and IDs were in the exclusive possession and operation of Nihar Ranjan Das. During investigations so far, a total of Rs 2 crore in crypto assets has been unearthed," informed the Vigilance officials Thursday. "A special team of crypto experts from Mumbai is in Bhubaneswar and assisting the Vigilance in investigating his crypto assets. The bank transactions of Das and his family members are being investigated," added the Vigilance sources.

## Kidnapped minor girl rescued

**Bhubaneswar:** Commissionerate Police Thursday rescued a kidnapped minor girl from Mancheswar area here. The woman who allegedly kidnapped the 10-year-old has been detained at Badagada police station till the last rest report came in.

The 45-year-old woman, who reportedly hails from Hyderabad, had kidnapped the victim while she was playing near her residence at BJB Nagar area in Badagada police limits Wednesday evening. The girl's parents, who work as daily wagers, lodged a missing complaint with the police as they failed to find their daughter after searching in nearby areas for several hours. Police started investigations into the matter after registering a missing case. The cops Thursday found the victim from the accused lady at Munda Basti area in Mancheswar. Police were verifying the involvement any gang in kidnapping of the minor.

# Jatni picked for UN prog to perk up youth health



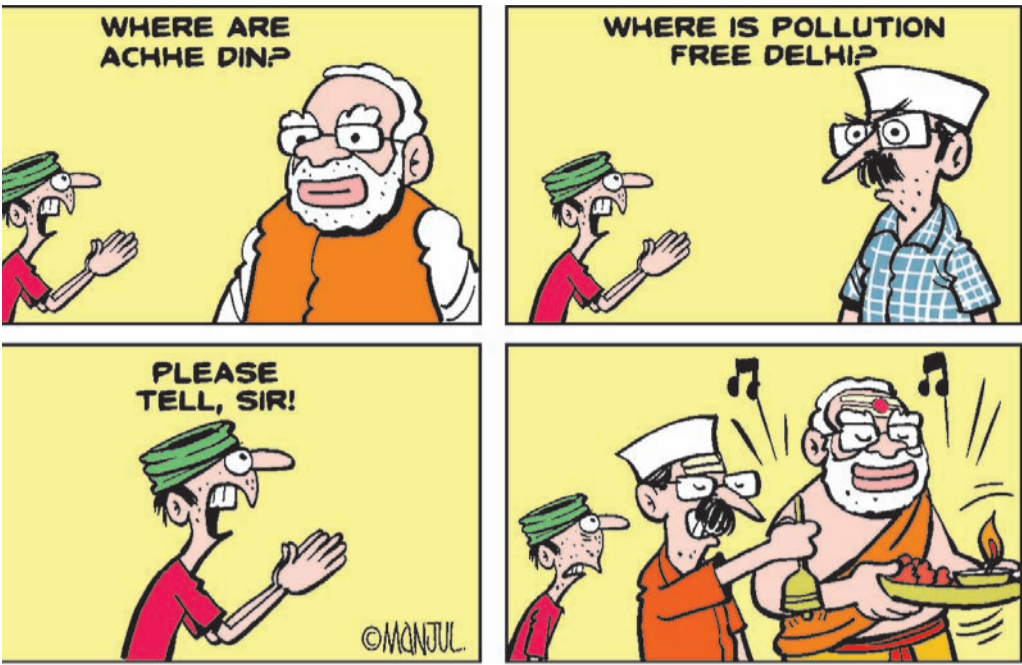
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Jatni has become one of the three cities selected in a global competition for the pilot implementation of 'Young Gamechangers Initiative' (YGI) by UN-Habitat.

Out of all the applications received, three cities - Armenia (Columbia), Jatni (India) and Bargny (Senegal) - have been finally selected to pilot the YGI.

The United Nations in close collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Block by Block Foundation is leading a three-year project to improve the health and well-being of young people living in growing cities around the world.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Murmu to launch Odia textbook portal for tech students November 11



PEOPLE, SET TO COME IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MURMU, WILL HAVE TO UNDERGO COVID-19 TESTS, THE OFFICIALS SAID

**T**HE PRESIDENT WILL SPEND ABOUT AN HOUR AT PURI SRIMANDIR TO PAY OBSEANCE TO THE TRINITY NOV 10

**N**EXT DAY, THE PRESIDENT WILL VISIT HER ALMA MATER, UNIT 2 GOVERNMENT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL IN BHUBANESWAR

PNN/AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** President Droupadi Murmu, who is scheduled to visit Odisha for two days from November 10, will offer prayers at Srimandir in Puri, besides visiting her alma mater in Bhubaneswar, officials here said, adding that she will launch the Odia textbook for engineering students the next day. Murmu, on her maiden visit to the state since being sworn in to the high office in July, will also launch an education portal 'e-kumbh' (Knowledge unleashed in multiple Bharatiya languages) here and another Odia text book for engineering students.

According to the President's itinerary, Murmu will reach Biju Patnaik International Airport here at 9:30am November 10 and leave for Puri following the customary guard of honour. She will spend about an hour at the 12th century shrine to pay obeisance to the Trinity, the officials said.

Murmu will also pay floral tributes at the statue of social reformer Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Dash

near the temple's Lions' Gate.

Later in the day, she will return to Bhubaneswar, where a grand reception will be accorded to her at Raj Bhawan. She will spend the night at the Governor House here.

Next day, the President will visit her alma mater, Unit 2 Government Girls' High School in Bhubaneswar.

She will also pay a visit to Kuntala Kumari Sabat Tribal Hostel here, where she used to put up during her school days. Murmu, later November 11, will launch the portal and the Odia textbook for engineering students at Soochana Bhawan here, before flying back to New Delhi, the officials said.

Odisha Chief Secretary SC Mohapatra has issued directions to authorities concerned in Khurda and Puri to make necessary arrangements for the President's visit.

People, set to come in close contact with Murmu, will have to undergo Covid-19 tests, the officials said.

Use of N-95 masks has been made mandatory for all during the event, they added.

## UU students' memo to VC

**Bhubaneswar:** Students of Utkal University Thursday submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor demanding solution to their basic problems. One of their demands is that the newcomers to different department should be allotted hostel seats in proper time to make it easy for them to attend classes regularly. They demanded that the proposed entrance gate to the campus should be constructed immediately to save lives of the students who have to take the wrong route while coming to the university. The students also demanded functioning of the digital library in the university.



SETTING STAGE: The main entrance of Baliyatra Lower Ground lit with colourful lights ahead of the maritime festival in Cuttack, Thursday

OP PHOTO

## Tourism minister leaves for London

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** An official delegation from Odisha comprising Tourism Minister Aswini Kumar Patra and director of Tourism Sachin R Jadhav have left for London Thursday to participate in the World Travel Market (WTM) to be held there from November 7 to 9.

World Travel Market London is a leading international travel event unlocking business opportunities for inbound and outbound tourism professionals. Odisha has been participating in this annual event regularly with its last participation being in 2019, post which the event was cancelled for 2 years because of the pandemic.

Now that the international tourism market has opened up, WTM has again become a sought after event.

A promotional stall has been set up at the exhibition venue where the delegates will interact with tourism fraternity and investors from across the world. Such initiatives will aid in reshaping the tourism sector of the state.

## DEATH AFTER DELIVERING STILLBORN

# HC awards ₹10 lakh aid to kin of Gajapati woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cuttack, Nov 3:** The Orissa High Court Thursday directed the state government to pay an amount of Rs 10 lakh as compensation within six weeks to the family members of tribal woman Martha Sabar of Gajapati district who died due to alleged medical negligence hours after delivering a stillborn child seven years ago.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar also asked the state government to immediately issue show-cause notices to all those persons whose conduct had been adversely commented on by an enquiry committee which was constituted by the State Commission for Women (SCW), and take action against the errand doctors and health workers.

"There had been an acute failure of the entire team of doctors at each level of the healthcare system in Odisha to provide timely and adequate care and



The HC said the incident shook the judicial conscience as to how a poor tribal woman carried a dead foetus for around a week and ran from pillar to post for medical attention

treatment to the deceased as pointed out by the enquiry committee," the bench said.

It said the incident shook the judicial conscience as to how a poor tribal woman carried a dead foetus for around a week and ran from pillar to post for medical attention prior to her death in March 2015, with not a single healthcare worker coming to her rescue.

"This has been a clear violation of the fundamental right to health of the deceased which constitutes an integral part of the right

to life guaranteed in Article 21 of the Constitution," the High Court said with deep concern.

It ordered the SCW to probe 27 other writ petitions of similar nature filed in the court. "The increasing number of maternal deaths in Odisha point to a systematic failure of the healthcare system which appears to have failed the poorest and weakest at a time when they need it the most," the division bench also comprising Justice MS Raman said in its 23-page judgment.

# Chief Secy launches e-office system for CMC, OHPC, SJSU



**CMGI DIRECTED TO COVER ALL OFFICES UNDER THE ONLINE PLATFORM IN A TIME BOUND MANNER**

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra launched e-office, an online platform for official works, for Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Odisha Hydro Power Corporation (OHPC) and Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University (SJSU) here Thursday.

Launching the systems, Mahapatra said the e-office system makes the governance present and future ready Odisha Secretariat Workflow Automation System (OSWAS) and e-office are excellent examples of IT application in governance. It has made the conduct of government business more

quick, accurate and responsive, he said.

Carrying bundles of files on veranda of the offices, pending files for months together, missing the files, and making mischief with files are now stories of the past, added Mahapatra.

Office automation also helped people in a number of ways. Running to government offices for various G2C and G2B services was reduced to a visible extent, he said.

Now, the citizens could apply for services from their home, Mo Seva Kendras and citizen service centers. They could track observations and queries about their applications online, and could also comply with them on the same platform.

Government offices also deliver certificates, clearances and receipt against deposits online to the citizens and business enterprises.

Mahapatra asked Center for Modernizing Government Initiative (CMGI) and NIC to work out a definite time frame for application of

e-office in all the offices that are not included in OSWAS network.

Speaking on the occasion, Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena said CMGI has progressed a lot in implementation of e-office in more than 836 government offices.

E-office is an integrated site addressing all issues of handling government files from initiation to approval and communication of results/orders. It makes government servants more responsible and accountable in disposal of files, Jena pointed out.

Outlining the e-office system, General Administration and Public Grievance secretary Surendra Kumar said "Government of Odisha is forerunner at national level in use of digital technology for file processing through successful implementation of OSWAS".

As digitization of all files for bringing all offices into OSWAS fold would take a long time, the state government decided to implement e-office in a joint collaboration between NIC and CMGI.

The objective was set to implement e-office in all autonomous bodies, public sector undertakings and universities. The system is user-friendly and accessible through standard internet browsers. Its implementation started under the 5-T framework of the Odisha government, Kumar said.

Executive director CMGI Satya Priya Rath informed that efforts are on to implement e-office in 100 more offices shortly.



**RAZING DOWN:** An excavator deployed by BDA pulling down an illegally constructed house in Hansapal Canal Road area on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Thursday

## Do fish farming in scientific way, farmers urged

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** A training-cum-workshop on "Scientific Aquaculture Practices" for SC farmers of Puri and Kandhamal district was organized by ICAR-CIFA at its Kausalyaganga campus recently.

The training programme was organized as a part of Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) Programme of ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar.

In the inaugural session SK Swain, the Director of ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar urged the farmers to do the fish farming through scientific practice. He also suggested for dissemination of important scientific aquaculture technologies developed by ICAR-CIFA.

HK De, Principal Scientist and Chairman of SCSP scheme emphasized the transfer of the scientific knowledge for the overall development of SC people.

KN Mohanta, Principal Scientist, FNP, stressed on the integrated farming. He also discussed about the prospect of fish feed preparation using locally available ingredients and regular feeding for better productivity. Satya Narayan Sethi, Principal Scientist and Nodal officer for Odisha state SCSP scheme gave the overview of the training-cum-workshop to the farmer participants.

During the training, the participants visited the different farm facilities of CIFA like, Jayanti Rohi Unit, Tilapia and carp Unit, Minor Carp and Biofloc Unit, Catfish Unit, Freshwater Prawn Unit, Ornamental Fish Unit, Murrel and Anabas Unit, CIFA Aquarium and Organic Farming Unit.

## Int'l delegation meets girls who escaped child marriage

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Twenty teenage girls from different districts of the state had an interaction Thursday with a team of representatives from several countries on their journey as champions of 'End Child Marriage' in Odisha. The girls shared their stories of courage and determination, as many of them have successfully resisted pressure from their families to get married at an early age.

The team included members of several international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Isabelle Solon Helal, deputy director of Global Affairs Canada, Ali Hendy of Child Protection and Child Marriage Lead, UK (FCDO), Ritika Dhall, assistant director of Gender Equality, Norad, Beate Gabrielsen, head of political section, Norway, Mieke Vogels, senior policy advisor SRHR, Netherlands Embassy and Ute Scholz, president, Zonta International. They, together with senior representatives of UNICEF and UNFPA, as part of the steering committee of the 'Global Programme to End Child Marriage' (GPECM) took part in the interaction.

The Global Programme promotes the rights of adolescent girls to say no to early or forced marriage and pregnancy. It also enables them to achieve their aspirations through education and alternative pathways. The programme supports households to show positive attitude towards these girls, empowers them to drive their own futures, and amplifies the services that will allow them to do so.



"My parents wanted me to get married when I was 15. I was scared of the consequences if I refused. But I spoke to Anganwadi didi and together with district administration officials, they convinced my parents not to go ahead with the marriage. They helped me to enrol in the Industrial Training Institute where I learnt tailoring. Today, I earn Rs 8,000 a month and proudly support my family," said Malati Pujari from Nabarangpur.

Suprava Subhadharshini Behera, 16, from Kandhamal is training to be an electrician. Like Malati, her marriage was fixed in July this year. She too reached out to the Anganwadi worker and with her help prevented the marriage. Both the girls, like many others in the state, have been benefiting from the Advika Initiative that teaches life skills to adolescents through weekly meetings at the Anganwadi centres.

The girls also quizzed the team on gender inequality in western countries, the importance of education as the only path to success and about the minimum age of marriage in other countries.

"While education is important, a person can learn through experiences as well," said Isabelle Solon Helal, deputy director, Global Affairs Canada. She said children can volunteer with their communities, take up a sport, learn a new craft and add more dimensions to their education which needn't only be through schools and colleges.

In Odisha, UNICEF and UNFPA, with support from GPECM, work across all 30 districts to promote life skills for adolescents, to improve their overall well-being including sexual and reproductive health and build more capacity within the government systems to prevent child marriage.

## Redevelopment work at Bhub, Puri rly stations

**BHUBANESWAR:** Ministry of Railways has accelerated the redevelopment of major stations across the country. Presently 40 Railway stations including two from Odisha Bhubaneswar and Puri are being redeveloped on Indian Railways to provide modern amenities. This apart, 14 Railway Stations including Cuttack are under tendering stage for redevelopment and they are likely to be awarded in next 5 months.

Continued from P1

## 'No clear picture on infiltration by ultras'

According to government data, there were 600 terror camps across Jammu and Kashmir in mid-2018. The number came down to 150 in mid-2021. However, by September 2022, the number of these terror bases increased to 225.

"The government is contradicting itself. At the UNSC meeting, it claimed that violence levels in Kashmir had escalated after Pakistan was delisted from the FATF 'grey list'. Yet, the home minister claims that peace has been restored in the Valley," a former Intelligence Bureau official was quoted as saying by 'NDTV'.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Notary Public, Bhubaneswar, I have changed my name from Sanjaya Kumar Pradhan to Sanjay Kumar Pradhan for all purposes.

