



## JASMINE'S PERCEPTION

Mental health is a state of emotional and psychological well-being where I can cope with life's challenges, says actor Jasmine Bhasin

LEISURE P2



## 'CHINA BEHIND NIJJAR KILLING'

New York-based activist-blogger claims agents from China, not India, were involved in the killing of Nijjar

INTERNATIONAL P10



## ENGLAND FACE BANGLA

England look to bounce back from their big defeat in the World Cup opener when they take on Bangladesh today

SPORTS P12

## 'DRINK FROM TAP' FOR MORE TOWNS

**Bhubaneswar:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday launched 24x7 piped drinking water supply in different parts of the state. Patnaik said the 'drink from tap' facility will now be available in Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district, Biramitrapur and Rajgangpur in Sundargarh district, Champua in Keonjhar, and Nimapada in Puri district. Additionally, 149 wards in 13 other towns of the state will have access to the facility now, he said. About 12.3 lakh people in these areas will benefit from the implementation of the scheme, he added.

## DRESS CODE SOON FOR SRIMANDIR VISIT

**Puri:** Srimandir in Puri will enforce a dress code for devotees from January 1, an official said Monday. The decision was taken at the 'Niti' sub-committee meeting after a few people were found in the temple in indecent dresses, he said. It is our responsibility to maintain the dignity and sanctity of the temple. Unfortunately, some people have been found visiting the temple without caring about the religious sentiments of others, said Shree Jagannath Temple Administration chief Ranjan Kumar Das.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Dad, write 'OPPRESSOR'. So that you can use it anytime for any cause

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	65512.39 ↓ 483.24
NIFTY	19512.35 ↓ 141.15
DOLLAR	83.25 ↓ ₹0.02
EURO	87.89 ↓ ₹0.10
GOLD	₹57,470 ↑ ₹599
SILVER	₹68,990 ↑ ₹820

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	34.6°C	34.8°C
TEMP. MIN	25.6°C	26.0°C
Humidity	95%	76%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Clear sky mainly



**REDUCED TO RUBBLE:** Palestinians inspect the rubble of the Yassin Mosque destroyed after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike at Shati refugee camp in Gaza City, early Monday



## 'Complete siege' on Gaza

AGENCIES

**Jerusalem, Oct 9:** Israel's military ordered a "complete siege" on the Gaza Strip Monday, halting deliveries of food, water, fuel, electricity and supplies to its 2.3 million people as it pounded the Hamas-ruled territory with waves of airstrikes in retaliation for the militants' bloody weekend incursion. Around 1,400 Israelis and

Palestinians are dead two days after Hamas launched an attack that caught Israel's vaunted military and intelligence apparatus completely off guard and led to fierce battles in its streets for the first time in decades.

The Israeli military has summoned 300,000 reservists — a massive mobilisation in a short time. It said it had largely gained control in its southern towns. But Hamas and other militants

in Gaza say they are holding more than 130 soldiers and civilians snatched from inside Israel. Meanwhile, the military wing of the Hamas group said it will kill one Israeli civilian captive any time Israel targets civilians in their homes in Gaza "without prior warning". **More P10**

## Bus strike put on hold up to Oct 31

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** The All Odisha Bus Owners' Association (AOBOA) Monday announced that its state-wide strike October 10 has been put on hold as the government assured it that its demands will be looked into.

The strike was called to protest against the state government's decision to introduce bus services that will connect the blocks to the district headquarters.

The decision to put the strike on hold was taken after a meeting between the state government and the association, said AOBOA general secretary Debendra Sahu.

"We will be badly affected if the government runs buses from the blocks to the district headquarters. Today, in the meeting, the government has agreed that it will not operate such buses. So, we have decided to postpone the strike till October 31," he claimed.

The state government can run buses in the rural areas, from panchayats to blocks, and there is no objection to it, he said.

Sahu also claimed that the state government has agreed to their demand



to provide permits to old buses and extend the deadline for installing vehicle location tracking devices (VLTD) by another year.

The state government is yet to make any official announcement regarding these.

Earlier in the day, state Congress president Sarat Pattanayak attacked the government, alleging that it was not looking into the plights of the bus owners.

Not only the private bus owners, but also the teachers, sarpanchs, anganwadi workers and Gaon Sathis are protesting. They are not happy with the state government, Pattanayak said.

## Gender gap researcher Goldin 3rd woman to get Nobel in economics

AGENCIES

**Stockholm, Oct 9:** The Nobel economics prize was awarded Monday to Harvard University professor Claudia Goldin for research that has advanced the understanding of the gender gap in the labour market.

The announcement went a tiny step to closing the Nobel committee's own gender gap: Goldin is just the third woman to win the prize out of 93 economics laureates.

She has studied 200 years of women's participation in the workplace, showing that despite continued economic growth, women's pay did not continuously catch up to men's and a divide still exists despite women gaining higher levels of education than men.

"I've always been an optimist. But when I look at the numbers, I think something has happened in America,



that we, in the 1990s, our labour force participation rate for women was the highest in the world, and now it isn't the highest in the world," Goldin said. "We have to step back and ask questions about piecing together the family, the home, together with the marketplace and employment," she said.

Goldin's research does not offer solutions, but it allows policymakers to tackle the entrenched problem, said economist Randi Hjalmarsson,

a member of the Nobel committee. "She explains the source of the gap, and how it's changed over time and how it varies with the stage of development. And therefore, there is no single policy," Hjalmarsson said. "So it's a complicated policy question because if you don't know the underlying reason, a certain policy won't work."

Of receiving the Nobel, Goldin "was surprised and very, very glad," Ellegren said. The award for economics is the final installment of this year's crop of Nobels that have seen prizes go to Covid-19 vaccine discoveries, atomic snapshots and quantum dots as well as to a Norwegian dramatist and an Iranian activist.

The prizes are handed out at awards ceremonies in December in Oslo and Stockholm. They carry a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (about USD 1 million).

### World Mental Health Day

10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**“Social support and family care can help prevent and resolve mental health issues”**

Chief Minister, Odisha

**Healthy Odisha  
Happy Odisha**

**Mental health support units are available at all district headquarters.**

**State Government provides free consultation, drugs, diagnostics and treatment for mental health conditions.**

**For any support regarding mental health issues, please call the TELE-MANAS (24 x 7) Toll-free Help Line Number 14416.**

**Mobile Mental Health Vans bring Mental Health Care to rural corners.**

**Most mental health issues can be resolved with timely care and support.**

Health & Family Welfare Department, Odisha

Facebook: com/HFWOdisha  
Http: www.health.odisha.gov.in  
@HFWOdisha

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# leisure



## DWAYNE'S 'NO LOSE' CLAUSE MAKES HIM 'INVINCIBLE'

Hollywood actor Dwayne Johnson's characters always see the star escape near impossible disasters and go into combat. But it's not by pure luck, the star reportedly also has a 'no lose' contract added into all his movie roles that means the actor is never beaten, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

## OLIVIA RODRIGO WANTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ON WOMEN ISSUES

Singer-actress Olivia Rodrigo has launched a non-profit organisation called *Fund 4 Good*. "Its initiative is to raise awareness for certain groups that are championing women's issues in America and all of the other territories I'm going to," revealed Olivia.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

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

**TAURUS**  
You will put your heart and soul into whatever you do today, says Ganesh. But there may still be dark clouds hovering over the results. Don't let that bother you. You must keep up the hard work throughout the day. Finally, you will hit the deck with a feeling of happiness and satisfaction, predicts Ganesh.

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

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

**LEO**  
The thing with skills is that they are not static; they are as dynamic as anything else. It is akin to being on a treadmill – you need to continuously keep moving just to stay in the same place, says Ganesh. So keep refreshing yourself by learning new things in order to sustain your progress.

**VIRGO**  
Get out of your self today, for a change, and try to look at things from a loved one's perspective. It's good to be confident, but overconfidence is a different matter altogether, reminds Ganesh. Listening to others, absorbing their expressions and viewing things differently shall do you and your loved ones a world of good.

**LIBRA**  
Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good luck. Career wise, however, you may find yourself standing at a crossroads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many paths to choose from.

**SCORPIO**  
Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good luck. Career wise, however, you may find yourself standing at a crossroads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many paths to choose from.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your dedication to work is set to shift to the top gear. Find yourself swamped by excess of workload in the forenoon. Things, however, will lighten as the afternoon progresses. Expect a fun-filled, exciting evening.

**CAPRICORN**  
Opportunities are rare, and good opportunities rarer still. Today, you will run to grab an opportunity and will make the most of it, says Ganesh. This move will yield instant results, and place you better in comparison with your opponents. Rivals, in fact, will try to do you down but will fail miserably in their attempt. Your social standing, on the other hand, will grow manifold and all because of your extraordinary traits.

**AQUARIUS**  
You roar with absolute bliss today! Simplicity is your new avatar, and naturally, friends and acquaintances are mystified. You may wish to commune with the higher spirit and will seek solace in a quiet temple. Ganesh approves and predicts peace in plenty.

**PISCES**  
Staying afloat needs about as much effort as swimming. Cryptic as this may sound, what it means is you need to constantly reinvent yourself if you wish to keep going. You will shine in your profession only if it is also your passion, says Ganesh.

### WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

## Jasmine defines true happiness

**Mumbai:** On World Mental Health Day, which falls October 10, actress Jasmine Bhasin explains what mental health means to her.

The actress said: "To me, mental health represents a state of emotional and psychological well-being where I can cope with life's challenges, experience a sense of inner peace, and maintain a positive outlook on my overall mental and emotional state."

Jasmine opines that good mental health is nurtured through practices such as self-care, seeking support when needed, practising mindfulness, maintaining healthy relationships, and cultivating a positive attitude.

Asked if she thinks people from the entertainment industry are generally targeted when it comes to depression and anxiety.

Jasmine replied: "Yes, individuals in the entertainment industry often face greater scrutiny and public pressure, making them more susceptible to depression and anxiety. I feel the entertainment industry can be exceptionally stressful due to factors like long working hours, unpredictable schedules, and intense competition." The actress shared, "Happiness, for me, stems from appreciating the small joys in life, spending quality time with my family and pets, pursuing my passions, and being grateful for what I have. Additionally, the belief in the goodness of people and the universe contributes significantly to my happiness."



## Richa wants to maintain variety

**Mumbai:** Richa Chadha, who started her career with the film *Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye*, and since then has played some memorable roles, said that her filmography encompasses a variety of genres and she will always try to maintain that variety with her roles.

In an interview, the actress whose recently released film *Fukrey 3* has done very well at the box office, spoke about her journey so far and much more.

Talking about her role of *Bholi Punjaban* and her journey in the industry so far, she said: "I love doing comedy. I enjoy making people laugh. *Bholi Punjaban* is one character which will always be special to me.

My filmography has a variety of genres. There are serious films, comedy films, some bad films and some really good films. I hope I am able to maintain that variety always. I always try to make people remember my role even if it is a cameo."

Talking about *Fukrey 4*, she said: "If the film will continue to get this type of love, surely we would be interviewing for *Fukrey 4* also. I only want the gap between *Fukrey 3* and 4 to not be more."

On the work front, Richa will be next seen in *Abhi Toh Party Shuru Hui hai!* in which she will be seen playing the role of CBI DCP.

## 'HAVE WATCHED JUST 50 FILMS IN LIFE'

**Mumbai:** Actor Pankaj Tripathi shares that it's because he does not like to binge watch content and would rather invest his time in gardening to taking a long walk.

"You won't believe if I tell you that I do not watch anything at all. I have watched 50 films in my entire life, not more than that. Out of these, 80 per cent are Irrfan Khan's films. I don't even remember the last commercial film that I watched," says the actor, whose film, *OMG2* has recently dropped on streaming.

Ask him if his own work intrigues him, the actor

says that it's not about whose project it is, but the fact that he does not like to binge watch anything. "I cannot binge watch. I just cannot sit at one place for too long. I like to cook, do gardening on my day off."

While it may come out as a surprise for his fans, Tripathi tells us how not watching other's work has helped him as an artiste. "I have not watched a lot of content and I think that's the reason why my performances and my acting feels original. It's not influenced or inspired by anyone," shares the actor, adding that he has worked hard on his craft and developed a way of acting, which is very original.

AGENCIES



## Aarya's now part of my life: Sushmita

**Mumbai:** The hit streaming show *Aarya*, which stars actress and former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen in the titular role of Aarya Sareen, is set to return with its third season on November 3.

The International Emmy nominated show will explore the profound power of the titular character as shared by Sushmita.

The story of the show revolves around Aarya Sareen, a caring mother and a loving wife, who is unaware of the illegal business her husband is a part of. Things go bad for their family after Aarya's husband Tej Sareen, a pharma baron, is mysteriously killed.

Talking about the show, Sushmita said: "Aarya Sareen has now become a very integral part of my life. Her experiences across seasons have touched my heart. It's an honour to step back into her shoes for *Aarya Season 3*. This season explores the profound power of Aarya, as she strikes down her enemies and begins to create an empire of her own, while grappling the threats to her loved ones."

Created and co-directed by the visionary Ram Madhvani and co-produced by Amita Madhvani, Ram Madhvani, Ram Madhvani Films and Endemol Shine India, *Aarya Season 3* will bow on Disney+ Hotstar on November 3.

### 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.

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

### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

O	U	A	A	P	L
E	X	A	M	I	N
E	B	X	I	U	A
O	N	E	R	I	N
E	E	E	M		
H	A	M	L	E	T
R	L	Y	G	C	A
S	T	O	A	T	C
S	S	Z	R		
C	R	I	T	I	Q
O	A	U	L	N	O
B	A	R	N	A	I
M	D	D	E	Y	E

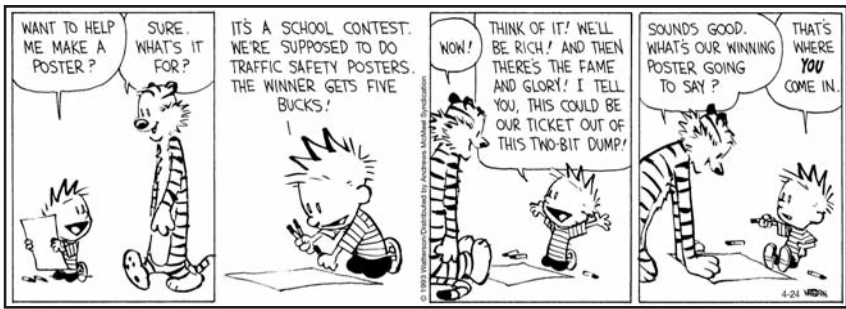
SUDOKU

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

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8				9						10		
11		12				13						
14								15	16			17
18												
19										20		
21												23
24												25

- Across
- 1 Flood embankment
  - 4 Tea pot resident?
  - 8 Nth degree
  - 9 Get a move on
  - 10 Furrow
  - 11 "The Wild Duck" playwright
  - 13 Fizz forerunner (4,3)
  - 14 Cinematic electrician
  - 15 Virtue
  - 19 Honeybun, for one (3,4)
  - 20 Rope fiber
  - 21 Mustache site
  - 22 Distress signal
  - 23 Chinese tea
  - 24 Mine features
  - 25 Valuable fur
  - 3 Magnify
  - 4 Songbird
  - 5 Word of possibility
  - 6 Flagrant
  - 7 Colossus
  - 12 All-purpose clasp (6,3)
  - 16 Marine mollusks
  - 17 Discharge
  - 18 Rots
  - 19 Aviation worker
  - 22 Antagonist
  - 23 Cygnet's father

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

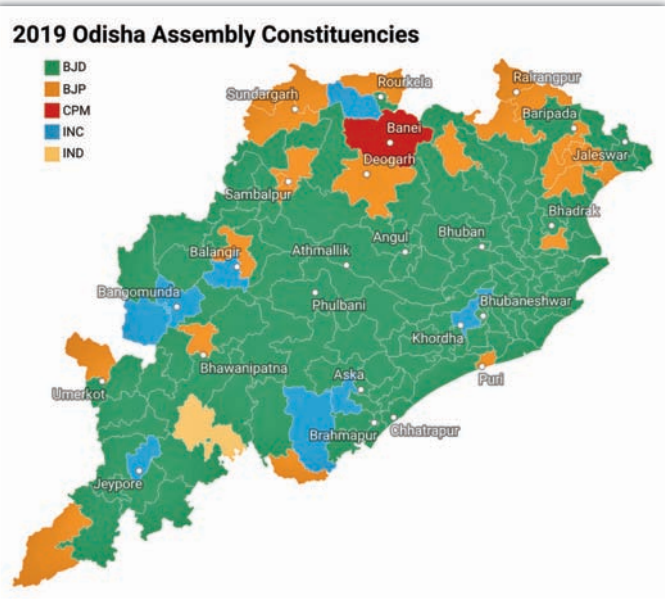
# downtown

## SCINTILLATING SHOW

Artistes perform during 'Nrutyanjali' organised by cultural outfit Debadasi at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday



# BJD dominance continues; polls get more competitive



ATRI PRASAD ROUT, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** In August 2023, the India Today 'Mood of the Nation' ranked Naveen Patnaik the most popular Chief Minister at the state level. But the ranking was not new for Patnaik as he has been at the top of such lists several times earlier, often outranking his contemporaries like Arvind Kejriwal and Yogi Adityanath in terms of popularity in the home state.

