



DEFINITION OF BEAUTY

Sobhita Dhulipala says people should overcome 'colonial hangover' when it comes to beauty standards in Hindi films

LEISURE P2



US HOUSE IN CRISIS

US House of Representatives goes leaderless after Republicans narrowly win a vote to oust Speaker Kevin McCarthy

INTERNATIONAL P10



DEOTALE-JYOTHI SHINES

Ojas Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam bag gold in the compound mixed team archery event at Asian Games

SPORTS P12

Chemistry Nobel for 3 US scientists

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stockholm, Oct 4: Three scientists in the United States won the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday for their work on quantum dots - particles just a few atoms in diameter that can release very bright coloured light and whose applications in everyday life include electronics and medical imaging.

Moungi Bawendi of MIT, Louis Brus of Columbia University and Alexei Ekimov of Nanocrystals Technology were honoured for their work with the tiny particles that 'have unique properties and now spread their light from television screens and LED lamps', according to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which announced the award here.

Ekimov, 78, and Brus, 80, were early pioneers of the technology, while Bawendi, 62, is credited with revolutionising the production of quantum dots 'resulting in almost perfect particles. This high quality was necessary for them to be utilised in applications,' the Academy said. "Their findings will help people and the planet," it added.



GUNNING FOR GLORY: Captains of all the participating teams in the ODI World Cup beginning Thursday including India's Rohit Sharma, pose with the trophy at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Wednesday (MORE P12)

10 dead, 80 missing in Sikkim flash floods

AGENCIES

Gangtok, Oct 4: At least 10 people have died and 80 others, including 22 Army personnel, are missing after a cloudburst over Lhonak Lake in north Sikkim triggered a flash flood Wednesday in the Teesta River basin, officials said. All the 10 dead are civilians, the officials informed and added that among the 23 Army men who had gone missing, one has been rescued.

The flood in Sikkim that started around 1.30 am turned worse by the release of water from Chungthang dam, the officials stated. Over 3,000 tourists from various parts of India, are stranded in different parts of Sikkim, Chief Secretary VB Pathak informed. He also informed that the road infrastructure has suffered extensive damages with 14 bridges washed away.

Meanwhile Defence spokesperson Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said that the condition of the rescued soldier is stable. "Efforts are on to locate the 22 other missing soldiers. Forty one vehicles have been submerged in the slush," said Rawat.

MORE P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



How I know you are working for China? Because I always take care of the interests of the person who pays me

Jena's silver lining show

EVEN AS NEERAJ CHOPRA DEFENDS HIS GOLD, ODISHA'S KISHORE COMES UP WITH A CAREER-BEST THROW TO BAG SILVER

AGENCIES

Hangzhou, Oct 4: Indian javelin throwers - Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Jena produced a superlative performance to walk away with a gold and silver medal as Indian athletes con-

star javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena on winning silver in the Asian Games with a personal best throw. It is a proud moment for the state. Wish him the best for future championships." Patnaik also announced a cash award of ₹1.5 crore for the javelin thrower.



tinued their sensational run, claiming seven medals in the athletics competition at the Asian Games here Wednesday. By winning the silver medal, Jena became the seventh athlete from Odisha to win an Asian Games medal. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was one of the first to laud Kishore's achievement. "Congratulate Odisha's

On a dramatic day, Olympic gold medalist Chopra, whose first effort was not recorded due

to a malfunction in electronic distance measurement, defended his title with a season's best throw of 88.88m in his fourth attempt, while Odisha's Kishore came up with his personal best of 87.54m - also his fourth attempt - to finish 1-2.

In the process Kishore sealed his berth for the Paris Olympics. The qualification mark was 85.50m. Neeraj had already qualified for the 2024 Games with a throw of 88.77m at the World Championships in Budapest in August this year.

It was expected that Neeraj will defend his Asian Games title which he won in 2018 at Jakarta in 2018. However, despite finishing second-best to Neeraj, it was Kishore who stole the show as he bettered his own personal best. In fact at one point of time, he was in the first place before Neeraj came up with the 88m-plus throw. Despite his best efforts, Kishore failed to beat Neeraj's mark in his fifth and sixth attempts.

ROLL OF HONOUR			
YEAR	NAME	EVENT	MEDAL
1986	Sanat Mishra	Badminton	Bronze
1990	Pranati Mishra	4x400m	Silver
1998	Rachika Panda Mistry	100m	Bronze
2010	Pratima/Pramila	Rowing	Bronze
2018	Dutee Chand	100m, 200m	Silver

Class 1 student dies in freak accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Oct 4: In a freak mishap, a six-year-old boy died after an information plaque lying close to the school compound wall collapsed on him Wednesday. The tragic incident took place at Uchapada Government Primary School in Gadhiali panchayat under Dhamnagar block in Bhadrak district.

The deceased was identified as Asit Nayak, 6, son of Soubhagya Nayak of Uchapada village and a student of Class 1. He was rescued from the rubble and rushed to the Asurali primary health

centre first and later, to the Bhadrak district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

The incident sparked tension in the area as irate villagers blocked the Bhadrak-Akhandalamani state highway at Uchapada Square blaming the school authorities for the minor's demise. They demanded compensation and blamed the callous attitude of the teachers of the school. They gearaoed headmistress Urmila Nayak and assistant teacher Debendra Panda and held them responsible for the boy's death.

SHORT TAKES

Top AAP leader Sanjay Singh held

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate arrested Wednesday Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh in connection with the Delhi excise policy case, officials said. Singh was arrested after the agency conducted searches at his residence earlier in the day, they added. It is alleged that the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 to grant licences to liquor traders allowed cartelisation and favoured certain dealers who had allegedly paid bribes for it, a charge strongly refuted by the AAP.

Manas Mangaraj named RS chief whip

Bhubaneswar: The BJD appointed Wednesday MP Manas Ranjan Mangaraj as party chief whip in Rajya Sabha. "Manas Ranjan Mangaraj, MP, Rajya Sabha is hereby appointed as chief whip of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Rajya Sabha with immediate effect," the party said in a release. Mangaraj was sworn in as a Rajya Sabha member in July 2022 along with Sulata Deo and Sasmit Patra. He is also the media and public relations advisor to the Odisha government and a party leader from the Chilika constituency.



Naveen sanctions ₹32cr for 429 new roads in Khurda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved Wednesday 429 road projects worth ₹32.25 crore for residential colonies in the Odisha capital, Bhubaneswar, Baliana, and Jatni blocks, officials said here Wednesday.

This development was on the cards for some time now as residents of these localities met 5T secretary VK Pandian August 23 during his visit to Khurda district. They voiced their grievances regarding the condition of the roads and the frequent power cuts. The 5T secretary had then assured the residents that their grievances would be looked into. The 5T Secretary brought the grievances to the notice of the CM. As per Patnaik's instruc-

tions, a team was formed and sent to all those areas for investigation. The technical team identified 429 roads covering an area of more than 82km and submitted a report for improvement and electrification. After receiving the report, Pandian held discussions with Patnaik after which the above mentioned amount was approved for construction and repair of 429 road projects.

Smart City Bhubaneswar has been developing rapidly in recent years and has spread to Jatni and Baliana areas. Many residential colonies have come up in those localities. The problem of internal roads and electrification in residential colonies was a long-standing demand. Out of the 429 road projects, 140 are in Bhubaneswar block and 246 in Jatni block

Battle lines drawn at Vatican meet

CONSERVATIVES OPPOSE POPE FRANCIS' MOVE FOR MORE WOMAN POWER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican City, Oct 4: Pope Francis opened Wednesday a big meeting on the future of the Catholic Church by saying it was in need of repair to make it a place of welcome for 'everyone, everyone, everyone', not a rigid barricade driven by fears and ideology. Francis presided over a solemn mass at St Peter's Square here to formally open the meeting, which progressives are hoping will lead to more women in leadership roles and conservatives are warning could split the church.

Rarely in recent times has a Vatican gathering generated as much hope, hype and fear as this three-week, closed-door meeting, known as a 'Synod'. It

won't make any binding decisions and is only the first session of a two-year process. But it nevertheless has drawn an acute battle line in the church's perennial left-right divide and marks a defining moment for Francis and his reform agenda.

In his homily, Francis acknowledged the ideological divisions at play but urged the faithful to put them aside and instead listen to the Holy Spirit. He recalled that his namesake St Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is celebrated Wednesday, also faced divisions and tensions in his lifetime and responded with prayer, charity, humility and unity when he was told: 'Go and rebuild my church'.

Even before it started, the gath-



ering turned historic because Francis decided to let women and laypeople vote alongside bishops in any final document produced. While fewer than a quarter of the 365 voting members are non-bishops, the reform is a radical shift away from a hierarchy-focused 'Synod' of Bishops and evidence of Francis' belief that the church is more about

its flock than its shepherds. "It's a watershed moment in the history of the Vatican," said JoAnn Lopez, an Indian-born lay minister. "This is the first time that women have a very qualitatively different voice at the table, and the opportunity to vote in decision-making is huge," she added.

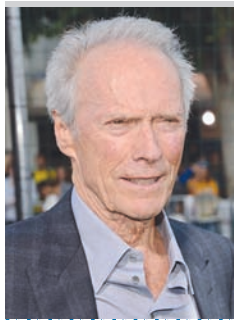
Women have long complained

LET US HAVE A CHURCH THAT IS UNITED AND FRATERNAL, A CHURCH THAT LISTENS, BLESSES AND ENCOURAGES POPE FRANCIS

they are treated as second-class citizens in the church, barred from the priesthood and highest ranks of power. They have long demanded a greater say in church governance. Hence before the mass began, advocates for women priests unfurled a giant purple banner at a piazza nearby reading 'Ordain Women'.

The potential that this 'Synod' process could lead to real change on previously taboo topics has given hope to many women and progressive Catholics and sparked alarm from conservatives who have warned its call for radical inclusion of LGBTQ+ people could lead to schism.

leisure



EASTWOOD REVEALS WHY HE REJECTED PLAYING SUPERMAN

Hollywood star Clint Eastwood was approached for the role of Superman for the eponymous 1978 film but rejected. "Not that there's anything wrong with it. But I always wanted to play Marvel hero Namor, the Sub-Mariner," the *Dirty Harry* actor recalled.

SELENA GOMEZ: I'LL ALWAYS BE HONEST WITH MY FANS

Pop star Selena Gomez has spoken openly about her mental health struggles over recent years, and insists she'll never hide from the reality. The brunette beauty told *FastCompany.com*: "I'll always be honest with my fans. Even when I take breaks from social media, I'll say I'm taking a break."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesh predicts that today you will look up to your family for happiness. Towards the later part of the day, however, there are possibilities of a platonic affair blossoming. Those who are already caught up in a romantic affair, says Ganesh, will experience some thrilling times.

TAURUS
Never dig a well when your house is on fire, says Ganesh. You will realise the importance of saving money for future needs today. You will feel uneasy in your routine and may feel the urge to get away from the chaos of things. Evening might see you spend a small fortune on loved ones and leisure, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
A busy day for you, predicts Ganesh, but it has little to do with work. Today, your mind is in a spiritual mode. You may want to make a few changes to the interiors of your house, mostly to get them in sync with the state of your mind.

CANCER
Though the day will spring a lot of challenges, you will be up to it every single time. Your mind will be sharp, and will run like an athlete taking part in a marathon. All you need is a little self-belief. And there will be no stopping you once you set your mind free.

LEO
Your interactions with those around will be tinged with understanding and empathy, as you will make an effort to solve their problems. Your relations with people will become stronger as a result. You need to stop worrying about others and pay more attention to your family, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
In all likelihood, you will want to go into seclusion today, both mentally and physically. You have a knack to work yourself up to face challenges and gather your resources to come up trumps in unpleasant situations. However, you will not be able to go beyond your limitations.

LIBRA
Remember the joint account you were going to open one of these days? Well, today is the day best suited for such decisions. Make the most of this propitious day and make well-informed plans concerning your future career growth. Ganesh gives his nod.

SCORPIO
In all probability, backlog is the last word you may like to hear. Professionally, you will remain workaholic for most part of the day. You shall polish off all those files in your 'In' tray. The romantic bee will buzz around in the evening and gladden your heart, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Find yourself taking up the Thinker's ponderous posture. Post noon, you may find yourself making plans to rearrange the interior of your home. In the office, your superiors will know your worth and heap appreciation on you, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
A memorable time with like-minded people is on the cards today, says Ganesh. At work, you may try everything in your capacity to attain perfection, but perfection will remain restricted to your thinking. None of the innovative ideas striking your mind will actually come into force. But this will not deter you in any way, and you will continue to remain optimistic and move ahead with equal enthusiasm.

AQUARIUS
Metaphysics and philosophy have aroused your interest. Instead of spending a huge amount on books on these subjects, Ganesh suggests that you keep a balanced approach and practice spiritual discipline. It's also high time you changed your dietary habits.

PISCES
You are likely to be filled with overwhelming ambition today. You will be driven and prepare meticulously to tackle your projects. Evening should see you in the company of like-minded individuals, busy with intellectual activities, says Ganesh.

Dusky skin should be celebrated: Sobhita

Mumbai: Sobhita Dhulipala has said that there is a certain 'colonial hangover' when it comes to beauty standards in Hindi film industry. She was speaking with a portal in an interview when *The Night Manager* actress shared her views on how she tried to mould herself to find work during her initial days in the film industry.

Sobhita said, "When I was auditioning for ads, the idea of beauty that existed which was a bit narrow-minded. And, I was so young that I was not thinking about whether they were right or wrong. But, I was trying to find ways to mould myself so as to find work."

Asked if that kind of prejudice bothered her, Sobhita said it simply helped her and forced her to make better choices - have a better personality with substance and make choices that matter.

Sobhita added that now she believes in herself and ensures she stays true to herself instead of fitting in any mould. She also recalled how seeing the 'south

Indianness of Deepika Padukone's beauty in *Om Shanti Om* comforted her as a young girl. She added that dusky skin should be celebrated, 'now more than ever'.

Sobhita was most recently seen in Prime Video's *The Night Manager 2* - a remake of the British show by the same name.

AGENCIES



Mindgame is a true pan-India collaboration: Atul Kulkarni

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

BHUBANESWAR: *Mindgame*, set to release October 6, is one of the most awaited Odia movies of the year as talents from different regions of India collaborated for the project.

The first Odia film of popular Hindi film actor Atul Kulkarni has been directed by Rajesh Touchriver from south.

The film, starring Manoj Mishra in an important character, was completed five years ago but couldn't be re-

leased for some reason. Speaking on the movie, Atul during a virtual media interaction, said, "Now Hindi film industry is collaborating with south makers which we had done five years back. While I was from Mumbai, Manoj Mishra is from Odisha and Rajesh from south. It was pan-India collaboration."

The *Chandni Bar* actor, when asked what made him sign the movie, said when his NSD made Manoj Mishra asked him to be a part of this movie, he enquired for the script and the director's vision and he liked them. Atul had also given voice to his character. On this, he said Manoj and Anu(Choudhury) helped him a lot in correcting his Odia.

Based on the sensational Patnagarh parcel bomb incident, the movie also features Hindi film actors Yashpal Sharma and south actress Apsara Rani from Odisha in key roles.



Urfi sparks engagement rumours

Mumbai: Social media sensation Urfi Javed often makes headlines for her bizarre choice of outfits. However recently, the actress has created a stir with a picture wherein she can be seen performing a puja with a mystery man.

That's right! Taking to her Instagram Stories, Urfi's sister Urusa posted this picture of the diva sitting with an unknown man in front of the holy fire and flowers for a puja ceremony. The diva wore a blue salwar kameez with a dupatta on her head, whereas the man was seen in a formal outfit and his face was covered with a heart emoji.