Affidavit before Notary, Berhampur, I Runi Nayak, D/o- Sudarsan Naik, At/Po- Kendupadar, Aska, Ganjam as per my HSC Certificate, All Educational Certificate, Aadhaar Card also but I changed my name Runi Naik to Rupali Patra. Henceforth, I shall be known as Rupali Patra for all purposes.

## 5-ft bamboo pole removed from chest, man survives

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** The doctors at the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) have brought a 40-year-old man from the jaws of death after he suffered a fatal injury, inflicted by a fall that caused a bamboo pole piercing him through his chest.

The man - Tapan Parida (40) of Talajanga under Chandanpur block in Puri district - was rushed to the hospital around midnight October 28 and was immediately attended by the doctors. His life hung in the balance as the 5-foot-long bamboo pole went through his chest and emerged from the back side above his neck. He was unable to move one of his hands.

An expert six-member surgical team led by Pran Singh Pujari of the Department of Surgery, which included anaesthesia expert Sanjay Kumar Behera, operated on him for nearly four hours using state-of-art procedures and complex methods in modern surgery to remove



the object.

Family members said the incident with Tapan happened October 28 at around 9:30pm. When the bamboo fencing gave in, he was inspecting the water level near the siphon along his paddy field. He suddenly fell on a bamboo underneath, about 15 feet down his field. The bamboo piece pierced through his chest. The locals brought him to the KIMS emergency immediately. Though the surgery was complex, the doctors took it up as a challenge and saved Tapan's life.

Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS thanked Pujari and the team involved in the operation, and also wished the patient's speedy recovery.

## Raw vegan diet: A potential risk to health

*Research suggests that raw vegan diets, if followed for a long time, may cause more harm than good*

Vegan diets have become increasingly popular over the years, especially among people looking to improve their health. Indeed, a growing body of evidence shows that plant-based diets (including vegan diets) can have many benefits for health, and have been linked to lower heart disease risk alongside decreased body weight and cholesterol levels.

However, some people are taking the vegan diet to the extreme, choosing only to eat raw plant foods that can be consumed without any cooking. Some also exclude foods that have been changed from their natural form or processed (such as oat or almond milk).

Proponents of this diet claim that cooking causes ingredients to lose some of their important nutrients and enzymes. By consuming raw plant foods, they believe the diet will improve energy levels, prevent (and even reverse) disease and improve overall health.

But research suggests that raw

vegan diets, if followed for a long time, may cause more harm than good. Here's why:

You may miss out on important nutrients

Though some vegetables may lose nutrients during cooking, others have a greater nutrient content when cooked. This is because some nutrients are bound within the cell walls of the vegetables. Cooking breaks the cell walls down, allowing the nutrients to be released and more readily absorbed by the body.

For example, when spinach is cooked, it becomes easier for the body to absorb the calcium it contains. Research has also found that while cooking tomatoes reduces their vitamin C content by 28 per cent, it increases their lycopene content by more than 50 per cent. Lycopene has been associated with a lower risk of a range of chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, cancer and heart disease. Asparagus, mushrooms, carrots,

broccoli, kale and cauliflower are other examples of vegetables that are more nutrient-dense when cooked.

Cooked vegetables can also supply the body with more antioxidants. These are molecules that can fight against a type of harmful molecule known as free radicals, which can damage cells and may lead to disease over time. Some vegetables (including asparagus, mushrooms, spinach, tomatoes and broccoli) contain higher levels of the antioxidants beta-carotene (which the body turns into vitamin A), lutein and lycopene when cooked than they do when raw.

Vitamin and mineral deficiencies are likely

Raw vegan diets are likely to lack many important vitamins and minerals - namely vitamins B12 and D, selenium, zinc, iron and two types of omega-3 fatty acids. This is because many of the foods that contain high levels of these vitamins and minerals come from ani-

mals - such as meat and eggs. These vitamins all play a key role in the structure, development and production of brain and nerve cells, alongside supporting a healthy immune system.

A study on people who followed strict raw food diets found that 38 per cent of participants were deficient in vitamin B12. This is concerning, especially given vitamin B12 deficiency is associated with a range of problems, including jaundice, mouth ulcers, vision problems, depression and other mood changes.

May lead to loss of periods

Researchers have found that 30 per cent of women under 45 who followed a raw food diet for more than three years had partial to complete amenorrhea (absence of menstruation). This is likely because of weight loss caused by the raw vegan diet. Amenorrhea can cause a range of issues, including infertility, as well as reduced bone mineral density and osteoporosis.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** The Director of Vigilance, YK Jethwa Thursday urged students to focus on technological research and applications to help the investigating officials in prevention, detection and punishment of corruption in the country. Addressing the students and faculty at a function organized by National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) here, Jethwa said that the cost of corruption estimated by world economic forum is 5 per cent of the global GDP. Corruption affects everyone in the society and therefore we all should join hands in fighting this menace, he told the gathering on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week which is being observed across the country from October 31 to November 6 on the theme "Corruption free India for a developed Nation".

Jethwa underlined the importance of technology as a vital



weapon to weed out corruption. He mentioned the use of technology by criminals involved in various corrupt practices to ensure anonymity during illegal investments in Crypto and other digital assets. Technology was also used in masked and secretive communication through the dark web, he said.

He explained how Big Data, Data Mining and Forensic Tools can help predict, prevent, detect and deter corruption. He stressed upon the technological advancements of CCTVs, biometrics, digital identifications, laser technology, satellite imagery and GIS to check corruption.

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# Coffee cultivation soon in 4 Kandhamal blocks



POST NEWS NETWORK

## G UDAYAGIRI, RAIKIA, K NUAGAON AND TIKABALI BLOCKS ARE SET TO GET PLANTATIONS OF THE CASH CROP

**Phulbani, Nov 3:** With the climate of Kandhamal district being conducive for coffee cultivation, the state government has decided to undertake coffee farming in the area on a large scale.

Earlier, coffee farming was being done only in Daringbadi block of the district, but now the state government has decided to expand the cash crop to four more blocks of the district. These are G Udayagiri, Raikia, K Nuagaon and Tikabali blocks.

Coffee farming will be undertaken in these four blocks with the help of the coffee board. Meanwhile, shade planting necessary for coffee cultivation has been completed on over 70 hectare of land in the primary phase while the coffee saplings will be planted after a period of two years. The coffee saplings once planted will give harvest for 100 years, it was learnt.

Coffee plants grow best and give better harvest if planted on land at a higher altitude than the sea level in cold climatic conditions. The climate of Kandhamal district has been found conducive for coffee cultivation.

Notably, Daringbadi block has yielded success in coffee farming. The state government first conducted a survey on spreading the cultivation to more areas and help

farmers get better earnings from the cultivation.

Later, 100 hectare of land was identified in G Udayagiri, K Nuagaon, Tikabali, Raikia and Daringbadi blocks for the cash crop cultivation. Among them shade planting has been undertaken by planting of silver oak trees on 30 hectare of land of Soil Conservation department in G Udayagiri block.

Similarly, shade planting has been done on 20 hectare of land in Daringbadi, 10 in K Nuagaon, six in Tikabali and four in Raikia blocks through plantation of jackfruit, jamun, champa flower and silver oak trees.

Farmers have not spent a single pie from their pockets and these plantation works were undertaken under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), official sources said. The farmers have rather earned by working under the scheme.

In the past, coffee plantation in Daringbadi was destroyed after being struck by the cyclonic storm Titli. Now 1,000 trees have been planted on two hectare of land. In G Udayagiri, 1.15 lakh silver oak saplings have been planted in the areas. These saplings will be taken to coffee plantation block for shade planting. Over 100 saplings are planted for shade planting per hectare of land while 2,000 coffee saplings will be planted on the same land.

Moreover, black pepper saplings will be planted where shade planting will be done. The black pepper plant being a creeper will coil around the shade plants and spread. This will help the farmer to earn around ₹1 lakh in a year from the sale of black pepper.

The coffee board will help make coffee seeds available from Koraput. The coffee board will collect the coffee after its harvest while Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation (TDCC) will undertake the marketing.

Moreover, farmer will get ₹45 per kilogram of coffee. The maintenance and upkeep of the coffee garden will be done through MGNREGS for the first three years. The coffee board will then look after its maintenance for the next three years and the TDCC for the next 15 years.

The local intelligentsia has demanded for establishment of a permanent coffee board in Kandhamal district.

When contacted, project director Prashant Kumar Tripathy of Watershed Mission said all preparations have been completed for cultivation of coffee. Now, shade planting is going on and coffee saplings will be planted after a period of two years when the trees grow. A decision to spread the cultivation to more areas will be taken after making an assessment of the coffee harvest.



**SOCCER TOURNEY:** Players fought it out for the ball at a match between Odisha and Mumbai (green jersey) in the first Baji Rout Cup National Football Tournament inaugurated at the Dhenkanal Stadium, Thursday. The tournament is being organised in the memory of country's youngest freedom fighter Sahid Baji Rout who fell down to the bullets of the Britishers. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the tournament stating that plans are afoot to attract 2.5 crore students to the game and 10 lakh footballs will be distributed in the schools of all districts in the country.

OP PHOTO

## ILLEGAL SAND MINING IN KORAPUT

# Collect 20 times more penalties: NGT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Koraput, Nov 3:** The district administration here has warned to impose penalty 20 times more than the royalty of ₹35 per cubic metre (CM) of sand for illegal sand mining from the sand quarries in Koraput district, sources said Thursday.

The matter came to the fore at a meeting organised by the district administration to implement an order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) over illegal sand mining. The meeting by the district administration was held at the conference hall of the district Collectorate, Wednesday.

ADM (Revenue) Rameshwar Pradhan presided over the meeting attended by district revenue officer Sagatika Sarangi, ACF Uma



As per the order, illegal mining from sand quarries in the district will invite penalty 20 times more than the royalty of ₹35 per CM of sand which is ₹761 as fixed by the state government

Mahesh, superintending engineer Satyanarayan Khura, the regional deputy director of mines and the tehsildars of all tehsils in the district. Illegal sand mining has led to destruction of environment in the concerned areas of the district. It is resulting in soil erosion which is having adverse effects on the environment. Expressing concern

over the development, a petitioner from Gujarat had filed a case before the tribunal. The tribunal heard the matter and asked the district Collector to take steps in this regard.

The meeting dwelt upon the means and ways for stringent implementation of the NGT order to curb illegal sand mining in the district. The ADM asked all the tehsildars to take steps for the same in their respective areas. According to the NGT order

illegal sand mining from any sand quarries in the district will invite penalty 20 times more than the royalty of ₹35 per CM of sand which is ₹ 761 as fixed by the state government.

The penalty collected will be deposited in the district fund of the green tribunal, the ADM said. Moreover, the concerned tehsildars were also asked to recover royalty on sand mining which will be deposited in the district revenue fund.

Currently, there are around 43 sand quarries in eight blocks of the district. Among those, 14 quarries are in Borigumma, three in Boipariguda, four in Kotpad, 13 in Kundura, six in Jaypore, one in Bandhuguaon, one in Nandapur and another in Lakshmiapur blocks.

## Ch'garh HC grants bail to Ex-MLA Sai

**Pharsuguda:** Chhattisgarh High Court Thursday granted conditional bail to former Brajarajnagar MLA Anup Sai in connection with the murder of a woman and her daughter in 2016. A court in Raigarh district had awarded life term to the former MLA in April this year. However, the Raigarh court had acquitted Sai's driver Burdhan Toppo in the case. The former legislator and his driver had been arrested in February 2020 for the murder of Kalpana Das and her minor daughter at Hamirpur forests in Raigarh in 2016. The Chhattisgarh police had questioned around 700 people in connection with the double murder case. According to police, the former MLA was in a relationship with Kalpana.

## 90-yr-old gets 3-yr jail for molesting minor

**Patkura:** A local court has sentenced a 90-year-old man to three years of imprisonment after convicting him in the 2018-molestation of a minor girl. Judge Tribikram Keshari Chinara of additional sessions court (adhoc)-cum-fast track court passed the order after completing hearing on a 2018-case, October 19. The judge sentenced 90-year-old Bishnu Das to three years of imprisonment after convicting him for the molestation of a minor girl on the pretext of giving her food. The court also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict.

# Dhanu Yatra: 56 actors in fray for Kansa role



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, Nov 3:** World famous Bargarh Dhanu Yatra, the largest open theatre in the world, will be organised from December 27 till January 23, 2023. With the mythical extravaganza completing 75 years, the Dhanu Yatra Mahotsav Committee has decided to celebrate its diamond jubilee.

As many as 56 actors have applied for the role of demon king Kansa. According to sources, as many as 223 artistes have evinced their interest to play various characters in the epic play.

While 22 people have applied to play the role of 'Mahamantri', four are keen to enact 'Sartaki'. Similarly 10 persons have applied for Chanura Mustika, 17 for Akrura, 17 for Basudev, 14 for Narada, seven for Ugrasen, and eight persons for Debaki characters.

## Final selection for the demon king's role will be held Nov 10. Actors for other characters to be chosen Nov 7, 9 and 10

However, Gopal Sahoo (nicknamed as Eli), who has played the antagonist's role 23 times, and three others after crossing 60 years of age have been eliminated from upcoming Dhanu Yatra.

Sources in the committee said that the selection of candidates for other roles will be held November 7, 9 and 10, while the final selection of demon king Kansa will be held November 10.

According to the committee, artistes will be selected by a jury on the basis of their demo performance to be held at Biju Patnaik Town Hall in Bargarh town.

## NHRC seeks ATR on pregnant girl's mysterious death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Phulbani, Nov 3:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has served a notice on the collector and SP of Kandhamal district, seeking an action taken report (ATR) on the death of an impregnated school girl.

The incident took place in Rangaparua village in Belghar area of Tumudibandha block. A girl studying in Class VII of the state-run residential school for girls was found pregnant during a formal health check-up in the hostel September 24.

An FIR was registered by the school's headmaster with the Belghar Police Station as per instructions from the district authorities. The student, aged around 13 years, was sent to a children's correctional home at G Udayagiri as per an order of the Kandhamal District Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

After some time, however, she experienced labour pain and was immediately taken to a local community health centre, where she delivered a stillborn baby and within a few hours, died under mysterious circumstances. The incident sparked massive outrage. Opposition BJP and Congress, besides members of the civil society, hit the streets and demanded stringent action against the guilty.

## Pradeep runs parallel organisation in Gopalpur AFTER BEING OUSTED FROM THE BJD, THE LEGISLATOR IS TRYING TO KEEP HIS FLOCK TOGETHER AND THROWING A SPANNER FOR THE PARTY

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Gopalpur, Nov 3:** More than one and a half years are left for the general election, but Gopalpur assembly constituency in Ganjam, the home district of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has been witnessing intense political activities for the last several weeks.

Significantly, Gopabandhu Das, political secretary to the Chief Minister, is at the helm of the BJD's organisational activities in Gopalpur. He has been leading Janasampark padyatra all across this assembly segment to broaden the party base well ahead of the elections.

On the other hand, Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy, who has been ousted from the BJD on charges of corruption, has thrown down the gauntlet to the BJD by running a parallel organisation. For the last several months, Panigrahy is trying his best to ensure his political survival and to strengthen his organisation by taking tours in different parts of the constituency.

He is leaving no stone unturned to keep his flock of supporters together by undertaking various political activities.

He is always surrounded by his army of supporters and seen lam-



basting the state government on various issues. The Gopalpur MLA seems to be adamant and combative to take on the organisation being nurtured by Gopabandhu Das.

Gopabandhu Das took part in Janasampark padyatra held in Nuagolabandh, Hatipada, Nuakamalapur and Kamalapur recently. Many prominent BJD leaders like BeMC deputy mayor E Vivek Reddy, block chairperson CH Usharani, hundreds of zilla parishad members, sarpanchs and samiti members were part of the rally. At a meeting of the party workers on the premises of Baleswar Temple at Golabandh, Gopabandhu said that the Chief Minister himself has taken the responsibility of the constituency.