Naveen's popularity though is not surprising given he has been the Chief Minister of Odisha for over 23 years now (23 years and 7 months 4 days to be precise), serving five consecutive terms, surpassing the record of West Bengal's Jyoti Basu (23 years and 138 days), and second only in the country to Sikkim's Pawan Kumar Chamling (24 years and 166 days). Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the party he leads, has been winning the majority of seats in Assembly - starting from 68 in 2000, its first assembly election as a political party, to 112 in 2019.

**Making of a giant**  
BJD's reign in Odisha for over two decades is phenomenal as in the decades before 2000, fortunes of political parties in the state used to fluctuate. For example, in the 1985 elections for the 9th Assembly, the incumbent Indian National Congress (INC) had won 117 seats, with Janata Party securing only 19. But in the next election in 1990, INC lost 91 per cent of its seats, holding onto only 10. The Janata Dal (JD), Janata Party's successor, on the other hand won 123 seats, forming the government. But come next Assembly election in 1995, the equation changed as JD lost 61 per cent of its seats, winning only 47 and INC was back in majority with 80 seats.

Since 2000 though, BJD has been absolutely dominant. After two terms in power with the

mal industry, and the urban voters are happy with their buses, hospitals and universities."

Notably, adding to its collection of sops the BJD government has given land rights to the slum dwellers in cities through the Jaga Mission.

But as we approach the 17th Assembly elections in the state and the 18th general elections for Lok Sabha, an analysis of elections data from Ashoka University's Trivedi Centre for Political Data (TCPD) shows that though BJD is dominant, elections in the state have gotten more competitive. This increase in competition can be seen in the variation in vote share over the last three elections.

Change in vote share of various political parties (the percentage of votes a party captures from the total valid votes) in Assembly elections reflects that though BJD gained significantly in 2004 and 2009 (27 per cent and 39 per cent respectively) it hasn't made much progress in the last two elections (only two percentage points improvement from 43 per cent in 2014 to 45 per cent in 2019). And it seems the votes INC has lost over years have mostly gone to BJP, which has seen its vote share almost doubling - from 17 per cent in 2004 to 32 per cent in 2019.

Similarly, in general elections, though BJD had gained votes previously, its vote share fell two percentage points in 2019 as it lost 8 Lok Sabha seats. On the other hand, the BJP gained votes - from 21 per cent in 2014 to 38 per cent in 2019 - from one seat to eight.

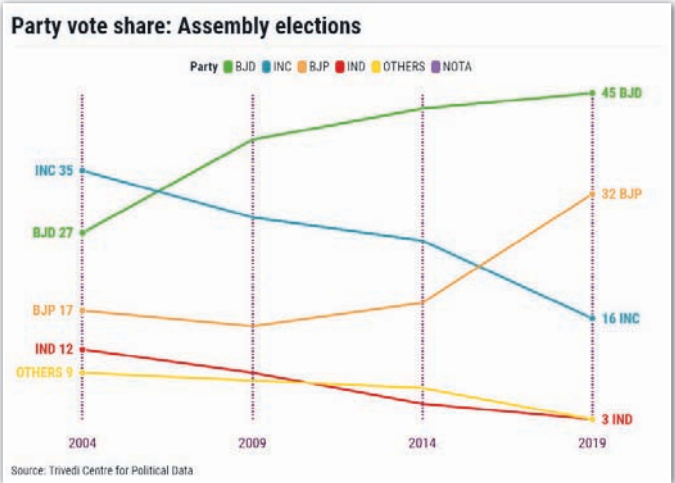
"The votes for BJP are largely driven by Modi. But Modi cannot compete from every con-

**66**  
The BJP and Congress are not really fighting against the BJD, they are competing among themselves. The anti-BJD vote gets divided between the two

**SURYA NARAYAN MISRA** | POLITICAL OBSERVER AND FORMER PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT UTKAL UNIVERSITY

BJP in an alliance, the party went solo to form the government in 2009, following the Kandhamal riots in 2008 that tainted the saffron party's reputation in the state and outside.

"The BJP and Congress are not really fighting against the BJD, they are competing among themselves. The anti-BJD vote gets divided between the two," says veteran political observer and former professor of political science at Utkal University



Surya Narayan Misra. Explaining the party's dominance he says, "Naveen's strategy is well-planned and organised from the village, ward to the Capital. He has been organising women since 2004; hasn't given an opportunity to farmers to rally against him; has appealed labourers and the infor-

stituency. Unlike other states, BJP has failed to become a cadre-based party in Odisha. And within the party there is conflict," says an observer.

But with elections becoming more competitive the space for maneuvers available for the ruling party seems to be constricting.



**RICH TRIBUTES:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik paying tributes to Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das on his birth anniversary at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Monday OP PHOTO

## Dress code for Srimandir devotees from Jan 1

AGENCIES

**Puri, Oct 9:** In a significant move, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has decided to enforce a dress code for devotees visiting the 12th-century shrine here from January 1, an official said Monday.

The decision was taken at the 'Niti' sub-committee meeting after a few people were found in the temple in "indecent" dresses, he said.

"It is our responsibility to maintain the dignity and sanctity of the temple. Unfortunately,

People wearing half-pants, shorts, torn jeans, skirts and sleeveless dresses will not be allowed entry into the temple

some people have been found visiting the temple without caring about the religious sentiments of others," said SJTA chief Ranjan Kumar Das.

"Some people were found in the temple wearing torn jeans, sleeveless dresses and half-pants, as if they were strolling on the sea



beach or a park. The temple is the abode of God, not a place for entertainment," he said.

The kind of dresses to be allowed will soon be decided, he

added.

"The dress code will be strictly enforced inside the temple from January 1, 2024. Security personnel deployed at 'Singha Dwar' of the temple, and Pratihari servitors inside the temple have been assigned the responsibility to enforce the code," Das said.

The temple administration will start creating awareness about the dress code among the devotees from Tuesday, he said.

People wearing half-pants, shorts, torn jeans, skirts and sleeveless dresses will not be allowed entry into the temple, he said.

## Nod for 100-bed hosp at Begunia

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** In yet another move towards adequate and accessible healthcare for all, the state government accorded in-principle approval to the establishment of a 100-bed sub-divisional headquarter hospital at Begunia in Khurda district.

Issuing a notice to this effect, Health and Family Welfare secretary Shalini Pandit said necessary infrastructure and manpower resources would be provided before functioning of the hospital. Earlier, in another significant move, the government had enhanced the bed strength of Jajpur DHH from 330 to 420. Significantly, the Jajpur DHH would be the teaching hospital for Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hospital, Jajpur.

## NHAI SOP to curb toll plaza incidents

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Monday said it has issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) to safeguard commuters and toll operators, reduce incidents of altercations and strengthen security at toll plazas.

According to an official statement, the detailed SOPs include guidelines for NHAI field offices to ensure strict implementation and adherence by toll-collecting agencies to manage staff and road users.

According to the SOPs, NHAI field offices will ensure that the toll collecting agency performs their duties following guidelines.

The toll collecting agency will ensure that staffers at toll plazas wear the prescribed NHAI uniform with a name badge, the

*Under no circumstances, toll plaza staff shall use provocative language or resort to violence, say the NHAI guidelines*

statement said, adding that any anticipated incident of violence should only be handled by toll plaza manager/lane supervisors, who will wear body cameras to record such instances.

In case of unruly behaviour by a commuter, the lane supervisor shall intervene and try to resolve the issue amicably, the statement said.

"Under no circumstances, toll plaza staff shall use provocative language or resort to violence. Toll Plaza officials may take help from local police and

lodge an FIR in case the issue persists or escalates," it said.

According to the statement, the staff can record videos of such incidents to police.

The statement said any incidence involving an act of violence by a road user or damage to public property at the toll plaza should immediately be reported by the toll collecting agency to police and the NHAI Project Implementation Unit with all necessary documents/proof.

NHAI field offices shall ensure that the toll collecting agency has completed police verification of each and every staff deployed at the toll plaza, the statement said.

In addition, toll collecting agencies have been asked to direct toll plaza staff to be courteous with road users.

## Man arrested for killing uncle in Puri

**Puri:** A 24-year-old man was arrested on charges of killing his uncle at Mangalpur under Sadar police limits here Saturday, an official said Monday. Addressing media here, additional superintendent of police Sushil Kumar Mishra said Bhimsen Baral of Mangalpur village under Sadar police limits in the Pilgrim City has been taken into custody for killing his uncle, Bira Baral, in the village October 7 following a longstanding dispute over property. About the turn of events, Mishra said Bira and his nephew frequently quarrelled over property. The situation, however, worsened when the two hurled abuses at each other October 6 evening, the police official said quoting Bhimsen's statement.

## Sethi takes charge

**Bhubaneswar:** Bishnupada Sethi Monday took over as Principal Secretary of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department. Senior officials greeted and briefed him on different activities and welfare interventions of the department. Emphasising on transparency and commitment, Sethi said that successful implementation of various programmes should be the priority of the department and officers must ensure good governance and peoples' welfare.

# Hastinapur, Taiwan Buddha temple: Pandals go grander

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar:** Durga Puja celebrations in the city this year is set to be grander and pompous than ever before as organisers are leaving no stone unturned to create awe-inspiring thematic pandals with assorted lighting and visitor convenience.

Preparations have started in full swing as Puja committees are busy laying framework for themed pandals. As many as 185 Puja pandals will come up in the Capital City this year, which is seven more than the figures last year.

Organisers are competing among themselves to catch more eyeballs and enlist increased footfall of visitors by creating replicas of world famous monuments. Among those standing out include the Rasulgarh committee, which will enter the 31st year of hosting Durga Puja this year, which is giving final shape to a model of the famous Taiwan Buddha Temple.

Pradeep Kumar Jena, secretary of Rasulgarh Durga Puja committee, informed that around 50 artisans from West Bengal are erecting the 62x120 ft struc-



Replicas of Taiwan Buddha temple in Rasulgarh and (bottom) Hastinapur Palace in Bomikhal of Bhubaneswar OP PHOTOS

ture which is scheduled to be over before Sasthi. The pandal is being made at a cost Rs 20 lakh.

In 2022, the Rasulgarh committee had created Akshardham temple-themed pandal.

About security and safety measures around the pandal during the festivities, Jena said parking of vehicles shouldn't be a problem in Rasulgarh area due to availability of sufficient open space. "This prompts visitors to other pandals to park their vehicles here," he said.

The committee will insult a network of 50 CCTV cameras



to maintain surveillance on the crowd, along with the deployment of 100 security guards in

the area, Jena said. To entertain visitors, the organisers have roped in melody

**ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR ZONE**  
Star house, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Tel: 0674-2362251/2362246, Email: zo.bhubaneswar@bankofindia.co.in

**EMPANELMENT OF ARCHITECTS /CONSULTANTS / CONTRACTORS**

Detailed notification inviting applications for empanelment of Architect / Consultants / Contractors is available in Bank's website [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in). Last date of receipt of Sealed Tenders / application is **31.10.2023** upto **5.00 P.M.** Any corrigendum in the subject matter will be published in the same website only.

**Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone**

# Extend selfless service to people: 5T Secretary



CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK WILL LAUNCH LACMMI IN MALKANGARI DISTRICT OCTOBER 12. THE SCHEME PROPOSES TO RUN BUSES FROM PANCHAYAT TO BLOCK AND FROM BLOCK TO DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

IN THE FIRST PHASE, BUS OPERATIONS UNDER THE SCHEME WILL START IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF MALKANGIRI, NABARANGPUR, KORAPUT, RAYAGADA, GAJAPATI AND KANDHAMAL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Secretary to Chief Minister (5T) VK Pandian Monday called upon drivers, and conductors of buses under Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAcMMI) scheme to provide selfless service and treat passengers like their own family members.

Addressing the bus staff, Pandian said communication holds key to economic and social progress. "Our topmost responsibility is to provide quality service to people," he said.

From children to farmers, traders, and labourers, everyone will benefit from this bus scheme, he pointed out.

"School and college students

can commute to their educational institutions. Farmer can take their produce and sell it in the market. Merchants can do business smoothly. Patients can access the facility to visit hospitals. It will also ease communication issues of 'Mission Shakti' mothers," Pandian said.

The transport service will bring prosperity to rural areas as Lakshmi (LAcMMI) is the symbol of prosperity. It will also lead to economic growth and ensure better rural communication, he added.

On the occasion, Pandian emphasised on 3-'S'; Surakhya, Subidha and Samman. "It is the duty of the staff to take care of the safety of all passengers," he maintained. As

many as 650 employees including bus drivers, conductors, and managers participated in the interaction.

It is worth mentioning that in the first phase, bus operations under LAcMMI will start in six districts in south Odisha. These districts are - Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Kandhamal.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will launch the scheme for Malkangiri district October 12. The scheme proposes to run buses from panchayat to block and from block to district headquarters.



**EVICTON DRIVE:** An excavator deployed by BDA razing down an illegal construction at Patia in Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

## 27 Odisha students at nat'l exhibition

**Bhubaneswar:** As many as 27 students from Odisha travelled to New Delhi to participate in the three-day 10th national level exhibition and project competition (NLEPC) organized by the department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Central Government. The event was inaugurated by Science and Technology Secretary Abhay Karandikar at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi, Monday, where the innovative ideas of 441 select students from schools across the country were displayed.

# BAKUL RECEIVES MOBILE LIBRARY IN DAAN UTSAV



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Bakul Foundation, that works to enhance literacy of slum kids, received a mobile library as gift from a volunteer on the last day of Daan Utsav or Joy of Giving Week October 8.

Inspired by the idea of the ubiquitous ice-cream cart, Alok

Kumar Swain, a young IT engineer, who has been volunteering at Bakul Foundation for 7 years, gifted the mobile library to the organisation.

He not only took care of all the expenses, he also used his skills in engineering to fabricate the book cart. He gifted this library to Bakul in memory of his departed mother, Sadhana Swain.

The Bakul Book Bike was flagged off by Police Commissioner Soumyendra Priyadarshi and School and Mass Education Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aswathy S and Alok Kumar Swain.

Priyadarshi said that he loved the idea of the book bike and it was so doable that he was interested in having a few book bikes to go into the slums.

The mobile library was taken by volunteers to nearby Shanti Nagar Basti for children to have a glimpse. Sujit Mahapatra, the founder of Bakul Foundation, said that the book bike will go regularly to most of the slums, where they had celebrated the Day of Service 2nd October.

He hoped that children and youth would develop an interest in reading from the mobile library at their doorstep. He also motivated the children to go to the nearest Bakul Library to satiate their hunger for reading.

# 'BMC Bazar' opens at Ghatikia & CRPF Square

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) dedicated new model vending zone 'BMC Bazar' at Ghatikia and CRPF Square to the denizens Monday.

The vending zones were inaugurated by Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Bhubaneswar North MLA Sushant Rout, Mayor Sulochana Das in presence of BMC Commissioner Vijay



Amruta Kulange and BMC team members.

The 'BMC Bazar' has seating arrangements, lighting, toilets with proper drinking water facility, landscaping, and canopy

style Pindis that not only offer shade but also serve as eye-catching design elements, making it more attractive.

The 'BMC Bazar' has been developed under Mukhyamantri

Karma Tatpara Yojana (MUKTA) scheme to support self help groups (SHGs), who along with community members are involved in the planning and execution of the projects.

On this occasion, a Taria Tank-Pond was also inaugurated at Ghatikia by Minister Panda in presence of Mayor Das and locals.

Developed in 2.15 acres land, this pond has bathing facility, changing room, toilets and seating space among others.

# BJP, Cong eye boost before Lok Sabha polls

**BY FIELDING 17 LOK SABHA MPS SO FAR FROM RELATIVELY DIFFICULT SEATS, THE BJP HAS UNDERLINED ITS INTENT TO GO ALL OUT TO WIN THE ASSEMBLY POLLS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** The BJP and the Congress, which is sensing a rebound in its fortunes, are set for a fascinating contest in the last round of Assembly polls before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with the results bound to have a bearing on the political discourse ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reelection bid.

If the BJP is determined to claw back its shrinking footprints in states after losing power in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, Congress leaders have exuded confidence that their agenda pivoted on regional issues and guarantees of welfare schemes will do the trick for the party whose performance will also be a factor in its standing in the fledgling INDIA bloc.

The BJP is currently in power only in Madhya Pradesh while the Congress holds the reins in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. Both the parties are also in the race to power in Telangana where the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi under its ambitious leader and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is eyeing a third consecutive term and a national role.

In a departure from usual practice, the BJP named a large number of candidates, including several Union ministers and other

MPs, in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh before their polling schedule was announced and released fresh lists of more names for the two states and Rajasthan Monday.

By fielding 17 Lok Sabha MPs, including many regional satraps, so far from relatively difficult seats, the BJP has underlined its intent to go all out to win the Assembly polls.

However, if anything, stakes are higher for the Congress as a poor show will derail the momentum it has gained after its big win in Karnataka, deal a blow to its standing in the INDIA bloc and dent the party's ambitious project to pitchfork Rahul Gandhi as its answer to Modi after a similar agenda came unstuck in 2019.

With the Congress seizing on the plank of social justice by raising the pitch for a caste census, a turf traditionally owned by socialist parties, all eyes will be on the impact they issue may have as the opposition INDIA bloc believes that it can be a helpful counter in Lok Sabha elections to the BJP's grander theme of Hindutva.