Though Urfi is yet to make a comment on this picture, she has sparked engagement rumours among fans. Only time will reveal more details about the cryptic picture which was posted by Urfi's sister without any caption.

Meanwhile, Urfi Javed recently made headlines for a new look wherein she dressed up as a demon. She posted the video on her Instagram handle with a caption that read, 'Unleashing my inner demon'.

AGENCIES

Nushratt's Akelli shines on global stage

Mumbai: After making waves in its home country and receiving praises in India, Nushratt Bharuccha starrer *Akelli* is now set to captivate audiences in Israel and worldwide as it gains official selection at the prestigious 39th Haifa International Film Festival.

The premiere will be attended by the entire star cast, celebrating the film's theatrical release in Israel as well.

Reacting to development, Nushratt said, "*Akelli* is a project close to my heart, and I'm delighted that it will have its world premiere at such a prestigious festival. This film has been a labour of love for all of us, and we can't wait to share it with the audience in Israel."

As *Akelli* prepares to take centre stage at the Haifa International Film Festival, it only proves that art has no boundaries. The collaboration between India and Israel through *Akelli* in the world of cinema reflects the growing cultural exchange between the two nations. Israeli actors Tsahi Halevi and Amir Boutrous' contributions to

the film enrich its narrative, adding depth and authenticity to their respective roles.

Producer Vicky Sidana added, "Bringing *Akelli* to an international audience is a dream come true. We hope the film resonates with viewers in Israel and around the world, just as it did in India."

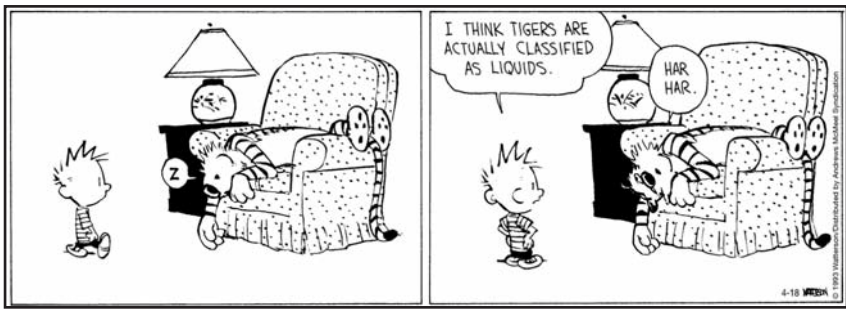
IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

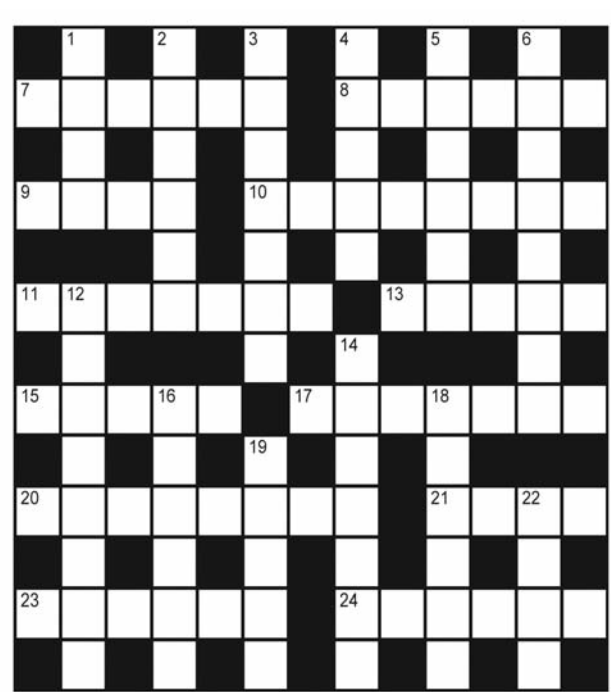


BREVITY



FUN post

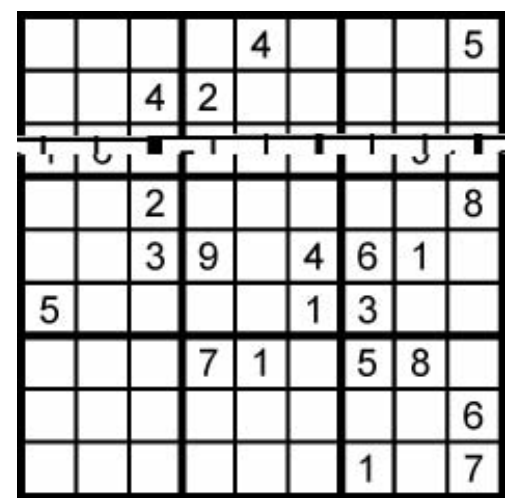
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Polecat
 - 8 Go places
 - 9 Rhine feeder
 - 10 Sled dog
 - 11 Period in human development (4,3)
 - 13 Meat topper
 - 15 Asparagus unit
 - 17 Resentment (3,4)
 - 20 Plant scientist
 - 21 Transverse flute
 - 23 Worthy principles
 - 24 Crude stone artifact
 - Down**
 - 1 Juno's Greek counterpart
 - 2 Rearward, at sea
 - 3 Peacock's pride
 - 4 Trite
 - 5 Weather forecast
 - 6 Celebration
 - 12 They're found on parachutes
 - 14 Jumbled mess
 - 16 Noah's landfall
 - 18 Oscillate
 - 19 Belarus's capital
 - 22 Kismet

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

HEMP BRUSQUE
O A V E A P M
R A S C A L S L A R V A
D S P I S I R
E Y E O N S L A U G H T
U T H Y
T I M B R E G U I T A R
O A M P N
B I G C H E E S E D I M
A E Y T V U I
G E N U S A L E R T E D
O T O L N C G
H A R N E S S S H O E

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Healthcare gets big push

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: In a first-of-its-kind initiative for developing healthcare facilities in public-private partnership (PPP) mode, the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department Wednesday inked pacts with private parties for establishment of a superspecialty and four multispecialty hospitals across Odisha.

Joining the pact signing ceremony online, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the state government is committed to fulfilling the healthcare needs of the people of Odisha. "Infrastructure development for quality healthcare services has been a priority of my government. Our motto is 'Every Life is Precious'. The state government is committed to fulfilling the healthcare needs of the people of Odisha in an equitable, efficient, transparent and time-bound manner," Patnaik said, urging all to work together for a 'Sustha Odisha, Sukhi Odisha'.

Highlighting that Odisha is



Govt signs pacts to set up 4 multispecialty hospitals at Angul, Barbil, Bhadrak and Jharsuguda, and a superspecialty cancer hospital in Jharsuguda

witnessing a transformative journey in healthcare sector, Patnaik said the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana has been a morale booster for nearly one crore families.

"Private healthcare operators have a major role in fulfilling this mandate. Therefore, we are encouraging private investments in health sector to set up institutions at district levels," he said, adding that it will go a long way in providing quality healthcare to people.

H&FW Minister Niranjan Pujari said the state, under the vision and direction of the Chief Minister, has been witnessing a transformation in health sector. "The government is com-

mitted to ensuring accessible, affordable and inclusive healthcare across the state," Pujari added.

According to the agreements, a consortium of Utkal Healthcare Private Limited and Silicon Institute of Technology will develop a 200-bed multispecialty facility each at Angul and Barbil, while a 100-bed multispecialty hospital each at Bhadrak and Jharsuguda will be built by a consortium of Cygnus Medicare Private Limited and Printlink Computer & Communication Private Limited.

Similarly, a 120-bed cancer care superspecialty hospital will be developed by Vizag Hospitals and Cancer Research Centre

Private Limited in Jharsuguda, it was learnt. The state government will provide land, capital assistance for construction and infrastructure connectivity for the four multispecialty facilities, while the private agency will construct the hospitals, deploy manpower and provide healthcare service for 30 years.

In case of the cancer care hospital, the state government would provide land, construct the hospital and provide equipment, while the private partner will deploy adequate manpower, operate, maintain and manage the facility for 15 years, it was learnt.

The facilities would be first-of-its-kind National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) hospitals to offer 24x7 trauma care, OPD, IPD services, multi-specialty and superspecialty healthcare services.

The facilities, which would benefit over six million people, would be developed with an investment of Rs 500 crore and generate employment opportunities for over 3,500 people.



THE HUSTLE IS BACK: Unit 1 market in Bhubaneswar reopened Wednesday after the traders called off their 5-day-long agitation over parking and other issues

OP PHOTO

Naveen flags off 26 ambulances

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday inaugurated and flagged off 26 new state-of-the-art 108 ambulances to provide emergency healthcare services to the people of the state. In a programme held at Naveen Niwas, the Chief Minister flagged off these 26 new ambulances purchased with the state government's own funds to provide emergency services to the people of the state.

Ujjwala cylinder to cost ₹629 in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 4: Following the Union government's decision to increase the subsidy for PM Ujjwala beneficiaries by ₹100, LPG cylinder will now cost ₹629 in Bhubaneswar.

With eye on the upcoming Assembly polls in five states, the Modi government Wednesday effected the hike which will result

in Ujjwala beneficiaries across the country get a total subsidy of ₹300 per LPG cylinder.

The decision was taken in a Cabinet Committee meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Cabinet has raised the subsidy amount for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries from ₹200 to ₹300 per cylinder; Union I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said.

Police net woman swindler Cong demands Bihar-like caste survey

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: The Commissionerate Police arrested a woman who allegedly swindled ₹4 lakh out of a city-based businessman on the pretext of helping his business grow by the divine blessings and guidance of an elusive 'holy man' from the Himalayas.

Rini Sahoo, 34, who was on the run for some time after the victim's family lodged a police complaint, was nabbed by the Badagada police from her residence at Nimapara Tuesday.

Earlier September 21, Rini's husband Sparshakanta, who allegedly impersonated the 'holy

man' had been arrested in connection with the case (466/23). The couple lived in a flat at Oscar City apartment in Laxmisagar area here, police said.

The complainant, Chinmayee Das had approached the police August 25. Chinmayee's husband runs a grocery store-JBS Mart- at Mangaraj Point in Badagada where Rini was a regular customer since 2022.

Chinmayee said Rini developed an acquaintance with her family. Later, Rini and her husband managed to obtain the password of the CCTV cameras at the store and her house.

Chinmayee said since their business was going through a

rough phase, Rini cashed in on the situation. Accordingly, Rini told her about a 'holy man' from the Himalayas who possessed divine powers to ensure a turnaround in their fate.

Later, instilling fear in the minds of Chinmayee and her husband, Rini and the 'holy man', who would give instructions over phone, fleeced more than ₹4 lakh from the gullible couple.

During probe, police found that the number from which the 'holy man' used to call Chinmayee was registered in the name of Rini's husband Sparshakanta.

Police are now trying to ascertain if the 'holy man' ever existed, or Sparshakanta was the imposter.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Two days after the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar released results of a caste census, Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Pattanayak Wednesday demanded immediate conduct of a similar survey in the state and release its reports before 2024 elections.

"If it (state government) fails to conduct the caste survey within this period, the Congress will undertake the exercise after coming to power in 2024," warned Pattanayak Wednesday.

The OPCC chief said the state government should immediately

convene a one-day special session of the state Assembly and pass a resolution for conducting the caste survey as it was done in Bihar.

"The survey will not only consider the caste but also one's economic status. This will help us devise further policies and plans for the development of all castes," said Pattanayak.

The caste survey in Bihar has revealed that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) con-

stitute more than 63 per cent of the population in that state. "But in Odisha, we don't have a clear picture on OBCs and EBCs. As a result, they are not getting their due share in jobs and reservation in admission to educational institutions. This is a denial of social justice to them," said the Congress leader.

In the absence of caste census, there is no proper estimate for the population of OBCs, various groups within the OBCs, and others in Odisha.

The Mandal Commission estimated the OBC population in the country at 52 per cent. And, in Odisha, the OBC and SEBC population is said to be around

54 per cent, he said.

"Once, the caste survey is complete we will be able to know the exact number of different categories of people. Accordingly, we will be in a position to make plans for their socio-economic development," observed Pattanayak.

BJD vice-president and MLA Debi Prasad Mishra said that though the OBC commission has prepared the survey report, some other castes are also demanding inclusion into the OBC list.

The government is seriously considering everything before making the final report public, he said.

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FOCUS HEALTHCARE

TACKLING THE BURDEN



With the advancements in our understanding of medicine, many high-burden illnesses are now relatively easy to diagnose with low-cost instruments and treat with readily available medicines

Health services have traditionally been understood to be about patients reaching a clinic, hospital or a defined place of diagnosis, treatment, or care. However, unless we feel very ill, our instincts that have evolved over millennia and were necessary for the survival of our species predisposes us to think that we are perfectly healthy. This includes those of us who have a little discomfort from what we might think of as minor ailments and all those who suffer silent diseases that become unmanageable health burdens over time.

As a direct result, even in states with relatively good health systems, such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the proportion of men who have diabetes but are not on treatment has doubled over last five years. It has gone from 6 to 7% in 2015-16 to 12-14% in 2019-21 and continues to rise rapidly. In Thiruvananthapuram and Pathanamthitta in Kerala, it has already crossed 20%. Such high levels of diabetes, if not urgently managed, can trigger an epidemic of blindness, strokes, and amputations in these regions.

In our northern, less prosperous states, despite the best efforts by their governments spanning over decades, more than 60% of women and children continue to be anaemic. In Jamui of Bihar, Dakshin Dinajpur of West Bengal, and Chhotta Udaipur of Gujarat, these proportions are more than 75%. Such high levels of anaemia are associated with, among other things, extreme tiredness, low weight gain, and, most worryingly, poor mental development in children across the entire region.

Fortunately, with the advancements in our understanding of medicine, many high-burden illnesses, such as anaemia, high blood pressure, diabetes, and several infectious diseases, are now relatively easy to diagnose with low-cost instruments and treat with readily available medicines. The medical challenges for these high-burden dis-

ease are no longer such that we need to depend solely on highly trained physicians to examine us in person and tell us what to do. With well-defined protocols and a direct phone discussion between the patient and the physician, a reasonably trained health worker can help figure out what is needed in most cases. However, our steadfast refusal to recognise that something may be wrong and to follow medical advice faithfully remains an insurmountable obstacle.

To address this, countries like Iran and a highly rural state like Alaska in the US have, over the last 50 years, entirely transformed the way they provide primary care to their populations. Recognising that protocols and diagnostic instruments in non-physicians' hands can do an adequate job some 80% of the time, they have moved physicians to the periphery and requested them to play a supportive role. Instead, they have assigned a defined group to each health worker and required them to take responsibility for every group member's complete health and well-being.

In Iran, these health workers (called a Behvarz in Farsi – a person with “beh”, good, “varz” skills) are identified by the local community. The government employs them to serve the community full-time after giving them

two years of training. With the help of Behvarzs, Iran has kept its disease burdens low even in its most remote regions. Alaskans similarly identify a Community Health Aide (CHA), train the Aide over four four-week modules, and require the Aide to strictly adhere to a CHA Manual, a book of detailed protocols. The CHAs have effectively brought comprehensive primary care even to their remotest communities.

Even in India, there are examples of organisations that have shown durable hypertension control using this approach. An organisation that has rolled this model out in, among others, Satara district of Maharashtra, has, working with the community, identified and trained a group of local health workers. Each health worker, having been assigned a set of families to serve, goes to every home at a frequency dictated by the family's risk levels. In a cohort of 3900 individuals, they found about 1,400 (35%) to have stage II hypertension, of whom 100 (2.4%) were in a hypertensive crisis. This medical emergency can lead to a heart attack or stroke. Using established protocols and working closely with the team doctor, these health workers responded as needed with the result that, at the end of four months, risk levels had come down for 46% of those at stage II and 70% of those in crisis.