On the other hand, the Gopalpur MLA conducted parallel padyatra

along with his supporters at Tulu, Hantulu, Redatulu and Indrakhi panchayats.

Training his gun at the state government, Panigrahy alleged that all developmental activities in the district have come to a cropper.

"Airports are being set up in other districts, but there is no airport in Ganjam. The district is being deliberately neglected on the development front," he fumed. He also observed that bureaucracy is given an upper hand in running the government only to kill democracy.

BJD workers are sidelining Panigrahy and opposing his programme. An elderly man was allegedly attacked by a former sarpanch for inviting the MLA to his house at Indrakhi village in Golanthara area during his tour.

# DRONES TO SAFEGUARD BHITARKANIKA WETLAND

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Nov 3:** Drones will be used in Bhitarkanika National Park in this district which will help in protection of the Ramsar wetland.

The drones will collect important information on coastal erosion and on the prawn gheries whose discharge of toxic effluents are primarily responsible for pollution of the wetland. The drones will also collect details about the rare Olive Ridley turtles visiting the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary as well as other wild life and marine creatures.

The drones will also track the fishing trawlers entering the coastline during fishing ban period. The fishing trawlers are also responsible for hampering the safe movement of the turtles, their mating and breeding at Gahirmatha.

after a division bench of the high court comprising Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice Murahari Sriraman directed the state government to use drones for protection of the wetland, Wednesday. The expenses for the purpose will have to be borne by the state government, the court observed in its ruling.

The court also directed to use drones also in Chilika wetlands. This has spread cheers among the environmentalists in the district which they termed will go a long way in protecting the bio-diversity of the wetland.

**Orissa POST** in a report 'Use of drones sought for turtle safety' published November 6 had highlighted that the drones will help in counting and tracking of the rare turtles visiting Gahirmatha in the national park. Environmentalists had emphasised use of drones to keep vigil



Several PILs have been filed in the High Court demanding removal of the prawn gheries but many of those still exist in Bhitarkanika

Environmentalists had emphasised use of drones to keep vigil on the nesting sites, spots of coastal erosion and to keep tabs on illegal gheries

on the nesting sites, spots of coastal erosion, number of casualties and circumstances leading to the deaths of baby and adult turtles.

They hoped that the order will help realise their longstanding demand which will help in ensuring

the protection and survival of the wetland. Environmentalists Hemant Kumar Rout, Pradip Tarai, Kshitish Kumar Singh, Milan Kumar and rights activist Bhujanmohan Jena said that Bhitarkanika wetland is

famous in the world for its saline as well as albino crocodiles, Gahirmatha marine sanctuary, the nursery of rare Olive Ridley turtles, presence of various indigenous and migratory birds, dense mangrove forests, medicinal plants and sea weeds. This makes Bhitarkanika all the more important and one of the nature's bountiful spectacles.

However, the mushrooming of prawn gheries and the toxic effluents discharged by these units and rapid coastal erosion in Gahirmatha marine sanctuary has posed serious threat to the wetland as well as the turtles. They said that the same procedure of using drones has been adopted on Morjee coastline in Goa where the drones with the help of their 360 degree cameras are tracking the actual position of the turtles.

Several public interest litigations (PILs) have been filed in

the High Court demanding removal of the prawn gheries but many of those still exist on some 10,000 hectare of land in Bhitarkanika. The gheries, if not removed, will lead to destruction of the wetland. Meanwhile, during a hearing on a PIL, August 14, the district administration stated to have removed prawn gheries on 56 plots on 282.14 acre of land out of 76 plots on 319.67 acre of land. It promised that the rest of the prawn gheries will be removed after the rainy season.

When contacted, DFO Sudarshan Gopinath welcomed the order stating this will help in protecting the coastlines and the wetland.

Notably, Bhitarkanika in this district, known for its mangrove vegetation, birds and crocodiles, had been listed as a Ramsar site, a wetland of international importance in 2002, the second in the state after Chilika.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIBBS  
2022114 Dtd.: 02.11.2022

**Name of work:** CARRYING OUT FINAL LOCATION SURVEY (FLS) FOR A NEW RAIL LINE BETWEEN PURI AND KONARK (33 KM).

**Approx cost of the work:** ₹ 63.03 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 1,26,100/-, Completion period of the work: 04 Months.

**Tender closing date & time:** at 1200 hrs. of 24.11.2022.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

**Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ PR-139/CF/22-23**  
Bhubaneswar

**“Sin and virtue are a game of resistance we play with God in His efforts to draw us towards perfection.”**  
**SRI AUROBINDO**



## Deglobalising Finance

The US Federal Reserve's aggressive monetary-tightening campaign has squeezed economies worldwide, particularly in the developing world. With the dollar appreciating sharply against their currencies, many emerging and developing economies have experienced rapid increases in borrowing costs and consumer prices, leaving local policymakers with little choice but to raise interest rates and imperil their fragile economic recovery.

In the face of surging inflation, some lower-income countries have pushed back against the dollar's hegemony. But instead of complaining, policymakers should consider insulating their economies from the greenback by erecting barriers to cross-border capital flows. To mitigate the effects of adverse monetary-policy spillovers, the world needs a bout of structural financial deglobalisation.

When the Fed launched its quantitative-easing programme in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, it was accused of encouraging speculative capital flows to emerging and developing economies and fueling dangerous asset bubbles. Now that it is raising interest rates to fight surging prices at home, critics blame it for exporting inflation and financial instability by attracting capital back to the United States. In both cases, the US has been criticised as acting out of pure self-interest, even if that means forcing other countries to adopt beggar-thy-neighbour policies.

The Fed is therefore damned if it eases monetary policy and damned if it tightens it. But the uncomfortable truth is that countries around the world chose to open their economies to capital flows and expose themselves not just to US monetary policy but to fickle foreign finance and the institutions that control it. By handing over power, and often on behalf of elite domestic interests, they willingly made themselves vulnerable.

Attempting to minimise the costs of their Faustian bargain, emerging-economy policymakers have pinned their hopes on international coordination of monetary policy. Some have pleaded with the US to stop acting like a hegemon and consider the impact of its decisions on other countries, trying in vain to convince their American counterparts that doing so would be in America's enlightened self-interest.

But those hoping for monetary-policy coordination seem to be disregarding the lessons of COVID-19. Even as scientists warned that the only way to end the pandemic was to ensure that most of the world's population was vaccinated, the US and other wealthy countries rejected global cooperation and instead hoarded doses. The result was vaccine apartheid, and poorer countries had to scramble to secure supplies.

Moreover, seeking global coordination seems like a fool's errand at a time when the world is turning away from multilateralism. The international trading system has been in intensive care for decades – not least owing to US trade barriers – while the escalating Sino-American rivalry could herald an era marked by economic fragmentation and geopolitical conflict. At the same time, America's domestic political polarisation means that a new administration could reverse any US commitment.

What, then, is the alternative to the dollar's hegemony? Emerging-market policymakers must resist the lure of financial globalisation. Several studies, including one by Harvard's Dani Rodrik and me, have shown that cross-border flows of private financial capital do not foster sustained economic growth. The substantive benefits from financial globalisation, if any, are too few to offset the costs of sudden shocks, capital flight, and loss of policy control. As bad as China's policies have become under President Xi Jinping, China is one of the few countries still able to use domestic policy to cushion against the current financial turmoil.

Emerging and developing economies need to give up their victimhood narrative and shed their illusions about global cooperation. Instead, policymakers should regain agency and control by reverting to the relatively limited capital mobility that characterised the Bretton Woods era.

This would require going beyond the half-hearted measures the International Monetary Fund proposed to mitigate the risks of temporary capital-inflow surges. Developing and emerging-market countries must impose constraints on the cross-border flow of certain forms of capital, particularly volatile portfolio flows. Only “good capital” – for example, foreign direct investment that has a long-term stake in the recipient country and brings technology, skills, and ideas to it – should enjoy the right to move across borders.

The usual response to such proposals is that the genie of international finance cannot be put back in the bottle. But emerging economies can, in fact, restrict capital flows (albeit imperfectly and impermanently). It is up to local policymakers to decide, whereas cooperation to minimise the impact of dollar hegemony is controlled by the US. It is hypocritical to embrace financial globalisation and then rail against it when it does not work for you.

More broadly, the world seems to have forgotten that excessive financialisation is responsible for some of the worst economic crises of the last four decades. Capitalism must be saved from its financial rentiers, and financial deglobalisation is a good place to start. As the British economist and Bretton Woods architect John Maynard Keynes once said, while ideas, knowledge, and science are international by definition, finance should be “primarily national.” It is time we heeded his advice.

*The writer is a senior fellow at Brown University.*  
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### WISDOM CORNER

- “Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.” **HELEN KELLER**
- “Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality.” **EMILY DICKINSON**
- “You cannot find peace by avoiding life.” **VIRGINIA WOOLF**

### WORDSWORTH

#### Cockamamie

Cockamamie – something ridiculous, incredible or implausible – is an intrinsically funny word, but it's truly incredible that word historians believe it's a close relative of decal, a design prepared on special paper for transfer to another surface. (It is instead sometimes said to be Yiddish, but this turns out not to be the case.) The original of both cockamamie and decal is the French décalcomanie, which was created in the early 1860s to refer to the craze for decorating objects with transfers. The craze, and the word, soon transferred to Britain – it's recorded in the magazine *The Queen* on 27 February 1864: “There are few employments for leisure hours which for the past eighteen months have proved either so fashionable or fascinating as decalcomanie”. It reached the United States around 1869 and – to judge from the number of newspaper references in that year – became as wildly popular as it had earlier in France and Britain. The word was quickly Anglicised as decalcomania and in the 1950s it became abbreviated to decal. The link between decalcomania and cockamamie isn't proved, but the evidence suggests strongly that children in New York City in the 1930s (or perhaps a decade earlier) converted the one into the other.

# PESTICIDE DOUBLE STANDARD

FOCUS FARMING



Silke Bollmohr & Layla Liebetrau

**REDUCING THE USE OF TOXIC PESTICIDES IS AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOWARD SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION**



Arvind Subramanian

**The world seems to have forgotten that excessive financialisation is responsible for some of the worst economic crises of the last four decades**

Pesticide residue can be found everywhere: in the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. A growing body of evidence suggests that herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides cause approximately 20,000 deaths and 385 million poisonings worldwide each year. They can also linger for decades, harming soil fertility and leading to the emergence of herbicide-resistant weeds that threaten biodiversity.

And yet, despite these negative effects, industrial agriculture still relies on pesticide use. In 2017, global pesticide use had grown to four million tonnes per year, an increase of nearly 81% since 1990. Pesticide manufacturers often claim that their products are crucial to combating global hunger. But up to 828 million people – more than 10% of the world's population – still go to bed hungry every night. Clearly the answer cannot be found in using more pesticides.

The global food crisis, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has highlighted the urgent need to transform our vulnerable food systems. Dependency on fossil-fuel-based agricultural inputs, such as synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, has made conventional farming more expensive for many around the world. In the past, low- and middle-income countries subsidised such inputs, but soaring inflation has made subsidies too costly, contributing to the sharp rise in food prices.

Reducing the use of toxic pesticides is an important first step toward sustainable food production. The European Union's Farm to Fork Strategy, part of its Green New Deal, aims to reduce pesticide use and risk by 50% by 2030. In the past few years, the EU has focused on Highly Hazardous Pesticides, banning dozens of active ingredients that may cause acute or chronic health problems and destroy critical biodiversity.



**The current global hunger crisis has revealed the fragility of our food supply chains and highlighted the urgent need for fair, nature-based food systems**

The Heinrich Böll Foundation's recent Pesticide Atlas sheds light on the dangers these highly hazardous substances pose to the environment and to public health. In particular, the publication highlights the growing use of toxic herbicides and insecticides like glyphosate, imidacloprid, and carbenfentimid to cultivate soybeans, corn, sugarcane, and grapevines.

While many of these hazardous pesticides have been banned in Europe, they account for over one-third of the sales of the world's five largest pesticide manufacturers. And European companies such as BASF, Bayer, and Syngenta continue to sell them to low- and middle-income countries, where approval requirements are often less stringent and regulatory authorities are understaffed.

The United Nations has long considered Highly Hazardous Pesticides a global human-rights concern. According to UN experts, these toxic substances endanger people's rights to food, health, and

a clean environment, particularly in developing countries. Moreover, women tend to have much greater exposure to pesticides than men and are more vulnerable to pollution-related illnesses.

Hazardous pesticides are particularly damaging to farmers in developing countries with weak environmental and safety regulations. Because small-scale farmers are often unaware of the dangers of chemical-based pest controls, it is important to provide information about how to mitigate the risks associated with pesticide use and enable them to seek safer alternatives.

But awareness campaigns on their own are unlikely to remove the harmful effects of using hazardous pesticides. In Kenya, for example, 76% of the pesticides in use contain active ingredients that are categorised as highly hazardous, and almost half of the pesticides used in the country are banned in Europe. But, because most farmers' plots are smaller

than two acres and closely situated, it is impossible to implement protective measures such as creating buffer zones. Similarly, personal protective equipment is often unavailable, too expensive, or unsuitable for warm climates.

Civil-society organisations have long urged governments to address the pesticide double standard. Fortunately, European regulators have begun to crack down. Two years ago, Switzerland banned the export of five highly toxic pesticides. In France, a law forbidding the manufacture, storage, and export of EU-banned pesticides was enacted in January. And Germany has recently reaffirmed its commitment to passing legislation prohibiting exports of hazardous pesticides.

Importing countries have also taken steps in the right direction: Tunisia, Mexico, and the Palestinian Authority have banned imports of pesticides that are forbidden in the exporting or producing country. In September, South Africa announced plans to phase out Highly Hazardous Pesticides by June 2024.

While such bans are crucial to reducing pesticide use, governments must also promote safer alternatives. Agroecology not only replaces chemical pesticides with biological ones; more broadly, it relies on nature-based practices to boost the versatility of agriculture, strengthen its resilience, and empower food producers economically and politically.

The current global hunger crisis has revealed the fragility of our food supply chains and highlighted the urgent need for fair, nature-based food systems. There are many examples of effective and proven approaches. We just need to follow them.

*Silke Bollmohr is Founder of EcoTrac Consulting. Layla Liebetrau is Founder of The Third Sector.*  
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### SPECTRUM LOOMING RECESSION

## Is India decoupled from the world?



Sourajeet Pradhani

**IN THE LONG RUN, INDIA IS EXPECTED TO COME OUT OF THIS SITUATION UNSCATHED**

The common perception at this point of time is that the world is at the cusp of imminent recession. Various indicators suggest that recession is knocking at the doors, especially in the West. The Federal Reserve's tighter monetary policy, higher interest rates, slowing global demand, balance of payment crisis have contributed to strengthening of such perceptions. A slowing China and geopolitical uncertainties make the picture bleaker.

Inflation in the US and Europe, especially the UK, has witnessed unprecedented peaks. The US GDP is expected to contract by 1.1% while the contraction in the UK is expected to be around 1.6%. China has issues in the real estate as well as energy sectors. The domestic demand in China has seen steep downfall. The Fed is adamant to curb inflation at the cost of growth. There isn't much evidence to slow down the pace of rate hike in the near term. The strong jobs data in the US will lead to higher wages, which will eventually augment the already soaring prices.

With such a pessimistic global environment, will the Indian market wither the headwinds, is the million dollar question. Despite fears of impending global recession, the Indian domestic market has witnessed a purple patch with the Sensex crossing the 60,000 mark. India's economic foundations are strong and robust. India didn't opt

for an expansionary fiscal and monetary policy during the pandemic. Hence for an emerging country like India, the inflation rate of less than 7% is something that shouldn't cause much of a trouble.