In Mizoram, the incumbent Mizo National Front will be challenged by other regional forces and the Congress amid the ruling party's hope that political polarisation on ethnic lines following violence in the neighbouring Manipur may boost its chances. However, it is the Assembly polls in three Hindi-speaking states, a BJP stronghold in the last two consecutive Lok Sabha polls, besides Telangana, which are likely to have an outside influence on the national political agenda. They together send 82 members to the House and the BJP had won 65 of them in 2019.



**RAISING DAY:** 120 Infantry Battalion (Bihar Regiment), Bhubaneswar commanding officer colonel Sushil Minash meets Governor Ganeshi Lal on the occasion of the Territorial Army Raising Day, at Raj Bhawan in the Capital City, Monday. 120 Infantry Battalion (Bihar Regiment) organised a host of events, including a blood donation camp, on its campus in the City to mark the event. OP PHOTO

# CUO holds training on Kuwi, Desia languages

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** In a bid to empower primary school teachers and enhance the educational experience of Kuwi and Desia-speaking students in Koraput district, the Central University of Odisha (CUO), in collaboration with the Regional Institute of Education (RIE), NCERT Bhubaneswar, inaugurated a three-day training programme on the fundamentals of Kuwi and Desia languages.

The event was held at the university campus, Monday.

The training program aims to equip 60 primary school teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively teach Kuwi and Desia languages, aligning with the National

Education Policy (NEP) 2020 goals, which emphasise the importance of native languages in elementary education.

The university vice-chancellor Chakradhar Tripathi emphasised the significance of preserving native languages, as outlined in NEP 2020.

RIE Principal PC Agarwal addressed the changing perspectives of education and the role of youth in shaping society, emphasising the significance of education for sustainable national development.

He also commended the efforts of key contributors, including Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, NCERT Director Dinesh Prasad Saklani, BK Panda and Mahendra Kumar Mishra among others.

# 14,300-yr-old tree rings reveal largest-ever solar storm

An international team of scientists has discovered a huge spike in radiocarbon levels 14,300 years ago by analysing ancient tree-rings found in the French Alps.

The radiocarbon spike was caused by a massive solar storm, the biggest ever identified.

The largest, directly-observed, solar storm occurred in 1859 and is known as the Carrington Event. It caused massive disruption on Earth -- destroying telegraph machines and creating a nighttime aurora so bright that birds began to sing, believing the sun had begun to rise.

Nine such extreme solar storms -- known as Miyake Events -- have now been identified as having occurred over the last 15,000 years. The most recent

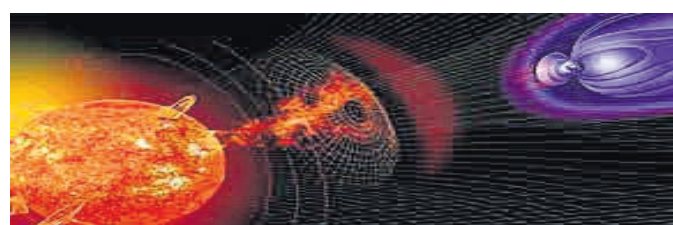
confirmed Miyake Events occurred in 993 AD and 774 AD.

This newly-identified 14,300-year-old storm is, however, the largest that has ever been found -- roughly twice the size of these two.

However, the Miyake Events (including the newly discovered 14,300-yr-old storm) would have been a staggering entire order-of-magnitude greater in size.

In the study, researchers from the UK, France and Czech Republic measured radiocarbon levels in ancient trees preserved within the eroded banks of the Drouzet River, near Gap, in the Southern French Alps.

The tree trunks, which are subfossils -- remains whose fossilisation process is not complete -- were sliced into tiny sin-



gle tree-rings. Analysis of these individual rings identified an unprecedented spike in radiocarbon levels occurring precisely 14,300 years ago.

By comparing this radiocarbon spike with measurements of beryllium, a chemical element found in Greenland ice cores, the team in the paper published in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical Physical and Engineering Sciences, proposed

that the spike was caused by a massive solar storm that would have ejected huge volumes of energetic particles into Earth's atmosphere.

The researchers said that the occurrence of similar massive solar storms today could be catastrophic for modern technological society, potentially wiping out telecommunications, satellite systems and electricity grids -- and costing us billions of pounds.

They warn that it is critical to

understand the future risks of events like this, to enable us to prepare, build resilience into our communications and energy systems and shield them from potential damage.

"Extreme solar storms could have huge impacts on Earth. Such super storms could permanently damage the transformers in our electricity grids, resulting in huge and widespread blackouts lasting months. They could also result in permanent damage to the satellites that we all rely on for navigation and telecommunication, leaving them unusable. They would also create severe radiation risks to astronauts," said Tim Heaton, Professor of Applied Statistics in the School of Mathematics at the University of Leeds in the UK.

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# ANDHRA TRYING TO GRAB ODISHA LAND

## NEIGHBOURING STATE PLANS TO CONSTRUCT IRRIGATION PROJECT IN POTTANGI BLOCK OF KORAPUT DISTRICT



Ralegada panchayat and 14 villages of Madawalsa panchayat are fully dependent on the river. They earn their livelihood from cultivation by using the water from the river for their farmlands. These local people, the majority of who live in Mungargumi village, are now a worried lot as they feel that if the Andhra government constructs an irrigation project, water supply to them will be disrupted and it will severely affect their livelihood.

Such is the brazen attitude of the Andhra officials that they visited Mungargumi village September 26 and identified the land for the irrigation project. They also carried out measurement and other survey work even though the land falls in Odisha's territory. This recent development has sparked fear among the residents of the village. Locals pointed out that the offices of the revenue inspector and the Forest department are located in Sunki panchayat. They questioned how officials of Andhra government encroached on to Odisha's land and carried out project work under the very nose of these offices. Meanwhile Pottangi tehsildar Debendra Bahadur Singh Dharua said that three Andhra government officials were detained Monday when they visited the same plot of land. They were taken to the Pottangi police station and released later in the day after questioning.

The matter came to the fore after Andhra government officials were seen measuring land on the Odisha side recently. Locals however, pointed out that they are surprised that the Pottangi block and district administration officials are unaware about this development. Locals stated that villagers of Itawalsa, Kopamaudi, Gandhawala, Walagaon, Madigundalam, Mungargumi, Sangamgude, Totalpadu, Dengrigrungude under Sunki panchayat as well as Batiwala, Chitampadu, Tangini in

land belonging to the Revenue and Forest departments of the Odisha government, locals alleged. This particular plot of land is near a river in Mungargumi village under Sunki panchayat block in Koraput district.

The matter came to the fore after Andhra government officials were seen measuring land on the Odisha side recently. Locals however, pointed out that they are surprised that the Pottangi block and district administration officials are unaware about this development.

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**CULTURE FEST:** Members of Gond community performed a traditional dance at a Nuakhai Bhetghat programme held at Pujariguda under Chandahandi block in Nabarangpur district, Monday

# Tiger spotted in Similipal



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Oct 9:** The Similipal National Park has once more been transformed into a haven for wild animals with the clampdown on poachers. Now species of various animals and birds can be seen spotted regularly inside the forest. Recently a video of a Royal Bengal Tiger roaming inside the park has been posted on 'X' by the Forest department.

Officials said that ranger Sisir Behera shot the video footage of the tiger while on patrol. No doubt, wildlife enthusiasts are

happy with the news. In the video, the tiger can be seen exposing its huge mouth and teeth as it slowly licks its nails.

A joint task force has been formed for providing protection to the animals inside the Similipal National Park. Since the formation of the team, poachers have more or less disappeared from the park and killing of animals has decreased substantially, officials said.

The joint task force team (police included) is conducting raids frequently in the vicinity of the park to flush out the poachers. A number of poachers have been

arrested. The team has also seized 165 country-made guns and other weapons used by poachers to kill animals. An illegal gun factory in the vicinity of the forest has also been sealed.

With the threat of poachers diminishing, the wildlife is also flourishing inside the park. Not only tigers, Forest department personnel have shot videos of various other animals and different species of birds.

Officials said that two years ago a tigress gave birth to four cubs. The animal seen in the video is one of them. The tiger has been named T-19, they added.

Similipal Tiger Conservation Project and chief wildlife conservator Prakash Chand Gogineni said Monday that the tiger population can certainly grow as there is plenty of food available for them. Animal lovers are also expecting such a thing to happen.

As per the last national tiger census report, there are 20 tigers inside the Similipal National Park. The report also states that if the food chain is maintained properly there is every possibility of the numbers increasing in Similipal.

# Man electrocuted

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Hinjilicut, Oct 9:** A man was electrocuted Monday at Kharida village under Hinjili police limits in Ganjam district after he came in contact with a live wire. The deceased was identified as Bipra Roul, 55, a resident of the village. The mishap occurred when Roul was repairing a motor pump and he accidentally came in contact with the live wire. Family members rushed him to the Hinjilicut sub-divisional hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. On being informed, Hinjili police reached the hospital and sent the body for post-mortem. A case of unnatural death was registered in this connection.

# 10 trains cancelled for track repairing

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 9:** The East Coast Railway (ECoR) announced Monday the cancellation of 10 trains and the short termination of four others for repair of tracks near Balasore. These trains will remain cancelled till further notice.

In a statement, the ECoR said the incessant rainfall has resulted in caving in of the soil between Balasore and Haldipada railway stations and in view of related maintenance work, 10 trains have been cancelled.

The cancelled trains are Balasore-Bhadrak Special, Bhadrak-Balasore Special, Kharagpur-Jajpur-Keonjhar Road Express, Jajpur-Keonjhar Road-Kharagpur Express, Kharagpur-Khurda Road Express, Khurda Road-Kharagpur Express, Kharagpur-Balasore Special, Balasore-Kharagpur Special, Howrah-Bhadrak Express and Bhadrak-Howrah Express.

Similarly, four trains, Puri-Jaleswar Special, Jaleswar-Puri Special, Bhubaneswar-Balasore Special and Balasore-Bhubaneswar Special have been short-terminated. These trains will run up to or start from Bhadrak station. The service between Bhadrak and Jaleswar/Balasore will remain cancelled till further notice, the ECoR notification said.

# Miscreants kill Angul youth

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, Oct 9:** A youth was murdered by unknown miscreants late Sunday night at Olabir village under Purunakote police limits in Angul district. The deceased, identified as Biswanath Bargaia, was sleeping in a room on his farmland when miscreants slit his throat and fled the spot.

Police said that the youth was staying in the room to keep vigil over the crops cultivated on the

farmland. However, he fell asleep and the miscreants took advantage of the situation, police added.

After his throat had been slit, a profusely-bleeding Biswanath ran to his home pressing a towel over the wound. However, even before his family members could react, Biswanath collapsed on the porch and breathed his last.

Police have launched a probe into the matter. They are trying to find out the identities of the criminals.

# Cough syrup racket busted, 32 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Oct 9:** Thirty two persons were arrested and 5,400 bottles of banned cough syrup were seized from their possession during raids under various police station limits in this town, police said Monday. Among those arrested are the two masterminds behind the racket. Police also seized cash worth ₹12,000 and two motorcycles from the kingpins.

The two masterminds were identified as Sk Riyuddin, 20, of Motijharan locality and Ashis Panigrahi, 34, a resident of the locality near Gopaljew temple under Dhanupali police limits here. This information was shared by SDPO Pradiip Kumar Sahu at a press meet organised



at his office here. A case has been registered at Dhanupali police station under NDPS Act and other relevant sections and the accused will be produced in the court Tuesday, he added.

The breakthrough came during patrolling by Dhanupali po-

lice personnel when intelligence inputs alerted them about arrival of a huge cache of cough syrup in the town. Police also got the information that seven to eight persons were planning to supply the bottles near Jhankarpada to their contacts.

A police team rushed to the spot and apprehended six persons with 5,400 bottles of 'WINCIREX' cough syrup kept in 18 gunny bags containing Codeine Phosphate which is a contraband Psychotropic Substance coming under the NDPS Act, the SDPO said. Sahu added that the accused had taken advance from the peddlers to supply them with the cough syrup. The material would have been sold during the Dussehra festival, police informed.

# Illegal de-addiction centre closed, owner arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Oct 9:** The owner of an illegal de-addiction centre here was arrested Sunday, police said Monday. The owner, identified as Abani Kumar Pati was produced in court Monday and remanded to judicial custody. A case (No-648/23) has been registered in this regard at Town police station.

Police also informed that Mayurbhanj district social security officer and sub-collector have been asked to attend to the needs of the inmates residing at the de-addiction centre. "Once that is done, the centre will be sealed," informed the investigating officer of the case.

Officials said many such de-addiction centres are functioning in this town illegally. These centres are being managed arbitrarily by various trusts in violation of government regulations. "Many of these centres are unhygienic and proper care is not meted out to the inmates. There have been reports of inmates being tortured also," officials informed.

# BJD trying hard to curb indiscipline

Despite acting tough with some leaders, dissent still exists among party in Sundargarh district



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

**Rourkela, Oct 9:** Even though the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is taking all steps to curb indiscipline within the party in Sundargarh district, it has not been able to do so. In the very recent past, the BJD has suspended two prominent functionaries in Sundargarh district. They are state secretary of the Biju Yuva Janata Dal (BYJD) Prakash Paswan and former Biju Chhatra Janata Dal state general secretary, Rabindra Pradhan. Both have been blamed for anti-party activities. However, despite such stringent steps, the BJD has failed to control tribal leader Mangala Kisan who continues to embarrass the party.

Paswan is well-known for his anti-Sarada Nayak stance and in the past

he has opposed the Labour Minister on many occasions. Political observers here however, feel that the only way Paswan could be in the limelight was by opposing Nayak. Now however, that chance has gone and for opposing Nayak continuously, Paswan has been dumped by the party, they added.

However, the case of Pradhan is quite different from that of Paswan. "It was Nayak who brought Pradhan into active politics. Pradhan has been a long-time supporter of Nayak. So his suspension surprised many. May be some of Pradhan's recent activities must have irked the minister leading to the former's suspension," a source in the BJD said.

"Pradhan for the last couple of months had been criticising Bhai (Nayak) on various social media plat-

forms. Besides, he contested as a 'rebel' candidate against the official party nominee Akshaya Rout in the election for the State Cooperative Board. These issues did not go down well with Nayak and it must have led to Pradhan's suspension," the source added.

Efforts are on to resurrect Pradhan, but at present the winds are not favourable for him. However, he has got support from an unexpected quarter - Kisan who is also a former minister. Kisan has been talking to various media channels on a regular basis criticising both Nayak and veteran leader Prafulla Ghadei.

In fact, Kisan has also blamed Nayak for his defeat in the last Assembly elections. He has also said that Nayak is 'destroying' the BJD in Sundargarh district.

However, the BJD cadres here are not willing to give any importance to Kisan's outbursts. "We do not take Mangala babu's comments seriously. To win an election, one needs to have a proper organisation. Sadly Mangala babu doesn't have any organisational capability," opined one of the close aides of Nayak.

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/  
E-Tender/90, Dtd. 03.10.2023

(1) Tender No.: e-Tender-BRIDGEKUR-289-22, Dtd. 28.09.2023

**Description:** ZONAL CONTRACT (BRIDGE WORKS) UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SR. SECTION ENGINEER (BRIDGE/NORTH & SOUTH OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR THE PERIOD UPTO 30.06.2024.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 109.09 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,04,600.00.

(2) Tender No.: e-tender-eastkur-290-2023, Dtd. 28.09.2023

**Description:** PROPOSED LAYING OF NEW PIPE LINE FROM RAILWAY COLONY PUMP HOUSE TO NEW STATION BUILDING AND PROVISION OF 03 NOS. BORE WELL AND SEPARATE PIPE LINE FOR DRINKING WATER IN STAFF QUARTERS AT PARADEEP AND WAY SIDE QUARTERS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER-II/ CUTTACK OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 117.98 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,09,000.00.

Completion period: 08 (Eight) Months (for sl. no. 1) and 10 (Ten) Months (for sl. no. 2).

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. of 20.10.2023 (for both sl. nos.).

No manual offers sent by post/courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

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

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) Khurda Road

PR-646/O/23-24

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: eT-SrDME-WAT-259-2023

**Name of Work:** ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (AMC) FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF KIRLOSKAR MAKE AUXILIARY ENGINE FITTED IN 140 TON BD CRANE NO. 142034 UNDER SR. SECTION ENGINEER/C&W/RAYAGADA (RGDA) OF WALTAIR DIVISION FOR 03 (THREE) YEARS.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 72,000/-, EMD: ₹ 1,400/-, Tender Document Cost: ₹ 1,100/-, Period of Completion: 36 (Thirty Six) Months.

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. on 31.10.2023.

No manual offers sent by post/courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, PR-647/O/23-24 Waltair

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-2023-T-178

**Name of work:** COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF DIESEL GENERATOR SETS OF RATING 15 TO 250 KVA INSTALLED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 13,47,825.98, EMD/Bid Security Deposit: ₹ 27,000.00.

Completion period of the work: 36 (Thirty Six) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance (LOA).