The writer is a Visiting Scientist at The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health, Chennai.

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Nachiket Mor

THE MEDICAL CHALLENGES FOR HIGH-BURDEN DISEASES ARE NO LONGER SUCH THAT WE NEED TO DEPEND SOLELY ON HIGHLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS TO EXAMINE US IN PERSON



Slavoj Žižek

The point is not to change the world blindly; it is, first and foremost, to see and understand it

Freedom Sans Justice

Lea Ypi's Free: Coming of Age at the End of History has met with a hostile reception in her home country of Albania, and it is easy to see why. Her self-description as a “Marxist Albanian professor of political theory at the London School of Economics” says it all.

Reading Ypi's book, I was struck by the parallel between her life and that of Viktor Kravchenko, the Soviet official who defected while visiting New York in 1944. His famous bestselling memoir, I Chose Freedom, became the first substantial eyewitness account of the horrors of Stalinism, beginning with its detailed description of the Holodomor (famine) in Ukraine in the early 1930s. Still a true believer at the time, Kravchenko had participated in enforcing collectivization, and therefore knew of what he spoke.

Kravchenko's publicly known story ends in 1949, when he triumphantly won a big libel suit against a French Communist newspaper. At the trial in Paris, the Soviets flew in his ex-wife to testify to his corruption, alcoholism, and domestic abuse. The court was not swayed, but people tend to forget what happened next. Immediately following the trial, when he was being hailed around the world as a Cold War hero, Kravchenko grew deeply worried about the anti-Communist witch hunts unfolding in the United States. To fight Stalinism with McCarthyism, he warned, was to stoop to the Stalinists' level.

As he spent more time in the West, Kravchenko grew increasingly aware of its own injustices and became obsessed with reforming Western democratic societies from within. After writing a lesser-known sequel to I Chose Freedom, entitled I Chose Justice, he embarked on a crusade to discover a new, less exploitative mode of economic production. That quest led him to Bolivia, where he invested in an unsuccessful effort to organize poor farmers into new collectives.

Crushed by that failure, he withdrew into private life and ultimately shot himself at his home in New York. And no, his suicide was not due to some nefarious KGB blackmail operation. It was an expression of despair, and further proof that his original denunciation of the Soviet Union had always been a genuine protest against injustice.

Ypi's Free does in one volume what Kravchenko did in two. When Albania descended into civil war in 1997, her whole world fell apart. Reduced to hiding in her apartment and writing a diary while Kalashnikov shots clattered outside, she made an extraordinary decision: She would study philosophy.

But what is even more extraordinary is that her engagement with philosophy brought her back to Marxism. Her story attests to the fact that the most penetrating critics of Communism have often been ex-Communists, for whom the critique of “actually existing socialism” was simply the only way to remain faithful to their political commitments.

Free grew out of an earlier treatise on how socialist and liberal notions of freedom are interrelated, and it is this perspective that structures the book. The first part, on how Albanians “chose freedom,” provides an eminently readable memoir of Ypi's childhood in the last decade of communist rule in Albania. While it includes all the horrors of daily life – food shortages, political denunciations, control and suspicion, torture and harsh punishments – it is also punctuated by comical moments. Even under such harsh and desolate conditions, people found ways to preserve a modicum of dignity and honesty.

In the second part, which describes Albania's post-communist turmoil after 1990, Ypi recounts how the freedom chosen by – or, rather, imposed on – Albanians failed to deliver justice. It culminates in a chapter about the 1997 civil war, at which point the narrative breaks off and is replaced by snippets from Ypi's diary. The strength of Ypi's writing is that, even here, she is tackling the big questions, exploring how ambitious ideological projects usually end not in triumph but in confusion and disorientation.

In the 1990s, one such project was replaced by another: With communism toppled, ordinary Albanians were subjected to “democratic transition” and “structural reforms” designed to make them more “like Europe” with its “free market.” Ypi's bitter conclusion in the last paragraph of the book is worth quoting in full:

“My world is as far from freedom as the one my parents tried to escape. Both fall short of that ideal. But their failures took distinctive forms, and without being able to understand them, we will remain forever divided. I wrote my story to explain, to reconcile, and to continue the struggle.”

Here we have an ironic rebuttal to Marx's 11th Thesis on Feuerbach, which famously observes that, “Philosophers have hitherto only interpreted the world in various ways; the point is to change it.” The counterpoint is that one cannot change the world for the better unless one first understands it. This is where the great initiators of both the Communist and liberal projects fell short.

The conclusion Ypi draws from this insight, however, is not the cynical stance that meaningful change is either impossible or inevitable. Rather, it is that the struggle (for freedom) goes on, and always will. Ypi thus feels that she owes a debt to “all the people of the past who sacrificed everything because they were not apathetic, they were not cynical, they did not believe that things fall into place if you just let them take their course.”

Therein resides our global predicament. If we believe that things will fall into place by just letting them take their course, we will end up with multiple catastrophes, from ecological breakdown and the rise of authoritarianism to social chaos and disintegration. Ypi channels what philosopher Giorgio Agamben called “the courage of hopelessness,” his recognition that passive optimism is a recipe for complacency, and thus a hurdle to meaningful thought and action.

At the end of Communism, there was a widespread, euphoric hope that freedom and democracy would bring a better life; eventually, though, many lost that hope. That is the point where the real work begins. In the end, Ypi does not offer any easy way out, and therein lies the strength of her book. Such abstinence is what makes it philosophical. The point is not to change the world blindly; it is, first and foremost, to see and understand it.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School.

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THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1918: Allied forces broke through the Hindenburg Line in World War I.
- 1947: First televised presidential speech in the United States was delivered. Harry Truman, the 33rd President of the US, called on Americans to use less grain to help Europe which was still reeling from the effects of the Second World War. He asked people to avoid eating meat on Tuesdays and eggs and poultry on Thursdays, and to consume one less slice of bread every day.
- 1962: James Bond makes his theatrical debut. The fictional British spy with the code name 007 was featured on the big screen for the first time in Dr. No. Based on the 1958 Ian Fleming novel of the same name, the movie starred Sean Connery as James Bond.

SPECTRUM WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

Moving closer to an equitable society

The BJP-led NDA government recently passed the 128th Amendment to the Constitution in a special session of Parliament reserving 33% of seats in state legislatures and Lok Sabha (LS), thereby bringing an end to the 27-year tumultuous journey of the Women's Reservation Bill. This historic decision comes against the backdrop of the fact that the number of women in state legislatures and LS is at a historic low. Currently, only 15% and 13% of seats in LS and Rajya Sabha (RS) respectively are occupied by women. The situation in state assemblies is far worse as states like Nagaland and Karnataka only have 3 and 4% women respectively, while the maximum representation is in Chhattisgarh with 18%. Women who almost constitute 50% of population are severely under-represented in assemblies and Parliament. In this context, the passage of the Bill is a historic step towards ensuring their appropriate representation.

The demand for women's representation in politics has a long history in India, dating back to pre-Independence era. The Indian National Congress, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, endorsed the idea of reserving

seats for women in the Constituent Assembly as early as 1931. The same was put forward by Jawaharlal Nehru in early years of Independence. However, it took several decades for concrete steps to be taken towards achieving this goal. The first proposal to reserve 33% seats for women in Parliament and legislatures was first proposed in 1996 by HD Dev Gowda-led United Front government. The Bill was a logical culmination of the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution 1992, which reserved 33% of seats in both rural and urban local bodies. Due to the fractured composition and subsequent fall of the government, the Bill lapsed. This Bill was reintroduced in 1998 by NDA government but again lapsed due to premature dissolution of 12th LS. The NDA government again reintroduced the Bill in 1999 but failed to gain consensus. Subsequently, it was brought to table in 2002 and 2003, but the Bill again failed to pass despite assurances from Congress and Left parties. Despite being passed in RS, multiple introductions in LS, and verbal assurances from several parties with significant representation in LS and RS, the Bill kept on lingering. Several reasons, like lack

of political will, technical complexities and constitutional problems had been cited for this imbroglio, but the most important reason had been the vocal opposition from identity-based regional parties like Samajwadi Party, and RJD, and JD(U), who argued for having sub-reservation -- reservation for women belonging to OBC communities.

While there had been a delay in passing the bill at the Centre, a few parties like BJD in Odisha fielded 33% women candidates in 2019 LS elections while the TMC in Bengal fielded over 30% women in 2019 LS polls as well as in 2021 assembly polls. Similarly, Congress gave tickets to women in over 40% of seats in UP Assembly polls of 2022.

Critics have argued that reserving seats for women might lead to stereotyping of women as “proxy candidates” controlled by male family members undermining their autonomy and credibility. This concern emanates from the experiences of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Another criticism is that a fixed reservation may not accurately reflect the diversity of women's experiences and may inadvertently favour women from privileged backgrounds. Yet another criticism is that reserv-

ing a seat for women will limit the options of voters. Critics argue that instead of reservation, the government should focus more on electoral reforms, decriminalisation of politics and inner-party democracy. The rotation policy may reduce the incentive for an MLA/MP to work for their constituency as she may be ineligible to seek re-election from that constituency.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental principles of a just and progressive society. The Bill, amid all concerns and criticism, represents a crucial step towards achieving gender equality in politics. While it has faced its fair share of challenges and criticisms, its potential benefits are undeniable. Empowering women in politics is not just a matter of justice and equity; it is essential for overall progress of the nation. The 33% reservation for women has positioned India as a global leader in gender equity by setting an example for the world to move closer to the vision of a more inclusive and equitable society.

The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi.



Bijayani Mishra

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT ARE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF A JUST AND PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY

Neighbourhood worry

Sir, This refers to “Proxy war,” OrissaPOST, Oct 4. The victory of Progressive Alliance coalition candidate Mohamed Muizzu in the Maldives Presidential election, defeating pro-India incumbent Ibrahim Solih may shift the geopolitical balance in the tiny island nation that is of great strategic importance to New Delhi and Beijing. Muizzu's victory came in the wake of his strident campaign against what was perceived in the country as Solih's increasing dependence on India. New Delhi has given the Maldives some helicopters, and a small aircraft and about 75 Indian military personnel are stationed in the country to operate and maintain the aircraft. The Opposition began an “India Out” campaign to protest the presence of New Delhi's troops. Muizzu, who is seen as a proponent of close ties with China, launched a belligerent drive against foreign troops on the ground and pledged to ensure the ouster of the Indian military from the country. Against this backdrop, India's neighbourhood-first policy is surely facing a challenge as most of the neighbouring countries of India are gravitated towards the hostile northern neighbour China. While the West is going all out to woo India in order to counter China, New Delhi has its task cut out to ensure a neighbourhood free from the influence of Beijing. India cannot afford to play big brother; it has to win friends and influence leaders in its neighbourhood.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Aviation safety

Sir, The Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) proposed ban on the use of perfumes by pilots is most welcome and it is a step in the right direction towards ensuring the highest level of safety in aviation. By prohibiting the use of products like perfumes that contain alcoholic content and that could cause breathalyzer tests to show positive results, the DGCA hopes to prevent any compromise to the sobriety standards required for pilots and crew members. While the ban on perfumes may seem unusual, it reflects the dedication and commitment of India's civil aviation regulator in upholding the highest standards and utmost safety measures within the aviation industry. Pilots and crew members, therefore must adapt their routines and be conscious of the potential impact of alcohol-containing products on their breathalyzer test results.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Typhus tentacles spread in entire state

NOT ONLY RURAL BUT URBAN AREAS ALSO UNDER SCRUB SCARE

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Barring a couple of districts scrub typhus has spread to almost the entire Odisha, a top health official said here Wednesday.

Over 2,800 people have been infected by scrub typhus in the state so far this year. The disease is not confined only to rural areas but has spread to the urban areas too, he added.

Reports said a senior IAS officer of the Agriculture department has recently been infected by the disease.

So far, 22,077 samples have been tested this year, of which 2,820 reports returned positive for scrub typhus, Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra told newsmen.

If the disease is detected at an early stage before affecting organs, it can be easily cured through normal treatment, he said. On reports of deaths of eight people due to the disease,



So far 22,077 tests have been conducted and 2,820 people have been found scrub typhus positive

A central team has visited Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Bolangir and the VIMSAR to review the situation

Mishra said there is some discrepancy in the scrub typhus death cases as the patients have died in private facilities, where tests are done through rapid test kits whereas scrub typhus can be accurately detected through ELISA test.

He said the ELISA test can be done at the district public health laboratory of all district headquarters hospitals in the state.

Mishra said a central team has visited Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Bolangir districts including the VIMSAR in Burla to review the scrub ty-

phus situation in the state. The central team expressed satisfaction over the availability of testing facilities in all districts and verbally advised the state to enhance testing, he said.

The state government, he said, has asked district health authorities to increase the surveillance for the upsurge of scrub typhus and will take further action after receiving their recommendation.

The remaining people have recovered and the hospitalisation rate is low as most of the patients are getting cured by home treatment, Mishra added.

Meanwhile, Odisha Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment department Principal Secretary Arabinda Padhee tested positive for scrub typhus and is under home treatment.

"Got to know that our @krushibibhag Principal Secretary Dr @arvindpadhee has tested positive for #ScrubTyphus. Praying to Lord Jagannath for his speedy and complete recovery," Agriculture Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said in a post in X, formerly Twitter.

Scrub typhus infection spreads through the bite of chigger, a harvest mite. Those frequenting farmlands and forests are vulnerable to the infection.

The most common symptoms of scrub typhus include fever and a black inflamed mark on the skin called 'eschar'.

Though cases were being reported from March, the number started to increase from August.

Trains disrupted as soil subsides under rly tracks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Oct 4: A major mishap was averted Wednesday following subsidence of soil under the railway track on Amara bridge near Haldipada Railway Station under Kharagpur Railways Division in Balasure district due to incessant rainfall over the last three days.

As per reports, the Bhadrak-Howrah Bagha Jatin express train was halted near Amara bridge close to Haldipada station as there was a breach in the downline after soil under the railway track was washed away following incessant rains. Consequently, plying of all trains on the route remained suspended while those running on the up-line had to slow down to 10 km/hour.

Rail traffic in the Kharagpur-Bhadrakh section of South Eastern Railway was affected because of the slackening of tracks. The subsidence disrupted train services on the route all through the day and left the pas-



sengers stranded.

At least 10 trains were cancelled and another 10 diverted to the Howrah-Chennai route. Passengers were seen alighting from the train and walking on the tracks towards their respective destinations.

On being informed, Railways GM AK Mishra, DRM KR Choudhury reached the spot and took stock of the situation. An expert team, comprising personnel from electrical, signal, operating and engineering sections also reached the spot and launched repairing of the railway track on war footing.

ORMAS buyer-seller meet in Silver City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Oct 4: A buyer-seller meet was organised by Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) and Mission Shakti department at Odisha State Maritime Museum in Jobra area here, Wednesday.

According to ORMAS sources, the meet would go a long way in facilitating a direct contact between producers and buyers from both urban and rural areas. "The key objective of such a grand event is to understand the market potential as well as demand of different products, and cater to it accordingly," an official said.

M/s Zubey's Designer House, M/s Dharitri Udyan Pvt Ltd, M/s ORCHID Biotech Pvt Ltd, M/s Shanti Mahia Udyog Pvt Ltd, M/s THQ Food & Beverages, M/s Spicydolly and M/s VeggieKart Pvt Ltd were among the major companies who attended the meet. A pact was inked between producer groups and these companies for long-term business and sale of rural products. District Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani, Cuttack Zilla Parishad CDO-cum-Executive Officer Subash Chandra Ray and Cuttack ORMAS Joint CEO Bipin Behari Raut attended the mega event.