The businesses in India are divided into two broader categories – domestic focused and export oriented. A slowing global demand will impact the export oriented businesses in next 6-12 months. But with dollar appreciating to unprecedented levels, a subdued trade is compensated by a stronger dollar. In terms of domestic focused businesses, cyclical will continue to perform well.

During the pandemic, the US opted for 'quantitative easing' approach by printing notes. European countries also opted for a similar strategy. On the other hand, Indian fiscal and monetary policy was restrained with caution. The corporate balance sheets are stronger from 'leverage' stand point. The NPAs in banks have improved significantly. In the medium term, the economy is expected to benefit from higher push towards digitisation, better transportation and logistics and infrastructure spending.

India's GDP is expected to grow by 6.8% this year, as projected by IMF. According to IMF, India is the “brightest spot in a dark horizon.” This implies that among emerging economies, India's position appears to be most resilient to external headwinds. This was achieved

through prudent and pragmatic structural reforms brought about by the Finance Ministry and the RBI.

Another school of thought opines that in this globalised world, India cannot be insulated from external shocks. A depreciating rupee will add to the CAD (Current Account deficit) and BOP (Balance of Payment) crisis. With the rising interest rates in the US, it will be difficult to prevent the capital outflow from FIs and FPIs. A depleting foreign reserve will reduce the confidence of RBI. Since India imports 80% of its oil requirements, a fluctuating oil price will hinder its economic recovery. Weak global demand will dampen India's manufacturing sector.

The government's ambition of higher capital expenditure in core sectors will create impediments in fiscal consolidation. In short, despite India's strong fundamentals, the post pandemic recovery will take a jolt due to global slowdown.

In the long run, India is expected to come out of this situation unscathed. But investors must brace themselves for short term glitches. The 'silver lining' here is that during a volatile period, although the broader markets may rally and correct intermittently, there will always be certain sectors that will outperform the others. Banking and financials is one such sector. With increased interest rates, lending rates go up. As a result, profitability of banks and financial institu-

tions also go up.

Another sector, which may turn out to be a dark horse is the automotive sector. With no supply side constraints, the sector would turn out to be a real game changer.

From a broader perspective, the Indian market is overvalued with a PE (Price to Earnings) ratio close to 21. The domestic investors should expect muted returns in the near term. The markets will remain volatile till the time central banks decide to reverse the rate hike process. But that will take some time to materialise.

In a volatile ecosystem, a combination of 'flexicap' and 'multi-asset' strategy will be a prudent choice. The ability to manoeuvre across market caps and asset classes will mitigate the short term volatility. Waiting in the sidelines for correction to take place will be a futile activity. Taking entry call on market dips with a time horizon of 2-3 years is what one should look for. Also, investors can look for a staggered investment strategy in the form of SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) and STPs (Systematic Transfer Plans).

There will always be a pessimistic perspective regarding future. Such pessimism will have strong undercurrents through facts and data. Optimism will rely upon faith and principles. Over a period of time, pessimists will always lose while optimists will prevail.

*The writer is an investment banker.*

#### Protect the GIB

Sir, When India was free from the clutches of the British rule, decisions had to be taken about what animals would be the symbols of our country. The Great Indian Bustard (GIB) which was a strong contender for being claimed as the National Bird is now struggling for survival. The bird looks like an ostrich. The body is oval-shaped, legs are long, it weighs from 10 to 15 kg, and its height is about one metre. The GIB prefers grasslands ecosystem to survive (the most threatened and neglected ecosystem). But their primary habitat is being diverted for industries, mining, and intensive agricultural practices. With a meagre population of about 150 GIBs remaining, efforts should be made to protect this species from extinction. A large number of national and international organisations that work towards protecting the environment, nature, wildlife and rare birds have to begin to work for saving the GIB. According to ornithologists, if the GIB is not protected now, it will disappear from the country.  
**Bhagaban Nayak, BRAHMAPUR**

#### Politics of greed

Sir, Politicians who were elected as MPs and MLAs, at times, switch their sides from one party to the other according to their whims and fancies, personal gains and greed. In the process they make a mockery of our political system. In Bihar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took the support of different political parties to remain in power. This is true for almost all political parties. It is high time there's a legislation to stop this practice.  
**V Nagendra Kumar, HYDERABAD**

#### Criminal negligence

Sir, The collapse of 143-year-old Morbi suspension bridge with a few youth shaking it is shocking to say the least. If the bridge had survived for 143 years, it was undoubtedly strong. But with the passing of time and with usage, anything gets weaker. For this, periodic check-up of the condition of bridge was necessary. Overcrowding on the suspension bridge is said to have caused the mishap. The problem was compounded with some people taking the pleasure of shaking the bridge resulting in over 140 people meeting with watery grave. The toll is expected to rise further. The authorities who issued more number of tickets than the capacity of the bridge even before the fitness certificate was obtained after renovation are squarely responsible for tragedy.  
**KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE**

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
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# national



If women are empowered and their status lifted, Indian will achieve immense progress in various fields

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

## PUNJAB SEES 2,666 FARM FIRES

Punjab Thursday witnessed 2,666 farm fire incidents with Sangrur district seeing maximum crop residue burning cases



## of the day quote

Eight out of 10 children in Delhi-NCR have respiratory problems. After years of discussions, why is there a continuing lack of concern/coordination between multiple government entities

VARUN GANDHI | BJP MP

The Delhi CM had earlier written a letter to the Centre, saying the implementation of Pusa bio-decomposer had been successful in Delhi. But he himself officially refused to use it in Punjab

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

There is a panic among people about Dengue due to the media. In Oct last year, there were 17-18 thousand Dengue cases. Presently, till last night there were seven thousand Dengue patients undergoing treatment in the state

BRAJESH PATHAK | UTTAR PRADESH DEPUTY CM

## SHORT TAKES

### 7 killed in two road accidents

Hyderabad: Seven people were killed and four were injured in two separate road accidents in Telangana Thursday. The accidents were reported from Sangareddy and Vikarabad districts. Four persons died when the car in which they were travelling was hit by a Road Transport Corporation (RTC) bus at Kansanpalle in Andole mandal of Sangareddy district.

### Man jailed for life in gangrape case

Muzaffarnagar (UP): A special court in the neighbouring Shamli district convicted a man for raping a 16-year-old Dalit girl and sentenced him to life imprisonment Thursday. Special judge Mumtaz Ali also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on the convict, Nikunj Kumar. The district government council of Shamli, Sanjay Chouhan, told PTI here Thursday that the minor was brought from her house and raped by Kumar and one Kallu in a village under Kotwali police station in Shamli district April 4, 2021.

### Foreign cigarettes seized in Mizoram

Aizawl: Assam Rifles and Customs officials in a joint operation seized 190 cases of foreign origin cigarettes worth Rs 2.47 crore from eastern Mizoram's Champhai district, a hotspot of illegal trade from Myanmar. Officials Thursday said that the para-military troopers of 23 Sector accompanied by Assam Rifles officials recovered the foreign origin cigarettes Wednesday night from an abandoned place at New Zolrang of Champhai district, adjoining Myanmar.

### Fire at Lucknow shopping complex

Lucknow: The fire that engulfed a shopping complex in Hazratganj market area here Thursday was put out after some effort, police said. The blaze at Prince Complex, which houses several coaching centres and shops, erupted in the morning, they said.

### Girl rescued

Mumbai: The Mumbai Police have rescued a one-year-old girl, who was kidnapped from a footpath from Santacruz area of the city four days ago, and arrested two women in connection with the offence. The accused women were allegedly trying to sell the toddler in Telangana, they said, adding that the girl was rescued from Solapur railway station in southern Maharashtra Wednesday.

# Air quality panel bans plying of diesel LMVs in Delhi-NCR

AN AQI OF ABOVE 400 IS CONSIDERED "SEVERE" AND CAN AFFECT HEALTHY PEOPLE AND SERIOUSLY IMPACT THOSE WITH EXISTING ILLNESSES



- THE CAQM ORDERED A BAN ON DELHI-REGISTERED DIESEL-RUN MEDIUM AND HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES IN THE CAPITAL
- THOSE CARRYING ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AND PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES ARE EXEMPTED
- THE ENTRY OF TRUCKS OTHER THAN ELECTRIC AND CNG ONES IN DELHI IS BANNED TOO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: The skies over Delhi-NCR took on an ominous grey colour as raging farm fires and stagnant atmospheric conditions pushed the capital's air quality index to the edge of the "severe plus" category, prompting authorities to invoke the final stage of anti-pollution curbs, including a ban on diesel-run light motor vehicles. At 4 pm, Delhi's 24-hour average AQI stood at 450, just a notch short of the "severe plus" category. The concentration of lung-damaging fine particles known as PM2.5 was above 470 micrograms per cubic

metre, around eight times the safe limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre, in many areas.

An AQI of above 400 is considered "severe" and can affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing illnesses. The thick layer of pungent smog lingering over the capital lowered visibility to 400 metres and 500 metres at the Safdarjung and Palam airports, respectively, and blotted out the Sun partially. The Centre's air quality panel said BS-VI vehicles and those used for essential and emergency services are exempted from the ban on diesel-run LMVs. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai has convened a high-level meeting

Friday to discuss the implementation of the curbs under GRAP's stage IV. The CAQM said central and state governments may decide on permitting work from home. The entry of trucks other than electric and CNG ones in Delhi is banned too. Those carrying essential commodities are exempted. According to the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago's (EPIC) Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) released in June, the residents of Delhi stand to lose 10 years of life expectancy due to poor air quality.

The city records an average PM2.5 concentration of 285 micrograms per cubic metre from November 1 to November 15. PM2.5 level from 61 to 120 is considered "moderate to poor", 121 to 250 is "very poor", 251 to 350 is "severe" and more than 350 is "severe plus".

The share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution jumped to 34 per cent Thursday, the highest this season so far, which experts said was the reason behind the thick layer of pungent smog over the national capital. Prepared by scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) here, the Pusa bio-decomposer is a microbial solution which can turn paddy straw into manure in 15-20 days and prevent stubble burning, a major reason behind a spike in air pollution in Delhi-NCR in October-November.

## Car blast: Muslim body visits Hindu temple in TN, stresses on communal harmony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Coimbatore, Nov 3: The city jamaath Thursday strongly condemned the recent car explosion in front of a temple here and said the Hindu-Muslim unity cannot be disturbed by anyone.

The noble gesture comes days after the cylinder explosion in the car in communally sensitive Ukkadam area left one person dead

A 13-member delegation from the Coimbatore Jamaath, including 'Ulemas' (Muslim scholars) visited the Kottai Eswaran temple here as part of efforts to strengthen communal harmony in the region and spoke to the priests and other authorities over the incident for nearly an hour. Head priest, Sundarshan and temple secretary Prabhakaran welcomed the members with shawls.

The National Investigation Agency is probing the blast, amid the state BJP's claim that the victim is an ISIS sympathiser.

The meeting with priest and others will serve as a platform to maintain communal harmony and peace among all sections of the citizens, irrespective of religion, cast and creed, he said adding the Jamaath wanted Coimbatore to be known for communal harmony.

## ATTACK ON IMRAN KHAN Keeping a close eye: India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: India on Thursday said it is keeping a "close" eye on developments relating to the attack on former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan during his protest march in Pakistan's Punjab province.

"This is something that we are closely keeping an eye on and we will continue to monitor the ongoing developments," External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in responding to a question at a media briefing. Khan was injured on Thursday when an unidentified gunman opened fire on the container-mounted-truck

carrying him during his protest march in the eastern city of Wazirabad.

Seventy-year-old Khan was leading the march to capital Islamabad to demand snap elections. The incident occurred near Allahwala Chowk of Wazirabad town in Punjab. Asad Umar, the senior leader of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party told the media that a bullet hit Khan's leg.

"Khan is being taken to Lahore by road. He is not critical but he received a bullet injury," Umar said, adding that Khan's opponent couldn't see Pakistan being transformed. He, however, didn't blame anyone for the attack.



## PROTEST TURNS UGLY



Police use water cannons to disperse Congress workers during their protest against Kerala government in Kochi

## India rejects references to J&K in China-Pak statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: India Thursday strongly rejected references made to Jammu and Kashmir in the China-Pakistan joint statement issued during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to Beijing, and asserted that the Union Territory as well as Ladakh 'are and will always' be "integral and inalienable" parts of India.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, referring to the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said New Delhi has consistently conveyed its "protests and concerns" to Beijing and Islamabad over the CPEC as it includes projects on the sovereign territory of India. Bagchi said India "resolutely rejects" any attempts to utilise such projects to change the status quo in the area and that any attempts to involve third parties in such activities are "inherently illegal, illegitimate and unacceptable". The joint statement was issued Wednesday following talks between Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Bagchi said India noted the joint statement that contained sev-

eral "unwarranted references" to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and also mentioned projects under the so-called CPEC and its extension to third countries. "We have consistently rejected such statements and all parties concerned are well aware of our clear position on these matters. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has locus standi to comment on the same," he added.

In his talks with President Xi, Sharif reaffirmed his government's willingness to "commit to high quality development" of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and highlighted the salience of the CPEC to Pakistan's economic and social development, according to the joint statement.

The statement said the Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue was a "dispute left from history" that should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements".

## Meta India head Ajit Mohan quits

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 3: Meta on Thursday announced that its India head, Ajit Mohan, has decided to step down from his role at the company to pursue another opportunity.

"Over the last four years, he played an important role in shaping and scaling our India operations so they can serve many millions of Indian businesses, partners and people," Nicola Mendelsohn, Vice President, Global Business Group, Meta, said in a statement to IANS.

"We remain deeply committed to India and have a strong leadership team in place to carry on all our work and partnerships. We are grateful for Ajit's leadership and contribution and wish him the very best for the future," she added.



In January 2019, Facebook India hired Ajit Mohan as the managing director. During his tenure, WhatsApp and Instagram added more than 200 million users in India

In January 2019, Facebook India hired Ajit Mohan as the managing director. During his tenure, WhatsApp and Instagram added more than 200 million users in India. Mohan was responsible for driving Facebook's overall strategy and continued investment in India - reporting directly to the Menlo Park (California) based headquarters and not to the Asia Pacific team.

An alumnus of McKinsey and the company's New York office where he worked with media companies around the globe, Mohan launched and built Hotstar, Star India's over-the-top (OTT) service, into India's leading premium video streaming platform.

He is a graduate from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

## Army foils infiltration bid, kills 3 terrorists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

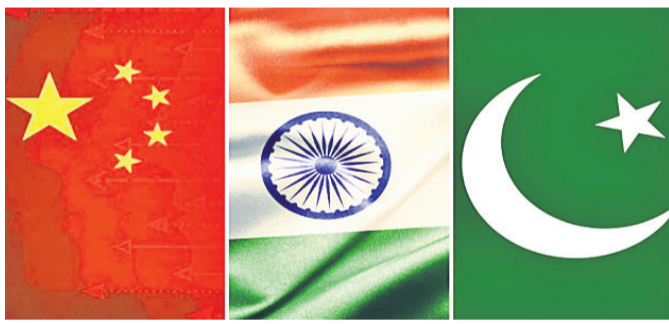
Jammu, Nov 3: The army foiled an infiltration bid and gunned down three terrorist in an encounter along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, officials said.

While the body of one of the terrorists was recovered by soldiers, bodies of the other two, lying across the LoC, were taken back by villagers of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), they said.

"At about 1000 hours today, alert soldiers of the army ob-



served suspicious movement of some individuals along the Line



of Control in the Poonch sector (J-K), wherein they were trying

to infiltrate across the Line of Control into the Indian side," a defence spokesman said.