Tender closing Date & Time: 1630 hrs. on 27.10.2023 (IST).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), PR-644/O/23-24 Sambalpur

	<b>Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423</b>		<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b> For Immovable Property
	(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)		
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the <b>UCO Bank, Nayagarh Branch</b> under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken <b>POSSESSION</b> of the property described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the <b>UCO Bank, Nayagarh Branch</b> for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.			
<b>NAYAGARH BRANCH / Name and Address of the Borrower/Guarantor</b>	<b>Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date</b>	<b>Date of Demand / Possession Notice</b>	<b>Description of the Immovable Property</b>
Borrower: M/s. Rishita Agency, Prop.: Mrs. Jayalaxmi Pattnaik / Guarantor: Mrs. Jayalaxmi Pattnaik, W/o.: Mr Bikash Ranjan Pattnaik, Both are at Address: Infront of NAC High School, Nayagarh-752070	₹25,05,878.07 as on 27.07.2023 + further interest & other charges thereon	27.07.2023 / 09.10.2023	All that part and parcel of immovable property standing in the name of Mrs. Jayalaxmi Pattnaik, Mouza: Khanguri, Dist.: Nayagarh, Khata No.: 73/75, Plot No.: 42/482, Area: Ac.0.20 Dec.
Place : Bhubaneswar Date: 09.10.2023			Authorised Officer UCO Bank

FOCUS ECONOMY

# FALTERING RECOVERY



**Festering geopolitical tensions and structural factors such as unfavourable demographics and high debt levels have taken a toll on household and business confidence worldwide and dampened private-sector demand**

The world economy is losing momentum as its major growth engines decelerate and a confluence of short-term factors and long-term constraints – including geopolitical tensions, high public-debt levels, and aging populations – begin to bite. The latest update to the Brookings-Financial Times Tracking Indexes for the Global Economic Recovery (TIGER) shows that economic activity is weakening across the board. Despite relatively favourable financial-market performance earlier this year, consumer and business confidence have taken a major hit.



Eswar Prasad

**THE SPECTRE OF HIGH INFLATION IS RECEDING, ALTHOUGH IT IS PREMATURE TO DECLARE VICTORY**

While the United States continues to post steady GDP growth, other advanced economies are in a parlous state, facing dismal growth prospects or even teetering on the edge of recession. Emerging-market economies are generally in better shape, with China showing some signs of stabilisation, and India continuing to power ahead. Fortunately, inflationary pressures are easing around the world, but rising energy prices and widening geopolitical fissures could halt this progress and hamper growth. Equity markets rallied for a few months, owing partly to optimism about the productivity gains from technological innovation, but concerns about growth prospects have begun to weigh on their performance.

The US economy has proven remarkably resilient, weathering high interest rates, rising government debt, political dysfunction, and other challenges. Household consumption and job creation have remained robust, though at a slowing pace. To its credit, the US Federal Reserve has recovered from its early stumble and is now taming inflation without tipping the country into a recession. But strains are starting to show, especially in financial markets, and the economy's late-cycle momentum is losing steam.

The eurozone, for its part, has

adjusted to the negative spillovers from the Ukraine war, and inflationary pressures have eased in the bloc, although the European Central Bank's commitment to meeting its inflation target will keep monetary conditions tight. But growth remains uneven, with some of the core and periphery economies struggling. Germany, Europe's biggest economy, is barely growing, having been hit hard by weak external demand and rising competition from foreign manufacturers. Italy is in similar straits, while France has fared marginally better. Greece and Spain, on the other hand, have been bolstered by domestic demand and a resurgence of tourism.

Elsewhere in the developed world, after a post-COVID rebound, growth in the United Kingdom has been dampened by labour-market strife and interest-rate hikes to contain inflation. And Japan's economy has been boosted by depreciation of the yen, while domestic demand remains restrained. The Bank of Japan seems tolerant of a weak currency and above-target inflation, which will continue supporting growth.

Despite being buffeted by various adverse domestic and external factors, China's economy has shown signs of stabilising,

owing to fiscal and monetary stimulus measures intended to bolster the property market. For now, consumer-price deflation has been averted, although domestic demand continues to sputter, and exports are sagging.

But the downturn in the property sector, which accounts for a significant share of China's GDP and household wealth, has raised serious concerns and increased financial risks. Private-sector confidence has plunged, hurting household consumption as well as investment. Given that the property sector remains in limbo despite government support, and that a shrinking labour force and geopolitical tensions are only adding to the uncertainty, maintaining growth even in the 4-5% range will be challenging in the coming years.

Meanwhile, neighbouring India has solidified its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy, bolstered by robust exports and domestic investment. The country benefits from a young and growing labour force, orderly fiscal and monetary policies, and efficiency gains from digitalisation. Moreover, India is well-positioned to take advantage of the shifts in global trade and investment patterns being driven

by geopolitical realignments and has already attracted considerable foreign capital. However, the high level of public debt, inadequate (albeit improving) infrastructure, and incomplete labour-market, banking, and public-governance reforms could make it difficult to realise this potential.

Brazil and Mexico are also bright spots, as falling inflation and rising exports have boosted their prospects, while Nigeria remains a solid performer. Russia has withstood Western sanctions following its invasion of Ukraine and, despite the large strains that the war has put on its economy, is eking out low growth, fueled mainly by energy exports.

The strong dollar has inflicted enormous costs on many emerging-market and low-income economies, some of which, like Argentina, have also been beset by domestic political uncertainty and policy mismanagement. Cooperation among bilateral and multilateral creditors to expedite debt restructuring for developing countries beset by rising debt-servicing costs and tightening financing conditions will be essential.

In sum, festering geopolitical tensions and structural factors such as unfavourable demographics and high debt levels have taken a toll on household and business confidence worldwide and dampened private-sector demand. The spectre of high inflation is receding, although it is premature to declare victory – central banks will need to remain vigilant. The challenge for governments around the world is to rebuild confidence and enhance productivity by using fiscal policy effectively and taking measures to improve the functioning of labor, product, and financial markets. This remains the key to getting the global recovery back on track.

*The writer is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.*

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SPECTRUM CONFLICT

# Wheel of time never stops

Indeed the wheel of time never stops for anyone and metaphorically it also unfolds completely unthinkable or unfathomable events. Similarly, history also has a peculiar way of repeating itself and it was repeated once again after 50 years plus a day, when the Iran-supported Hamas launched a well-coordinated and bold land, sea and air invasion into the Israeli territory. The fighting is still ongoing, and the number of casualties is rising, but political statements calling for a unity government in Israel are already being heard.

In addition, just within a day of the onslaught, the Western media was replete with analyses and comments comparing the October 7 onslaught with the Yom Kippur War (also known as the Ramadan War, the October War, the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, or the Fourth Arab-Israeli War) and drawing parallels with Palestinians not honouring the Yom Kippur Day of the Holy Month of Ramadan in 1973 and timing of the attack this time with the joyous celebration of the Torah, which marks the concluding holiday of the Feast of Tabernacles. These articles claim that in both cases, the enemy (Palestinians and Arabs) chose one of God's appointed holidays for the assault; a time

when people are typically enjoying the festivities with their families, so most of the Israeli and Western newspapers described the attacks as inhuman. They further tried to justify the supposed Israeli unpreparedness saying that religious and traditional Jews gather in synagogues for prayer, where they are forbidden to bear arms, and their electronic devices, television and radio are turned off. Public transportation is halted, and communication with reservists and their mobilisation becomes problematic.

But additionally, we also have to realise that not every Arab Muslim child is aware or is made aware repeatedly about the Yom Kippur War; unlike Israeli children who from a young age are taught and their brains instilled with hatred towards the Arabs. Instead the common Arab, or for that matter, every Muslim is more concerned with the Israeli repression in the occupied territories, besides their hostile attitude to the faithful visiting the Al Aqsa mosque for prayers. How the fully armed and heavily reinforced Israeli soldiers treat the common Palestinians and faithful from elsewhere, everyone knows. In just two days, videos of Israelis kidnapped by Hamas gained huge traction on various social media

platforms, and their traction completely outruns the traction which the video of a deaf Palestinian girl being mistreated by Israeli soldiers is getting.

At the political level, the attacks immediately led to calls from the opposition to exclude cooperation with far-right parties that are part of the Netanyahu government. Suddenly, a country that was badly divided over Netanyahu's judicial reforms reunited in the wake of the attacks. Yair Lapid has now called for an emergency unity government, one without Ben-Gvir and other extremist ministers, and Netanyahu seems amenable.

At international level, except Iran and PLA president lauding the attack, most of the so-called Islamic nations and organisations have used the diplomatic route and have urged for caution and restraint by both the parties. An adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on October 7 congratulated Palestinian fighters, the semi-official ISNA news site reported. "We will stand by the Palestinian fighters until the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem," it quoted Yahya Rahim Safavi as saying. This cautious attitude is perhaps due to the fact that after the signing of the Abrahams Accord, most of the Arab nations have shown their

inclination to normalise their diplomatic relations and off course trade relations with Israel, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Meanwhile, the litmus test is for the Biden administration. As of now, the US might be forced to directly engage in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, working to ensure that regional stability can be restored, to keep the normalisation process started between Arabs and Israel at its best on the tracks.

Additionally, the question uppermost in everyone's mind is how the current conflict will impact the Middle Eastern politics and what transformation the relations between the US and various Arab states may take place and how the international community is going to respond to Iran, and its supposed support to Hamas.

Equally it is uncertain how this will end. How long this current crisis will last, whether and how the current Israeli and Palestinian leaders survive it, and what comes next for the Israeli and Palestinian people, are all mired in future tense. But one thing is certain, the latest conflict will hugely impact the Arab world and certainly a change is bound to happen.

*The writer is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator.*

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In sincerity is the certitude of victory. Sincerity! Sincerity! How sweet is the purity of thy presence?



THE MOTHER

# Religion Wins

It is certainly a piece of good luck that in these troubled times the message of peace has preceded the sound of war drums. It is also a queer coincidence that the theatres of war and peace this time are located in the heart of the Middle East. The world, especially its women population, was elated when a prisoner, an activist for women's rights and human rights Narges Mohammadi of Iran was proclaimed the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize October 6. But, before the euphoria over the crowning glory of brave women fighting against the tyranny of men – both bigoted rulers and male chauvinists – could be over, peace was shattered by the declaration of war by Israel against the Hamas of Palestine for the latter's rocket attacks October 7 on an unprecedented scale targeting southern Israel.

The selection of the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize has for some years been a subject of controversy and debate. In the process the Nobel committee has been accused of using the highest honours in the field of peace for serving the political interests of the West – American and European. Some of the choices have indeed been suspect.

But, this time around the announcement has, so far, brought the repressive Iranian regime into international focus once again. It has deprived women of the country of their basic rights of freedom to think, act and dress the way they want. Predictably, the Iranian leadership has denounced the choice as a "biased and political" decision, and smelt in it a conspiracy by some European governments. It has accused the Nobel committee of meddling and politicising the issue of human rights. However, that does not change the reality that one of the leading peace advocates of the world winning the Nobel Peace Prize is lodged in the infamous Evin prison in Tehran.

It is only natural that there will be world-wide demand for restoration of Mohammadi's freedom. For one thing she has been bearing the brunt of persecution and torture by the draconian regime of Iran the way only a few women in the world have had the misfortune to suffer. Her brave struggle has come with tremendous personal costs. Altogether, the regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes. She has been separated from her children and husband who now live in France. This is certainly an unenviable record that also speaks volumes for her courage and indomitable spirit. Mohammadi, 51, is one of Iran's leading human rights activists who has campaigned for women's rights and the abolition of the death penalty. She is the deputy head of the Defenders of Human Rights Centre, a non-governmental organisation led by Shirin Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Her words articulated immediately after winning the prize testify to her resolute will not to bow down to authority while fighting for the fundamental rights of women that mark the quality of a civilised society. She told The New York Times she would never stop striving for democracy and equality even if that meant staying in prison. Her hope that this recognition makes Iranians protesting for change stronger and more organised may sound too optimistic, given the hardened attitude of the clerics ruling Iran.

The reality in Iran is such that the Nobel Peace Prize for Mohammadi may trigger even harsher treatment of the women crying for justice and fairness in the country. It is a long fight. The prize will certainly act as a morale booster for the crusading women. But it is also true that religion is rampantly being used for political power the world over. Many countries are falling prey to this current trend which has become stronger lately.

Religion finally seems to be winning over freedom, love and economic well being across the world.

WISDOM CORNER

Don't think about what can happen in a month. Don't think about what can happen in a year. Just focus on the 24 hours in front of you and do what you can to get closer to where you want to be.

ERIC THOMAS

Stay focused, ignore the distractions, and you will accomplish your goals much faster.

JOEL OSTEEN

If there are nine rabbits on the ground and you want to catch one, just focus on one.

JACK MA

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1911:** A group of revolutionaries launched an uprising in Wuchang, China, which many regard as the formal beginning of the Chinese Revolution, a nationalist democratic revolt that overthrew the Qing dynasty. The revolution was the culmination of a decade of agitation, revolts, and uprisings. Its success marked the collapse of the Chinese monarchy, the end of 2,132 years of imperial rule in China and 276 years of the Qing dynasty, and the beginning of China's early republican era.

**1964:** The Tokyo Summer Olympics begin. Ninety-three countries participated in the first Olympics to be held in Asia. As a tribute to the horrors of the Second World War, Yoshinori Sakai, who was born in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the day an atomic bomb destroyed the city, was chosen as the torchbearer to light the Olympic flame during the opening. The Tokyo Olympics was also the first Olympic Games that used satellites - Syncom 3 in the United States and Relay 1 in Europe - to telecast the games. Some of the games were also broadcast in colour for the first time.

**1967:** Outer Space Treaty is enforced. Also known as the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, it regulated the exploration and use of outer space and created the field of international space law. The treaty declared that outer space and all celestial bodies were the common heritage of mankind and could not be claimed by any one nation.

**2010:** The country of Netherlands Antilles is dissolved. The Caribbean Dutch dependency, also sometimes known as the Dutch Antilles, was formed in 1954. The dissolution came after a series of referendums to become independent states within the Kingdom of the Netherlands were passed on the Islands of Curaçao, St Maarten, Bonaire, and Saba.

LOL

## Eat watermelons

A farmer in the country has a watermelon patch and upon inspection he discovers that some of the local kids have been helping themselves to a feast. The farmer thinks of ways to discourage this profit-eating situation. So he puts up a sign that reads: "WARNING! ONE OF THESE



WATERMELONS CONTAINS CYANIDE!" He smiled smugly as he watched the kids run off the next night without eating any of his melons. The farmer returns to the watermelon patch a week later to discover that none of the watermelons have been eaten, but finds another sign that reads: "NOW THERE ARE TWO!"



Asad Mirza

**SUDDENLY, A COUNTRY THAT WAS BADLY DIVIDED OVER NETANYAHU'S JUDICIAL REFORMS REUNITED IN THE WAKE OF THE ATTACKS**

# Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Remove stigma

Sir, Asian giants China and India top the list of countries with mental health disorders. Anxiety, schizophrenia and bipolar disorders dictate the mental health scene in India. It is predicted that the next decade will witness a surge in mental illnesses in India. But very few Indians go to the doctors for getting treated for deviations of the mind because of "stigma" associated with it and lack of awareness. It is imperative to distinguish between "social drinkers" and "alcohol addicts" because alcohol is an important trigger for, as well as an offshoot of, many mental disorders. Women and the elderly need special attention as they are vulnerable to drug abuse and dementia respectively. Though India's "psychiatrist : patient" population is hardly inspiring, unless the society readies itself for a sea change towards psychiatric patients, any number of increase in psychiatric institutes will come to naught. This year's World Mental Health Day (October 10) theme "mental health is a universal human right" is apt.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Multi-front war

Sir, For years there have been warnings about a potential Palestine group-Israel multi-front war. If this is the beginning of one, the deaths and destruction may top anything the world has seen in recent decades. Hamas has proven itself more operationally ambitious and tactically capable of taking on Israel. The casualties that Israel suffered now add up to a bigger blow than the one the United States of America experienced on 9/11, and the Israeli military response will reflect that reality. The likely result will be a significantly degraded Hamas and substantial destruction within the Gaza Strip. And just as 9/11 proved to be a long-term strategic mistake for the Al Qaeda, 10/8 will likely prove to be a similar strategic mistake for the Hamas. The coming days and weeks are likely not only going to drive the future of Israel's security, but as well they may drive the future of its place in the region.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# Congress battles anti-incumbency

Since 1993, when the BJP came to power, the state has alternated between the Congress and the saffron party

**Jaipur, Oct 9:** Last month, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Assembly contest in Rajasthan will be "very close", sounding less confident of his party's chances in the state it rules compared to some others going to the polls around the same time. He might have got the analysis right.

In Rajasthan - which will see a direct fight between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party November 23 - anti-incumbency is an important factor. Since 1993, when the BJP came to power after a stint of President's rule, the state has alternated between the Congress and the BJP. This makes it the BJP "turn" now to occupy the



state secretariat. The BJP also has the added advantage of being in power at the Centre, which allows it to pitch to voters its "double-engine" capability - a promise of more development if the governments in Delhi and the state are run by the same party.

But Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has been at work for months now, countering the expected anti-incumbency by

launching a series of welfare schemes - and going the whole hog in publicising them as part of his vision for the state.

The schemes include a Rs 25-lakh health insurance cover, an urban employment guarantee scheme, Rs 1,000 per month as social security and cooking gas cylinders for only Rs 500 for the Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries.

He also encouraged the eligible beneficiaries to register for these welfare schemes at "inflation relief camps", implying that his initiatives counter the situation created by the BJP government at the Centre.

For state government employees, he played the OPS card. The restoration of the Old

Pension Scheme benefits an estimated 35 lakh people, if families of the government workers are counted in.

And then, just before the model code of conduct for elections kicked in - barring governments from making major announcements - he ordered holding a caste survey in the state.