RSP DiC holds talks with RCCI

Rourkela: Director in Charge (DiC) of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Atanu Bhowmick visited the Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) office, Wednesday. The purpose of his visit was to listen to the proposals and grievances of the local units while dealing with the steel major. All top officers of RSP especially from the materials management and marketing department were present along with the DiC and the major bearers of RCCI and over a hundred members were present during the interaction. Speaking about the issues that were taken up with the DiC, RCCI president Sunil Kayal informed that the points were definitely in the interest of local units which would ultimately benefit the city.

CUO launches course in Japanese Language

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: In a significant development for this academic year, the Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput Wednesday launched its Japanese Language Certificate Course.

The event took place on the university campus and was graced by Vice-Chancellor Chakradhar Tripathi, who officially launched the course.

Distinguished guests present at the event included Sato Koji, director of the Japanese Foundation in New Delhi, Sushri Hakamata Maho, representative of the Ambassador of Japan to India, and Nabin Kumar Panda from the University of Delhi's East Asian Studies department. In his address, Tripathi emphasised the technological advancements in agriculture, animal husbandry & dairy science, and forest management in Japan, describing it as a global leader in these fields. He expressed his hope that undergraduate students undertaking this course would not only learn the Japanese language but also bring these advanced technologies to India through the University.

Tripathi firmly believed that this initiative would significantly enhance practices in agriculture, animal husbandry & dairy science, and forest management.

He encouraged students to focus on their studies and research and become torchbearers for the nation. He hoped our students will excel in the field of agriculture, science and technology and they would eventually become Nobel laureates.

The initial intake capacity for the certificate course would be 60, with admissions taking place through an entrance test scheduled for Oct 9

This marks a historic moment as the CUO becomes the first public university in the state to offer a Japanese Language course, aligning with the Union government's 'Act East policy'.

Speaking at the event, Sato Koji, Director of the Japanese Foundation in New Delhi, stressed the bright prospects for students who learn Japanese language. Hakamata Maho highlighted the cultural similarities between Japan and Odisha in terms of food, tradition and religion. She emphasised how learning Japanese would promote people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, fostering collaboration in technology, education, tourism, and other fields. She also recalled the meetings between the Prime Ministers of both nations during the G20 Summit in New Delhi and expressed hope that the university would become a hub for Japanese education in India.

Nabin Kumar Panda, Head of the East Asian Studies department at Delhi University, shared insights into the numerous opportunities available in India's corporate sector, especially in Japan, for students proficient in Japanese language.



GLORIFYING CULTURE: Artistes perform Sambalpuri dance at a Nuakhai Bhetghat programme organised by the district administration and held at the Tapaswini Auditorium in Sambalpur, Wednesday

GRS'S BODY FOUND, MURDER SUSPECTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kodala/Beguniapada, Oct 4: The mutilated body of a gram rojgar sewak (GRS) at Tini Chhak near Kaniarabadi village under Beguniapada police limits in Ganjam district, Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Sushil Mohanty, a gram rojgar sewak posted at Sanaustapada panchayat in the district and a native of Kaniarabadi village. Locals spotted his body lying under a bush and informed Beguniapada police. Kodala IIC Umakant Sahu and Beguniapada IIC Sangram Dehury reached the spot and launched an investigation. A scientific team and sniffer dogs were also pressed into service and a murder case was registered in this connection.

NHRC seeks ATR on human trafficking

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 4: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an ATR from the Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, for submission of additional report on prevalence of sex work and human trafficking in Odisha.

Seeking intervention of the NHRC, rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy highlighted the plight of sex workers and trafficked girls and women and their families in Odisha, especially in Bhubaneswar.

Pursuant to the notice of the NHRC, the state authorities submitted various activities undertaken to address the issue.

The NHRC sought for comments/rejoinder of the petition on the ATR submitted by the state.

In his rejoinder, the petitioner, Tripathy stated that the report submitted by the state suffers from various lapses.

Had the state government taken sincere measures, none of the area in Bhubaneswar would become infamous for slightest reason of human trafficking, flesh trade, running brothels under the garb of other activities.

The state, Tripathy said, is yet to act on the compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court laid down in the Budhadev Karmaskar vs State of West Bengal case.

The petitioner who has been instrumental in conducting comprehensive survey with possible solutions by institutes of repute for ensuring justice to sex workers of GB Road, Delhi and Asia's biggest red light area

'Sonagachhi' in Kolkata stated that the department of Women and Child Development of Odisha government has not selected any such institution to conduct the mapping and survey of women engaged in prostitution across Odisha and the report of the survey as on date is not available.

He further pointed out that "the report has not mentioned as to what steps have been taken by the police to prohibit the recurrence of sex trade at Bhubaneswar". The functioning of State Level Coordination Committee to combat trafficking is not satisfactory, Tripathy said, adding that the statutory institution set up under the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956 is not functioning properly.

The linkages with helpline are not adequately advertised.

Mapping of red light areas is not properly done. The efficacy of Open Shelter (Shelter for care and protection of vulnerable children under Integrated Child Protection Scheme) has not been verified properly.

He further said the tie up with the State Legal Service Authority is not done as expected and the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) is not performing properly due to staff and infrastructure issues. "The State Aids Control Society, Tripathy said, is yet to provide status of health initiatives taken with victims of trafficking at their end. The senior citizens from the area who want to come out to the mainstream and those who are unable to come out to the society for social, physical and mental reasons are cared for by the state or not.

Turmeric board to benefit Odisha farmers: Union min

THE UNION GOVT WEDNESDAY NOTIFIED THE CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL TURMERIC BOARD WHICH WILL FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF TURMERIC PRODUCTS IN THE COUNTRY

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 4: Union Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy Wednesday said the constitution of the National Turmeric Board will benefit the farmers of Odisha and other states in terms of value added and export of turmeric.

The Union government Wednesday notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board, which, the government said will focus on development

and growth of turmeric products in the country. The board will provide leadership on turmeric related matters, augment the efforts, and facilitate greater coordination with Spices Board and other government agencies in development and growth of the turmeric sector.

Reddy said that the establishment of the board will help in developing new markets internationally to increase exports and promote research and development into new products

which will benefit the farmers.

The Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry informed that India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. In 2022-23, 3.24 lakh ha was brought under turmeric cultivation in India with a production of 11.61 lakh tonne (over 75 per cent of global turmeric production). The country has more than 62 per cent share of world trade in turmeric, the ministry said, adding that during 2022-23, India

exported turmeric and turmeric products valued at 207.45 million USD. With the focused activities of the Board, it is expected that turmeric exports will reach USD 1 billion by 2030, the ministry said.

It will especially focus on capacity building and skill development of turmeric growers for harnessing greater benefits out of value addition, it added.

The Board shall have a chairperson to be appointed by the

Centre. Its members will be from the Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry of the Union government, senior state government representatives from three states (on rotation basis), select national/state institutions involved in research, representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters, and have a Secretary to be appointed by the Department of Commerce.

Nexus Esplanade celebrates wildlife week



Bhubaneswar: Nexus Esplanade mall in the city is celebrating state-level wildlife week from October 2-8 with assistance from the department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha. On the occasion, a sand art created by Swadhin Mallick was displayed at the mall here. Protection of wildlife and forest cover id our responsibility for the wellbeing of the society and environment. Our mall is committed towards environment and society, the mall authorities said.

'Remembering Babu' at Gandhi Peace Centre



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: A programme titled 'Remembering Babu' was or-

ganised a day following Gandhi Jayanti Tuesday at Gandhi Peace Centre here. The event was graced by Governor Ganeshi Lal. Also pres-

ent on the occasion were, Minister Ashok Kumar Panda, Director, Culture Dilip Routray, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, President of Hindalco Industries Ltd Ardhendu Mohapatra and Head (Operation) of Gandhi Peace Centre Vivek Gupta. Certain eminent personalities of Odisha, who have immensely contributed for the welfare of backward communities were felicitated at the programme. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, drawing and essay competition among school students of Bhubaneswar locality were held. The winners of these competitions were felicitated by the Governor.

Bank of India Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015		POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002	
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers/guarantors in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule-8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Nayagarh Branch for the amount stated below with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.			
NAYAGARH BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property/ies
Borrower: Mr. Prahalad Barad, S/o- Late Gadadhar Barad / Guarantor: Mrs. Bharati Barad, W/o- Prahalad Barad, Both are At: Arabinda Nagar, PO: Lenkudipada, Nayagarh-752069	₹ 18,64,028/- + interest & expenses thereon	14.12.2020 / 30.09.2023	All the part and parcel of Land/Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 643/2100, Plot No.: 722/5410, Area: Ac. 0.05dec., KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Lenkudipada, P.S.: Nayagarh-98, SRO: Nayagarh, Tehsil: Nayagarh-505, Dist.: Nayagarh, standing in the name of Prahalad Barad, Bounded by: North: Brajakishore Mohanty, South: Plot No. 721, East: Plot No. 714, West: Road.
Date: 04.10.2023, Place: Bhubaneswar			
Authorized Officer, Bank of India			

CROWN JEWEL

BATTLE FOR

LAST HURRAH!

THE 2023 EDITION WILL BE THE LAST ODI WC FOR SOME OF THE BIG NAMES, INCLUDING A FEW MODERN DAY GREATS, IN WORLD CRICKET. LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THOSE NAMES WHO MIGHT BE APPEARING IN THE GRAND STAGE FOR ONE FINAL TIME...



BLAZE & TONK
Blaze and Tonk – the two names of the official mascots of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. The names of the two official ICC mascots have been unanimously chosen after voting by fans around the globe. 'Blaze' is a female mascot, bowling at rapid pace, leaving batters in sheer awe. She is a fast-bowling sensation due to her pinpoint accuracy, unmatched reflexes, boundless flexibility, and unwavering determination. She is adorned with a belt carrying six power cricket orbs, each meticulously prepared for various game-changing tactics. 'Tonk', on the other hand, is a male mascot, with icy-cool composure, making him a batting champion. His range of shots sizzle and leave the crowds electrified, with finesse and power on display in equal measure. Tonk has an electromagnetic bat and versatile shot repertoire, lighting up the grandest stage.

ODIS GAVE CRICKET THE REINCARNATION IT NEEDED AND THE SPORT GOT A CHANCE TO GET RID OF ITS DRAB AND DREARY IMAGE

SAKSHI MITTRA, OP

CRICKET'S REBIRTH

ODIS HAVE CHANGED THE MINDSET OF THE PLAYERS AND THEY HAVE BECOME RESULT-ORIENTED PLAYING ALWAYS AN ATTACKING AND AGGRESSIVE BRAND OF CRICKET



teams vying for the title. Whatever global popularity cricket has achieved is due to the ODIs. The T20 format was just the sweet icing on the cake.

Today the more populist format, the T20 variety gets preference over ODI version. However, if cricket ever got a makeover and turned into a lucrative sport, it is because of the ODIs that appeared on the horizon in the early 1970s. Cricket then was dying a gradual death with drawn Tests, and spectators across various grounds were rapidly on the wane. In came the ODIs and cricket got the boost which changed the very face of the game.

The first ODI was played way back in January 5, 1971 between Australia and England at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The match was an aftermath after rain had washed away the first three days of an Ashes Test. Little did one know that the brand had come to stay and more than 62 years later it will be celebrated with the 13th edition of the World Cup and with 10

try which till then was considered minnows in the then 'shortest' format of the game. India had suddenly become giants in ODI cricket. And suddenly cricket had become India's go to sport.

More importantly the advent of the ODI version brought a subtle change to Test cricket. Test matches have become more result oriented and there have been many exciting finishes in the last couple of decades than there have been ever before.

India has won the title twice (1983, 2011) in ODI World Cups, been in the final once (2003) and in the semifinals on four occasions (1987, 1996, 2015 and 2019). But now the fans want more and they are desperate to see Rohit Sharma and his brigade lift the Cup again. Nothing else will matter:



Walk down memory lane

Deflection off Stokes' bat changes game, 2019

A World Cup final of close margins was decided by the finest of calls. And that's what happened in the final and England claimed their maiden title. But this wouldn't have been possible but for a deflection off the bat of Ben Stokes in the last over. Chasing 242, England needed 9 off 3 balls. Stokes was almost caught short off a Martin Guptill throw from the deep while going for a double. But, while completing the second run, his bat inadvertently deflected the ball towards the boundary, which changed the game completely.

Klusener-Donald run-out, 1999

A topsy-turvy semifinal thriller, between two of the finest cricketers of the 90s, boiled down to the final over, in which South Africa needed nine runs with one wicket remaining. South Africa had their talismanic finisher Lance Klusener on strike, having Allan Donald at the other end. After Klusener's two boundaries, he was needed just one off three balls. Klusener then took off for the winning run after hitting one down the ground. However, Donald was caught ball watching as Aussies inflicted a run out and tied the match. Australia qualified for the final by the virtue of finishing at a higher place in the Super 6 stage.

Kapil's running catch to dismiss Richards, 1983

India were eyeing the crucial wicket of Viv Richards during the final. The West Indies batter had already slammed a quickfire 33 and was taking the game away from India. When he pulled a Madan Lal delivery towards the mid-wicket region, then India skipper Kapil Dev ran all the way back from infield to rush in and take a sensational catch to leave WI at 57/3. Kapil's side went on to win the match by 43 runs for the country's first ever world crown.

O'Brien show, 2011

England's impressive start to the World Cup was halted by a one-man effort in Bangalore. When Ireland were 111/5 in their pursuit of 328, it seemed as if England had secured five points out of their three games. However, Kevin O'Brien's 63-ball 113-run blitz ensured that Ireland upset their rivals in the final over of the game.

Kapil's more than a rescue act, 1983

India were stunned by disciplined new-ball bowling from Zimbabwe, and slid to 17/5. Faced with an embarrassing situation against the Cheyrons, India needed an inspirational act. That came out of the blade of their captain Kapil Dev. The Harviana Hurricane slammed the then world record unbeaten 175 from 138 balls with 16 fours and six sixes. With support from the tailenders, he got India to 266/8. India won the game by 31 runs.

Bangladesh stun India

Bangladesh's young guns helped their side to a massive upset against regional giants India in Port of Spain. Mashrafe Mortaza's four-for was backed by fifties from Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan, as India went down by five wickets. The full ramifications of this result became clear later in the tournament, as India crashed out from group stage.

Dhoni's 6 in the final, 2011



India were crowned the World Cup champions for the second time in their history – ending 28-year wait for the crown – on the back of a monstrous six, which came off the willow of their skipper MS Dhoni in the 49th over. The shot was a culmination of a successful home campaign, and was marked by Ravi Shastri's momentous words from the commentary box, "Dhoni finishes off in style. A magnificent strike into the crowd!"

Ireland upset Pak, 2007



The miracle on St. Patrick's Day remains one of the great upsets in the tournament's history. Debutants Ireland shocked a much fancied Pakistan side and sent them packing from the global event. Skipper Trent Johnston, who hit the winning run, saw his bowlers deliver a top notch performance before a brave Niall O'Brien (72) guided them towards an exceptional win.

Gibbs 'drops' WC, 1999

Australia's title charge depended on a tense chase against South Africa in Leeds. Australia skipper Steve Waugh was in a dominant mood but ended up pushing a Lance Klusener delivery towards Herschelle Gibbs at mid-wicket. Gibbs got to the ball, but let go of it before he was fully in control of the catch. Waugh went on to play a match-winning hundred and is supposed to have told Gibbs, "You've just dropped the World Cup."