The soldiers challenged the infiltrators who opened fire on them, he said. In an ensuing fire fight, three terrorists was killed, the officials said.

Body of one of the terrorists has been recovered along with two AK-47 rifles, a pistol and warlike stores, the spokesman said. The villagers in PoK carried back the bodies of the other two terrorists, the officials said. The operation continues and a search of the area is underway, the defence spokesman said.

# 20K schools shut down during 2020-21: MoE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: More than 20,000 schools shut down across the country during 2020-21 while the number of teachers also declined by 1.95 pc in comparison to the previous year, according to a new report by the Ministry of Education.

The Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report on school education in India for 2021-22 also pointed out that only 44.85 per cent schools had computer facilities while nearly 34 per cent had internet connection. "Total number of schools in 2021-22 stood at 14.89 lakhs as compared to 15.09 lakhs in 2020-21. The decline



in total schools is mainly due to closure of schools under private and other management," said the report launched Thursday.

While only 27 per cent schools have special toilets for children with special needs (CSWN), over 49 per cent of them have ramps with

handrails, it said.

Detailing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on enrolment, the report said, "Although the impact of Covid is cross-cutting, this is particularly noticed in the enrolment of young and vulnerable kids like pre-primary classes.

"This decline may be attributed to postponement of admissions due to COVID-19".

In 2021-22, enrolment of students in school education from primary to higher secondary was around 25.57 crore. This is higher by 19.36 lakh as compared to the enrolment of students in 2020-21, the report said.

According to the report, the

total number of teachers also declined by 1.95 per cent in 2021-22 compared to 2020-21.

The total number of teachers in 2021-22 was 95.07 lakh, decreasing from 97.87 lakh in 2020-21, it said.

"The percentage of teachers teaching only primary (34.4 pc in 2021-22 from 35.4m pc in 2020-21) and only upper primary (18.9 pc in 2021-22 from 21.5 pc in 2020-21) has reduced.

The decrease in teachers during

2021-22 as against previous year was 0.9 pc in government schools, 1.45 pc in government aided schools, 2.94 pc in private schools and 8.3 pc in other schools, it said.

In UDISE+ 2021-22, additional data on important indicators such as digital library, peer learning, hard spot identification, number of books available in school library, etc have been collected for the first time to align with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 initiatives.

IN 2021-22, ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION FROM PRIMARY TO HIGHER SECONDARY WAS AROUND 25.57 CRORE

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TEACHERS ALSO DECLINED BY 1.95 PER CENT IN 2021-22 COMPARED TO 2020-21

## GRAND WELCOME AWAITS KHARGE



Kharge is revered by oppressed classes in the state and wields considerable influence in north Karnataka

**KHARGE, WHO HAILS FROM KARNATAKA, WILL BE VISITING THE STATE NOVEMBER 6 FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER ASSUMING THE COVETED POST**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Nov 3:** Karnataka Congress unit, along with other organisations, is gearing up to accord a grand welcome to veteran leader Mallikarjun Kharge, who has been elected as the President of the All India Congress Committee (AICC).

The party insiders reveal that through the event, the party wants to send out a message to the oppressed classes and draw them into its fold. Kharge, who hails from Karnataka, will be visiting the state November 6 for the first time after assuming the coveted post. The state unit has decided to hold "Sarvodaya Samavesha" at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru to mark the occasion and felicitate him.

Congress President D.K. Shivakumar has stated that it is going to be a mega event for the party. Thousands of party workers and fans of Mallikarjun Kharge are expected to participate in the programme.

The progressive organisations from across the state have extended their support to the programme and are attending the event in large numbers. The state unit had requested Kharge to take up Karnataka visit first before he visits any other state.

The appointment of Kharge as

The party insiders reveal that through the event, the party wants to send out a message to the oppressed classes and draw them into its fold

The AICC president has changed the dynamics of the state politics ahead of the Assembly elections. Kharge is revered by oppressed classes in the state and wields considerable influence in north Karnataka.

The Congress is claiming all the credit for enhancement of reservation for SCs and STs. The Congress government headed by Siddaramaiah had formed a committee under Justice Nagamohan Das in this regard. The ruling BJP has implemented the recommendations of the committee and issued a government notification also.

Both the parties are vying to impress the huge vote bank of backwards, Dalits and minorities. At this stage, Congress leaders describe that the elevation of Kharge to the highest post in Congress would definitely prove to be advantageous.

Congress insiders also explain that the party will give a message to backward classes, Dalits and minorities that it is the only party where a candidate belonging to oppressed classes can attain highest positions.

Ruling BJP leaders also concede that it is going to be difficult for them to woo the votes of oppressed classes, which are crucial for the BJP. In the last elections, the backwards and oppressed classes firmly stood with BJP.

## Protests intensify against 2nd airport

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Nov 3:** Protests opposing the Tamil Nadu government's move for a second airport in Chennai intensified as 13 villages in and around the Perandur area have passed a resolution against land acquisition.

**While the state has offered 3.5 times the market value of the land in these 13 villages, protests from the people in these villages are continuing**

G. Subramanian, Secretary of Ekanapuram Village People and Farmers Welfare Board, said that the gram sabha has passed the resolution.

"This is the third time a resolution has been passed against the acquisition of our land for the second airport coming up at Perandur. Our protests have reached the 99th day and strong opposition will continue against the project," he said. A total of 4,563.56 acres of land in 13 villages of Perandur will be acquired for the proposed project.

Of this, 1,317.8 acres of land is government poramboke land, while 3,246.38 acres of land is Patta land or with valid documents. While the state has offered 3.5 times the market value of the land in these 13 villages, protests from the people in these villages are continuing.

The protesters have said that 1,005 families will be affected by the acquisition process. The DMK government has already sent emissaries with three ministers to conduct discussions with the protesters aimed at arriving at a possible settlement.



**FULL BLOOM:** Visitors take photographs of sunflowers during the Krishi Mela 2022 organised by University of Agricultural Sciences, at Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Bangalore

## TN plans more excavations

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Nov 3:** The Tamil Nadu archaeological department is planning for more excavations at the Thampirabarani river and Punnakayal hamlet on the east coast of the river after 14 coins of 16th century were unearthed during a recent excavation.

According to officials of the state archaeological department, Thampirabarani has been a major bustling area of pearl fishery according to records with the state archives department.

State Tamil Culture and Archaeology Minister Thangam Thennarasu said, "The excavation of coins of the 16th century are indicators of a bubbling civilisation in these areas. There were claims that the earliest printing press of the 16th century was situated in this area and more excavations would give more revelations on the civilisations that had lived here."



**THANGAM TENNARASU** | STATE TAMIL CULTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY MINISTER

**The excavation of coins of the 16th century are indicators of a bubbling civilisation in these areas. There were claims that the earliest printing press of the 16th century was situated in this area and more excavations would give more revelations on the civilisations that had lived here**

That most of the coins had turned green as copper might have reacted with saline water.

The archaeologists are of the opinion that Punnakayal could be the key to the ancient Tamil culture and more excavations are to be carried out in this area for getting more information regarding the earlier civilisation.

## Crocodile drags man into river

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Uttara Kannada (Karnataka), Nov 3:** A crocodile attacked a man and dragged him deep into the water while he was swimming in the Kali river in Dandeli town of Uttara Kannada district Thursday.

On being informed, the police and forest department officials rushed to the banks of the river and launched a search operation. According to police, the locals saw a crocodile attacking and dragging



a man, who was swimming in the river; and informed the authorities. The identity of the man is yet to be established. This year, two people have lost their lives in crocodile attacks, while several others have been attacked. "We live in constant fear. The safety of children is also endangered," locals said.

They also flagged concern about multiplication of crocodiles in the Kali River. Villagers and people living near the bank of the river claim that they have been victims of crocodile menace but the authorities are not addressing their woes.

Searching for food, the crocodiles come out of the river and enter Halamaddi village, Hosakonapa village, Dandelappa Nagara, Haliyal Road Area, Eshwar Temple area in Dandeli town threatening the safety of the residents. They enter the homes, compounds and prey on chicken, cows and other cattle.

The reptiles come out of the river through drains attached to the river. The people have been demanding authorities to install iron mesh on the openings of drains to prevent the movement of crocodiles.

A crocodile park has also been built close to the Halamaddi village. Due to the increase in their number, there is shortage of food for them and they venture into villages and residential areas, the villagers said.

## TN to get Ornithological Conservation Centre

The Conservation centre will have a visitor's area and an administrative area. The visitor's area will include well-augmented realty projected tunnel-shaped entry wall as well as a Birds Interpretation centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Nov 3:** An Ornithological Conservation Centre will come up at the Agaram Reserve Forest near the Kaliveli bird sanctuary, under the Tindivanam forest division in Tamil Nadu. The forest department of the state is in the process of establishing the Centre.

The Kaliveli bird sanctuary is spread across Kaliveli lake in an area of 670 sqkm. This is one of the major wetlands on the Coromandel coast. Indian Bird Conservation Network and Birdlife international have assessed that Kaliveli wetland supports more than 20,000 birds every year.

The Conservation centre will have a visitor's area and an administrative area. The visitor's

area will include well-augmented realty projected tunnel-shaped entry wall as well as a Birds Interpretation centre.

The facility will also have a bird model based on their habitats and environment in the Kaliveli Bird Sanctuary. According to forest department officials, the centre will help in creating awareness about migratory birds, their evolution and on conservation of birds and their importance.

Migratory fly pathways of different species of birds will be depicted in the centre which includes digital information about the country of their origin and the stoppage of flying routes. The nests of different birds, their beak and feet will also be shown digitally at the centre.



A reference research centre is also planned in the Ornithological Conservation Centre with reference books, research materials on migratory birds, their history, the seasons wherein they reach different continents and such details. This is to help the students and general public interested in nature to get a better awareness of nature. A bird treatment centre is

also planned along with the Ornithological Centre.

Sources in the forest department said that an initial amount of Rs 1 crore has been sanctioned from the Comprehensive Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme. Tamil Nadu forest department sources said that there won't be any shortage of funds for the Centre.

## Meditation compulsory in Karnataka schools

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Nov 3:** The Karnataka government Thursday gave directions to the schools and pre university colleges in the state to ensure 10 minutes meditation session for students.

State Education Minister B.C. Nagesh said that necessary directions have been given with regard to conducting meditation session in schools and colleges for 10 minutes every day.

The step is taken to increase concentration, health, and good thoughts. It will also help students to beat stress and acquire knowledge freely in schools and pre-university colleges, the minister said.

The meditation 'dhyana' session is being conducted at schools in many districts of the state. The requests have been made to allow meditation classes for 10 minutes in all schools and colleges, he stated.



It is appropriate to conduct meditation session for students regularly. The school and college managements should fix a time and conduct meditation session for students, Minister Nagesh stated.

The move is likely to draw flak as progressive thinkers and minority organisations have been criticising the ruling BJP for "safarisation of education".

## MAN SAYS WIFE BEATS HIM, COMPLAINS TO PM'S OFFICE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Nov 3:** A Karnataka man has complained to the office of the Prime Minister (PMO) seeking help and protection from his wife, who 'regularly beats him'. The man has also alleged that he was facing threat to life from his wife.

Yadunandan Acharya from Bengaluru sent his grievances to the PMO through social media. He also tagged his tweet to the handles of Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Pratap Reddy and Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijju. "Would anyone help me? Or did anyone help me when this happened? No, Because I am a man! My wife attacked me with knife, Is this the naari shakti you boost about? Can I put a domestic violence case against her for this? No!

**Yadunandan Acharya tagged his tweet to the handles of Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Pratap Reddy and Union Minister for Law and Justice Kiren Rijju**

He also stated that he was bleeding from his hand after the stab injury caused by his wife. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Pratap Reddy asked him to visit the police station and seek legal action and address his grievance. Yadunandan Acharya has got support from across the sections and highlighted the need to address the issue of harassed husbands.

## IIT-Madras enables crowdsourcing to track waterlogging

Crowdsourcing data through the website would help in calibration and validation of real-time flood forecast, said Narasimhan, who is working with students from IIT-CFI's WebOps and Blockchain Club

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Nov 3:** IIT-Madras has enabled a crowdsourcing method to track waterlogging in Chennai through WhatsApp: +1 (415) 523-8886 and website: https://chennaiwaterlogging.org/ to enable the residents share information and photographs of affected areas, the institute said Thursday. The Institute, which is collabo-

rating with Greater Chennai Corporation, Public Works Department, and other government departments on the initiative, said this year, the faculty of IIT-Madras and its students have enabled the update to be shared in English and Tamil through WhatsApp.

Users' public could report the flooded location and water depth, as well as add photos of inundated sites with a description across the Chennai region as frequently as possible.

Prof Balaji Narasimhan, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, who leads the team of faculty and students from IIT-M Centre For Innovation in implementing this project, said the initiative is aimed at developing a repository of flooding/waterlogging information from as much extent of the drainage basins of Chennai as possible and as frequently as possible from the same area.



Crowdsourcing data through the website would help in calibration and validation of real-time flood forecast, said Narasimhan, who is working with students from IIT-CFI's WebOps and Blockchain Club. The students-team includes V

Tharun (project lead), Akshay Pratap Singh, Aditya K, Aswin Beckham, and Hamsavardhan D. "This information is critical as we work with the storm water drainage models and flood inundation models to calibrate and validate them and to get more confidence in our models," said

Narasimhan. Such models with a good level of confidence would help to hand-hold and provide guidance to the government for conceiving and implementing flood alleviation projects across the problem areas, he said in a release here.

Information obtained from the public is gathered on a real-time flood map. The data thus obtained would be utilised to improve disaster preparedness and response in communities by gathering, sorting, and presenting data on flooding reports.

Elaborating on the new developments of this initiative, Tharun said the data collection system of this website is integrated with WhatsApp data. "The website has a check for users who are not comfortable with English and can switch languages. Since we are implementing it in Chennai, we have included Tamil," he said.



## of the day quote

Youths play an important role in making India a developed country. The Centre has started a programme to provide 10 lakh jobs and on the same lines, the Maharashtra government has launched a scheme to provide employment to 75,000 people

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

We have to empower children to adopt professional courses, and the students of our ITIs must inspire school students to adopt this route for education

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

Drugs is the main reason behind all crimes in Goa. I support Goa government and Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte in taking action against illegal activities in the tourism sector

SHRIPAD NAIK | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Groom test drives new car, kills aunt

**Etawah:** Marriage celebrations in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah went awry when the bridegroom crushed his aunt and four other relatives while test driving the new car that had been gifted to him. The victim, Sarla Devi, 35, came under the wheels and died, while four others suffered grave injuries. The incident took place in Akbarpur village during the 'tilak' ceremony of Arun Kumar, 24, a PAC jawan. Arun decided to test drive the new car even though he did not know how to drive. He started the car and instead of applying brakes, he pressed the accelerator and the car rammed into relatives standing nearby.

### Anubrata's aide grilled by CBI

**Kolkata:** The CBI Thursday questioned Abdul Karim Khan, a close associate of TMC leader Anubrata Mondal, in connection with its investigation into the cattle smuggling case, an official said. Khan, also a TMC leader of West Bengal's Birbhum district, appeared for questioning before the CBI at its office in CGO Complex in Salt Lake near Kolkata, he said.

### Rain batters Pondicherry

**Pondicherry:** Pondicherry was battered by heavy rain Thursday inundating several areas and almost all thoroughfares, affecting the flow of vehicular traffic. Chief Minister N Rangasamy held an emergency meeting with officials concerned with relief and rehabilitation works. Later, he told reporters that "all necessary steps have been taken to ensure that people faced no hardship in the context of the current rains."



