



## BUSTING MYTH

Sanya Malhotra says actresses indulged in a catfight might be a good PR exercise, but not a reality

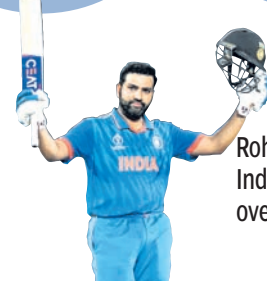
LEISURE P2



## NIA RAIDS PFI OFFICES

NIA carries out searches at 20 locations across six states against the banned Popular Front of India

INTERNATIONAL P10



## ROHIT MAULS AFGHANS

Rohit Sharma's record-breaking century helps India register a comfortable 8-wicket win over Afghanistan

SPORTS P12

## SHORT TAKES

### Brilliant Rohit ton sinks Afghanistan

**New Delhi:** A brilliant century by Indian skipper Rohit Sharma (131, 84b, 16x4, 5x6) helped the hosts beat Afghanistan by eight wickets in their second World Cup encounter here Wednesday. Set a victory target of 273, India romped home with 15 overs to spare. Virat Kohli (55 n o, 56b, 6x4) and Ishan Kishan (47, 78b, 5x4, 2x6) were also among runs. Rohit and Ishan put on 156 runs for the opening stand and from then on an Indian victory was never in doubt. Earlier Indian bowlers Jasprit Bumrah (4/39) and Hardik Pandya (2/43) bowled well to restrict Afghanistan to 272 for eight after they won the toss and decided to bat. Hashmatullah Sahidi (80) and Azmatullah Omarzai (62) batted well for the Afghans. P12

### Express train derails in Bihar

**Buxar:** Several coaches of 12506 North East Express (Anand Vihar Terminal in Delhi to Kamakhya in Assam) derailed near Raghunathpur station in Bihar's Buxar district Wednesday. CPRO of East Central Railway Birendra Kumar said, "Several coaches of Kamakhya-bound North East Express derailed near Raghunathpur station around 9.35pm. No casualty reports so far." However, some national news portals have said four persons have been killed. Kumar however, said that some passengers might have sustained minor injuries.

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It's a serious matter. Apart from ED, CBI, I-T and Delhi Police, we should also constitute a JPC to look into it

## MARKET WATCH

| INDEX  | VAIATION          |
|--------|-------------------|
| SENSEX | 66473.05 ↑ 393.69 |
| NIFTY  | 19811.35 ↑ 121.50 |
| DOLLAR | 83.25 ↑ ₹0.15     |
| EURO   | 88.29 ↑ ₹0.08     |
| GOLD   | ₹57,891 ↓ ₹262    |
| SILVER | ₹ 69,510 ↑ ₹592   |

## WEATHER

|           | BHUB   | CTK                 |
|-----------|--------|---------------------|
| TEMP. MAX | 35.0°C | 35.0°C              |
| TEMP. MIN | 25.1°C | 26.2°C              |
| Humidity  | 80%    | 79%                 |
| Rainfall  | Nil    | Nil                 |
| Forecast  | Dry    | weather very likely |



USHERING IN A NEW ERA: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launches the 'Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana' at the Convention Centre in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

## MAN DIES IN BID TO RESCUE CAT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** A 50-year-old man died while rescuing a cat which fell into an open well near Patia railway station here Wednesday, Fire Services officials said.

The incident took place in the morning when Sibaram Sahoo, an ice cream seller, entered into the abandoned well after seeing the cat fall into it. As Sibaram did not come out for a long time, Shankar Das of the locality went into the well. Later, Sibaram's brother Bhajaman, too, entered the well after Shankar did not come out for quite some time. Although Bhajaman managed to rescue Shankar in a critical condition, he could not trace Sibaram.

On being informed, Fire Services personnel reached the spot and managed to bring Sibaram and the cat's carcass out. He was rushed to a nearby health facility where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, Shankar has been admitted to Capital Hospital where he is undergoing treatment and



his condition is stated to be stable. With the well being close to 60 feet deep, Fire Services personnel had a difficult time to recover Sibaram's body.

Mancheswar police have registered a case (No 104/23) of unnatural death in this regard. "Sibaram's body has been handed over to his family after autopsy. He apparently died due to asphyxiation. But the exact reason will be known from the post-mortem report," an official said.

"I had entered the well to help Sibaram, but came out soon as I could not breathe properly due to the gas inside it," said Bhajaman.