Bangla turn 'David' vs 'Goliath' Pak, 1999

Pakistan were stunned by a pre-Test status Bangladesh in Northampton. A strong start had ensured that the Tigers finished at 223/9 despite a sluggish job towards the end. The Bangladeshi bowlers then ripped off Pakistan's batting top-order to leave the Men in Green tottering at 42/5. Pakistan's tail showed some fight but couldn't prevent a 'David vs Goliath' ending to this battle.

Dhoni's run-out off Guptill throw, 2019



MS Dhoni's fighting knock in the 2019 semifinal came to an abrupt end courtesy a brilliant direct hit from the deep. Martin Guptill's accurate throw ended India's last hopes of world glory in the 49th over. With his retirement from the game in 2020, this also became Dhoni's final international outing.

4 in 4 for Malinga, 2007

When South Africa were sitting four runs away from their target with five wickets in hand, their win over Sri Lanka seemed merely a formality. However, Lasith Malinga had other plans. The pacer took four wickets in four balls to turn the game on its head. While the Proteas managed to scamper to a one-wicket win, the pacer's effort left its mark on the tournament.

Virat Kohli, India

The 34-year-old will be 38 by the time of 2023 edition. It is unlikely for the former skipper to keep his game for that long. However, his guide and mentor MS Dhoni had been able to play his final WC at 38. And with the fitness level of Virat, he could pull off something similar.

Rohit Sharma, India

The home team captain is already 36 and it will be his last chance to get the tag of a World Champion. Although, he already is a World Champion, but in T20s (in 2007). The owner of three double centuries, a record in ODIs, and having the highest individual score in ODIs – 264 – the Mumbaier would be eager to replicate his former skipper Dhoni's 2011 tale at home.

Ravindra Jadeja, India

The Gujarat lad is same age as his 2008 U-19 WC teammate and skipper Virat. There is no doubt, the left-hander is one of the modern day greats, especially among the all-rounders. He is widely regarded as one of the best fielders the game has ever seen. His fitness is also top-class like Virat. Only time will tell, whether, he would be able to keep his spot until 2027.

Mohammed Shami, India

The 33-year-old pacer will also be playing his third and last World Cup. He is the senior most pacer of the Indian pace attack. Shami has been in impressive form, but the emergence of Shardul Thakur and Siraj has somewhat reduced his chances. However, he would be eager to play his part guiding the young bowlers throughout the tournament in the process.

David Warner, Australia

The 36-year-old opener had been struggling for form a few months ago and the experts even questioned his spot in the team. However, the left-hander answered them with his bat playing some quality knocks coming into the World Cup. The Aussies won the 2015 edition on their home soil, and Warner would be determined to win the title again.

Steve Smith, Australia

The 34-year-old was from the same batch as Virat, Jadeja and even Kane Williamson. So this also could be his last World Cup considering he has been in-and-out from the side for sometime now. Smith is known for his Test exploits, but in ODIs, his strike-rate, in a way, let him down despite having an impressive average of 44.89. He would be eager to sign off his ODI career on a high.

Mitchell Starc, Australia

The 33-year-old pacer was once considered a future great. However, injuries let him down and he couldn't do what he had expected to do. Despite that, he has always been a nightmare for opposition batters mainly due to his wicket-taking ability at any given time.

Pat Cummins, Australia

The skipper is 30. So you would say that he might feature in another edition. Yes... may be. But at the age of 34, he wouldn't be the same as now. And being top of his game for four more years...it's easier said than done. Only time will tell whether he will be back for another World Cup or not.

Joe Root, England

One of the 'Fab Four', which also includes Kohli, Smith, and Williamson, the Englishman is also playing his last World Cup. He would be 36 by the time next edition comes, but with the talent pool England have, it's very unlikely for the former skipper to keep his spot in the ODI side.

Ben Stokes, England

The 32-year-old all-rounder was all but out of this WC after announcing his retirement from ODIs. However, he made a u-turn on his retirement call after a 14-month hiatus. Although his return a huge boost for defending champions, his condition of a u-turn will reduce his role. He had told skipper Jos Buttler that he will be part of the team only as a pure batter and he won't bowl. However, his presence is enough for the team to use his experience.

Jos Buttler, England

The England skipper is already 33 and he would look to replicate his former captain Eoin Morgan's success of 2019. Morgan ended his international career on a high – leading England to their first ever ODI WC. So Buttler would also like to do the same.

Kane Williamson, New Zealand

The Kiwi skipper would be 37 by the time the next edition of WC returns. So it would be difficult to expect the 33-year-old will be there with the Black Caps. After leading their side to WTC title in 2019, he would be eager to end their World Cup title jinx.

Trent Boult, New Zealand

The 34-year-old left-arm pacer will feature in his final WC. Despite being a key member of the side, he has already passed his heydays. However, his experience is still invaluable – and mostly because of his familiarity with Indian pitches because of IPL.

Tim Southee, New Zealand

The right-arm pacer is same age as his teammate Boult. However, he is coming back from a surgery for a dislocated and fractured thumb. It would be interesting to see how the 34-year-old deals with his workload in the WC.

David Miller, South Africa

The 34-year-old left-handed batter will also feature in his final WC. With the experience of Indian conditions due to his IPL stints, his inputs would be crucial for his side. He himself will pose threat to opposition with his willow.

Quinton de Kock, South Africa

The wicketkeeper-batter is all set for his ODI sunset in India. Despite being only 30 years of age, he no longer wants to feature in ODIs post WC, announcing his retirement. Speaking about his WC preparations, De Kock stated that he is ready to give it all to tick off an ICC event.

Shakib-Al-Hasan, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh cricket great is already 36 and it will be his final appearance at the 50-over quadrennial event of ICC. The all-rounder is no stranger to Indian conditions, coming from a sub-continent side and especially because of his IPL experience. He will try to sign off on a high – leading his side into the semifinals if not the title.

Mohammad Nabi, Afghanistan

The Afghan great is definitely a crucial part of the team's set-up. The 38-year-old can change the game on his day – be with the ball or with the willow. His IPL experience will also come in handy for his side.

COMPLETE FIXTURE

DATES	MATCHES	VENUES
Oct 5	ENG vs NZ	Ahmedabad
Oct 6	PAK vs NED	Hyderabad
Oct 7	BAN vs AFG	Dharamsala
Oct 7	SA vs SL	Delhi
Oct 8	IND vs AUS	Chennai
Oct 9	NZ vs NED	Hyderabad
Oct 10	ENG vs BAN	Dharamsala
Oct 10	PAK vs SL	Hyderabad
Oct 11	IND vs AFG	Delhi
Oct 12	AUS vs SA	Lucknow
Oct 13	NZ vs BAN	Chennai
Oct 14	IND vs PAK	Ahmedabad
Oct 15	ENG vs AFG	Delhi
Oct 16	AUS vs SL	Lucknow
Oct 17	SA vs NED	Dharamsala
Oct 18	NZ vs AFG	Chennai
Oct 19	IND vs BAN	Pune
Oct 20	AUS vs PAK	Bangalore
Oct 21	NED vs SL	Lucknow
Oct 21	ENG vs NZ	Mumbai
Oct 22	IND vs SA	Dharamsala
Oct 23	PAK vs AFG	Chennai
Oct 24	SA vs BAN	Mumbai
Oct 25	AUS vs NED	Delhi
Oct 26	ENG vs SL	Bangalore
Oct 27	PAK vs SA	Chennai
Oct 28	AUS vs BAN	Dharamsala
Oct 28	NED vs NZ	Kolkata
Oct 29	IND vs ENG	Lucknow
Oct 30	AFG vs SL	Pune
Oct 31	PAK vs BAN	Kolkata
Nov 1	NZ vs SA	Pune
Nov 2	IND vs SL	Mumbai
Nov 3	NED vs AFG	Lucknow
Nov 4	NZ vs PAK	Bangalore
Nov 4	ENG vs SA	Ahmedabad
Nov 5	IND vs SA	Kolkata
Nov 6	BAN vs SL	Delhi
Nov 7	AUS vs AFG	Mumbai
Nov 8	ENG vs NED	Pune
Nov 9	NZ vs SL	Bangalore
Nov 10	SA vs AFG	Ahmedabad
Nov 11	AUS vs BAN	Pune
Nov 11	ENG vs PAK	Kolkata
Nov 12	IND vs NED	Bangalore
Nov 15	Semifinal 1	Mumbai
Nov 16	SEMIFINAL 2	Kolkata
Nov 19	FINAL	Ahmedabad

ICC WORLD CUP SO FAR

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	HOSTS
1975	West Indies	Australia	England
1979	West Indies	England	England
1983	India	West Indies	England, Wales
1987	Australia	England	India, Pakistan
1992	Pakistan	England	Australia, New Zealand
1996	Sri Lanka	Australia	India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Netherlands
1999	Australia	Pakistan	Ireland, Netherlands
2003	Australia	India	S Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya
2007	Australia	Sri Lanka	West Indies
2011	India	Sri Lanka	India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh
2015	Australia	New Zealand	Australia, New Zealand
2019	England	New Zealand	England, Wales

A NEW EXPERIENCE AWAITS

In a first across the different editions of the tournament, ICC TV will produce an additional vertical video feed in their world feed for the WC. The revolutionary move will aid fans to watch the game seamlessly on mobile phones while on the go. The vertical feed will also have a special split-screen to give more context to the on-field actions. It will also ensure that the key features of the usual coverage including ball tracking, field placements as well as player tracking fit into the vertical dimension to enhance the viewing experience. The production will have vertically oriented cameras while utilising the world feed cameras for split screens. The feed will also have curated feature match graphics and bespoke enhancements to give the users a wholesome experience with vertically oriented coverage.



Hindus perform rituals for their ancestors during Pitra Paksha, at a Ganga ghat, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



Police personnel detain AAP workers during their protest over the Enforcement Directorate's raid at the residence of party MP Sanjay Singh in Delhi



British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty arrive at the Conservative Party annual conference at Manchester Central convention complex in Manchester, England



JD(U) workers and supporters celebrate after the declaration of Bihar's caste-based census report, in Patna. Bihar government Monday released findings of the survey which revealed that OBCs and EBCs constitute a whopping 63 per cent of the state's total population



Voters wait to cast their votes for the 5th LAHDC Kargil elections, in Kargil



Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad (students wing) supporters participate in a protest rally over Delhi police's alleged yesterday's actions on Trinamool Congress National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee and other leaders at Krishi Bhavan, in Kolkata, West Bengal



Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) personnel perform their skills during the 18th Jharkhand State Police Duty Meet -2023 at Jharkhand Armed Police (JAP) ground, in Ranchi



People watch the overflowing Dassam Falls, after continuous rains, at Bundu sub-division of Ranchi, in Ranchi, Jharkhand

national



We are planning to have on PWD roads, mechanical sweeping and cleaning also... We will do it on MCD roads too

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

ED ASKS ABHISHEK TO APPEAR OCT 9

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee to appear before its officers here on October 9 in connection with the West Bengal school jobs scam, an official said



of the day quote

Basically the contest in Rajasthan is between the BJP and the Congress. Other small parties have contested elections in the past and will contest elections even today. Perhaps they will contest in the future but the main contest will be between the BJP and the Congress

SACHIN PILOT | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

We want a census of backward classes as it will reveal information on how many of them are very backward, how many of them are literate, who are economically backward, etc. The census will disclose all these details and we would be able to take measures in their interest

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Those who have gone with BJP have nothing to do with NCP and they have switched sides because of the threat of investigating agencies

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Court grants bail to Lalu, Rabri, Tejashwi

New Delhi: A court here Wednesday granted bail to RJD chief Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi and their son and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav in the alleged land-for-job scam in the railways, noting since they were not apprehended by the CBI during the probe "there would be no need for arrest at the instance of the court".

Mumbai: Local train derails, no casualty

Mumbai: A motor coach of an empty local train derailed while it was entering the car shed at Mumbai Central station Wednesday, disrupting the suburban traffic for at least three hours in the afternoon which inconvenienced commuters, officials said. Nobody was injured in the incident.

Faizal disqualified as LS member

New Delhi: NCP leader Mohammed Faizal P P was disqualified as member of the Lok Sabha Wednesday after the Kerala High Court rejected his plea for suspension of his conviction in an attempt to murder case. "In view of order dated 03.10.2023 of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala, Sri Mohammed Faizal P.P., Member of Lok Sabha representing the Lakshadweep Parliamentary Constituency of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, stands disqualified from the membership of Lok Sabha from the date of his conviction, i.e. 11th January, 2023," a Lok Sabha Secretariat bulletin stated.

8 dead in road mishap

Varanasi (UP): Eight people, including four members of a family, were killed in a road accident on the Varanasi-Lucknow highway in this Uttar Pradesh district Wednesday, police said. A nine-year-old boy was severely injured in the accident and is undergoing treatment, Station House Officer (SHO), Pulpur, Deepak Ranawat said.

Two militants killed

Srinagar: Two unidentified militants were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday, police said. The encounter started earlier in the day when security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Kujjar following information about the presence of ultras there.

No FIR copy or offences revealed: NewsClick

Prominent journalists' bodies, including the Indian Women's Press Corps, PCI and Digipub News India Foundation, have sought the intervention of Chief Justice of India in the matter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and human resources head Amit Chakravarty, arrested in a case filed under anti-terror law UAPA, have been sent to police custody for seven days, even as the media organisation has said it has not been provided with a copy of the FIR or informed about the offences.

On its part, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has justified the police action against NewsClick, saying those involved in anti-India activities will face the strictest action as people have given the mandate to the Narendra Modi government to deal firmly with such elements.

In a statement, the portal said it has not been provided with a copy of the FIR or informed about the offences for which people associated with it have been charged.

The portal claimed that police seized electronic devices from its premises and the houses of its employees without following the due process, such as the provision of seizure memos, hash values of the seized data or even copies of the data.

Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described the Delhi Police's action against NewsClick as "objectionable" and a "fascist method" of suppressing dissenting voices.

Meanwhile, a city court has issued a notice to the Delhi police on a plea moved by Purkayastha and Chakravarty.

The court agreed to hand over a copy of the remand application



Journalists during a protest over Police actions on news portal NewsClick, at Press Club of India in New Delhi

The Delhi Police arrested Purkayastha and Chakravarty Tuesday after searching nearly 50 locations and questioning several journalists in connection with the case filed under the UAPA, following allegations that the portal received money to spread pro-China propaganda

Police have sealed NewsClick's office in Delhi

Forty-six suspects were questioned and digital devices, including laptops and mobile phones, besides documents taken away for examination

Left-affiliated All India Students' Association (AISA) at Jantar Mantar saw the participation of journalists, students and some citizens.

The students' outfit called the raids an "attack on press freedom" and demanded the immediate release of those arrested.

The family members of historian Sohail Hashmi, whose house was also raided by police Tuesday, participated in the protest.

Addressing a gathering at the protest site, AISA's Delhi state secretary Neha alleged that the government action is a blatant attack on the democratic values of India. In related developments, journalist bodies sought the CJ's intervention in the matter.

A letter addressed to CJI Chandrachud was signed by organisations, such as the Digipub News India Foundation, IWPC and PCI, among others.

The journalist bodies said a large number of scribes in the country find themselves working under the threat of reprisal.

NEPAL QUAKE 'TRIGGERED' SIKKIM DISASTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: Scientists are exploring whether the strong earthquake that rocked Nepal and the neighbouring region Tuesday is the reason behind the outburst of the south Lhonak lake that triggered a flash flood in the Teesta river basin in Sikkim.

The lake outburst also led to the breach of the Chungthang dam, the biggest hydropower project in the state. It is part of the 1,200 megawatts (MW) Teesta Stage III Hydro Electric Project in which the state government is the majority stakeholder.