Why is that the media is afraid to ask questions to the Chief Minister, but to me the media appears to have no fear of asking questions. I will not reply to questions asked by the cadre media as they are more committed to serve party interests

ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN | KERALA GOVERNOR

## EAM TO VISIT RUSSIA

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will pay a two-day visit to Russia beginning November 7 during which he will hold wide-ranging talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov



# Rahul turns Potharaju during Bharat Jodo Yatra

POTHARAJU IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE BROTHER OF SEVEN SISTER GODDESSES -- DIFFERENT FORMS OF THE GODDESS 'MAHANKALI'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Hyderabad, Nov 3:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi donned the role of Potharaju symbolically whipping himself during Bharat Jodo Yatra in Telangana's Sangareddy district Thursday. Participating in Bonalu, a traditional festival of Telangana, along with party MLA Jagga Reddy, Rahul Gandhi whipped himself. Potharaju is a character in annual Bonalu processions taken out in Telangana. He is considered to be the brother of seven sister goddesses -- different forms of



the goddess 'Mahankali'. Leading the procession, Potharaju carries a whip and lashes against his body to the sound of drum beats. During his Yatra, the Congress MP has been interacting with local people, dancing with local cultural artists or playing with children. A day after playing cricket with children during the yatra, Rahul Gandhi turned Potharaju much to the excitement of other leaders and workers walking with him. Former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Ramdas and his wife and social activist Lalita Ramdas also joined the yatra. On the ninth day

of his march in Telangana, the yatra entered Sangareddy district. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief A. Revanth Reddy, Congress Legislature Party leader Mallu Bharti Vikramarka, MP Uttam Kumar Reddy and several other leaders and scores of party workers were participating in the yatra. The foot march will continue in Telangana till November 7 with one-day break November 4. It will cover a total distance of 375 kms in 19 Assembly and seven Parliamentary constituencies in the state. From Telangana, the yatra will enter Maharashtra November 7.

## RED FORT ATTACK CASE

# Top court affirms death penalty of LeT terrorist



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The Supreme Court Thursday affirmed the death penalty for Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Mohammad Arif alias Ashfaq for carrying out the December 2000 Red Fort attack.

Rejecting Arif's review petition, a bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit said, "affirm the view taken by this court...reject the review petition". The bench, also comprising Justice Bela M Trivedi, added, "Having regard to the entirety of the matter, his guilt is proved..." Detailed order in the matter will be uploaded later in the day.

In the Red Fort attack three people, including two Army jawans, were killed.

In August 2011, the Supreme Court confirmed the death sentence of arrested LeT terrorist Mohammad Arif for carrying out the December 2000 Red Fort attack. The apex court also dismissed his review petition later in August 2011. However, in 2016, the apex court decided to re-hear his review petition.

In November 2005, the trial court had awarded Arif a death sentence. The trial court had also fined Arif ₹4.35 lakh for the attack that left two Rajputana Rifles jawans and a civilian dead. The Delhi High Court, in 2007, upheld the death sentence to Arif.

# Two-phase polls in Guj on Dec 1, 5



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar during a press conference for the announcement of schedule of Assembly elections in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Gujarat will go to the Assembly polls in two phases December 1 and 5 in an election spiced up by the AAP's entry as the BJP looks to continue its uninterrupted winning streak there since 1995 while the main Opposition Congress works to amp up its campaign.

The term of the Gujarat assembly ends February 18, 2023 and the elections have been announced 110 days in advance, Kumar said. "It is a combination of multiple factors and we are well within the factors of consideration, including polls in nearby states," the chief election commissioner said.

He indicated that the elections could have been announced a couple of days earlier, but for the Morbi bridge collapse tragedy in Gujarat, which plunged the state into mourning. "We also had to take note of the tragedy that had befallen the state. That was also one factor for the delay. There was state mourning in the state till yesterday (Wednesday). So, it is (because of multiple factors)," Kumar said.

On the larger question of impartiality of the Election Commission, Kumar said a large number of assembly elections have thrown up surprising results. "Actually, actions and outcomes speak larger than words. In a large number of assembly elections, results have shown, at times, those who were critical of the Commission have got surprising results. I do not want to go into the

- Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar announced the poll schedule, with the counting of votes fixed for December 8 along with that in Himachal Pradesh where the single-phase election will be held November 12
- While the opposition parties, including the Congress, criticised the poll panel for allegedly delaying the Gujarat poll announcement, the CEC brushed aside claims of bias

details," Kumar said, in an apparent reference to the BJP's rivals winning state polls while questioning the integrity of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

There are over 4.9 crore eligible voters in total in Gujarat, including 4.6 lakh first time voters. The EC will set up 51,782 polling stations for voters of which 34,276 will be set up in rural areas, while 17,506 will be in urban areas.

A BJP bastion since mid-90s, the coastal state's profile has risen in national political sweepstakes since the advent of Narendra Modi, first as its chief minister between 2001-14 and since then as Prime Minister.

The saffron party has, though, only further tightened its hold in the state's electoral politics with him as its mascot, but had a close shave in the 2017 polls, the first after Modi quit as Chief Minister, when the Congress ran a spirited campaign on the back of Patidar agitation, but still fell short.

# Munugode records over 77% polling, low turnout in Maha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Byelections to seven assembly constituencies spread across six states were held Thursday with the voter turnout ranging from 31.74 per cent in Andheri (East) of Maharashtra to 77.55 per cent in Telangana's Munugode seat.

Till last reports came in, the polling percentages in the five other seats were Mokama (53.45) and Gopalganj (61.48) of Bihar; Adampur (75.25) of Haryana; Gola Gokarannath (55.68) of Uttar Pradesh, and Dhamnagar (66.63) of Odisha. These figures are likely to change.

Officials said the bypolls were by and large peaceful barring some minor incidents. Among the seven seats where by-polls are being held, the BJP held three seats and the Congress two, while the Shiv Sena and the RJD had one each. The contest is symbolic of the fierce turf war between the BJP and the regional parties. For the bypolls in Bihar, the main contest is be-



tween the BJP and the RJD, and the saffron party's main contenders in Haryana are the Congress, INLD and the AAP. In Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, the main contests are between the BJP and the TRS, SP and the BJD respectively. The counting of votes will take place November 6.

The BJP is seeking to retain the Gola Gokarannath seat in Uttar Pradesh and Dhamnagar in the BJD-ruled Odisha, banking on sympathy votes as it has fielded the sons of sitting MLAs whose

death necessitated the bypolls. The BJP and the ruling TRS had been campaigning aggressively in Munugode in Telangana, where the Congress MLA had resigned and is fighting on the saffron party's ticket.

The Election Commission made elaborate arrangements for polling, including the deployment of 3,366 state police and 15 companies of central security personnel in Munugode. Webcasting was done from all the polling stations, officials said.



MY VOTE IS MY FUTURE: Voters click a selfie showing their ink-marked fingers after casting their votes in Uttar Pradesh's Gola Gokarannath constituency byelections in Lakhimpur

# Army registers IPR of new combat uniform

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The process for registration of the new Camouflage Pattern and Design of Improved Combat Uniform for Indian Army has been completed by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademark.

The new Digital Pattern Combat Uniform for Indian Army soldiers was unveiled 15 January 2022 (Army Day). The improved uniform has a contemporary look and functional design. The fabric has been made lighter, stronger, breathable, quick drying and easier to maintain. The uniform's uniqueness is evident with the inclusion of gender specific modifications for women's combat uniform.

"The exclusive Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of the Design and Camouflage Pattern now rests



- The new Digital Pattern Combat Uniform for Indian Army soldiers was unveiled 15 January 2022 (Army Day)
- The improved uniform has a contemporary look and functional design
- The fabric has been made lighter, stronger, breathable, quick drying and easier to maintain
- The uniform's uniqueness is evident with the inclusion of gender specific modifications for women's combat uniform

solely with the Indian Army, and therefore manufacturing by any vendor who is not authorised and will be illegal and is liable to face legal repercussions," said the

Ministry of Defence Thursday. Indian Army can enforce exclusive rights to the design and can file infringement suits by way of a civil action before a competent

court of law. Remedies against infringements include interim and permanent injunctions as well as damages.

As part of the process of intro-

# Soren skips ED summons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Nov 3:** Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Thursday skipped summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate to face questioning in connection with a case of alleged illegal mining and went to Chhattisgarh to attend a "pre-scheduled" programme.

Addressing party supporters later near his residence, he said, "The ED has summoned me following a conspiracy. Come and arrest me if I have committed a crime instead of sending summonses for questioning."

"I am neither afraid nor worried. Rather I am emerging stronger. If people of Jharkhand wish, opponents will not find a place to hide," he said. Wondering why security at the offices of ED and BJP was increased, he asked if they were scared of Jharkhandis. He told the gathering that he



will fly to Raipur, the capital of neighbouring Chhattisgarh, to attend a 'Tribal Mahotsav' during the day, for which he had received an invitation earlier.

The Chief Minister reached the venue in the evening. During his address to party workers here, the CM alleged that the BJP is making attempts to destabilise his democratically elected government by misusing central agencies ever since it was voted to power.

# international



Arab countries must join hands together to save Lebanon which is going through an exceptionally difficult situation  
NAJIB MIKATI | LEBANESE PM

## HOTTEST OCTOBER SINCE 1945

October 2022 was the hottest October in France since 1945, with an average temperature of 17.2 degrees Celsius, the national meteorological service Meteo-France said



## of the day quote

High vaccination rates and the reopening of borders have helped revive the country's tourism industry



HUN SEN | CAMBODIAN PM

Ukraine will soon get new military and humanitarian assistance from Spain



DMYTRO KULEBA | UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

An Iranian delegation will travel to Vienna in the coming days for talks on enhancing cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency



HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Terrorist arrested

Karachi: Sindh police Thursday arrested a suspected terrorist who was plotting to kill a Chinese doctor in Pakistan's Hyderabad city. He was associated with the perpetrators of a similar attack on Chinese dentists in Karachi in September, media reports said. A statement issued by the Counter Terrorism Department of the Sindh police said that the department's personnel, along with a federal intelligence agency, acting on information received conducted an operation in Karachi and arrested a member of the banned Sindh Revolutionary Army.

### New controversy

Taipei: The timing of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's imminent trip to China and what signals he will give to Beijing have raised questions at home, a German member of the European Parliament said Thursday. Reinhard Butikofer of the Green Party, which is part of the governing coalition, said in Taiwan that Scholz's one-day trip is "probably the most controversially debated visit in the country for the last 50 years." Scholz, who will visit Beijing Friday, will be the first European leader to visit China since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Germany has strongly opposed.

### Fresh clashes

Dubai: Iranian protesters clashed with police in a town near the capital, reportedly killing or wounding a number of members of the security forces, who at one point dropped stun grenades on the demonstrators. It was the latest in a wave of demonstrations that have convulsed Iran for more than six weeks and mark one of the biggest challenges to the country's clerical rulers since they seized power in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

## PROVOCATIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

# N Korea keeps up missile barrage with ICBM launch

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Nov 3: North Korea fired at least six missiles into the sea Thursday, including an intercontinental ballistic missile that triggered evacuation warnings and halted trains in northern Japan, adding to a recent barrage of weapons tests that has escalated tensions in the region.

The ICBM test was followed by launches of two short-range ballistic missiles in the morning, drawing swift condemnation by North Korea's neighbours and the United States, which reacted by extending joint air force exercises with South Korea.

South Korea's military said North Korea later fired three more short-range missiles into waters off its eastern coast. Those launches came an hour after a senior North Korean military official issued a statement threatening retaliation over the extension of the US-South Korea drills. It wasn't immediately clear how far those missiles flew.

The launches are the latest in a series of North Korean weapons tests in recent months that have raised tensions. On Wednesday, North Korea fired more than 20 missiles, the most it has launched in a single day.

Experts say North Korea is escalating a brinkmanship aimed at forcing the United States to accept it as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength. The United States said in response to the launches that it's willing to take "all necessary measures" to ensure the safety of the American homeland and allies South Korea and Japan.



The ICBM test, which was followed by two short-range ballistic launches into the sea, was swiftly condemned by North Korea's neighbours and the US

The Biden administration also warned of unspecified "additional costs and consequences" if North Korea goes on to detonate a nuclear test device for the first time since September 2017

sure the safety of the American homeland and allies South Korea and Japan. The Biden administration also warned of unspecified "additional costs and consequences" if North Korea goes on to detonate a nuclear test device for the first time since September 2017.

Earlier on Thursday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected that North Korea had fired an ICBM from an area near its capital, Pyongyang, at about 7.40 am and then two short-range missiles an hour later from the nearby city of Kaechon that flew toward its eastern waters.

The longer-range missile appeared to be fired at a high angle, possibly to avoid entering the territory of neighbours, reaching a maximum altitude of 1,920 kilometres (1,193 miles) and travelling around 760 kilometres (472 miles), according to South Korea's mili-

tary. It wasn't immediately clear whether the launch was successful.

Japan's military announced similar flight details. It also said it lost track of one of the North Korean weapons, apparently the ICBM, after it "disappeared" in skies above waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

South Korea said the short-range missiles travelled about 330 kilometres (91 miles), falling closer to North Korea's eastern coast. Choi Yong Soo, a South Korean navy captain who handles public affairs for Seoul's Defense Ministry, didn't answer directly when asked about the possibility of the ICBM launch being a failure, saying that it is still being analysed.

Citing anonymous military sources, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that the missile possibly failed to maintain a normal flight following a stage separation.

## 21 bodies found in S Africa mine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johannesburg, Nov 3: South African police are investigating the discovery of at least 21 bodies suspected of being illegal miners and found near an active mine in the town of Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg.

According to police, 19 bodies were discovered on Wednesday afternoon and two more were discovered on Thursday morning. Police said they suspect that the bodies were moved to the location where they were found, which is a privately-owned mine.

"We can confirm that this morning our search and rescue team went back to the scene and, as they were searching, they discovered two more bodies. They retrieved them from an open (mine) shaft," police spokeswoman Brenda Muridili said on Thursday.

The grim discovery is the latest in a series of incidents related to illegal mining in the Krugersdorp area. In July, eight female members of a film crew were raped and robbed at an abandoned mine in the area, where they were working on a music video shoot.

The incident sparked violent protests against illegal miners in surrounding communities. Last week, rape and robbery charges against 14 men, who are also suspected of being illegal miners, were withdrawn after police couldn't link them to the rapes through DNA evidence.



## ISRAEL ELECTIONS

# PM Lapid concedes defeat to Netanyahu



With 99 per cent of the ballots counted, Netanyahu-led right-wing bloc has taken a comfortable lead with 64 seats in the 120-member Knesset, paving way for his triumphant return

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Nov 3: Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid Thursday conceded defeat in the general elections and congratulated opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu, whose coalition of right-wing parties secured a comfortable majority in parliament to form the next government and end the political impasse plaguing the country.

With 99 per cent of the ballots counted, Netanyahu-led right-wing bloc has taken a comfortable lead with 64 seats in the 120-member Knesset, paving way for his triumphant return.

Lapid, who has served as interim prime minister for the past four months, said that he called

Netanyahu and congratulated him on his victory.

He further added that he's instructed all departments of the Prime Minister's Office to prepare for an orderly transfer of power. "The State of Israel is above any political consideration," Lapid said in a tweet. "I wish Netanyahu luck for the sake of the people of Israel and the State of Israel."

Israelis voted Tuesday for an unprecedented fifth time in four years to break the political impasse that has paralysed the Jewish nation.

According to the latest updates from the Central Elections Committee, Netanyahu's Likud party will receive 31 seats, Prime Minister Lapid's Yesh Atid 24, Religious Zionism 14, National Unity 12, Shas 11 and United Torah Judaism will have eight seats.