Sibaram hailed from Ganjam district and is survived by two daughters, his family said.

## Split on abortion

### SC BENCH DIFFERS ON GIVING WOMAN PERMISSION TO TERMINATE HER 26-WEEK PREGNANCY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** A two-judge bench of the Supreme Court pronounced Wednesday a split verdict on the Centre's plea for recall of its October 9 order granting permission to a married woman, a mother of two, to terminate her 26-week pregnancy. One judge voiced her disinclination to allow abortion and the other asserted that the woman's decision "must be respected".

While Justice Hima Kohli wondered which court will say 'stop the heartbeat of a foetus' and made it clear she was not inclined to permit the 27-year-old woman to terminate her pregnancy, Justice BV Nagarathna said the court should 'respect the decision' of the woman who has remained determined to abort it.

In view of the disagreement between them, the two judges of the bench, which had passed the October 9 order, decided to place the Centre's application before Chief Justice DY Chandrachud for being marked to an appropriate bench for adjudication.

Justice Kohli observed the top court had permitted the woman to terminate her pregnancy after considering the October 6 report submitted by a medical board of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). However, in an email October 10, a member of the medical board said that the foetus may be 'living'.

"If the doctor could be so candid in two days short of the earlier report, why was not the (earlier) report more elaborate and more candid?" the bench asked.

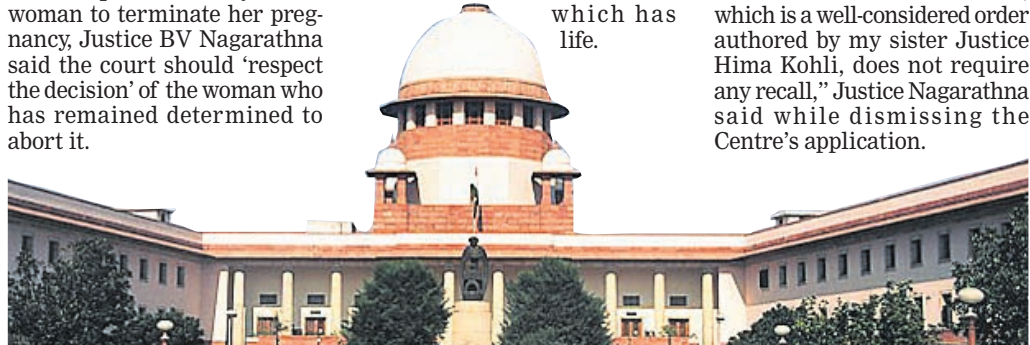
Justice Kohli wondered which court would say stop the heartbeat of a foetus which has life.

"Speaking for myself, I would not," she said.

Justice Nagarathna said she respectfully disagrees with Justice Kohli. She observed the woman's plea was disposed of by the court by a detailed order October 9 and the petitioner has remained determined about her decision to not proceed ahead with her pregnancy. "I find that her (woman) decision must be respected," Justice Nagarathna stated.

Justice Nagarathna also referred to the economic condition of the woman who had mentioned earlier that it would be impossible for her to raise a child. The woman had also stated that the medicines she is now on presently do not permit her to continue with pregnancy. "In this scenario her decision to terminate her pregnancy must be respected," Justice Nagarathna pointed out.

"In these circumstances, I find that the order dated October 9, which is a well-considered order authored by my sister Justice Hima Kohli, does not require any recall," Justice Nagarathna said while dismissing the Centre's application.



## Gaza turns powerless

AGENCIES

**Jerusalem, Oct 11:** Palestinians in the sealed-off Gaza Strip scrambled to find safety Wednesday, as Israeli strikes demolished entire neighbourhoods, hospitals ran low on supplies and the entire area was plunged into darkness after the only power plant in the area ran out of fuel. The blackout further deepened the misery of the Gaza residents sparked by a deadly mass incursion of Hamas militants.

Israeli airstrikes smashed entire city blocks to rubble in the tiny coastal enclave and left unknown numbers of bodies beneath mounds of debris. The bombardment raged on even though militants are holding an estimated 150 people dragged from Israel into Gaza — soldiers, men, women, children and older adults.

The war, which has already claimed at least 2,200 lives on both sides, is expected to escalate — and compound the misery of people living in Gaza, where basic necessities and electricity were already in short supply.

"There is no safe place in Gaza right now," journalist Hasan Jabar said after three Palestinian journalists were killed in the bombardment of a downtown neighbourhood home to government ministries, media offices and hotels. "I am genuinely afraid for my life."