Satellite images released by Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre showed that the area of the south Lhonak lake reduced by over 100 hectares when compared to its extent September



Flooded Teesta river in north Sikkim

17, indicating the lake outburst triggered a flash flood in the Teesta River basin in north Sikkim.

According to officials, at least 22 Army personnel, are missing. "Earthquake that hit Nepal reduced by over 100 hectares when compared to its extent September

ED summons Ranbir Kapoor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned actor Ranbir Kapoor for questioning Friday in connection with the Mahadev betting application money-laundering case in Chhattisgarh, officials said.

They said the agency has accused Kapoor of receiving money from the promoters of the app for promoting their product in the virtual (online) space.

The ED has asked Kapoor to appear at the agency's Raipur office October 6, they said.

Despite several attempts to contact the actor, there was no response from him.

Around 14-15 other celebrities and actors are under the ED's scanner in the case and they will also be summoned soon, sources said.

The company promoted by Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal was being operated from Dubai. It was allegedly using the online book betting appli-



cation to enrol new users, create IDs and launder money through a layered web of benami bank accounts, the agency has alleged.

The ED investigation has shown that the Mahadev Online Book App is run from a central head office in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), officials said. It operates by franchising "Panel/Branches" to their known associates on a 70-30 profit ratio, the agency had said.

A huge expenditure in cash has also been incurred in India for advertising of betting websites to attract new users and franchise (panel) seekers, it had said.

Political slugfest over Sanjay Singh's arrest



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: Senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP, was Wednesday arrested by the Enforcement Directorate here in connection with its money laundering probe linked to the 2021-22 Delhi Excise policy case, in a jolt to Delhi's ruling party after its third top leader was held by a central agency in over a year.

The arrest of 51-year-old Singh, who became the second high profile leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to be nabbed in the case relating to the now scrapped Excise policy after former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, sparked a political slugfest between the Arvind Kejriwal-led party and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Singh is expected to be produced before a local court in Delhi Thursday where the ED will seek his custodial interrogation.

The searches and subsequent

arrest of Singh comes a day after a Delhi court had allowed Raghav Magunta, son of YSR Congress Party Lok Sabha MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, and Delhi-based businessman Dinesh Arora to turn approver in the money laundering case connected to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. Several members of the opposition bloc INDIA rallied behind Singh, with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supreme Sharad Pawar saying the arrest will further strengthen the new alliance that was formed to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called the arrest "completely illegal" and alleged it was a desperate measure by the BJP.

While RJD leader Manoj Jha slammed the Centre saying it is trying to distract people from the results of the Bihar caste survey, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti alleged that central agencies are being misused and weaponised at the behest of the BJP.

The BJP on its part mounted a blistering attack on Kejriwal, accusing him of being the "king-pin" of the alleged liquor policy scam and said "handcuffs" are not far away.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, ANGUL DIVISION, ANGUL Tender Call Notice At/Po- ANGUL, Dist- ANGUL, Odisha-759122, E-mail ID- dfoangul@gmail.com, dfo.angul@odisha.gov.in

Government of Odisha No.O-1199: e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. Online tender/ 05/E.E.R.W BOUTH/2023-24 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bhubaneswar Development Authority Bhubaneswar Development Authority Akash Shova Building, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751001, Ph: +91-0674-2392801

Government of Odisha No.O-1191: e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SNPR-07 OF 2023-24

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, M.I.DIVISION, CUTTACK Nayabazar, Cuttack-04, email id: eemidcuttack@yahoo.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION NO-II, KEONJHAR

international

of the day quote

All the countries which agree to our pro-Maldives policy will be our close friends and allies. We will send back foreign soldiers in the Maldives

MOHAMED MUIZZU | PRESIDENT-ELECT, MALDIVES

We've not recognised them (Taliban) as a governing power in Afghanistan. They want that. They want legitimacy. Then they need to meet their commitments

JOHN KIRBY | COORDINATOR FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS, US

The second tranche of the IMF bailout would be made available soon and there was no danger of it being halted

SHEHAN SEMASINGHE | STATE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, SL

SHORT TAKES

Bus crash kills 21

Rome: At least 21 people were killed and 18 injured in a fiery bus crash in a borough of Venice, Italy, across the lagoon from its historic centre, where firefighters and other emergency responders worked into the night trying to extract bodies and squelch the flames. The bus was carrying foreign tourists, including Ukrainians, according to a Venice official, when it fell from an elevated street Tuesday in Mestre en route to a camping site near the community of Marghera. Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro wrote on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter, that the crash scene was "apocalyptic" and declared the city in a state of mourning.

Borders closed

Bratislava: Slovakia will impose temporary controls on its border with Hungary due to a rising number of illegal migrants, it said Wednesday, following moves by Poland, the Czech Republic and Austria to tighten their own borders with Slovakia. Slovakia has faced an eleven-fold increase this year in the number of illegal migrants, largely coming from the Middle East and Afghanistan, crossing into the country from Hungary as they head to Germany and Western Europe. Central European countries, while taking in Ukrainian refugees after Russia's invasion, have generally united together in opposing taking in other asylum seekers. They have also faced friction over periodic tightening of their borders that hits cross-border traffic and business.



We are now unable to halt the enormous damage we have caused (to climate). We barely have time to prevent even more tragic damage

POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

CANADA'S FIRST BLACK SPEAKER

Canada's House of Commons has elected Greg Fergus as its new Speaker, making the Liberal lawmaker the first Black Canadian to hold the position. The election was triggered by the resignation of Anthony Rota, who stepped down last week after he invited — and honoured — a man who fought for a Nazi military unit during World War II



'UNCHARTED WATERS' US HOUSE ADrift

Republicans fight over their next leader as McCarthy becomes first speaker ever to be ousted from job in House vote



REUTERS

Washington, Oct 4: The US House of Representatives was leaderless Wednesday, after hard-line Republicans narrowly won a vote to oust Speaker Kevin McCarthy, an historic move that triggered what will be a lengthy and likely messy battle to find a replacement.

It was the first time that the House has removed a speaker — a position that is second in line to the president after the vice president.

Republicans lawmakers signaled they would need a week to regroup, planning to meet to discuss possible candidates to replace McCarthy — who said he would not run again — with votes October 11 at the earliest. The leadership fight is eating into the time lawmakers have to avert a looming partial government shutdown, which would begin November 18 if Congress fails to pass legislation proving more funding. "We're in uncharted waters," Republican Representative Byron Donalds told reporters after supporting McCarthy in a vote the speaker lost 216-210.

McCarthy, who led a narrow 221-212 majority, made the job even more difficult for himself. During 15 grueling rounds of voting on his bid for the speakership in January, he agreed to changes to House rules that al-

I don't envy anyone this job. It is like handing 220 matches out to people in your party and dousing none of them are crazy

MIKE GARCIA | REPRESENTATIVE, REPUBLICAN

lowed any one member of Congress to call for the speaker's ouster, setting the stage for Representative Matt Gaetz to do just that.

McCarthy said only that his advice to the next speaker was: "Change the rules."

RACE TO REPLACE

The race to replace ousted House Speaker Kevin McCarthy took shape as Steve Scalise, the chamber's No 2 Republican, and Jim Jordan, a leading antagonist of Democratic President Joe Biden, said they would seek the post.

The two lawmakers could be joined by several other candidates in what could be a lengthy and likely messy battle to fill the post in the House where Republicans hold a majority.

Republican lawmakers emerging from a private meeting mainly named the two as leading candidates.

Even though many lawmakers saw this day coming, given McCarthy's tenuous hold on the speakership, they nonetheless were stunned that Republicans actually dumped their own leader.

"I've been here for a while, and I've seen a lot, but I've never seen this," Democratic Representative Jim McGovern told Reuters.

House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries urged "traditional Republicans" in the House to "walk away from MAGA extremism and join us in partnership for the good of the country," a reference to former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

The entire House — Republicans and Democrats — vote for the chamber's speaker who normally holds the position for two years or until the end of the current Congress in early January 2025.

CHAOS AMID CRISES

The Republican Party chaos comes as Congress already was struggling over how to fund the government in the fiscal year that began October 1. Just four days ago, lawmakers narrowly averted a partial government shutdown that would have stopped pay for more than 4 million federal workers and shuttered a wide range of federal programs.

McCarthy's move Saturday to join forces with opposition Democrats to enact a stopgap spending bill saved the country from a wrenching shutdown. But it sparked the revolt led by Gaetz among hard-right Republicans who were angered by the failure to achieve deep spending cuts in that temporary measure.

The crisis also detracts from Republican hopes to fix the public's focus on an impeachment inquiry into Democratic President Joe Biden and immigration troubles at the southwest US border with Mexico.

McCarthy and his fellow Republicans had hoped to make those twin issues the centerpiece of the 2024 congressional and presidential campaigns along with inflation.



MIGRANTS' INFLUX: A migrant child is seen crossing barbed wires to enter the US to request asylum. Thousands of migrants have crossed into the US from Mexico in recent weeks, amid record numbers of people moving north across the continent

Canadian claims against India serious, need full probe: US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 4: The Canadian allegations regarding India's involvement in the killing of a pro-Khalistan separatist are "serious" and need to be investigated fully, the White House has said.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the chief of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), was killed in Surrey, British Columbia June 18. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

Tensions flared between India and Canada last month following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar. India has angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

The claims made by Canada were discussed when visiting External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National



Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met here last week. John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House told reporters at a news conference here.

"The issue was discussed. We'll certainly leave it to those two countries to talk about their bilateral relationship," Kirby said in response to a question.

"We've been clear, these allegations are serious, they need to be fully investigated and of course, as we've said before, we urge India to participate actively in that investigation," Kirby said.

Lockdown imposed to avert Hindu-Muslims clashes in Nepal town

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kathmandu, Oct 4: Despite quickly escalating tensions between Hindus and Muslims, the night passed peacefully after a lockdown was imposed and security heightened in a city in southwest Nepal, officials said.

Trouble began in the regional hub city of Nepalgunj over the weekend after a Hindu boy posted a status about Muslims on social media. Muslims protested the status inside the region's main government administrator's office building, burned tires on the streets and blocked traffic.

A larger Hindu rally was held Tuesday until stones and bottles were thrown at protesters, resulting in a few minor injuries.

The indefinite curfew was imposed since Tuesday afternoon in Nepalgunj, about 400 kilometres west of the capital, Kathmandu, directly after the Hindu protest came under attack.

Area police chief Santosh Rathore said officers were patrolling the city and people were not allowed to leave their homes or gather in groups during the lockdown. There were no reports of any trouble overnight, nor Wednesday morning.

Officials said they needed to impose the stay-at-home order and stop people from gathering together to prevent any more clashes between the two sides.

Communal violence is not common in Nepal, which is a Hindu majority country that turned secular just a few years ago. Muslims make up roughly a third of Nepalgunj's population.

20 MONTHS OF WAR

Russia foils Ukraine's largest drone swarm

Ukraine is pressing on with a slow-moving counteroffensive it launched three months ago, though mounting concerns about replenishing its military stocks cast a cloud over its efforts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Oct 4: Russian air defences shot down 31 Ukrainian drones during a concerted nighttime attack by Kyiv's forces on border regions, the Russian Defence Ministry said Wednesday, even as uncertainty grew over Ukraine's future access to weapons and ammunition from its Western allies.

The drone attack appeared to be Kyiv's largest single cross-border drone assault reported by Moscow since it launched its invasion 20 months ago.

Adm Rob Bauer, the head of NATO's Military Committee, sounded the alarm about de-

pleted stockpiles.

With the war of attrition likely continuing through winter into next year, Bauer said of weapons systems and ammunition supplies: "The bottom of the barrel is now visible."

He urged the defence industry to boost production "at a much higher tempo. And we need large volumes," he told the Warsaw Security Forum, an annual two-day conference that continued Wednesday.

The Russian Defence Ministry didn't provide any evidence for its claims about intercepting Ukrainian drones nor any details about whether there were any damage or casualties. It also



said Russian aircraft thwarted a Ukrainian attempt to deploy a group of soldiers by sea to the western side of Russian-annexed Crimea.

The force attempted to land on Cape Tarkhankut, on Crimea's western end, using a high-speed boat and three jet skis, the ministry said.

The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, has been a frequent target of Ukrainian attacks. The region has been the key hub supporting the invasion.

UKRAINE'S FEARS RISE

Fears over the resupply of Ukraine's armed forces have deepened in recent weeks.

The Pentagon has warned Congress that it is running low on money to replace weapons the US has sent to Ukraine.

Concern about the commitment of Kyiv's allies has also

grown amid political turmoil in the United States amid the unprecedented and dramatic ouster of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Some in the House Republican majority, and many GOP voters, oppose sending more military aid to Ukraine. The US is by far Ukraine's largest military supplier.

Fugitive Russian war protest scribe jailed

Former Russian TV journalist Marina Ovsyannikova, who captured world attention when she burst into a news broadcast with a placard that read "Stop the war" and "They're lying to you", was sentenced in absentia Wednesday to eight and half years in jail. Ovsyannikova was fined for her original protest, less than three weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine February 24, 2022, in what it called a "special military operation". But she later faced criminal prosecution for "spreading knowingly false information about the Russian Armed Forces" in connection with a July 2022 protest when she stood on a river embankment opposite the Kremlin and held up a poster calling President Vladimir Putin a murderer and his soldiers fascists. "How many more children must die before you will stop?" the poster read.

CONTROVERSIAL CLAIMS

Jesus was mortal, never crucified: Gospel of Barnabas

The statement seemingly challenges the Christian message, which is built upon the death of Jesus as the Savior for the sins of mankind and his resurrection as the hope of eternal life

AGENCIES

Washington, Oct 4: A 1,500-year-old Bible reportedly states that Jesus was a mortal human and was never crucified, in claims deemed to challenge the core principles of Christianity, according to media reports this week.

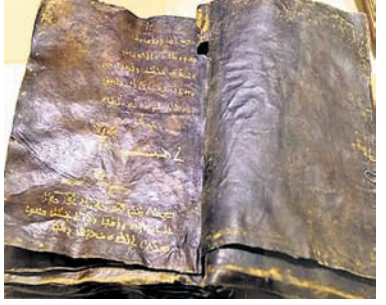
The Gospel of Barnabas, which analysts believe is an addition to the original gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, attracted attention earlier this year for suggesting that Jesus had foretold the coming of the Prophet Mohammed.

In February, the Vatican officially requested to see the book, which Turkey had discovered during a police anti-smuggling operation in 2000.

This week, translated quotes from the document — originally written in Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic — reportedly state that Jesus said: "I confess before heaven, and call to witness everything that dwells upon the earth, that I am a stranger to all that men have said of me, that I am more than man."

"For I am a man, born of a woman, subject to the judgment of God; that live here like as other men, subject to the common miseries," the Y-Jesus US-based online magazine reported in an analysis of the Gospel of Barnabas.

The statements, if proven true, would effectively deny Jesus' deity and reject the Trinity, the Christian doctrine which defines God as three divine persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit.



The Gospel of Barnabas "also presents Judas Iscariot as the one who died on the cross instead of Jesus, whereas in the New Testament, Judas betrays Jesus," Y-Jesus reported.

St Barnabas is traditionally identified as the founder of the Cypriot Church, an early Christian later named an apostle.

But Y-Jesus also raised questions over the authenticity of the gospel, adding that "Barnabas couldn't have

written it; he lived at least 400 years before its date of a.d. 500."

The report added that even Islamic scholars have questioned its legitimacy.

"Many Islamic, as well as Christian and secular scholars label the Gospel of Barnabas a forgery," adding that no Muslim or Christian writer referred to it until the fifteenth or sixteenth century, while the gospel "cites historical facts that didn't exist until hundreds of years later."