But Gehlot's Congress is a divided house in Rajasthan with the CM and his former deputy Sachin Pilot in a leadership tussle. In 2020, the younger Congress leader mounted an open rebellion against the veteran. And this year, he launched an agitation indirectly targeting the Gehlot government over its "failure" to act on corruption he claimed the former BJP dispensation had indulged in.



# We're being pushed to protest: Omar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Srinagar, Oct 9:** National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah Monday said the Election Commission not announcing the poll schedule for the Jammu and Kashmir assembly can push people to take to streets for their right to have an elected government.

"It seems like we are being pushed to a situation where we have to protest even for our democratic rights," Abdullah told reporters here. The former chief minister was responding to a question whether politics in Jammu and Kashmir has been reduced to a point where people have to take to streets for holding of assembly elections.

"The Chief Election Commissioner in a press conference today said they will consider all factors before deciding on polls in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, he had said there was a vacuum in J-K which needs to



be filled. We want to know what are these factors? Is the government not providing EVMS? Is the government not providing security? Is the situation worse than 1996 that elections cannot be held? Is it worse than the aftermath of the 2014 flood?" he asked. Abdullah said that in the Supreme Court, during the hearing of Article 370 petitions, the Solicitor General had said that the government was ready for elections but the decision on it had to be taken by the Election Commission.

"Either they have lied in the SC or they are hiding behind EC... The only factor (for delay) I can see is the BJP fear factor. If there is any other factor, please

let us know. Earlier, the BJP was hiding behind the Raj Bhawan. Now they are hiding behind the Election Commission," he added.

Abdullah said the "resounding" defeat of the BJP in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil polls might lead to further delay in holding assembly, panchayat and urban local bodies elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have always said that we are ready for elections but the Centre and the BJP are not ready as they are scared. Today there is evidence to it... The situation has come to a point where they would not even hold parliament elections, if they could have it their way. After this result, we can say that our elections have gone away further from us," he said.

The NC leader said the Chief Election Commissioner should tell the people of Jammu and Kashmir whether they have the right to elections.

# 4K Village Defence Groups, 32K SPOs deployed in J&K

The ongoing militancy is linked with infiltration of terrorists from across the border both from the International Border as well as the Line of Control, according to an MHA report



situation in Jammu and Kashmir was affected by terrorist and secessionist violence, sponsored and supported from across the border for about three decades.

The ongoing militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is linked with infiltration of terrorists from across the border both from the International Border as well as the Line of Control, it said.

The MHA annual report stated that in view of the prevailing security scenario, the Village Defence Group scheme was notified by the Jammu and Kashmir government in 1995 and the scheme has been revised and

notified August 14, 2022.

"The members of the Village Defence Group are designated as Village Defence Guards. At present, the sanctioned strength of Village Defence Group is 4,985, of which 4,153 Village Defence Groups have been constituted," the report said. The original name of the VDG was Village Defence Committee (VDC). The idea to set up VDC was conceived in the arming of ex-service personnel in the 1965 and 1971 wars to check Pakistani infiltration and espionage, officials said.

The VDCs were formed in Jammu region to offer self-defence capabilities to villagers in the face of continuous terrorist threats. Under the scheme, each VDC used to have a Special Police Officer (SPO) as its in-charge and there were 10-15 other volunteer members, mostly ex-service personnel.

# Key issues that will decide Raj elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, Oct 9:** Anti-incumbency is one factor which might go in favour of the BJP in the Rajasthan Assembly polls. But over the past several months, the Congress government in the state has been working hard at countering it, mainly through the launch of new welfare schemes.

Here are the main factors that impact the November 23 elections in the state.

**Anti-incumbency:** After 1993, when the BJP came to power after a stint of President's rule, Rajasthan voters have alternated between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party every assembly election. If this anti-incumbency sentiment holds, it would be the BJP's "turn" now to form the government.

**Factionalism:** Ahead of the elections, Congress leaders Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot might have put their difference aside - at least for now. But their tussle for power has been sapping the party's strength in Rajasthan



for years. The BJP too could face problems if it ignores former CM Vasundhara Raje and leaders loyal to her.

**OPS, Social welfare schemes:** The Congress campaign will make much of reintroduction of the Old Pension Scheme in the state by its government, a move that impacts about seven lakh government workers, and their families. The Gehlot government has also launched a bunch of welfare schemes, including the Chiranjeevi Health Insurance

Scheme, cheaper LPG cylinders for poor families and a social security allowance.

**Law and order:** The Ashok Gehlot government has been on the back foot several times in the past months with the BJP highlighting the "deterioration" in law and order, focusing particularly on crime against women. But the Congress says the state reacts swiftly whenever an incident takes place.

**Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project:** The Congress has repeatedly demanded a 'national project' status for the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project, meant to address irrigation and drinking water needs of the region. The Congress says the BJP has gone back on assurance it made on the ERCP ahead of the previ-

ous elections. And it plans to begin its electioneering from this region.

**Communal tensions:** The BJP has highlighted communal riots in Karauli, Jodhpur and Bhilwara as it plays the Hindutva card. The party has cited the demolition of a temple in Alwar and, in at his rallies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought up the murder of Udaipur tailor Kanhaiya Lal for allegedly insulting Islam.

**Paper leaks:** Papers of government recruitment exams, like REET, for teachers have leaked in recent months, an issue which impacts lakhs of unemployed youths. Apart from the BJP, Congress dissident Sachin Pilot too has targeted the Gehlot government on this.

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** (PTI) A total of 4,153 Village Defence Groups (VDG) and 32,355 Special Police Officers were engaged in Jammu and Kashmir in different responsibilities for the protection of civilians and anti-terrorists operations.

According to the annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for 2022-23, the security

**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of the Panchayat Samiti**  
**Reamal, Dist-Deogarh**  
**Identification No:- BDO Reamal/2023-24**  
**No.i-422: E-Mail: ori-reamal@nic.in**

- Type of works : Higher Secondary building Works under Samagra Sikshya (01) No.
- Total No. of Works : Rs.71,61,634.00
- Estimated Cost : "B" Class
- Class of Contractor : 6 (six) calendar months
- Period of Completion : 07.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M. to 16.10.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.
- Date of Bidding : 17.10.2023 upto 1.00 PM
- Last Date of receipt of Bid Documents : 17.10.2023 at 11.00 AM
- Date & Time of opening of tender : 18.10.2023 at 11.00 AM

Bid documents consisting of specification & schedule of quantities (BOQ) and the set of terms and conditions of contract (DTCN) along with other necessary documents can be obtained/download from district NIC website [www.deogarh.nic.in](http://www.deogarh.nic.in) and Sealed Bids must be enclosed with appropriate cost in shape of a non-refundable Demand Draft of Rs.10000/- (Ten thousand only) for the work, separately issued from any scheduled bank payable at Reamal in favour of Block Development Officer, Reamal. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

**Sd./- Block Development Officer, Reamal**  
**OIPR-19390/11/0001/2324**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION NO-II, KEONJHAR**  
**Email: eerw\_kjr2@yahoo.com**  
**No.O-1239: "e" Procurement Notice for Road & Building Works**  
**Identification No. Online NCB-11/2023-24**

- Name of the Work: 15 Nos. of Road Work, 16 Nos. of Building Work.
- Total Number of Work: 31 Nos.
- Estimated Cost: Rs.1.69 Lakhs to 54.24 Lakhs.
- Class of Contractor: 'D' 'C' & 'B' Class.
- Period of Completion: As per Annexure of e-Procurement Notice No. 11/2023-24.
- Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of Tender in O/o. S.E.R.W. Division-II, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid Single Cover	Financial Bid Double Cover
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Keonjhar	Road Online NCB No.11	Dt.16.10.2023 at 11.00 AM	Dt.26.10.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.25.10.2023 upto 5.00 PM	Dt.27.10.2023 at 11.00 AM	Will be intimated Later

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).

**OIPR-25093/11/0015/2324 Sd./-Executive Engineer, R.W.Divn. No.II, Keonjhar**

**Government of Odisha**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote**  
**email:eerwukt@gmail.com & eerwukt@gmail.com**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
**Date:07.10.2023**

**Letter No.3236**  
**No.O-1231:1. Name of the Work: Road Works. 2. Total No. of Works: 28 (Twenty Eight) Nos. 3. Approx. Estimated Cost: Varies from 3.99 Lakhs to 27.92 Lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor: 'B', 'C' & 'D' Class of Contractor. 5. Period of Completion: As per TCN.**

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W.Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote	Online Tender/08/RWD-UKT/2023-24	11.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	19.10.2023 upto 5.00 PM	18.10.2023 at 01.00 PM	20.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Government website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).

**Sd./- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Nabarangpur, Umerkote**  
**OIPR-25103/11/0008/2324**

**Government of Odisha**  
**PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE**  
**PAIKMAL, DIST- BARGARH**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**  
**Bid Identification No.02/2023-24 Panchayat Samiti, Paikmal, Dist-Bargarh**

- The Block Development Officer, Paikmal, Dist- Bargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bid in ONLINE MODE for the Building Works as detailed in the Detailed Tender Call Notice (D.T.C.N.) from the eligible class of contractors.
- No. of Works : ONE No.
- Cost of Tender Paper : Rs.6,000/-
- Class of Contractor : "C" Class & "D" Class Contractor
- Date & Time of available in website & receipt of Bids: 11.00 Hrs. of 09.10.2023 to 17.00 Hrs. of 16.10.2023.
- Date of Opening of Bid : 18.10.2023 at 11.00 Hrs.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

**Sd./- Block Development Officer**  
**Paikmal**  
**OIPR-19175/11/0004/2324**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, DEOGARH FOREST DIVISION, DEOGARH**  
**E-mail ID: dfo.deogarh@odisha.gov.in**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No.DFO(DGH)-FE & CC-01/2023-24**  
**Office Order No.198, Date:06.10.2023**

**No.MM-205:1.** The Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Forest Division, Deogarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Single cover system (Composite) online mode for the construction of works as detailed in the table from the class of eligible contractors as mentioned in column-5 (five) registered with the State Governments and Contractors of equivalent Grade / Class Registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for execution of Civil, E.I & G.P.H and Sanitary Works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the Bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under state government, Odisha has to register under the state PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before award of the work. 2. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following work separately.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (Post GST) (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of Completion	Class of Contractor	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Cost of bid document (in Rs.)	Last date & time of online receipt of bids
01	Construction of 1 No. Forest Guard Quarter, Sanghaposhi Beat of Kundheigola Section under Deogarh Range of Deogarh Forest Division during the year 2023-24	Civil, E.I & G.P.H- 10.20/-	3 Calendar Months	'D' & 'C' Class	10200.00	Rs.6000/-	11.00 Hrs. of 09.10.2023 to 16.00 Hrs. of 18.10.2023
02	Construction of 1 No. Watch Tower, Paikudar of Kansar Section under Deogarh Range of Deogarh Forest Division during the year 2023-24	Civil, E.I & G.P.H- 18.90/-	4 Calendar Months	'D' & 'C' Class	18900.00	Rs.6000/-	11.00 Hrs. of 09.10.2023 to 16.00 Hrs. of 18.10.2023
03	Construction of 1 No. Watch Tower, Bardanali Laxmpur of Palsama section under Deogarh Range of Deogarh Forest Division during the year 2023-24	Civil, E.I & G.P.H- 18.90/-	4 Calendar Months	'D' & 'C' Class	18900.00	Rs.6000/-	11.00 Hrs. of 09.10.2023 to 16.00 Hrs. of 18.10.2023
04	Construction of 1 No. Staff Barrack, Kateswar of Kundheigola Section under Reamal Range of Deogarh Forest Division during the year 2023-24	Civil, E.I & G.P.H- 18.90/-	4 Calendar Months	'D' & 'C' Class	18900.00	Rs.6000/-	11.00 Hrs. of 09.10.2023 to 16.00 Hrs. of 18.10.2023
05	Construction of 1 No. Staff Barrack, Suguda of Deogarh section under Deogarh Range of Deogarh Forest Division during the year 2023-24	Civil, E.I & G.P.H- 18.90/-	4 Calendar Months	'D' & 'C' Class	18900.00	Rs.6000/-	11.00 Hrs. of 09.10.2023 to 16.00 Hrs. of 18.10.2023

3. Bid documents consisting of specifications, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms & Conditions of contract and other necessary Documents can be seen in the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) / [www.odishaforest.in](http://www.odishaforest.in) / [www.deogarh.nic.in](http://www.deogarh.nic.in). Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipment's from outside of the State or owned but deployed outside the state are required to transfer online 1% of the amount put to tender as Bid security. 4. The Bidders shall transfer online the cost of Bid Documents as mentioned in Col.7 of table above towards the cost of bid through a process as mentioned under DTCN. 5. The Bid documents will be available in the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) / [www.odishaforest.in](http://www.odishaforest.in) / [www.deogarh.nic.in](http://www.deogarh.nic.in) from 11:00 Hours of 09.10.2023 to 16:00 Hours of 18.10.2023 for online bidding. 6. The Bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class II or Class III.7. Bids shall be received only on "on-line" or before 16:00 Hours of 18.10.2023. 8. Bids received "on-line" shall be opened at 11:00 Hours on 19.10.2023 in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Forest Division, Deogarh in the presence of bidders who wish to attend. Bidders who participated in the bid can witness the opening of bids after logging on to the site through their DSC. If the office happens to be closed on the stipulated date of opening of bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. 9. Bidders are to submit only the original BoQ uploaded by Publisher after entering the relevant fields without any alteration / deletion / modification Multiple BoQ submission shall lead to cancellation. 10. The Authority will not be held responsible for any technical snag or network failure during on-line bidding. 11. Other details can be seen in the bid documents. 12. The authority reserves right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reasons thereof. 13. The addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only. 14. The intending bidders are required to furnish their e-mail address and cell phone number to inform them any message relating to the tender. 15. Engineering contractors who are desirous to avail the facility of exemption of EMD/ISD are required to submit the scan copy of affidavit along with bid document to the effect that he/she had not yet availed the facility during current financial year as per codal provision. 16. The SC/ST contractors willing to avail the facilities as fixed by Govt. will submit scan copy of the affidavit for the same along with tender documents; otherwise, they will not be entitled to avail such facilities. 17. Additional performance security shall be submitted by the successful bidder when the bid amount is less than the estimated cost put to tender as per DTCN clause. 18. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

**OIPR-08041/11/0008/2324 Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Forest Division**

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, BANPUR**  
**E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**Bid Reference No. E.O.-N.A.C.-BNR-04/2023-24**  
**Tender Call Notice No. 2217 / Dt.06.10.2023**

No. C-1579: The Executive Officer on behalf of Banpur NAC invites percentage Bid through e-procurement in Single Cover System according to norm of e-procurement.

- Type of Works : Civil Construction Works as in the D.T.C.N.
- Total No. of Works : 2 Nos.
- Tender Amount Cost : As per DTCN
- Period of Completion : 180 days
- Date and time of availability : From 10.00 A.M. of Dt.11.10.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.02.11.2023
- Original Bid documents : Dt.03.11.2023 from 11.00 A.M. to submission in the office Tender Box
- Date & Time of Opening of Tender : Dt.04.11.2023 at 11.30 A.M.

Further amendments, corrigendum or other communication regarding this letter will be available only on <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> and will not be published in print media.

**Sd./- Executive Officer, Banpur NAC**  
**OIPR-13177/11/0013/2324**

**Annexure-1**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**No.i-427:Jajpur Panchayat Samiti invites RFP in the prescribed format from agencies for "Selection of Agency for Tentage & Allied Works for 'Maa Biraja' Palishree Mela- 2023".**  
**The detail of the RFP is available in the district web portal i.e. [www.jajpur.nic.in](http://www.jajpur.nic.in).**  
**Sd./- Block Development Officer, Jajpur**  
**OIPR-19196/11/0005/2324**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PHULBANI**  
**Phone:06842-253708, E-mail:rw\_phulbani@yahoo.co.in**  
**No.4760... RWPD, Dated the 05.10.2023**

**Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice**  
**Bid Identification No.Online Tender/04/EERWD PHULBANI/2023-24**

- Name of the Work : Building Work (1 No.)
- Estimated Cost : Rs.25.45 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : Three Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal : From 13.10.2023 10.00 AM to 26.10.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal : 26.10.2023 upto 5.00 PM
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Phulbani

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website: [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).

**Sd./- Executive Engineer**  
**Rural Works Division, Phulbani**  
**OIPR-25077/11/0004/2324**



A glimpse of an operation by the Indian Navy on a ship at its Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam



Police cars stay in front of an Iran Air aircraft at the Hamburg Airport in Hamburg, Germany. Officials say flights to and from Hamburg Airport were suspended for about 1.5 hours after authorities received a threat to a plane that arrived from Iran



People in traditional attire rehearse for 'Garba', a traditional folk dance, ahead of Navratri festival in Ahmedabad



Local residents waded through a flooded road near Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) northeast of Yangon, Myanmar



Tourists evacuated from flood-affected Lachen by helicopter arrive at Pakyong Airport near Gangtok



A train runs on the Bengaluru Metro's Purple Line, which is fully operational now, in Bengaluru



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, right, and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, talk after their joint news conference in Moscow, Russia



Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal workers participate in the 'Shaurya Jagran Rath Yatra' organised to celebrate the 60th anniversary of VHP, in Mangaluru



# national

## of the day quote

People will teach a lesson to the abductors of democracy in Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls next month



KAMAL NATH | CONGRESS LEADER

The process of procuring medicines for state run hospitals must be decentralised and there is need to ensure the authority appointed to carry out this task does not work for anyone's self interest



AADITYA THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

591 teams have been set up to ensure strict compliance with dust control norms, with 530 water sprinklers and 258 mobile anti-smog guns employed to combat dust pollution



GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### 9 killed in TN fire

**Ariyalur (TN):** At least nine people were killed in a blaze in a firecracker unit in this district Monday. In a statement, Chief Minister M K Stalin condoled the death of nine people and announced cash relief for their families. The incident happened in Viragalur village in the district at a private unit and the cause of the fire was being ascertained. Five injured persons have been admitted to the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital and have been given special medical attention, the CM said.