Israeli airstrikes late Tuesday struck the family house of Mohammed Deif, the shadowy

## WAR SHADOW OVER ODI WORLD CUP

**Hyderabad:** Pakistan's wicket-keeper batter Mohammed Rizwan, dedicated Wednesday his team's record-breaking performance against Sri Lanka in World Cup to "brothers and sisters in Gaza". Rizwan (131) had conjured an unbeaten century to help Pakistan achieve a record run chase. "This was for our brothers and sisters in Gaza. Happy to contribute in the win," Rizwan posted on 'X'.

leader of Hamas' military wing, killing his father, brother and at least two other relatives in the southern town of Khan Younis, senior Hamas official Bassem Naim said.

The Israeli military said more than 1,200 people, including 155 soldiers, have been killed in Israel, a staggering toll unseen since the 1973 war with Egypt and Syria that lasted weeks. In Gaza, 1,055 people have been killed, according to authorities there; Israel says hundreds of Hamas fighters are among them.

**Operation Ajay launched**  
India announced Wednesday the launch of 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, announced the launch of 'Operation Ajay' in a post on 'X' Wednesday night. "Launching #OperationAjay to facilitate the return from Israel of our citizens who wish to return," he said.

## Refused exchange, customers throw away currency notes

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Angry customers threw currency notes in front of the RBI office here and also inside it Wednesday alleging that the bank was not changing damaged notes. Many ₹100, ₹200, ₹500 notes were found lying in front of the RBI office.

"We had come to exchange the damaged currency notes. We have been coming for the past few days, but have been turned away by the bank employees. We were informed that the bank is not accepting damaged notes. We decided to protest by throwing away the notes," said an irate customer.

Bank officials kept mum over the incident initially. Later on an official on condition of anonymity stated that the exchange counter has been closed since October 3 and he has no idea when it would be reopened. Customers however, pointed out that in such a situation the RBI should have issued a proper notification.

As a bitter argument started between the customers and bank staff, officials from the Kharavela Nagar police station reached the spot and pacified the protesters.

Customers told the police that they are in a fix as RBI is telling them to either go to SBI or any other bank for exchange of notes. However, there also they have faced refusal. "There is no official notification and yet we are being harassed," rued another customer.

## Pathankot attack kingpin killed in Pak

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist Shahid Latif, believed to be the mastermind of the 2016 attack on an Indian Air Force base in Pathankot, was gunned down Wednesday by unidentified assailants in a mosque in Daska town of Pakistan's Sialkot district, officials said. Latif, alias Bilal, a designated terrorist under the UAPA is learnt to have been shot dead along with two of his associates by three gunmen.

"This is the biggest blow to JeM on Pakistan soil," an official said here. He added that Latif

was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The 41-year-old was listed as a wanted terrorist by the Indian government in 2010.

Latif had infiltrated into the Kashmir Valley in 1993 and was arrested a year later. He was in Jammu jail with Masood Azhar, founder of the JeM, till 2010.

Seven IAF personnel were killed when four JeM terrorists sneaked into the Pathankot Air Force Station January 2, 2016. The siege went on for three days. Latif allegedly provided logistical support for the four Pakistani terrorists who attacked the Indian Air Force base.

## Days after 'record' skydive, Hoffner no more

CHICAGO RESIDENT TOOK THE DIVE FROM AN AIRCRAFT AT 104, THE OLDEST HUMAN BEING TO DO SO

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Chicago, Oct 11:** Dorothy Hoffner, a 104-year-old Chicago woman whose recent skydive could see her certified by Guinness World Records as the oldest person to ever jump from a plane, has died. This information was given by Hoffner's close friend Joe Conant here Tuesday. He informed that Hoffner had died in her sleep Sunday night at the old age home she lived in Brookdale.

Conant, who is a nurse, said he met Hoffner — whom he called Grandma at her request — several years ago. He said she had amazing energy and remained men-

tally sharp. "She was indefatigable. She just kept going," Conant said Tuesday. "She was not someone who would take naps in the afternoon, or not show up for any function or dinner. She kept going, always," he added.

Hoffner made a tandem skydive October 1 that could land her in the record books as the world's oldest skydiver. She jumped out of a plane from 13,500 feet (4,100 metres) at Ottawa, Illinois, 140 kilometres southwest of Chicago.