The text, reportedly worth \$22 million, is said to contain Jesus' prediction of the Prophet's coming but was suppressed by the Christian Church for years for its strong resemblance to the Islamic view of Jesus, Turkish culture and tourism minister Ertugrul Gunay told the the Daily Mail in February.

"In line with Islamic belief, the Gospel treats Jesus as a human being and not a God. It rejects the ideas of the

Holy Trinity and the Crucifixion and reveals that Jesus predicted the coming of the Prophet Mohammed," the newspaper reported.

"In one version of the gospel, he is said to have told a priest: 'How shall the Messiah be called? Mohammed is his blessed name.'"

"And in another, Jesus denied being the Messiah, claiming that he or she would be Ishmael, the term used for an Arab," the newspaper added.

The gospel had remained closely guarded by Turkish authorities before being handed over to the Ankara Ethnography Museum where it will soon be put on show.

A photocopy of a single page from the leather-bound, gold-lettered book, penned in Jesus' native Aramaic language is reportedly worth about \$2.4 million, according to the Daily Mail. But further skepticism over the authenticity of the ancient handwritten manuscript arose.

DAUNTING TASK

Sunak kickstarts 2024 campaign

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Oct 4: Battling gloomy polls and mounting doubts, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Wednesday urged skeptical voters, and his own Conservative Party: Keep me in office and I'll offer you change.

In his first — and possibly last — speech as leader to the party's annual conference before an election due in 2024, Sunak said he's not afraid to make tough choices and big decisions that will deliver "long-term success" rather than "short-term advantage".

But one of his big decisions has divided the party and threatens to derail his agenda: scrapping much of an ambitious but over-budget high-speed railway line that was planned to link London and Manchester.

The UK leader faces a daunting challenge rallying his beleaguered Tories to win the election — due sometime in 2024 — after several years of damaging scandals and deep economic woes. Sunak faces an uphill task convincing voters to stick with the Tories after 13 years and damaging periods of turmoil under his immediate predecessors, Liz Truss and Boris Johnson.

of the day quote

We are on a growth path and we want to double our property portfolio by 2030. India being the key market for Jumeirah Hotels and Resorts, we are definitely keen (on opening a hotel in India)

KIRTI ANCHAN | GENERAL MANAGER, JUMEIRAH EMIRATES TOWERS

To combat the menace of plastic, individuals, industries and the government must work together. Reducing plastic use, recycling, and promoting sustainable alternatives are crucial steps

SANJAY KUMAR | DIRECTOR GENERAL, DMC

We took up completion of projects on time as a challenge, and in cases where the project is already delayed, a revised schedule was taken as the target. I have a feeling that by the end of this financial year (March), we will complete about 85 per cent of projects on time

ANURAG JAIN | ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

NIIF opens \$600mn India-Japan Fund

New Delhi: The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund has entered into a collaboration with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to launch a \$600 million India-Japan Fund. The fund will have JBIC and Government of India as anchor investors. It will focus on investing in environmental sustainability and low carbon emission strategies and aims to play the role of being a 'partner of choice' to further enhance Japanese investments into India, a finance ministry statement said Wednesday. The announcement marks NIIF's first bilateral fund, with Gol contributing 49 per cent of the target corpus and the remaining 51 per cent contributed by JBIC.

Audi sales surge 88% in Jan-Sept

New Delhi: German luxury carmaker Audi Wednesday reported an 88 per cent year-on-year growth in retail sales at 5,530 units in January-September period this year in India. Audi India had retailed 2,947 units in the same period last year. The launch of the new Q8 e-tron, Q8 Sportback e-tron, Q3 and Q3 Sportback coupled with continued demand for other models like the A4, A6 and Q5 has led to positive growth, the automaker said in a statement. "Our SUVs have witnessed a growth of 187 per cent. With the upcoming festive season, we are expecting this growth to continue on the back of sustained demand," Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillion noted.

Big green push: Reliance reveals its EV cards

THE CONGLOMERATE UNVEILS SWAPPABLE, MULTIPURPOSE BATTERIES FOR E2WS

AGENCIES

Greater Noida, Oct 4: Indian oil refining giant Reliance Industries showcased its swappable and multipurpose battery storage technology for electric vehicles (EVs) Wednesday, as it makes a big push on clean energy.

Reliance, led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, displayed removable and swappable batteries for EVs that can also be used to power household appliances through an inverter at Renewable Energy India Expo here.

The concept has already reached engineering and manufacturing stage and could come out as a product for customers next year, company executives at the Reliance stall said.



According to them, the battery could provide enough power to electric two-wheelers (E2Ws) to run 70-75 kilometres.

"These swappable batteries can be charged using solar energy. They can also be used to power household appliances if a customer wants to do so," one

of the company officials said.

"It's a whole ecosystem. We have battery and solar power. Customers will basically have to store this energy in batteries which are swappable," he said.

A user can ideally have more than one battery and swap it when required. The set up, using

a dock and charger, can be made at home or office, etc, while swapping stations would also be made as EV infrastructure in public places where one could just bring their two-wheelers and swap the drained battery with a charged one.

"Technically, the swapping time takes just six seconds," he said. When kept idle, the swappable batteries could also be used to power household appliances using the ecosystem, he added.

All the activities could be monitored using a single mobile phone application, he said.

"The effort is focussed on creating an ecosystem around swappable batteries," the official added.

"We are working along with automated OEMs or two-wheelers who would develop models that

are compatible with these batteries," he added.

Development of battery storage solutions is a part of Reliance's bigger \$10 billion green push towards clean energy projects. The company aims to cut dependence on its mainstay oil-to-chemical business and be net zero carbon by 2035.

Clean auto technology is central to India's strategy of cutting pollution in major cities and reaching its broader climate goals. Electric vehicles currently make up a fraction of total sales in India mainly due to their high price as the batteries are imported, and a lack of charging infrastructure.

The government is trying to encourage swappable batteries to bring down costs and promote wider adoption of EVs.

Accenture to open global delivery facility in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 4: Accenture, one of the leading IT MNCs, plans to set up its global delivery facility in Bhubaneswar, the state government announced Wednesday.

A senior delegation led by Ajay Vij, Country Managing Director of Accenture met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday and had an extensive discussion regarding the company's plans for the state.

During discussion, Puneet J Kumar, MD, Accenture India & Government Relation Lead, Sanjay Baurai, Managing Director-Workplace Solutions, Accenture India, VK Pandian, Secretary 5T, Manoj Mishra, Principal Secretary, Electronics & IT department, Manas Panda, Special Secretary, Electronics & IT Department were also present.

After discussion with the Chief Minister, Vij said, "We are excited to set up our presence in Bhubaneswar, a city which is home to leading educational institutions, a rapidly growing IT ecosystem and a rich talent pool. Bhubaneswar will join our large network of existing facilities to deliver transformative technology solutions for clients across the globe and expand our footprint in India."

CM Naveen Patnaik has assured all possible support to Accenture to facilitate the commencement of its operations in the state.

India, UAE to facilitate cross-border payments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: NPCI International Payments Ltd, the international arm of the National Payment Corporation of India, will ink an agreement with Al Eitihad Payments Thursday in Abu Dhabi to facilitate cross-border transactions, an official said.

The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) will be signed on the development of the domestic card scheme of the UAE based on India's RuPay debit and credit card stack, the official added.

The agreement will be signed in the presence of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who is leading a business delegation to Abu Dhabi from October 5 to October 6.

Goyal will co-chair the eleventh meeting of the India-UAE High-Level Task Force on Investments (HLTFI) along with Sheikh Hamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

Meanwhile, the commerce ministry in a statement said that the two countries will discuss issues, and challenges pertaining to existing investments in each other's countries.

SLOWDOWN FEARS

Global bond rout deepens

A growing sense that interest rates in major economies will stay higher for longer to contain inflation, ever resilient US economic data and a sharp unwinding of traders' positions for a bond rally have hit hard

REUTERS

New York, Oct 4: A rout in government bond markets deepened Wednesday with benchmark US yields hitting fresh 16-year highs as investors bet persistently high interest rates will slow world growth and dampen the appetite for riskier assets.

A cooler-than-expected US private payrolls report initially helped stocks on Wall Street rebound from the prior day's sharp sell-off, but concerns about the impact of rising rates turned stocks lower on Wall Street and in Europe.

Growth concerns also weighed on crude oil and gold prices. The yield on 10-year Treasury notes touched 4.884%, its highest since August 2007, while 30-year Treasury yields rose above 5% for the first time since the same month 16 years ago.

The ADP National Employment Report showed US private employers in September added the fewest workers in more than 2-1/2 years, with pri-



vate payrolls rising by 89,000 jobs. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls would rise by 153,000.

The report eased the outlook after a stronger-than-expected US job openings report Tuesday increased fears of even tighter monetary policy to curb a resilient US economy.

MSCI's gauge of stocks across the globe shed 0.20% and the pan-European STOXX 600 index lost 0.42%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.09% and the S&P 500 gained 0.13% but the Nasdaq Composite added 0.61%.

European bonds followed the US rout, with yields on Germany's benchmark 10-year debt rising above 3% for the first time since 2011, before slipping to 2.968%. The country's 30-year yield climbed to its latest 12-year high.

Even Japan's 10-year yield, which is capped by the Bank of Japan, rose 4.5 bps to a decade high despite the BOJ offering

to buy \$4.5 billion worth of bonds Wednesday.

Australian, Canadian and British government bond yields have also surged this week.

The moves in bond markets sucked money into the US dollar, which was stronger than the euro. The dollar index, a measure of the US currency against a basket of other currencies, eased 0.13%.

Earlier, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan sank to 11-month lows, shedding 1.1% for its second straight daily drop of over 1%.

US yields in real terms - subtracting inflation - are also at almost 15-year highs, in part because their move has not come with much of a shift in market gauges of inflation expectations.

THE DOLLAR'S MARCH

The yen was on the stronger

The stock market's going to absolutely take its cue from the bond market over the next week or so. If bonds stabilize or even improve, then stocks are OK and we should have a seasonally strong period

RHYS WILLIAMS | CHIEF STRATEGIST, SPROUTING ROCK ASSET MANAGEMENT

side of 150 per dollar Wednesday, after an unexpected but short-lived surge in the previous session stoked speculation that Japanese authorities may have intervened to support the currency.

The Japanese currency had breached the 150-per-dollar level Tuesday before suddenly shooting to 147.3. There was no confirmation from Tokyo, where Japan's finance minister and top currency diplomat have made no direct comment on the move.

The yen last stood at 149.10 per dollar.

The dollar's march pushed the euro to its lowest in 10 months at \$1.0448 overnight and sterling to a seven-month trough at \$1.20535.

The euro last traded at \$1.05, up 0.3% on the day. The pound was up a similar amount at \$1.212. In commodity markets, the firm dollar has helped put the brakes on oil prices and higher yields have weighed on gold.

US crude recently fell 3.62% to \$86.00 per barrel and Brent was at \$87.69, down 3.55% on the day. Spot gold was flat at \$1,822.69 an ounce.

Oil falls more than \$3

REUTERS

London, Oct 4: Oil fell by over \$3 a barrel Wednesday, as demand fears stemming from macroeconomic headwinds offset pledges by Saudi Arabia and Russia to continue crude output cuts to the end of 2023.

Brent crude oil futures were down \$3.30, or 3.63%, to \$87.62 a barrel at 1456 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) fell \$3.29, or 3.69%, to \$85.94. Brent traded at its

Saudi, Russia confirm output cuts to continue till year-end

lowest since Sept 1 during the session, with an intraday low of \$87.55 a barrel by 1456 GMT. WTI's intraday low of \$85.86 was the lowest since Sept 5.

Oil prices remain under pressure from demand fears driven by macroeconomic headwinds.

The OPEC+ Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee

(JMMC) online meeting Wednesday kept the group's output policy unchanged.

Saudi Arabia's energy ministry confirmed Wednesday it will continue its voluntary 1 million barrel per day (bpd) crude supply cut until the end of this year.

Russia said it will continue its current 300,000 bpd crude export cuts until the end of the year, and will review its voluntary 500,000 bpd output cut, set back in April, in November.

CLIMATE CONSCIOUSNESS

Coca-Cola rolls out PET bottles for beverages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 4: Beverages major Coca-Cola Wednesday said it has introduced 100 per cent recycled PET bottles for its carbonated beverage supporting the circular economy.

The company has introduced recycled PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles in pack sizes of 250 ml and 750 ml across several markets in India, said a statement from Coca-Cola India.

These rPET bottles are being manufactured by Coca-Cola bottling partners - Moon Beverages and SLMG Beverages Ltd, it added.



"The bottles made from 100 per cent food-grade rPET (excluding caps and labels) have an on-pack call to action 'Recycle

Me Again' message and will also drive consumer awareness with '100% recycled PET bottle' displayed on the pack," it said.

These rPET bottles are crafted from food-grade recycled polyethylene terephthalate. The plastic is recycled as per the technologies approved by the USFDA and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for food-grade recycled material and repurposed into new PET bottles, reducing the need for virgin plastic for producing PET bottles.

The Coca-Cola Company now offers 100 per cent rPET bottles in over 40 markets. It had first introduced 100 per cent recycled PET bottles in India for its packaged drinking water brand Kinley.

FOREIGN FUND GLOOM

Indices plunge for second day

TRADERS SAID THE STRENGTH OF THE AMERICAN CURRENCY IN THE OVERSEAS MARKET FURTHER DENTED INVESTOR SENTIMENTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 4: Equity benchmark indices ended lower by 286.06 points Wednesday, extending their previous day's fall, due to unabated foreign fund outflows and weak trends in the US and Asian markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex went lower by 286.06 points, or 0.44 per cent, to settle at 65,226.04. During the day, it plunged 633.33 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 64,878.77. The Nifty declined 92.65 points, or 0.47 per cent, to end at 19,436.10.

Among the Sensex firms, Axis Bank fell over 4.38 per cent, emerging as the biggest laggard. State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Maruti, and Larsen & Toubro were the other major laggards.

Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL Technologies, and Asian Paints were among the gainers.

"Overseas investors are pulling out funds from the Indian equity markets as the current rally in US dollar and bond yields is making emerging market assets less attractive," Shrikant



Chouhan, head of research (retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

"Despite our strong macroeconomic growth performance, India is not insulated from global problems, and hence any correction in global markets due to worries over further rate hikes would have a rub-off effect here," he said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge fell 1.52 per cent and smallcap index declined 0.96 per cent. Among the indices, metal tumbled 1.98 per cent, realty declined 1.83 per cent, utilities (1.42 per cent), capital goods (1.33 per cent), industrials (1.22 per cent), services (1.02 per cent),

commodities (1 per cent), and oil & gas (0.87 per cent).

The rupee depreciated 4 paise to settle at 83.24 against the US dollar Wednesday.