### 9 arrested in UP

**Kaushambi (UP):** Nine people were arrested Monday from a village here on charges of alleged illegal religious conversion, police said. The Saini police station was informed some people were misleading innocent people in the house of one Shiv Shankar in the Mahulitir village to convert to Christianity through greed and allurements of getting rid of illness, Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Srivastava said. The police were informed the villagers were being misled that they will get rid of their illness and problems, and some "miracle" will happen, Srivastava said.

### Seven dead

**Hospet (Karnataka):** Seven people, including three women and a child, were killed when a truck collided head on with a car, which then got struck by another lorry coming from behind as well, near Gunda forest on the National Highway in Vijayanagara district Monday evening, police said. Police sources said the truck was coming from Chitradurga towards Hospet, when its steering wheel broke off and the vehicle ran on the opposite side road.



Even if the BJP engineers splits in parties, the ideology remains with the original party. People laugh when one says Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena or Ajit Pawar's NCP

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

## NAIDU'S 3 BAIL PETITIONS DISMISSED

The Andhra Pradesh High Court Monday dismissed three bail petitions filed by TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in different cases. Naidu had moved the court seeking regular bail petitions in the Amaravati Inner Ring Road and Angallu attack cases and an anticipatory bail petition in the FiberNet case



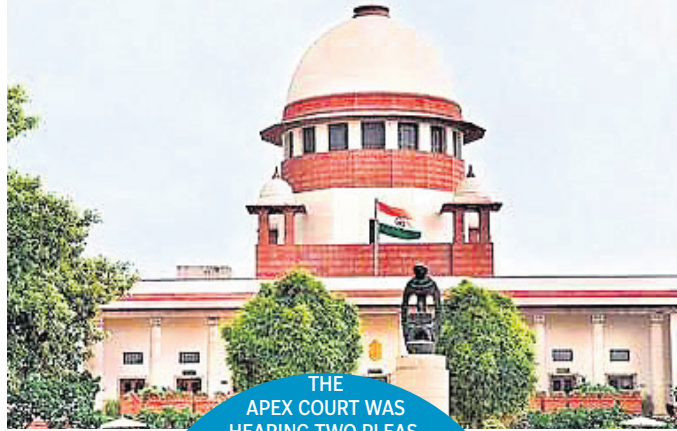
# Appointment of Manipur HC CJ to be notified soon: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** The Supreme Court Monday said the appointment of the Chief Justice (CJ) of Manipur High Court has finally received the Centre's attention and will be notified "shortly", over three months after the apex court collegium had recommended Delhi High Court judge Siddharth Mridul for the post.

In a note submitted before a bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia, the Centre said the files regarding the transfer of 14 high court judges have been cleared and the remaining 12 are under process.

The apex court was hearing two pleas, including the one alleging delay by the Centre in clearing the names recommended by the collegium for appointment and transfer of judges. The top court collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud had on July 5 recommended the appointment of Delhi High Court judge Justice Siddharth Mridul as the chief justice of the Manipur High Court, amid the ethnic turmoil in the border state. "Appointment of chief justice to the high court of a sensitive state has finally received their attention and they are doing it now," the bench said. Calling it a "positive development", the bench said almost 70 names for appointment and transfers, which were pending with the Union Ministry of Law and Justice since November 2022 and not forwarded to the collegium, have suddenly landed before the top court collegium which will start processing them. The bench, which compli-



THE APEX COURT WAS HEARING TWO PLEAS, INCLUDING THE ONE ALLEGING DELAY BY THE CENTRE IN CLEARING THE NAMES RECOMMENDED BY THE COLLEGIUM FOR APPOINTMENT AND TRANSFER OF JUDGES. THE TOP COURT COLLEGIUM HEADED BY CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA D Y CHANDRACHUD HAD JULY 5 RECOMMENDED THE APPOINTMENT OF DELHI HIGH COURT JUDGE JUSTICE SIDDHARTH MRIDUL AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE MANIPUR HIGH COURT, AMID THE ETHNIC TURMOIL IN THE BORDER STATE.

mented the government for acting on the recommendations, observed it would not be correct to say that these are pending with the collegium as they have been received only in the last few days.

It said the collegium will now elicit the views of consultee judges on the recommendations made by high courts and processing will be done at the earliest. "From tomorrow onwards, we will be starting processing the names because we can't suddenly process 70 names on one fine day because the consultee judges' view is taken... We will try to finish it before the October vacation if we can deal with all of that," the bench said.

During Monday's hearing, the apex court said the government did not have reservations over a large number of names recommended by the high court col-

legiums. It still took longer than anticipated before the ministry forwarded the names to the Supreme Court collegium, the bench said, and asked why does it require court's intervention to get things moving.

"I am hoping and I will record that the Attorney General (AG) assures us that our intervention will not be required," Justice Kaul said, to which AG R Venkataramani said this was his endeavour. "The problem arises when the government has raised objections and the collegium overrules the objections. There the government has a right to examine it and say look, you may have cleared it but we still have some reservations to it. So they may send it back," the bench said. It, however, added where the names have been reiterated, then the appointments must take place.

## Not a penny came from China, NewsClick founder tells Delhi HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha, arrested in a case lodged under anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for allegedly receiving money to spread pro-China propaganda, told the Delhi High Court Monday the allegations against him were "false" and "bogus", and "not a penny has come from China".

Justice Tushar Rao Gedela reversed the order on pleas by Purkayastha and the news portal's human resources department head Amit Chakravarty challenging their arrest and the subsequent 7-day police remand after the investigation agency defended its action claiming NewsClick received Rs 75 crore from a person in China to ensure the country's stability and integrity were compromised.

"Arguments heard. Order reversed," said Justice Gedela said after hearing the rival sides for around two hours. The court said any further remand of the accused will be subject to its order on the petitions by the two senior executives of the news portal.

Purkayastha and Chakravarty, who were arrested by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police on October 3, had moved the high court last week challenging their arrest and subsequent police custody, and sought immediate release as interim relief.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the investigation agency, said the case involves "serious offences" and the probe was still going on. "About Rs 75 crore odd... Investigation is on and I can show it from case diary... Came from a person staying in China and the purpose is to ensure that the stability and especially the integrity of this country is compromised," he said.

## Congress promises caste census if elected



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** The Congress Monday upped the ante for a nationwide caste census, asserting it will be a "big, powerful step" towards emancipation of the poor, Dalits and OBCs, and Rahul Gandhi saying the party will force the BJP to do this or else should "get out" of the way for it to carry out the exercise.

A resolution adopted by the Congress Working Committee (CWC) promised that a government led by it will conduct a nationwide caste census and implement 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies at the earliest, including adequate representation for women belonging to the OBC community.

The CWC, the party's highest policy making body, at its crucial meeting unanimously decided to extend support to the caste-based census, a move that came ahead of next month's crucial Assembly elections to five states—Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram—billed as a semi-final to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Rahul Gandhi called the CWC decision "historic", and said a caste census is the X-ray of India. Admitting that it was a

mistake on the part of the Congress not to conduct a caste census when it was in power, he said, "We will accomplish what we could not achieve earlier. There is a need for this X-ray if we have to bring a new paradigm for development, where everyone gets justice."

The CWC said a caste census is needed for the country's development to endure that the weaker sections get their rightful share proportionate to their population. The meeting was held at the party headquarters here where top leaders deliberated on the caste census and preparations for the upcoming assembly elections, with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge asking workers to work in co-ordination, discipline and unity and put in all their might for a victory in all the five states.

Kharge also raised the demand for conducting a nationwide caste census to ensure social justice and rights to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in accordance with their population, while noting that the BJP is silent on this.

For proper share in welfare schemes, it is important to have socio-economic data on the condition of weaker sections of society and ensure social justice to them, he asserted.

# India, Tanzania ink six pacts to boost ties



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** India and Tanzania Monday elevated their ties to the level of strategic partnership, inked six pacts to boost cooperation in several key areas and agreed on a five-year roadmap to significantly expand defence engagement at talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

In his media statement after the talks, Modi said both sides are also working on an agreement to increase trade in local currencies, and described Tanzania as a "valued partner" in the Indo-Pacific.

The Prime Minister said steps are being taken to adopt the success story of UPI in Tanzania

and that both sides will continue to explore new opportunities to realise the full potential of the economic cooperation. President Hassan arrived here on Sunday on a four-day visit.

"Today is a historic day in the relations between India and Tanzania. Today we are tying our age-old friendship into a strategic partnership," Modi said in presence of Hassan. "In today's meeting we identified several new initiatives, laying the foundation for this future strategic partnership. India and Tanzania are important partners of each other for mutual trade and investment," he said.

The six agreements firmed up at the talks will provide for cooperation in the digital domain, culture, sports, maritime industries and white shipping information sharing. An India-Tanzania joint statement said both sides noted that the strategic partnership will help the two countries to jointly work on issues like maritime security, defence cooperation, development partnership, trade and investment, among others.



BSP supremo Mayawati after paying tribute to party founder Kanshi Ram on his death anniversary in Lucknow

PTI PHOTO

# POLITICAL DOUBLESPEAK, CONTRADICTIONS & CONSEQUENCES

Politics is propelled by contradictions within and spouting doublespeak without. It's almost akin to the faith in medicine and prayer; an uneasy existence with a standby fall guy, be it doctor or God. Last Saturday, former BJP Chief Minister Suresh Mehta, who subsequently quit the party, had an interesting example to narrate. In 2018 Gujarat State Land development Corporation (GSLDC), a state government owned company, was rocked by a major scandal when Rs 56 lakhs in illegitimate cash was seized from its office. Its main task was to provide technical and financial help in agriculture and minor irrigation-related activities. In November, the same year after a cabinet meeting, the then agriculture minister, R.C. Faldu announced

the government decision to dissolve GSLDC but persist with the schemes initiated by it, particularly in the tribal and the backward areas. Mehta showed media-persons RTI documents to prove that the schemes had all ceased but GSLDC still remained functional.

The week also witnessed the ripple effect of molehills acquiring 'mountainous' hues at the touch of a political wand. A demonstration of how Muslims pray at a private school in Ahmedabad on the occasion of Eid - was blown into Hindu students being forced to offer 'namaz' with right wing activists storming the school next day, thrashing a teacher and extracting an apology from the school principal.

The minister of state for primary, secondary and adult education Praful



Pansheriya was quick to wade into the controversy. "It seems that some people want to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the state by organizing such programmes in schools. This is not at all acceptable", the minister was quoted as saying while ordering an investigation which will "find out the mentality and intention behind organizing such a programme and then take appropriate action". The

inquiry commenced the next day.

Ironically it was a clip of the programme on the Facebook page of the school (subsequently removed) which was the first point of information for the protesters. Principal Nirali Dagli went on record to state "we wholeheartedly celebrate all Indian festivals including Ganeshotsav, Navratri, Eid, Christmas, Paryushan, Navroz, Guru Purab. One of our students depicted how namaz is performed while three students stood by the depiction. Additionally, no student was forced to perform namaz, the students who participated had taken consent from their parents", she told mediapersons. Civil society organisations have demanded an FIR against the forced violence including assault on a hapless school staff. Nothing has been heard on this count so far.

The crowning irony is that within days of this show of hostility for a gesture of communal amity, the BJP-led Gujarat government issued a circular that sought large scale participation by minorities, among others, in the Amrut Kalash Yatras to be taken out statewide.

A circular issued by the Panchayat Rural Housing, and Rural Development Department and sent right down to the village level for compliance, has enunciated the modalities on how to celebrate 'Amrut Kalash Yatra', in which it has categorically instructed that members of the minority community have to be persuaded to participate in the said yatra on October 12, across the state. The state has called this event an exercise for nation-building and part of the Azadi ka Amrut Mohatsav programme.

## Video of burning man surfaces in Manipur

**Imphal/Churachandpur:** A video purportedly showing a man being burnt in Manipur has gone viral, attracting condemnation from a tribal organisation Monday, with the government recommending a CBI probe into the matter stating that it is linked to the incident in which two women were paraded naked. The video of the burning man was shot on May 4, the same day when two women were paraded naked by a mob, the footage of which sparked nationwide outrage after it surfaced in July. The ethnic strife in Manipur began on May 3. The seven-second video shared by several users on social media platforms on Sunday showed a man, apparently dead, dressed in a black T-shirt and camouflage trousers being burnt, while voices in a local language and gunshots can be heard in the background.

# international

## IMRAN, QURESHI TO BE INDICTED IN CYPHER CASE

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan and his close aide Shah Mahmood Qureshi will be indicted in the cypher case October 17, a special court here announced as hearing in the case officially began Monday. Special Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain presided over the hearing at the high-security Adiala jail. Both Khan and Qureshi were present and they were provided with the copies of the charge sheet



# NO MATTER WHO LOSES, IRAN WINS



ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

## Israel kills infiltrators crossing from Lebanon

Israel said Monday its troops backed by helicopters had killed armed infiltrators entering the country from Lebanon, raising fears war could spread to a second front two days after Hamas gunmen burst in from Gaza on a deadly rampage. The Israeli military said it had called up an unprecedented 300,000 reservists and was imposing a total blockade of the Gaza Strip, signs it could be planning a ground assault there to defeat Hamas. In a further sign of Israel's rapid shift onto a war footing, a cabinet member from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party said it could set up a national unity government joined by opposition leaders within hours.

There will be only one winner in the war that has broken out between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. And it is neither Israel nor Hamas.

In an operation coined "the Al-Aqsa Storm," Hamas, whose formal name is the Islamic Resistance Movement, fired thousands of rockets into Israel October 7, 2023. Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad fighters infiltrated Israel by land, sea and air. Hundreds of Israelis have been killed, more than 2,000 injured, and many taken hostage.

Already, some analysts are suggesting that Tehran's fingerprints can be seen on the surprise attack on Israel. At the very least, Iran's leaders have reacted to the assault with encouragement and support. The decisive factor shaping Iran's foreign policy was the 1979 overthrow of the US-friendly, repressive Shah of Iran and the transfer of state power into the hands of a Shiite Muslim revolutionary regime. That regime was defined by stark anti-American imperialism and anti-Israeli Zionism.

The revolution, its leaders claimed, was not just against the corrupt Iranian monarchy; it was intended to confront oppression and injustice everywhere, and especially those governments backed by the United States - chief among them, Israel. For Iran's leaders, Israel and the United States represented immorality, injustice and the greatest threat to Muslim society and Iranian security. The enduring hostility felt toward Israel is in no small part due to its close ties with the shah and Israel's role in his sustained oppression of the Iranian people. Together with the US Central Intelligence Agency, Israel's intelligence service, the Mossad, helped organise the shah's secret police and intelligence service, the SAVAK. This organisation relied on increasingly

## Hamas threatens to kill captives

Palestinian group Hamas threatened Monday to kill hostages if the Israeli army carried out air strikes without prior warning targeting residents of the Gaza Strip. "Every targeting of our people without warning will be met with the execution of one of the civilian hostages," the Ezzedine al-Qassem Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said. "The enemy doesn't understand the language of humanity and ethics, so we'll address them in the language that they understand." Israel has pounded the Gaza Strip over the past three days after Hamas terrorists surged into southern Israeli towns in a surprise attack that has left hundreds killed. Terrorists, who sprayed bullets under the cover of thousands of rockets fired from the Gaza Strip, fled back to the enclave with about 100 hostages. An Israeli military spokesman said Monday that details of about 30 hostages have been given to their families. Abu Obeida, the spokesman of the Qassam Brigades, said in an audio released Monday night. "We have decided to put an end to this and as of now and we declare that any targeting of our people in their homes without prior warning will be regrettably faced with the execution of one of the hostages of civilians we are holding," he said.



harsh tactics to put down dissenters during the shah's last two decades in power, including mass imprisonment, torture, disappearances, forced exile and killing thousands of Iranians. The 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon - in retaliation for Lebanon-based Palestinian attacks against Israel - provided Iran an opportunity to live up to its anti-Zionist rhetoric by challenging Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and checking US influence in the region.

**SUBSIDISING CONFLICT**  
To that end, Iran sent its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps - a branch of Iran's military, usually known as the "Revolutionary Guard" - to Lebanon to organise and support Lebanese and Palestinian militants. In Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Revolutionary Guardsmen instructed Shiite resistance fighters in religion, revolutionary ideology and guerrilla tactics, and provided weapons, funds, training and encouragement.

Iran's leadership transformed these early trainees from a ragtag band of

fighters into Lebanon's most powerful political and military force today, and

Iran's greatest foreign policy success, Hezbollah. Since the early 1980s, Iran has maintained support for anti-Israeli militant groups and operations.