Among the smaller parties to have crossed the 3.25 per cent threshold required to qualify for the Knesset or parliament representation, Yisrael Beytenu will have six lawmakers, Ra'am is likely to win five seats along with Hadash-Ta'al. The Labour Party will win just four seats, according to the update.

## AUSTRALIA MURDER CASE

# Cops offer reward to nab Indian suspect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Nov 3: Australian police Thursday announced a record one million dollar reward for any information to arrest an Indian nurse who fled to India after allegedly murdering a 24-year-old woman on a beach in Queensland in 2018.

Toyah Cordingley was walking her dog on Wangetti Beach, 40km north of Cairns in Queensland when she was killed on October 21, 2018, Queensland police said in a press release.

Rajwinder Singh, 38, who worked as a nurse in Innisfail, is the key person of interest in the case but fled the country two days after Cordingley was killed, leaving behind his job, wife and three children

in Australia, the statement added.

The police is now offering 1 million Australian dollar (USD 633,000), the largest ever offered by Queensland police, for information from the public in the ongoing search for Singh, with Detective Acting Superintendent Sonia Smith noting "the reward is unique".

"We know that Singh departed Cairns on October 22, the day after Toyah was murdered, and then flew from Sydney to India on the 23rd. His arrival in India has been confirmed," she said.

Singh is originally from Buttar Kalan, Punjab, police said. "We have confirmed today that the last known location for Singh was India." An investigation centre has also been established in Cairns.

Toyah Cordingley was walking her dog on Wangetti Beach, 40 km north of Cairns in Queensland when she was killed on October 21, 2018, Queensland police said in a press release



STAR PERFORMERS: A flock of starlings fill the sky in the village of Val-de-Vesle near Reims, France

REUTERS

## GRIM SITUATION

# 2mn children in flood-hit Pak missing school: UN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, Nov 3: The UN children's agency said on Thursday that some 2 million children in areas of Pakistan devastated by this summer's floods are still missing school.

The deluge, which began in mid-June, damaged or destroyed nearly 27,000 school buildings, UNICEF said, adding that it would likely be weeks, even months before flood waters completely subside.

In some places, only rooftops of the school buildings are starting to emerge now, it said. The record-breaking floods — which experts say were worsened by climate change — killed 1,735 people and displaced 33 million across Pakistan, mostly in the hardest-hit provinces of Sindh and Baluchistan.

According to Pakistani officials,



647 children were among those killed by the flooding. UNICEF's education chief, Robert Jenkins, visited some of the flood survivors Thursday, and later said it was unclear when the children who are still missing classes would be

able to return to school.

"Almost overnight, millions of Pakistan's children lost family members, homes, safety, and their education, under the most traumatic circumstances," Jenkins said following the visit. UNICEF has

established more than 500 temporary learning centres in flood-hit districts and provided support and school supplies for teachers and flood victims.

Pakistan has also asked the international community to scale up aid for the country's flood survivors, now threatened by the upcoming winter. On Wednesday, China announced an additional USD 68 million in aid to Pakistan, bringing China's flood assistance to Pakistan to USD 150 million.

The announcement came during Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing. China has so far been the largest contributor in response to Pakistan floods, followed by Washington, which has given USD 97 million in aid since June. The World Bank has estimated that the floods caused USD 40 billion in damages.

# Russian shelling damages nuclear plant power lines

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Nov 3: Ukraine's nuclear operator said on Thursday that Russian shelling damaged power lines connecting Europe's largest nuclear power plant to the Ukrainian grid, leaving the plant again relying on emergency diesel generators.

As fighting in Ukraine has damaged power lines and electrical substations, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has repeatedly operated on backup generators to cool the reactors and keep other safety systems running until regular power could be restored.

The generators have enough fuel to maintain the plant in southern Ukraine for just 15 days, state nuclear power company Energoatom said on its Telegram channel. "The countdown has begun," Energoatom said, noting it had limited possibilities to



"maintain the ZNPP in a safe mode," raising fears of a potential nuclear disaster.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said on Thursday that the plant's latest switch to backup power further underlines "the extremely precarious nuclear safety and security situation at the facility and the urgent need to establish a protection zone around it."

The development "again demonstrates the plant's fragile and vulnerable situation," Rafael Grossi, the director general of the UN nuclear watchdog, said.

UNICEF'S EDUCATION CHIEF ROBERT JENKINS VISITED SOME OF THE FLOOD SURVIVORS THURSDAY, AND LATER SAID IT WAS UNCLEAR WHEN THE CHILDREN WHO ARE STILL MISSING CLASSES WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL



**“We have identified three main risks to the region (Asia Pacific) -- global financial tightening, Ukraine-Russia war, which has raised commodity prices, but (has) also slowed external demand particularly from Europe and the slowdown in China**

**SHANAKHA JAYANATH PEIRIS | DIVISION CHIEF OF REGIONAL STUDIES, DIVISION (ASIA PACIFIC), IMF**

## PAK, CHINA TO TRADE IN YUAN

The central banks of Pakistan and China have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on setting up yuan clearing arrangements in the South Asian country to increase the Chinese currency's usage for cross-border transactions



## of the day quote

I have been also hearing both during the Washington visit when IMF and World Bank meeting happened that India seems to be an oasis of stability and calm



**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER**

Also, considering the growing consumer awareness of sustainability and the gaps in the global markets, it is a dire need for the Indian apparel industry to dig deeper into the subject



**NAREN GOENKA | CHAIRMAN, AEP**

Fund-2 will have 15-20 companies that we will invest in over the next 3 years. We will invest at seed, with a \$1.5-2 million cheque, going up to series B in the winners



**VIKRAM CHACHRA | FOUNDING PARTNER, 8i VENTURES**

# AGGRESSIVE MOVE BoE makes biggest rate hike in over 30 years

## THE RATE INCREASE IS THE BANK OF ENGLAND'S EIGHTH IN A ROW AND THE BIGGEST SINCE 1989

REUTERS

London, Nov 3: The Bank of England Thursday raised the base rate of interest by 0.75 percentage points to 3 per cent, the single biggest increase in more than three decades, as it said the UK was already in recession which is likely to be the most prolonged since records began.

The central bank forecasts inflation will hit a 40-year high of around 11% during the current quarter, but that Britain has already entered a recession that could potentially last two years - longer than during the 2008-09 financial crisis. Thursday's decision - the biggest in 33 years apart from a failed attempt to support



The pound on Black Wednesday in 1992 - was in line with economists' expectations in a Reuters poll, but was not unanimous.

The US Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate by 0.75 percentage points Wednesday to a range of 3.75-4.0%

return of inflation to target, albeit to a peak lower than priced in financial markets," the BoE said in unusually specific guidance to investors.

“Further increases in Bank Rate may be required for a sustainable

Just before Thursday's policy decision, markets expected rates to peak at around 4.75%.

Central banks across the Western world are responding to similar challenges. Inflation has rocketed over the past year due to residual labour shortages and supply-chain bottlenecks since the Covid pandemic and - in Europe's case - a big increase in energy bills since Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

The BoE has faced weeks of political and financial market turmoil since its last rate rise Sept. 22, as

just a day later former Prime Minister Liz Truss's government launched an unfunded 45 billion pound (\$52 billion) package of tax cuts that received a damning response from investors.

The BoE estimates that Britain's economy entered recession in the third quarter of 2022 and that the recession will last until the middle of 2024, causing the economy to shrink by 2.9%. Unemployment would rise steadily to 6.4% by late 2025, up from 3.5% now, its lowest since the mid-1970s.

## BIZ OPTIMISM IMPROVES

# Services sector sees upturn

The headline figure was above the neutral 50 threshold for the fifteenth straight month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

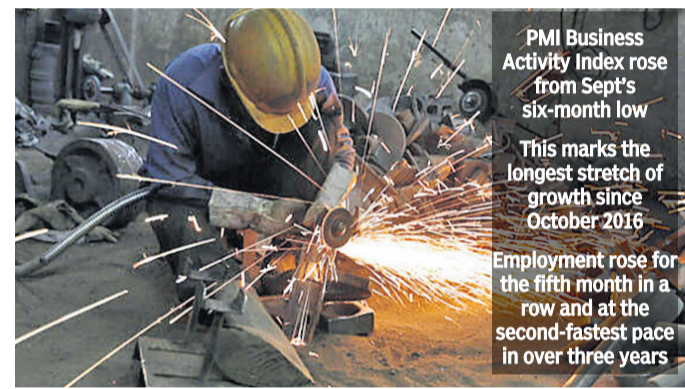
New Delhi, Nov 3: India's services sector activities witnessed an upturn in October on the back of stronger gains in new business and increased hiring amid strengthening demand, a monthly survey said Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from September's six-month low of 54.3 to 55.1 in October, pointing to a quicker and marked rate of growth.

The headline figure was above the neutral 50 threshold for the fifteenth straight month. In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 denotes expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The October results show us that service providers had no trouble securing new work in October, despite lifting their charges again. Hence, the sector remained firmly inside expansion territory as business activity and payroll numbers were raised to support strengthening demand," Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said.

According to the survey, the domestic market was the main source of new business gains, as foreign sales decreased further at the start of the third fiscal quarter. "Monthly deteriorations in international demand have been registered since the onset of COVID-19 in March



PMI Business Activity Index rose from Sept's six-month low

This marks the longest stretch of growth since October 2016

Employment rose for the fifth month in a row and at the second-fastest pace in over three years

2020," it noted. Ongoing increases in new business and output requirements continued to support job creation in the service economy.

Employment rose for the fifth month in a row and at the second-fastest pace in more than three years. Optimistic growth projections also boosted job creation in October, with 30 per cent of survey members forecasting higher volumes of business activity by October 2023.

Overall, confidence was at its highest level in just under eight years. "Buoyed by the ongoing recovery in new work, service providers again took on extra staff, with an improvement in business confidence also supporting hiring activity," the survey said.

On the inflation front, the survey said there were mild accelerations in inflation rates for input costs and output charges, which was despite high operating costs recorded last month. The rate of inflation out-

paced its long-run average, suggesting no respite from higher cost pressures in Asia's third-largest economy. At the sub-sector level, consumer services led growth of business activity, new orders and employment. Finance & insurance came in second place in the rankings for these three measures while transport, information & communication was at the bottom.

Meanwhile, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index -- which measures combined services and manufacturing output -- rose to 55.5 in October from 55.1 in September, pointing to a marked rate of expansion that outpaced its long-run average.

"There was a mild acceleration in growth of private sector activity in India, as a stronger increase in the service economy more than offset a slowdown among goods producers," it added.

The S&P Global India Services PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies. The panel is stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. Data collection began in December 2005.

## SHORT TAKES

### Musk to cut half of Twitter jobs

Washington: Elon Musk plans to cut about 3,700 jobs at Twitter Inc or half of the company's workforce in a bid to cut costs, Bloomberg News reported Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter. Twitter's new owner will inform the staff affected Friday, according to the report. Bloomberg also reported that Musk intends to reverse the social media company's existing work from anywhere policy and will require employees to work from office though some exceptions could be made.

### HPCL logs quarterly losses in a row

New Delhi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) Thursday reported ₹2,172.14 net loss in July-September after losses arising from freezing petrol and diesel prices couldn't be made up by accounting for a one-time government grant that came after the quarter had ended. Standalone net loss of ₹2,172.14 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal year compares to ₹1,923.51 crore profit in the same period last year. This is the first time that the company posted a back-to-back quarterly loss. HPCL posted a record of ₹10,196.94 crore in the April-June quarter.

### HDFC net profit rises 24% in Q2

New Delhi: Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd Thursday said its consolidated net profit increased by 24 per cent to ₹7,043 crore in the September 2022 quarter. It had reported a ₹5,670 crore net profit in the year-ago period, HDFC said in a regulatory filing. Its total income on a consolidated basis rose to ₹43,927 crore in the said quarter from ₹38,603 crore a year ago.

## BIZ BUZZ



### UCO Bank Q2 profit surges 145%

Kolkata: State-owned UCO Bank Thursday reported a more than two-fold jump of 145% in its net profit at ₹504.52 crore for the quarter ended September 2022 as fall in bad loans resulted in lesser provisioning requirement. The bank had reported a net profit of ₹205.39 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. The Kolkata-based lender said that the operating profit of the bank during the quarter decreased to ₹1,190 crore as compared to ₹1,334.2 crore in the previous similar period. MD & CEO of UCO Bank SS Prasad said, "This is one of the best quarters of the bank in recent times. The bank came out of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) of the Reserve Bank of India four years after it was initiated due to high NPAs and negative returns on assets." Prasad told reporters that the total business at the end of the second quarter stood at ₹3,77,304 crore, with total advances at ₹1,42,156 crore. Domestic revenues of the bank during the second quarter stood at ₹4,794.76 crore while international revenues stood at ₹170.08 crore. The capital adequacy ratio of the bank at the end of the second quarter stood at 14.02 per cent, registering a marginal decline from 14.31 per cent in the corresponding previous period. The Gross NPA of the lender declined to 6.58 per cent at the end of the second quarter from 8.98 per cent, while the net NPA stood at 1.99 per cent from 3.37 per cent in the previous similar period.

### Maruti Suzuki brings new Grand Vitara in City

Bhubaneswar: Maruti Suzuki India Limited has introduced the new Grand Vitara in the market. Bollywood Actress Neelam Kothari was present at Tushi Motors Nexa Gajapati Nagar, Bhubaneswar and introduced the vehicle to the market. On this occasion, she handed over the keys of the vehicles to the first 15 customers. Similarly, 15 booking dockets were given to the customers. Tushi Motors Pvt Ltd has also launched Loyalty Customer Card facility (Privilege Card) for purchase of new cars, service and spares. The company has started retail sales of this model. Customers can get Nexa's signature design in the vehicle. This premium SUV comes with interesting powertrain options, dynamic and aggressive exterior design, rich front and rear, and latest technology. The vehicle has been developed keeping in view the demand of the youth. The company has informed that this is a revolution in the SUV sector. The market price of the vehicle starts from ₹10.45 lakh to ₹17.5 lakh. Tushi Motors Director Anshuman Patnaik and Managing Director Preeti Pallavi Patnaik were present in the event.



# Oct iron ore exports nearly zero: Mining body official

Global iron ore prices have rebounded after a rout in October, with gains largely driven by rumours that China would pivot away from its zero-Covid policy by next year

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 3: India's iron ore exports dropped to "nearly zero" in October, and overseas shipments of the steelmaking raw material are expected to continue to languish due to higher export taxes and lower demand from China, a senior industry official said Thursday.

India in May raised the export tax on low-grade iron ore lumps and fines - with iron content below 58% - to 50% from zero, and hiked the duties on pellets to 45% from zero, as part of efforts to meet rising local demand.

"In October, exports were nearly zero, and it will be so while the duty remains," RK Sharma, secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI), told Reuters in an interview.

Other than New Delhi's higher export taxes, an economic slowdown in China, India's top buyer of iron ore, would hit overseas shipments of the steelmaking ingredient, Sharma said.

Beijing's strict Covid-19 curbs would also impact India's iron ore shipments. China's steel production could fall in winter, dampening

the demand for iron ore, Sharma added. But global iron ore prices have rebounded after a rout in October, with gains largely driven by rumours that China would pivot away from its zero-Covid policy by next year. Officials have denied knowledge of such a plan.

In the fiscal year to March 2022, China bought 21 million tonne of iron ore and concentrates from India, effectively buying 80% of New Delhi's total exports of 26.32 million tonne. Low-grade ores comprised 92% of India's total iron ore exports.

India's iron ore exports during the first five months of the current fiscal year that began in April totalled 6.97 million tonne, a three-year low, data compiled by FIMI showed.