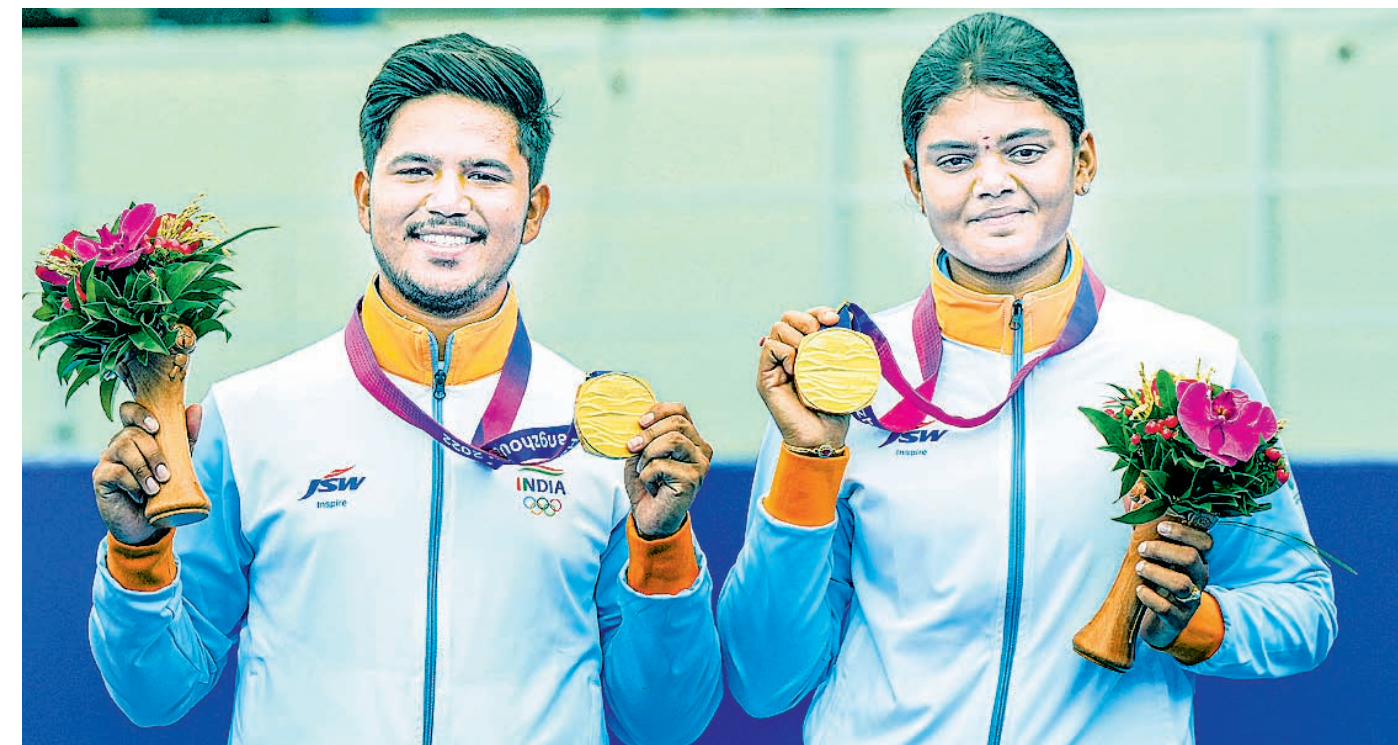
Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.91 per cent to \$90.09 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth ₹4,424.02 crore, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark had declined 316.31 points, or 0.48 per cent, to settle at 65,512.10 Tuesday. The Nifty fell 109.55 points, or 0.56 per cent, to end at 19,528.75.

DEOTALE-JYOTHI DUO BAGS GOLD

Track & field athletes increase medal counts



10 right in the inner-circle. The two teams headed for the final end all squared up (119-119) but the Indian duo remained as cool as cucumbers, shooting all 10s from four arrows to seal it before the Koreans' last two arrows. Both Deotale and Jyothi will also vie for an individual gold medal each. Deotale will face senior teammate Abhishek Verma, while top-seed Jyothi will take on So Chaewon in the individual finals on Saturday. Indian men's and women's compound teams are also in medal hunt, having advanced into their respective quarters slated Thursday.



Indian men's 4x400m relay team members celebrate after winning the race

Recurve woes continue
India, however, suffered a heartbreak in the recurve mixed pair event, with Atanu Das and Ankita Bhakat squandering a 4-2 lead to fall short in the shoot-off against Indonesia to be eliminated in the quarterfinals. The Indian duo lost to Riau Ega Agata Salsabilla and Diananda Choirunisa 4-5 (36-35, 35-36, 38-35, 34-40) (19-20).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 4: Indian javelin throwers - Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Jena produced a commanding performance to walk away with a gold and silver as Indian athletes continued their sensational run, claiming seven medals in the athletics compe-

tion at the Asian Games Wednesday.

Moments later, Indian quartet of Anas Muhammed Yahya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal Varyyathodi and Rajesh Ramesh sealed the gold for India in the men's 4x400m relay with a timing of 3:01.58. Indian quartet of Vithya Ramraj, Aishwarya Mishra, Prachi and Subha Venkatesan also claimed a silver in women's 4x400m relay.

The India quartet came up with an effort of 3:27.85 to finish second, while Bahrain dished out a Games record effort of 3:27.65 to claim the top position, while Sri Lanka won the bronze with a timing of 3:30.88. It was third silver of the day for India in athletics.

Harmilan Bains and Avinash Sable won a silver medal each in women's 800m and men's 5000m respectively. While Harmilan clocked an impressive timing of 2:03.75 to bag the silver, Sable produced an effort of 13:21.09.

Earlier in the day, Indian race walkers Manju Rani and Ram Baboo won the bronze medal in the inaugural 35km mixed team event.

In men's high jump, Anil Kushare season best jump of 2.26m but it was not enough as he missed a medal, finishing at the fourth spot. He needed to clear the 2.29m mark to stay in the fight for a medal. Jesse Sandesh produced a jump of 2.19m to finish 9th.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 4: Ojas Deotale's youthful energy blended seamlessly with Jyothi Surekha Vennam's skills, securing India's maiden gold medal in the compound mixed team event and contributing to their best-ever show in archery at the Asian Games, here Wednesday.

The 21-year-old reigning World Champion Deotale dropped a point but a flawless Jyothi made up for it, shooting all perfect scores from her eight arrows to down the second-seeded Korean pair So Chaewon and Joo Jaehoon 159-158.

With this, Indian archers are set to win at least four medals from the ongoing Games, which will better their previous best show at Incheon in 2014 when they bagged a men's team compound gold, one silver and a bronze.

Playing three back-to-back knockout matches - quarterfinals, semifinals and final - in 140 minutes can be gruelling, but the Indian pair was ice-cool, especially the 27-year-old Jyothi, who excelled in some crucial moments

to nail it. That the pair dropped just four points in three matches tells a lot about the authority shown by Deotale and Jyothi.

Making her third Asian Games appearance, the multiple World Cup gold medalist Jyothi, who was chasing an elusive Asian Games yellow metal, first sealed it with a decisive 10 in the final end when India ousted a formidable Malaysia 158-155 to make the semifinals.

The Indian duo entered the final with a 159-154 win over Kazakhstan. They had just one '9' and the rest were all '10s' in the semifinals against the Kazakh pair of Adel Zhenxinbinova and Andrey Tyutyun.

In the gold medal clash between the top-two seeds, the No.1 Indian pair opting to shoot first had all 10s in the first end, to race to a 40-39 lead.

By virtue of trailing, the Koreans had the advantage of starting off in the second end and managed to squeeze in all 10s, while the Indians remained steady to hold onto their lead (80-79).

In the penultimate end, Ojas

faltered with a nine while responding to the Koreans' two

10s, but Jyothi held her nerves and responded with a slam-bang

India a win away from hockey gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 4: India defeated South Korea 5-3 in a hard-fought semifinal to enter the title clash of the men's hockey competition at the Asian Games here Wednesday.

The Indians, who had an easy run in the pool stages recording big wins, were made to toil by the Koreans despite taking a 3-0 lead in the first quarter. India, who won a bronze in the last edition, will be eyeing a repeat of the 2014 Incheon Asian Games, where they won the yellow metal.

A gold in the ongoing Asian Games is of huge significance for the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalists as it will ensure their direct entry into the 2024 Paris Games.

Hardik Singh (5th minute),



Mandeep Singh (11th), Lalit Kumar Upadhyay (15th), Amit Rohidas (24th) and Abhishek (54th) were the goal-getters for India, while Manjae Jung (17th, 20th, 42nd) scored a hat-trick for Korea but it went in vain.

It took just five minutes for India to take the lead through

Hardik, who scored from a rebound after Lalit's initial try was saved by Korean goalkeeper Jaehyeon Kim. The fast-paced continuous attacks from the Indians bore fruit again in the 11th minute when Mandeep deflected in his 10th goal here from a Gurjant pass.

Lacklustre Lovlina settles for silver at Asian Games

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Oct 4: Tokyo Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain put up a lacklustre display to settle for a silver as Indian boxers signed off with a haul of five medals at the Asian Games here Wednesday.

Parveen Hooda couldn't overcome the height disadvantage against two-time World Champion Lin Yu Ting of Chinese Taipei in the women's 57kg semifinal to sign off with a bronze.

Borgohain's defensive performance cost her the gold as she was outpunched in the lop-sided final. The reigning World Champion was thrashed by home favourite and two-time Olympic medallist Li Qian in the 75kg final.

With Borgohain's loss, India's campaign came to an end. The country's boxers thus signed off with five medals, including one silver and four bronze. In the last edition, India had won a gold and a bronze.

Sunil ends drought

Sunil Kumar won India's first Greco Roman medal in 13 years at the Asian Games, bagging a bronze in the 87kg category even as three of his compatriots exited the tournament here.

Best-ever medal haul

HANGZHOU: The Indian contingent Wednesday registered its best-ever medal haul at the Asian Games by going past the previous edition's tally of 70 here. India's previous-best medal haul had come at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, when the country's athletes returned with 70 medals, including 16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze. 'Aab ki Baar, Sau Paar' (which translates to crossing 100 medals this time) has been India's catch line for the Hangzhou Games. India currently have 81 medals, having 18 gold, 31 silver and 32 bronze medals.

Up against Kyrgyzstan's Atabek Azisbekov, the Indian wrestler fought a strategic bout in which twice he defended well from 'par terre position, denying his opponent a scoring opportunity from the ground position for a 2-1 win.

Ghosal in final

Indian squash star Saurav Ghosal outclassed Henry Leung of Hong Kong in the men's singles semifinals to remain firmly on course for a second gold medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games. Having played his part in the



men's team triumph, the World No.19 from India was far too good for the 52-ranked Henry and completed a dominating 11-2, 11-2, 11-6 victory in 33 minutes.

India could end up with an unprecedented three gold medals from the squash courts with the mixed doubles duo of Dipika Pallikal and Harinderpal Sandhu also reaching the title clash, to be played Thursday. Earlier, the Indian pairing of Dipika and

Harinderpal won 7-11, 11-7, 11-9 against Hong Kong's Lee Ka Yi and Wong Chi Him to make the final.

Silver assured in bridge

Indian men's team showed spectacular skill and unwavering determination to outwit China 2-1 and reach the finals of the bridge competition, assuring the country of at least a silver medal.

Indian men, represented by

Jaggy Shivdasani, Sandeep Thakral, Sumit Mukherjee, Rajeshwar Tiwari, Raju Tolani and Ajay Khare, will face Hong Kong in the gold medal match Friday. India had clinched a bronze medal in 2018.

Shuttlers advance

Kidambi Srikanth bowed out but top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty came up with a smashing performance to enter the quarterfinals as India had a mixed day in office in badminton competition. Satwik and Chirag prevailed 24-22, 16-21, 21-12 against Indonesian duo of Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin.

PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy also sailed into the quarterfinals of the women's and men's singles events respectively with straight game wins.

Dominating wins

India continued their impressive run in kabaddi with both the men's and women's teams thrashing their Thailand counterparts. While the seven-time champions men's team outclassed Thailand 63-26, the eves prevailed 54-22 in two Group A matches.

England eye fiery start against injury-hit Kiwis



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 4: A golden generation of England cricketers who have transformed the white ball format template forever will begin their 50-over World Cup title defence against an injury-battered New Zealand in a repeat of the 2019 final here, Thursday. England are an ageing side and they have an additional worry over Ben Stokes' hip niggle that has rendered him a doubtful starter against the Kiwis in the tournament opener.

But few will dare to bet their green bills against Jos Buttler's outfit to add a third World Cup to their shelf in four years, as they are also the current T20 World Cup holders.

Trying to win that elusive ICC World Cup, New Zealand will be in a state of worry for more than one reason. They will not have captain Kane Williamson and senior pacer Tim Southee in their ranks as both are still on the recovery path after respective surgeries.

But that is only a tip of their bigger concerns. The Ahmedabad pitch is generally an ally of batters, and England have a bionic batting line-up for whom skull-crushing their rivals is a favoured hobby.

The whole ferocity surrounding their batting has only gone up after the return of Stokes, as he had decided to come out of ODI retirement for the big event. The maverick all-rounder's troublesome hip and knee may curtail his role as a bowler in the tournament.

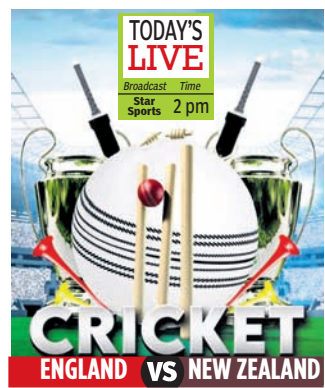
But beyond Stokes, the Kiwis will have a long list of batters in the England line-up that they

need to muffle. England have explosive batters in Liam Livingstone, Jonny Bairstow and Harry Brook and then more conventional batters like Joe Root and Dawid Malan.

Then they have a slew of all-rounders like Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes and Sam Curran. Their bowling unit also can not be undermined.

On the other hand, without Williamson and Southee, New Zealand certainly lost a big chunk of experience and fire but the Kiwis have consistently punched above their weight in the ICC tournaments. Their final appearances in the 2015 and 2019 50-over World Cups and in the 2021 T20 World Cup will underscore that point.

Daryl Mitchell's form combined with the sturdy Devon Conway at the top will give New Zealand confidence, but stand-in captain Tom Latham's lean run could be of some concern. The Black Caps will hope that pacers Matt Henry, veteran Trent Boult and Lockie Ferguson can make their presence felt.



European giants struggle at UCL

AGENCIES

Manchester, Oct 4: European football powerhouses had tough outings on matchday two as Manchester United and Arsenal suffered shocking defeats, Tuesday.

United, who were reduced to 10 men after Casemiro was sent off in the 77th minute, lost 2-3 at home to Turkish side Galatasaray Arsenal, on the other hand, lost 1-2 at French club Lens.

Real Madrid had to come from behind to beat Italian champions Napoli, while Bayern Munich came from 0-1 down to win 2-1 at Copenhagen. Inter edged past Benfica 1-0 in Milan. In other matches, Europa League champions Sevilla played out an entertaining 2-2 stalemate at PSV Eindhoven.

Time to get secluded, focus on job: Rohit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 4: Indian cricket team will be dealing with a humongous dose of pressure during the World Cup at home, and captain Rohit Sharma said Wednesday the time has come for the group to "get secluded" and focus on the job.

There is high amount of anticipation on India to bag their third 50-over World Cup trophy because the Men in Blue's 2011 victory at their own backyard followed by Australia and England emulating that feat in 2015 and 2019 respectively. So, expectations are on India to maintain that streak.

"I know what is at stake. The guys who are a part of the team know what is at stake. For us, it is about taking everything out



and focussing on what we want to do as a team," said Rohit during ICC's 'Captain's Day' event here. Rohit wanted his team to focus on one match at a time as the World Cup is a long tournament. "It (hosts winning the WC) has

It is very easy to say that (forget pressure) and it is going to be tough. But we have prepared really well. As long as you have prepared really well, it gives you a lot of confidence going into the main games. We start in Chennai on the 8th and we do understand the importance of every game that we play in this tournament. So, you have got to be on top of your game

ROHIT SHARMA

happened in the last three editions of the World Cup. It is a long tournament and you cannot get too far ahead of yourself. It is important for us to try and focus on one job at a time and move on," he added.