Via the Revolutionary Guard and Hezbollah, Iran has encouraged and enabled Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas violence, and these Palestinian fighters now represent a crucial element in what foreign affairs analysts call Iran's "Axis of Resistance" against Israel and the United States, which constitutes Iran's chief purpose. But Iran cannot risk confronting either state directly. Iranian weapons, funds and training enable surges in Palestinian militant violence against Israel when frustrations boil over, including during the Palestinian uprisings known as the first and second intifadas.

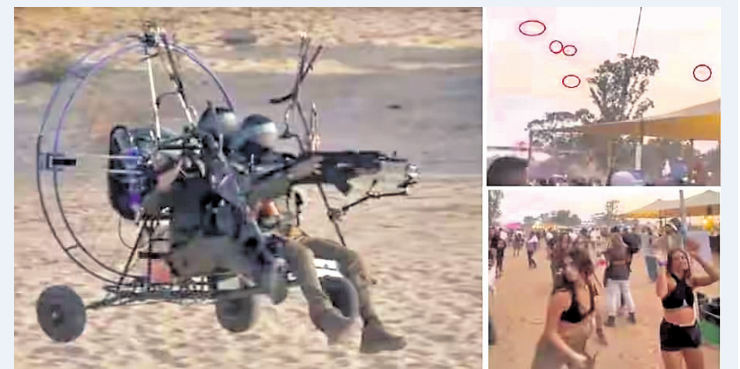
**HOW IRAN WINS**  
There are at least three possible outcomes to the war, and they all play in

Iran's favour. First, Israel's heavy-handed response may turn off Saudi Arabia and other Arab states to US-backed Israeli normalisation efforts. Second, if Israel deems it necessary to push further into Gaza to eradicate the threat, this could provoke another Palestinian uprising in East Jerusalem or the West Bank, leading to a more widespread Israeli response and greater instability.

Lastly, Israel could achieve its first two objectives with the minimal amount of force necessary, foregoing usual heavy-handed tactics and reducing chances of escalation. But this is unlikely. And even if this occurred, the underlying causes that led to this latest outbreak of violence, and the enabling role Iran plays in that process, have not been addressed. And when the next round of Israeli-Palestinian violence occurs - and it will - I believe Iran's leaders will again congratulate themselves for a job well done.

## HAMAS ULTRAS PARAGLIDE INTO ISRAELI 'RAVE PARTY'

Moments after Hamas fighters stormed into Israel, video clips showing how the highly-trained fighter descending into Israeli territory using motorised paragliders started breaking the internet. "It is like a scene from a video game. I have never seen anything like this in real life," said a social media user. The aerial attack was one of the new strategic employed by the Hamas militant group to unleash fear among the administration of Israel. Following the attack launched by the Hamas resistance group, 600 people including dozens of Israeli soldiers have died so far. Later, in retaliation, Israeli jets bombed Gaza city in which nearly 320 Palestinians have been killed. Taking to X, founder and CEO of IBC Group, a London-based marketing consultation firm, Mario Nawfal, shared a training video of Hamas militants which was replicated during Saturday's attack, calling it a marketing effort. "A training video replicating today's attacks, posted by Hamas as part of their marketing and recruitment efforts. You can see the same paragliding tactics in the video used today, showing how well prepared Hamas was (sic)," he wrote. Since the Hamas attack began, the group has released several pictures and videos featuring militants taking Israeli military personnel as hostages.



## China behind Nijjar killing, claims blogger

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** A New York-based activist and independent blogger has claimed that agents from China, not India, were involved in the killing of Canadian Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June this year.

China-born Jennifer Zeng said in her blog, 'Inconvenient Truths' that the killing was carried out by the agents of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) with intent to frame India and create discord between India and the West. "Today, shocking revelations about the assassination of the #Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, have emerged from within the CCP. It is alleged that the assassination was carried out by CCP agents," Zeng said in a video, which she shared on X Monday. She also said that the move was part of CCP's sin-



ister ignition plan to disrupt the world in line with Chinese President Xi Jinping's military strategy regarding Taiwan.

Zeng, who is a member of the International Press Association according to her X bio, attributed her allegations to Canada-based Chinese writer and YouTuber Lao Deng. Lao stated that in early June this year as part of their disruption initiative 'ig-

inition plan', the CCP Ministry of State Security sent a high-ranking official to Seattle, USA. A secret meeting was held there. The objective was to sabotage relations between India and the West, Zeng was heard saying in the video. The agents were tasked with assassinating Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Sikh leader in Canada, she said, adding

that following the meeting, the CCP agents meticulously executed the assassination plan.

She said that when the deed (killing) was done June 18, the agents destroyed the dash camera in Nijjar's car to erase any evidence.

After the crime, the agents fled, they burned their weapons and disguises to destroy all traces. The next day they left Canada in Airplanes, Zeng alleged.

In addition, she said that the assassins purposely learned Indian-accent English, which was part of the scheme by CCP secret agents to frame India.

## US gets largest Hindu temple in New Jersey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Robbinsville (US), Oct 9:** BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple in the United States spread over 185 acres, has been inaugurated here, with devotees underscoring the temple's message of unity, peace and harmony for people living across America and the world.

The grand dedication ceremony of Akshardham in Robbinsville, New Jersey was conducted Sunday in the presence of Mahant Swami Maharaj following a nine-day celebration that commenced September 30. Swami Maharaj performed the 'Pran Prathistha' ceremony at the temple amid rituals and traditional ceremonies.

The construction of the temple, dedicated to Bhagwan Swaminarayan, started in 2011 and concluded this year. It was created by 12,500 volunteers from around the world. Among the



several key unique features of the temple is the largest elliptical dome ever constructed from stone. Volunteer Lenin Joshi noted that Swaminarayan Akshardham presents India's heritage and culture to modern America.

Created by volunteers around the world, this masterpiece stands as an enduring symbol of love while preserving traditions and spreading messages of peace, hope, and harmony across generations, he said.

"We were waiting for this moment for the last several years," Joshi said, adding that the day

has finally come when people from all around the country, irrespective of their faiths and religions, will be able to visit the temple and see the grand symbol of Indian Hindu tradition, peace, devotion and architectural marvel.

He said the temple has been built by nearly 12,500 volunteers - men, women and children from all walks of life - who took a break from their jobs and studies and dedicated themselves for days and months to construct the temple.

Highlighting some of the unique aspects of the temple, Joshi said 1.9 million cubic feet of stone was used in its construction. The stone was sourced from over 29 different sites around the world, including granite from India, sandstone from Rajasthan, teakwood from Myanmar, marble from Greece, Turkey and Italy and limestone from Bulgaria and Turkey.

## of the day quote

Indian real estate is at the cusp of a technological revolution – and CREDAI intends on leading this charge. We want to create impact at both macro and micro levels

**BOMAN IRANI** | PRESIDENT, CREDAI

While the IT sector continues to stay impacted, robust growth in the banking sector is a bright spot. Coupled with the fact that the overall index sequentially grew 6 per cent, this underscores the resilience of the Indian job market, anchored in sectoral diversity

**PAWAN GOYAL** | chief business officer, naukri.com

Developers have been bullish about the luxury homes segment because of its superlative performance after the pandemic, with overall sales rising steeply across the top 7 cities

**PRASHANTH THAKUR** | REGIONAL DIRECTOR & HEAD (RESEARCH), ANAROCK GROUP

## SHORT TAKES

### Tea exports fall 2%

**Kolkata:** Tea exports from India have fallen marginally by 2.23 per cent during the first seven months of 2023 from January to July at 114.60 million kilogramme, according to the latest Tea Board data. During the same period of 2022, tea exports stood at 117.21 million kilogramme. Exports from North India, comprising primarily the states of Assam and West Bengal, stood at 69.56 million kilogramme in the first seven months of the current calendar year, as compared to 70.56 million kilogramme in the previous similar period.

### HPCL to cut diesel buy from other cos

**New Delhi:** India's Hindustan Petroleum Corp will cut its diesel purchases from other refiners as it has commissioned a 3 million tonne per annum (mtpa) hydrocracker at its recently upgraded Vizag refinery, its head of refineries S Bharathan said Monday. State-owned HPCL buys fuels from refiners such as Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals, Nayara Energy and Reliance Industries as its domestic sales are higher than the output from its two refineries at Mumbai in western India and Vizag in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. It also buys refined fuels from its joint venture company HPCL-Mittal Energy.

## BLACK MONEY

The exchanged information in 5th set of Swiss bank account details allows the cantonal tax authorities to verify whether taxpayers have correctly declared their financial accounts abroad in their tax returns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi/Berne, Oct 9:** India has received a new set of Swiss bank account details of its nationals and organisations as part of an annual automatic information exchange under which Switzerland has shared particulars of nearly 36 lakh financial accounts with 104 countries.

This is the fifth such annual exchange of information between Switzerland and India with the officials saying that the new details shared with Indian authorities pertain to "hundreds of financial accounts", including many cases of multiple accounts associated with some individuals, corporates and trusts.

The details that have been shared include identification, account and financial information, including name, address, country of residence and tax identification number as well as information

# Double whammy for exporters

AS THE WORLD WAS ALREADY REELING UNDER THE CONSEQUENCES OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT, A NEW WAR IN MIDDLE EAST BETWEEN ISRAEL, PALESTINE IS GOING TO INFLICT MORE PAIN ON INDIAN EXPORTERS VIA HIGHER RISK PREMIUMS, SHIPPING COSTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** Indian exporters shipping goods to Israel may face higher insurance premiums and shipping costs due to the Israel-Hamas conflict, according to experts.

Israel witnessed a surprise and unprecedented multifront attack by air, land and sea by the Hamas militant group, which rules the Gaza Strip, in its southern parts Saturday morning.

The International trade experts said the conflict may reduce the profits of domestic exporters but will not impact trade volumes unless war escalates.

"For merchandise exports of India, the war may lead to higher insurance premiums and shipping costs. India's ECGC may charge higher risk premiums from Indian firms exporting to Israel," think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said Sunday.

ECGC Ltd (formerly Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd) is wholly owned by the government of India. It was set up in 1957 with the objective of promoting exports from the country by providing credit risk insurance and related services for exports.

Mumbai-based exporter and founder chairman of Technocrat Industries India Sharad Kumar Saraf said the conflict may have an impact on Indian exporters in the short run. "But if the war escalates, things may get bitter for our exporters of that region," Saraf said.

GTRI co-founder Ajay Srivastava said trade may be se-



Fortunately, so far there is no report of port disruption. India-Israel bilateral services trade is estimated to be around \$1.3 billion. It may have no impact unless war escalates to involve bigger parts of Israel. The real impact would depend on the duration and intensity of the war

**AJAY SRIVASTAVA** | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

India-Israel trade in merchandise and services sectors in 2022-23 is estimated to be \$12bn

riously impacted if operations at the three largest ports of Israel-Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat are disrupted.

These ports handle shipments of agricultural products, chemicals, electronics, machinery, and vehicles. India's merchandise trade with Israel happens mostly through Eilat port, located on the Red Sea.

### TRADE DATA

India's merchandise exports and imports from Israel during 2022-23 were \$8.4 billion and \$2.3 billion, respectively, leading to a merchandise trade surplus of \$6.1 billion.

India's key exports to Israel are diesel (\$5.5 billion) and cut and polished diamonds (\$1.2 billion).

The key imports are rough diamonds (\$519 million) and cut and polished diamonds

Our net zero target by 2070 is a little too long-term. Energy transition in India will first be from fossil-based to cleaner fuels and further to renewable

**HARDEEP SINGH PURI** | UNION MINISTER



### ATHER TO TAP INT'L MARKET WITH NEPAL

Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy Monday said it is foraying into the international market. The company plans to enter the international market with the export of its flagship model, 450X, to Nepal, it said in a statement. The plans to export the 450X model comes at a time when Nepal is shifting towards more clean mobility options.



### Oil prices jump 4% as turmoil roils markets

Oil prices surged more than 4% Monday as military clashes between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas ignited fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East. Brent crude was up \$3.24, or 3.8%, to \$87.85 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$86.19 a barrel, up \$3.40 or about 4.1%. Both benchmarks spiked by more than \$4, or over 5%, earlier in the session. The surge in oil prices reversed last week's downtrend - the largest weekly decline since March - in which Brent fell about 11% and WTI retreated more than 8% as a darkening macroeconomic outlook intensified concerns about global demand.

## SENSEX, NIFTY SLUMP

Investors stayed on the sidelines and refrained from taking risks amid uncertainty due to the Israel-Hamas conflict



### NEW WAR WOES

**Mumbai:** Equity benchmark index Sensex tumbled nearly 500 points Monday as investors offloaded finance, banking and energy stocks amid escalating tensions in the Middle East and surging crude oil prices overseas.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 483.24 points or 0.73 per cent to settle at 65,512.39. The Nifty declined 141.15 points or 0.72 per cent to end at 19,512.35.

Only three SENSEX stocks settled in the green, while the Nifty-50 saw its 43 scrips closing in the red.

"Investors dumped equity assets as they turned risk off on concerns that a faceoff between Israel and Hamas could further deteriorate the global economy al-

ready reeling under higher interest rates and stubbornly high inflation. There are concerns that since most of the oil-producing nations are close to the conflict zone, a prolonged war could trigger an upsurge in international crude oil prices. With a

### Global stock markets trading at mixed note

The S and P 500 rose 1.2 per cent, the Dow jumped 0.9 per cent and the Nasdaq composite flipped to a gain of 1.6 per cent. Tel Aviv's main stock benchmark was up 1 per cent. It closed 6.5 per cent lower Sunday, after the attacks. Early Monday, Israel's Central Bank said it will sell up to \$30 billion in foreign exchange to prop up the shekel, which fell to a near 8-year low. It also said it will provide up to \$15 billion to support market liquidity. The shekel was trading Monday at 3.9158 shekels per dollar. In times of war, the US dollar is often sought as a safe haven, as is gold. The price of gold was up 1 per cent early Monday at \$1,864.30 per ounce. Germany's DAX lost 0.7 per cent to 15,128.67 and the CAC 40 in Paris lost 0.4 per cent to 7,030.21. In London, the FTSE 100 advanced 0.3 per cent to 7,514.15. In Asian trading, Shanghai reopened after a weeklong holiday, falling 0.4 per cent to 3,096.92. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 0.2 per cent to 17,486.48.

## Auto retail sales jump 20%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** Automobile retail sales in India surged over 20 per cent in September as demand soared across vehicle segments with the onset of festival season, dealer's body FADA said Monday.

Overall automobile registrations rose to 18,82,071 units last month from 15,63,735 units in September 2022, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said in a statement.

The year-on-year (YoY) analysis reveals broad-based growth across segments as two-wheeler sales grew 22 per cent, three-wheeler retails soared 49 per cent, passenger vehicle sales grew 19 per cent, while commercial vehicles saw a sales

growth of 5 per cent, FADA President Manish Raj Singhania said.

Tractor retail sales, however, declined 10 per cent last month, as compared to the same month last year, he noted.

Passenger vehicle registrations rose 19 per cent YoY last month to 3,32,248 units, as compared to 2,79,137 units in September 2022, as vehicle availability improved.

Two-wheeler retail sales grew by 22 per cent to 13,12,101 units, last month as against 10,78,286 units in September 2022.

Commercial vehicle registrations rose by 5 per cent YoY to 80,804 units last month. Three-wheeler sales saw an increase of 49 per cent to 1,02,426 units last month, as against 68,937 units in September 2022.

### FISCAL DEFICIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 9:** Fiscal consolidation commitments will make the growth in public capital expenditure witnessed in the past few years unsustainable going forward, an American brokerage said Monday.

The private sector will have to play a more prominent role to offset the same. Corporate sector balance sheets are deleveraged and banks are also well-capitalised to aid such an eventuality, Goldman Sachs said in a note.

"Given the medium term fiscal consolidation path - the central government intends to reduce its fiscal deficit by almost 1.5 per cent of GDP over the next two years - public capex growth rates seen in the past few years cannot be sustained," analysts at the brokerage said.

## Govt to scale back on investment: GS



According to the note, between 1997-2022, corporates and households were responsible for around three-fourth of the investments but the last decade has seen a decline in investments by both the groups. Interestingly, private corporate and household investments together accounted for about 25 per cent of GDP as of 2022, it added.

In the last few years, the increase in public capital expenditure has helped the country by way of an uptick in the real investment trend growth, it said.

In the last three years alone, the central government has increased its capital expenditure

by 33 per cent from a compounded annual growth perspective to 3.3 per cent of GDP in FY24, it said, adding that the figure in the ongoing fiscal year is an 18-year-high.

The high growth in public capex was made possible by reducing subsidy spending sharply post-pandemic to 1.4 per cent of GDP in FY24 from nearly 4 per cent of GDP in FY21.

The government's spending on subsidy and transfer payments is likely to grow by 0.3 per cent of GDP in FY24 from the budget estimates to absorb food and oil supply shocks, the brokerage said.

Further, Goldman Sachs said the government, which has budgeted for the fiscal deficit to come at 5.9 per cent in FY24, has committed to get the crucial number down to 4.5 per cent of GDP in FY26.

## 635 UK firms making over ₹4L-cr in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Oct 9:** There are 635 companies incorporated in India that are owned or controlled from the UK with a combined turnover of approximately ₹4,88,840 crores and employing around 666,992 people, according to the 2023 edition of 'Britain Meets India' (BMI) report.

The third edition of the annual report, collated by Grant Thornton Bharat in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and supported by the UK government's Department for Business and Trade (DBT), was launched in New Delhi Sunday.