Local iron ore prices in India have dropped, partly due to lower demand, said a spokesperson for state-run miner NMDC Ltd. Domestic prices of high-grade lump ore at NMDC - the largest producer of iron ore in the country - fell 33% to ₹4,100 (\$49.45) per tonne in October from ₹6,100 in April.



# WhatsApp update adds new features for group calls

The Meta-owned platform is rolling out in-chat polls and will allow file transfer of up to 2GB files, which was limited to up to 16 MB earlier

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Instant messaging platform WhatsApp's users will be able to connect with up to 32 people simultaneously on voice and video calls, transfer up to 2 GB files and add as many as 5,000 members in a Community, the company said Thursday.

The messaging platform will also be gradually enhancing group size to 1,024 users, from the limit of 512 currently. Under the community feature, messages that have

already been forwarded can be forwarded only to one group at a time, rather than five, which is the forward limit at present. The phone number of users who are part of a Community will be visible only to Community administrators and others in the same group.

"This will help prevent unwanted contact and will also reduce the risk of scraping people's phone numbers," WhatsApp said. The group administrators will be able to delete inappropriate or abusive chats or media for all members of a group. The com-



pany had announced the feature in April and has started rolling them now, which will be gradually available to all users in the next few weeks.

The Meta-owned platform is also rolling out in-chat polls and will

allow file transfers of up to 2 GB, which was limited to 16 MB earlier.

"WhatsApp is also releasing three more features: the ability to create in-chat polls, 32-person video calling, and groups with up to 1,024 users.

Today, we're launching Communities on WhatsApp. It makes groups better by enabling sub-groups, multiple threads, announcement channels, and more. We're also rolling out polls and 32-person video calling too. All secured by end-to-end encryption so your messages stay private

MARK ZUCKERBERG | FOUNDER AND CEO, META

Just like emoji reactions, larger file sharing, and admin delete, these features can be used in any group but will be particularly helpful for Communities," the company said.

# MILAN BACK IN CL LAST 16

# Jabeur rallies past Pegula



**SPLENDID OUTING:** Olivier Giroud (C) celebrates one of his goals against, Salzburg in their Champions League game

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Milan, Nov 3:** It took nine years for seven-time European champion AC Milan to finally win their way back into the Champions League knockout rounds with a 4-0 victory over Salzburg.

Paris Saint-Germain's quest for a first European title got potentially tougher because they are now unseeded in the round of 16 draw Monday despite winning 2-1 at Juventus.

A stoppage-time goal for Benfica in a 6-1 win at Maccabi Haifa knocked the French champions off the top spot in Group H on an obscure seventh-tier tie-breaker rule — overall goals scored away from home.

PSG and its superstar strike force of Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Neymar can now land in a blockbuster pairing with a group winner like defending champion Real Madrid, Bayern Munich or Manchester City.

Milan will likely care less about

being unseeded as a group runner-up. A smooth win over Salzburg ensured finishing above the Austrians and advancing from Group E with Chelsea, which beat Dinamo Zagreb 2-1.

Veteran forward Olivier Giroud scored a goal in each half to lift Milan into the round of 16 for the first time since the 2013-14 season. The nine-year gap included some Europa League campaigns, failures to qualify at all, and a one-season ban for breaking UEFA financial rules.

Leipzig also advanced to the knockout stage by beating Shakhtar Donetsk 4-0 and ending the Ukrainian club's improbable run in its adopted home stadium in Poland during the Russian invasion.

Leipzig finished second in Group F behind Real Madrid — which routed last-place Celtic 5-1 — despite starting in September with two losses against Shakhtar and the Spanish defending champion.

Shakhtar's European campaign will continue in February with a

place in the Europa League play-off given to third-place teams in Champions League groups. Juventus also goes to the Europa League despite earning just three points in total, the same as Maccabi Haifa, because it held the tie-breaker over the Israeli club.

Manchester City trailed at half-time before rallying to beat Sevilla 3-1 and Borussia Dortmund drew 1-1 at Copenhagen in Group G where all the final standings were resolved last week.

**TIGHT TIE-BREAKER**

PSG went unbeaten with a 14-point tally that was more than four other group winners but not enough to top historically tight Group H. Benfica and PSG each won four games, each drew 1-1 hosting the other, each scored 16 goals, and each had a goal difference of plus-9.

The top spot was decided on the seventh level of tiebreaker — who scored the most goals in three games away from home. PSG had

six, Benfica got nine including Joao Mario's Wednesday in the second minute of stoppage time.

**MBAPPE'S RECORD**

When Mbappe opened the scoring for PSG at Juventus it was his 40th career goal in record speed in the Champions League — six for Monaco as an 18-year-old in 2017, and 34 for PSG.

At 23 years, 317 days Mbappe is the youngest player to reach the 40-goal mark, almost six months younger than Lionel Messi and nearly four years ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo's pace. Still, Ronaldo's sustained brilliance in his 30s has taken him to a Champions League record 140 career goals.

**ROUND OF 16 DRAW**

The pairings will be drawn Monday at UEFA headquarters in Switzerland more than three months before the first-leg games start February 14.

Group winners are seeded and will host the second legs played from March 7-15. No one can be drawn against another team from their home country or a team they already played in their group.

Seeded teams: Napoli, Porto, Bayern Munich, Tottenham, Chelsea, Real Madrid, Manchester City, Benfica; Unseeded teams: Liverpool, Club Brugge, Inter Milan, Eintracht Frankfurt, AC Milan, Leipzig, Borussia Dortmund, PSG.

**EUROPA LEAGUE PLAYOFFS**

The eight third-place teams in Champions League groups go into a separate draw Monday for the Europa League knockout playoffs.

They are Ajax, Bayer Leverkusen, Barcelona, Sporting Lisbon, Salzburg, Shakhtar Donetsk, Sevilla, Juventus. Those teams will be unseeded and playing the first leg at home February 16 against runners-up in Europa League groups that finish Thursday Return games are February 23.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Fort Worth, Nov 3:** Ons Jabeur wasn't used to the idea of playing so soon after a loss in her WTA Finals debut. Took her a bit to adjust as well.

The Tunisian rallied for a three-set victory over Jessica Pegula on Wednesday night, keeping alive the US Open finalist's hopes of advancing out of group play in the season-ending event.

Jabeur won the last three games in each of the second and third sets in her 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory after dropping seven consecutive games early in the match.

A loss would have eliminated the 28-year-old Jabeur from the semifinals because Maria Sakkari beat Aryna Sabalenka 6-2, 6-4 in the late match in a meeting of a players who won their openers in the round-robin format. Sakkari clinched one of the two spots in the semifinals from her group.

Jabeur won the first set two nights earlier against Sabalenka and got within two points of winning

before the No.2-ranked player faltered on the indoor hard court at Dickies Arena.

It was just the second win in the past nine matches against a top-10 opponent for Jabeur, who also beat Pegula in the Madrid final on clay in May.

No.3 Pegula, another first-time WTA Finals participant who was set to play doubles with fellow American Coco Gauff in the final match of the day, has lost nine in a row against top five foes.

Pegula temporarily kept alive her hopes for the semifinals by winning a set, but is a long shot after falling to 0-2 in the tournament.

The event was moved to Texas from China because of concerns about the safety of Peng Shuai, a Grand Slam doubles champion who accused a former government official there of sexual assault.

Jabeur, the first African woman to reach the WTA Finals since Amanda Coetzer in 2001, rallied from love-40 to hold in a five-deuce first game of third set, then Pegula saved two break points to get even

at 3-3.

Pegula couldn't do it again, losing at love on her serve to give Jabeur the chance to close out the match. After dropping the first game of the match, Pegula won seven in a row for a 1-0 lead in the second set before Jabeur, who had 11 unforced errors in the first set, held serve.

Down a set and two breaks, the seventh-ranked Sabalenka won four consecutive games before Sakkari recovered and won the final three.

No.5 Sakkari beat Sabalenka in the WTA Finals for the second consecutive year, needing an hour and 37 minutes after a nearly three-hour match that included two tiebreakers a year ago. Two of Sakkari's three victories against top 10 players have come this week after she won tiebreakers in both sets to beat Pegula.

Defending doubles champions Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova beat China's Yifan Xu and Xiaoxuan Yang 6-3, 6-3, putting the Czech duo in the semifinals.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Pak beat Proteas**

**SYDNEY:** Pakistan beat South Africa by 33 runs via DLS method in a rain-interrupted match to keep their semifinal hopes alive in the T20 World Cup here Thursday. Chasing a revised target of 142 from 14 overs, South Africa could only score 108/9. Captain and opener Temba Bavuma top-scored for South Africa with a 19-ball 36 while Aiden Markram made 20. Shaheen Shah Afridi was the most successful Pakistan bowler with figures of 3/14 while Shadab Khan took two wickets. Earlier, Pakistan recovered from 43/4 to post 185/9. Shadab Khan (52 off 22) and Iftikhar Ahmed (51 off 35) smashed entertaining half centuries.

**Son doubtful for WC**

**LONDON:** South Korea captain Son Heung-min will undergo surgery on a facial injury, jeopardizing his availability for the World Cup. Son was helped off the field during the first half of Tottenham's Champions League match at Marseille Tuesday after taking a shoulder to the face. Tottenham said Wednesday that Son will undergo surgery "to stabilize a fracture around his left eye." The Premier League club didn't say how long it expects Son to be sidelined. "Following surgery," the team said, "Son will commence rehabilitation with our medical staff and we shall update supporters further in due course."

**Auger-Aliassime, Rublev in ATP Finals**

**PARIS:** Felix Auger-Aliassime and Andrey Rublev qualified for the ATP Finals after Taylor Fritz and Hubert Hurkacz, the other contenders for the two remaining spots, lost in the second round of the Paris Masters. Auger-Aliassime outlasted qualifier Mikael Ymer 6-7(6-8), 6-4, 7-6(8-6) to next play wild-card entry Gilles Simon, who overcame Fritz 7-5, 5-7, 6-4. Teenager Holger Rune stunned 10th-seeded Hurkacz 7-5, 6-1 to meet Rublev. Before the Paris Masters, Carlos Alcaraz, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Casper Ruud, Daniil Medvedev, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic had already qualified for the eight-man tournament in Turin from Nov 13-20. Alcaraz, Tsitsipas, Alex de Minaur and Lorenzo Musetti also advanced to the third round in Paris, while Nadal's 3-6, 7-6(7-4), 6-1 loss to Tommy Paul raised questions about his fitness.

# Nurul Hasan accuses Virat of 'fake fielding'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Watson terms Kohli WT20 stats 'freakish'**

**NEW DELHI:** In awe of Virat Kohli's batting, former Australian all-rounder Shane Watson has termed his statistics in the T20 World Cup "super freakish". Kohli has so far scored three fifties, including the one against Bangladesh on Wednesday, in the ongoing showpiece to become the highest run-scorer in T20 World Cup history, surpassing former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene's total of 1,016 runs. "Over 1000 runs in T20 World Cups at an average of over 80, I am not able to get my head around this," Watson said on Star Sports. "T20 cricket is a high-risk game, high-risk batting and to think that he can do it at the biggest tournament, averaging so much and winning so many games for his country. He is a freak and those statistics are super freakish. It's incredible that you can bat in such a high-risk format and score consistently. It's ridiculous."

prohibits fielding team from "deliberate, distraction, deception or obstruction of the batter". If the umpire finds any one has breached the rule, he can call it a dead ball and award five penalty runs.

While Nurul accused Kohli of fake fielding, he didn't factor in the terms "distraction and deception" part in the rule. Neither Shanto nor Litton was looking at Kohli, and hence, they were not distracted or deceived. On the contrary, there is a possibility that Nurul might be sanctioned for criticising the match officials.

# Praggnanandhaa, Nandhidhaa claim Asian Chess C'ship titles

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Top-seeded Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa and compatriot PV Nandhidhaa won the titles in the Open and women's sections respectively in the Asian Continental Chess championship here Thursday. Praggnanandhaa drew with compatriot B Adhiban in a 63-move game in the ninth and final round to emerge clear winner with seven points.

The 17-year-old Chennai player had gone into the final round with half a point lead over the rest of the field. He held off the challenge from the experienced Adhiban and shared honours to win the top prize. The triumph also earned Praggnanandhaa a ticket to the next FIDE World Cup.

SL Narayanan, Harsha Bharathakoti, Karthik Venkataraman and Shamsiddin Vokhidov, the other players who had



PV NANDHIDHAA



R PRAGGNANANDHAA

an outside chance of a shot at the title, missed out after drawn games.

While Narayanan and Vokhidov settled for a draw, Bharathakoti and Venkataraman had to be content with a half a point each after their game ended in stalemate. GM SP Sethuraman defeated IM Koustav Chatterjee in 41 moves to join five others on 6.5 points.

Bharathakoti took the second spot on the basis of a better tie-

break score while Adhiban was third. Narayanan, Vokhidov, Sethuraman and Venkataraman finished fourth to seventh respectively.

In the women's event, WGM Nandhidhaa drew her ninth round match against Divya Deshmukh to finish with 7.5 points. The 26-year-old Tamil Nadu player remained unbeaten through the nine rounds and won six games.

# Toast of nation then, now struggling for recognition



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Toast of the nation three months ago, India's first ever lawn bowls medallists at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games are fast fading into oblivion, searching for sponsors for their next assignment.

The women's team comprising a school teacher from Delhi and police constables had won the historic gold at the picturesque greens of Victoria Park near Birmingham.

The men's team consisting of an aspiring pilot and a couple of Jharkhand police officials followed up with an unprecedented silver to cap off a dream run at the Games. It was the first time that India managed to win a medal since the sport's

inception way back in 1930.

Navneet Singh, the youngest member of the men's fours team, had hoped his life would change while standing at the podium on a glorious August 6 afternoon. But much to his disappointment, "all of them" are back to where they were three months ago.

The Bowling Federation of India was supposed to send a two member team to New Zealand later this month for Champions of Champions tournament but backed due to financial constraints.

"The cost was coming down to Rs 7 lakh person and athletes generally arrange the money on their own. We are hoping that we will get the central government recognition soon so that we don't have to



worry about funds for training and competition." Bowling Federation of India treasurer Krishan Bir Singh Rath told this agency.

The 27-year-old Navneet, who picked up the sport during the Commonwealth Games in Delhi 12 years ago, also expressed his disappointment.

"We thought things would change but they have not yet. We are hoping the government recognition comes through soon so that we are able to plan our competition calendar much in advance," said the Delhi based athlete, who had missed his flying exam to represent India at the CWG.

His other team members included 37-year-old sports teach Chandan Kumar Singh, Jharkhand police officials Sunil Bahadur and Dinesh Kumar. The gold winning women's team comprised Pinki,



Lovely Choubey, Rupa Rani Tirkey and Nayanmoni Saikia.

The funding for CWG was not an issue as all participating athletes were funded by the government but for the stand-alone events the athletes have to make their own arrangement.

Narrating a sorry state of affairs, Rath informed that the federation has not been able to pay for the catering and accommodation used during the training camp ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

The four month camp was held in Delhi before the team flew to London for a 10-day camp right before the Games in Birmingham. The total dues are Rs 1.32 crore.

"We have requested the government to clear that also, we have

been waiting. We applied for the recognition last year and the file is still with the sports ministry. Our sport will get a much needed boost with government recognition," said Rath.

With government recognition, the federation will be able to request for funds under the Annual Training and Competition Calendar (ACTO). The athletes have already missed one important in New Zealand but they are hopeful of getting funding for the Asian Championship in February.

Delhi-based athletes Navneet and Pinki are also waiting for their cash reward from the Delhi government. All members of the CWG have got their cash rewards from the central government as per policy.