It comes as the 13th round of free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations are ongoing between India and the UK, expected to significantly boost the bilateral trade partnership estimated at around GBP 36 billion in 2022.

"It's fantastic to see even more UK companies thriving in India this year, generating thousands of jobs and delivering significant growth for both our countries," said UK Minister for International Trade Nigel Huddleston, in a message for the report launch.

"By unlocking barriers to trade and making it easier to sell abroad, we are generating even more opportunities for British businesses in India - which is expected to become the third largest economy by 2035 - and around the world," he said.

Of the 635 UK companies, 68 per cent are classed as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and 60 per cent have their parent firm headquartered in London.

As many as 147 companies in the report met the qualifying criteria to feature in the 'BMI Growth Tracker', with a combined turnover of ₹3,923.9 billion and achieving an average growth rate of 46 per cent.

The report finds that in 2023, 11 UK companies achieved triple-digit turnover growth rates and business services (22 per cent) and industrial products (19 per cent) emerged as the leading sectors among the fastest-growing companies in the growth tracker.

# INDIA GETS MORE AMMO TO FIGHT TAX FRAUD



The details relate mostly to businessmen, including non-resident Indians now settled in several South-East Asian countries as well as in the US, the UK and even some African and South American countries

ital Berne, the Federal Tax Administration (FTA) Monday said that it has exchanged information on financial accounts with 104 countries within the framework of the global standard on the Automatic Exchange Of Information (AEOI).

Currently, around 9,000 reporting financial institutions, including banks, trusts and insurers, are registered with the FTA. These institutions collected the data and transferred it to the FTA.

"The FTA sent information on around 3.6 million financial accounts to the partner states and received information on around 2.9 million financial accounts from them," the FTA said but

did not provide any information on the amount of financial assets.

While the FTA did not disclose names and further details of all 104 countries, officials said India figured prominently among those having received the information for the fifth year in a row and the details shared with Indian authorities pertained to a large number of individuals and organisations having accounts in Swiss financial institutions.

India had received the first set of details from Switzerland under the AEOI in September 2019. It was among the 75 countries to get such information that year. In 2022, India was among 86 such partner countries.

According to experts, the AEOI data received by India has been quite useful for establishing a strong prosecution case against those who have any unaccounted wealth as it provides entire details of deposits and transfers as well as of all earnings, including through investments in securities and other assets.

Switzerland had agreed to the AEOI with India after a long process, including a review of the necessary legal framework in India on data protection and confidentiality.

Besides, Swiss authorities have already shared information on hundreds of Indian citizens and entities over the last few years on receipt of requests for administrative assistance in cases involving probes into financial wrong doings including tax evasion, the officials added.

These cases mostly relate to older accounts that might have been closed before 2018, for which Switzerland has shared details with India under an earlier framework of mutual administrative assistance as Indian authorities had provided prima facie evidence of tax-related wrongdoing by those account holders.

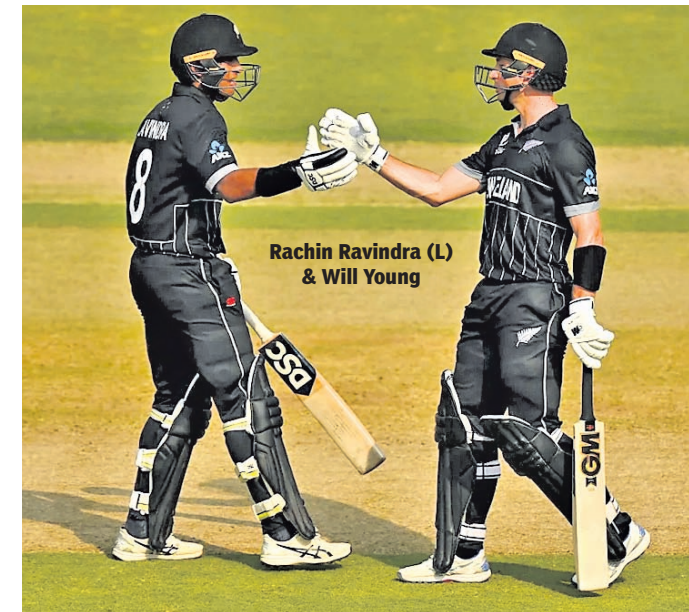
Some of these cases relate to entities set up by Indians in various overseas jurisdictions like Panama, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands while the individuals, include mostly businessmen and a few politicians and erstwhile royals as well as their family members.

The officials, however, refused to share details about the exact number of accounts or the quantum of assets held in the accounts held by Indians, for which the information has been shared with India, citing strict confidentiality clauses governing the exchange framework.

Switzerland has also agreed to share details about real estate assets owned by foreigners.

This is being seen as a key milestone in the Indian government's fight against black money allegedly stashed abroad as authorities will be able to get the complete information on flats, apartments and condominiums owned by Indians in Switzerland as also on earnings made from such properties to help it look into tax liabilities associated with those assets.

# Batters, Santner lift Kiwis England take on upbeat Bangla



Rachin Ravindra (L) & Will Young



Mitchell Santner



**Injuries can happen at any time, on any surface, but I think it's (HPCA Stadium) definitely one where you're going to have to be a little bit careful. If you feel like you're having to hold yourself back, it's not a place you want to be as a team or player, or in a World Cup match**

JOS BUTTLER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dharamsala, Oct 9:** Defending champions England's nine-wicket loss to New Zealand in their World Cup opener would have given Jos Buttler the jitters, and the skipper would like his teammates to make a strong comeback when they take on Bangladesh here Tuesday.

The loss against New Zealand was an early wake-up call for Buttler, whose team members know the Indian pitches and the conditions here like the back of their hand with many of them playing in the Indian Premier League.

While a score of 282 was al-

ways going to be difficult to defend at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the pace at which Kiwi opener Devon Conway and young left-handed batter Rachin Ravindra decimated the England bowling, scoring unbeaten centuries and making a mockery by finishing the contest in only the 37th over, would have jangled many a nerve in the team management and the fans back home.

While the likes of New Zealand pace bowlers Trent Boult, Matt Henry decimated the England batting, on the other hand, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood and Sam Curran were simply ineffective in breaking the mammoth 272-run partnership between Conway and Ravindra.

While former England skipper Joe Root, opener Jonny Bairstow and the skipper himself made some useful contributions, a big innings was sadly lacking, which cost the defending champions the opening match.

Bangladesh would like to exploit those chinks in England's armour when they clash at the HPCA Stadium, that has drawn flak for the reported quality of the outfield.

Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott had expressed his displeasure over the outfield at the Dharamsala Stadium following



the six-wicket loss to Bangladesh in their opening match here, saying it was sheer fortune that some of the players did not pick up niggles while fielding.

Injuries so early in the tournament to any of their key players could jeopardise any team's chances in the tournament and both sides would like to avoid such a scenario.

While Buttler would like a more committed performance from both his batters and bowlers, whose best efforts could not breach the defences of Conway and Ravindra, Bangladesh would be upbeat following their winning start in the tournament.

While 36-year-old all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will always be a threat to any side, top-order batters Litton Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Najmul Hossain Shanto, among others, have also given fine performances over the years.

While England will certainly be the favourites, Bangladesh know how to turn the tide, and the defending champions know all too well that they can ill-afford a second successive loss.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, Oct 9:** Will Young, Rachin Ravindra and Tom Latham defied the sluggishness of the pitch to construct well-paced fifties before Mitchell Santner's five-wicket haul (5/59) led New Zealand to a 99-run win over the Netherlands at the ongoing ICC World Cup here, Monday.

After being asked to bat first, Young (70, 80b, 7x4, 2x6) and Ravindra (51, 51b, 3x4, 1x6) gave the Kiwis some momentum against the Dutch bowlers, who exploited the slowness of the track with an assortment of slow balls and cutters.

Captain Latham gave some impetus to the Black Caps while making a 46-ball 53 (6x4, 1x6) towards the business end of the innings. Later, Santner's slow left-arm spin was well-assisted by the

pitch as the Dutch side were bowled out for 223 in 46.3 overs.

Earlier, the course of the innings was revealed very early when the Netherlands managed to tie down Kiwis openers with three maidens in a row. It was Young who broke the manacles, driving pacer Ryan Klein through mid-off for a four.

Devon Conway (32) tried to give some muscle to the innings when he clobbered spinner Aryan Dutt for a massive six over long-on. However, he did not last long as the left-hander was dismissed off left-arm spinner Roelof van der Merwe while going for another maximum.

It ended the 67-run opening alliance but Ravindra, who made a hundred against England, and Young compiled a 77-run stand for the second wicket.

Kiwis' performance was in

stark contrast against the rollicking effort they dished out against England a few days back at Ahmedabad. But the Kiwis team management will certainly be pleased with the way their batters adapted and made substantial runs through a different method.

The dismissals of Ravindra and Young pegged back New Zealand a bit. However, the Kiwis kept themselves ahead of the curve through a 53-run stand between Latham and Daryl Mitchell (48, 47b, 5x4, 2x6).

When Latham was the seventh batter to be dismissed at the score of 293 in the 49th over and the Kiwis might have felt the need to add a few extra runs. Those runs came from the bat of Mitchell Santner (36 n o, 17b, 3x4, 2x6) as New Zealand made 50 runs in the last three overs

much against the script of play. In response, the Netherlands couldn't find the desired momentum losing wickets at regular intervals. Their batters - sans Colin Ackermann (69, 73b, 5x4) - got starts but couldn't turn those knocks into useful ones.

Skipper Scott Edwards (30), Sybrand Engelbrecht (29) and Teja Nidamanuru (21) were the other batters to go past 20-run mark. Besides Santner, pacer Matt Henry (3/40) bowled well for the Black Caps.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 322/7 (Will Young 70, Tom Latham 53, Rachin Ravindra 51, Daryl Mitchell 48, Mitchell Santner 36 n o; Roelof van der Merwe 2/56) beat The Netherlands 223 (Colin Ackermann 69, Scott Edwards 30; Mitchell Santner 5/59, Matt Henry 3/40) by 99 runs.

## Cricket set to be included in 2028 Olympics: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Oct 9:** Cricket is set to be included in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic programme alongside flag football, baseball and softball, according to a report.

"The Guardian" reported that cricket's inclusion in the Olympics will be confirmed at the 141st International Olympic Committee session that gets underway in Mumbai October 15. The newspaper also reported that lacrosse and squash could be proposed as additional sports for the 2028 Summer Games.

Cricket has been played in the Olympics only once before, in Paris in 1900, when England and France battled for the gold medal. Men's and women's T20 competition will be played in the 2028 edition, opening up a lucrative Asian sub-continent market for the IOC.

Cricket's entry into the Olympics will also go a long way in widening the reach of the sport. India is the game's biggest market and value of the IOC broadcast deal in the country goes up substantially following its inclusion in the 2028 edition.

From the reported 15.6 million pounds for the 2024 Olympics, the broadcast deal in India could fetch as much as 150 million pounds if the game is featured in 2028 edition, the paper reported.

## Yamal shines, Barca held at Granada

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Madrid, Oct 9:** Barcelona teenager Lamine Yamal added his name to the record books again Sunday, becoming the youngest scorer in the Spanish league (La Liga) in Barcelona's 2-2 draw at Granada.

At the age of 16 years, 87 days, Yamal surpassed Malaga player Fabrice Olinga, who was 16 years, 98 days old when he scored against Celta Vigo in 2012. Yamal scored his milestone goal by pushing a loose ball into the open net in first-half stoppage time.

He was already the youngest player to debut in the league, and the youngest to start in the Champions League. Yamal also has the record for youngest to play for Barcelona from last season. He became the youngest scorer in a European Championship qualifier after coming on last month as the youngest player to appear for Spain.

Yamal's goal helped Barcelona pull closer after Bryan Zaragoza put the hosts 2-0 ahead with a couple of goals in the first half-hour, including one less than 20 seconds into the match at Los Carmenes Stadium. His second came in the 29th minute after a couple of nifty moves to clear a defender inside the area.

Sergi Roberto equalised in the 85th for Barcelona, which al-



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Lamine Yamal (R) celebrates after scoring against Granada, Sunday

most left with the victory when Joao Felix scored in stoppage time but saw the goal called back because of an offside by Ferran Torres.

The result left defending champions Barcelona in third place, one point behind fellow Catalan club Girona and two behind rivals Real Madrid. Both Girona and Madrid had won Saturday.

Barcelona were without striker Robert Lewandowski because of an injury. Midfielder Fermin

Lopez made his debut at 20 as a starter with the Catalan club. Barcelona lost defender Jules Kounde with an injury just before halftime. It was the third straight draw for Granada, which stayed in second-to-last place.

**ATLETICO KEEP WINNING**

Antoine Griezmann scored with a late penalty kick as Atletico Madrid beat Real Sociedad 2-1 for their fifth straight win in all competitions. Griezmann converted from the

spot in the 89th minute following a hand ball to move the team to fourth place. Sociedad stayed sixth with their first setback after four consecutive wins.

Samuel Lino put the hosts ahead by scoring his first goal with Atletico in the 22nd before Mikel Oyarzabal equalized in a breakthrough in the 73rd. Griezmann, a former Sociedad player, calmly rolled his penalty into the corner to secure Atletico the victory.

## Gill ruled out of WC clash versus Afghans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 9:** Shubman Gill was Monday ruled out of India's next World Cup fixture against Afghanistan here October 11 as he remains under medical supervision in Chennai.

The Indian team Monday arrived in Delhi from Chennai but Gill, who also missed the World Cup opener against Australia due to an illness, stayed back. Ahead of the Australia game, the BCCI said Gill was under the weather and did not specify the nature of his illness. "The team is in Delhi," said a BCCI source.

Earlier the board had said, "Team India batter Shubman Gill will not be travelling with the team to Delhi, October 9. The opening batter who missed the team's first fixture in the World Cup against Australia in Chennai is set to miss the team's next fixture against Afghanistan in Delhi October 11. He will stay back in



Chennai and will be under the supervision of the medical team."

The right-handed Gill was replaced by Ishan Kishan for the Australia game, which India won by six wickets. Kishan, Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer got out without scoring before KL Rahul and Virat Kohli shared a match-winning 165-run stand.

The 24-year-old Gill has been in sensational form over the past 12 months and has five ODI hundreds to his name this year. He is expected to play a crucial role if India are to regain the trophy after 12 years.

## No rest for Verstappen with season's 14th victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Losail (Qatar), Oct 9:** Max Verstappen is the Formula One (F1) champion again. He isn't easing off. A day after clinching his third title in a sprint race, it was clear the celebrations had taken nothing out of Verstappen's pace as he cruised to his 14th Grand Prix win of the season in familiar style at the Qatar Grand Prix Sunday.

The Red Bull driver started on pole, stayed clear of Lewis Hamilton and George Russell colliding alongside him at the first corner, and was then comfortably ahead of the rest of the field on his way to his 14th Grand Prix win in 2023. Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris finished second and third in a double podium finish for McLaren.

The two Mercedes of Russell and Hamilton started behind Verstappen on the grid but collided at the first corner, ending seven-time champion Hamilton's race. Piastri charged through for second place as Fernando Alonso and Charles Leclerc ahead of him slowed to avoid the crash.



Second place continues an impressive streak for Australian rookie Piastri, who achieved his first career podium finish at the Japanese Grand Prix two weeks ago and won the Qatar sprint race Saturday.

Norris has been on the podium for four races on trot including the sprint - though a first career win still eludes the British driver due to Verstappen's domination.

Hamilton told his team on the formation lap that he was con-

cerned about being "a sitting duck" at the start with faster cars behind. His race was over at the first corner.

With Hamilton to his left and Verstappen to his right, Russell had nowhere to go when Hamilton turned in on him and both Mercedes span into the gravel. Russell was able to continue but had to pit for damage and dropped to the back.

He fought his way back through the field to finish fourth ahead of

### MUCH TO FIGHT FOR MAX, RED BULL

The race for the F1 title is officially over with five rounds of the season still to go. The next one is at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, October 22. However, there could yet be drama this season as Red Bull and Verstappen close in on records, Sergio Perez holds onto second place and F1 returns to Las Vegas after more than 40 years.

- Verstappen has 14 wins this season - not including sprints - and needs one more to match his own record of 15 from last year
- Red Bull has 16 and would need to win four of the last five races to beat the record of 19 wins in a season set in 2016 by Mercedes drivers Nico Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton
- No team has ever had a clean sweep of wins and Red Bull can't achieve it after Carlos Sainz Jr. won for Ferrari in Singapore last month. The closest a team has been to perfection is McLaren's 15 wins from 16 races with Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost in 1988
- The Las Vegas GP, November 18, will surely put on a show, even if there isn't much left for the drivers to fight for on track. F1 has raced in Las Vegas before on a temporary track in the parking lot of Caesars Palace in 1981 and 1982. The new track layout is far more spectacular, with cars speeding at night along the Las Vegas Strip

Ferrari driver Leclerc and Aston Martin's Alonso. Hamilton initially blamed Russell for the crash over the radio but accepted responsibility in later comments.

Esteban Ocon was seventh for Alpine, the two Alfa Romeos of Valtteri Bottas and Zhou Guanyu eighth and ninth, and

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez 10th.

Safety concerns over the tires meant drivers were banned from using the same tires for more than 18 laps. That meant a minimum of three pit stops in the 57-lap race, so strategy played a prominent role.