"Age is just a number," Hoffner told a cheering crowd, moments after landing. It was not her first time jumping from a plane — that happened when she was a



spry 100 years of age. Conant said he was working through paperwork to ensure that Guinness World Records certifies Hoffner posthumously as the

world's oldest skydiver, but he expects the process will take some time. The current record was set in May 2022 by 103-year-old Linnéa Ingegård Larsson of Sweden.

Conant said Hoffner didn't skydive to break a record, but for its sheer enjoyment. "She had no intention of breaking the record. And she had no interest in any publicity or anything," informed Conant. "Skydive Chicago" and the 'United States Parachute Association' celebrated Hoffner in a joint statement Tuesday.

"We are deeply saddened by Dorothy's passing and feel honoured to have been a part of making her world-record skydive a reality. Skydiving is an activity that many of us safely tuck away in our bucket lists. But Dorothy reminds us that it's never too late to take the thrill of a lifetime," the statement said.



# leisure



## BRITNEY GETS BUSTED FOR DRIVING VIOLATION

After some of her bizarre stunts on social media, the *Oops I did it Again* singer Britney Spears had a brush with the law for driving violation. The singer was pulled over by the California Highway Patrol after driving her white Mercedes for speeding, going 61 mph in a 40 mph zone.

## JOE JONAS, SOPHIE TURNER AGREE TO CO-PARENT KIDS

Singer Joe Jonas and actress Sophie Turner are undergoing a bitter divorce. Though amidst much of their in-fighting, the couple has issued a joint statement that when it comes to their kids, they are willing to compromise and will co-parent.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
If you have children, it's likely you'll spoil them today. After all, it's for days like these that you work hard, says Ganesh. You will also complete pending assignments and it's a productive day for those in medical professions and public services.

**TAURUS**  
You may feel frustrated and stranded in family matters today, says Ganesh. Shower your warmth and care to make up for past mistakes. Your spouse will be supportive and lend you a helping hand to regain your mental composure. Reciprocate with intimacy and go with the flow, suggests Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Today, a strong emotional link with someone special may get established, predicts Ganesh. So you will remain delighted and elated for most part of the day. Still, some petty problems may spoil your happy mood later in the day. Diffuse tension with a light-hearted approach.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will realise that in this materialistic world, everything is judged by its appearance, and what is unseen counts for nothing. You will work hard to be seen and will crave for attention.

**LEO**  
Though God is benevolent, it is not necessary that we reciprocate the magnanimity of the Almighty through our actions. So wake up today with a little prayer on your lips. Make it a point to visit a temple for some peace of mind. The other alternative is to do a small puja at home.

**VIRGO**  
If curiosity killed the cat, it is going to inspire you to go to exotic places and meet new people, says Ganesh. Enriching experiences enter enthusiastically today. But hold on, don't unpack, as you may set off on yet another adventure. Ganesh sees you being crack ductile and malleable.

**LIBRA**  
Lady Luck offers you a mixed bag today, so expect anything and everything. You may also develop a knack for pointing out others' mistakes, while turning a blind eye to your own shortcomings. Ganesh disapproves of this. Look forward to a delightful evening, for, you will have fun in the company of friends.

**SCORPIO**  
You've been keeping things within for too long now, and today may just be the day when you vent it all out, says Ganesh. This overwhelming pressure may have an effect on your health. Ganesh counsels you to spend quality time with your loved ones to ease up a bit.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Skilled at multi-tasking as you are, today you may just take things one by one. Instincts will rule the roost for most of the time. And govern your actions too. But as peculiar as the day may be, you shall find yourself back to being your own assured self.

**CAPRICORN**  
If trouble happens to knock at your door today, your guardian angel will come to your rescue, foresees Ganesh. Unlike many others who waste life running after impossible goals, you will be content with your achievements. But that does not, by any means, imply that you aren't ambitious. Just like yourself, your ambitions will be simple in nature, to the extent that it may elicit awe among people.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will seek spirituality as you feel thoroughly dejected by your present situation. Ganesh says that even struggling courageously with circumstances requires a spiritual endeavour. These trying times give you the patience to deal intelligently with challenges and setbacks.

**PISCES**  
Your spiritual and religious streak comes to the fore. You will likely visit a place of worship to soothe your troubled soul. Meditative techniques may also be resorted to in your quest for peace and calm, says Ganesh.

### SCRIPT SELECTION

## Adah trusts her instincts

**Mumbai:** Adah Sharma, who recently featured in *The Kerala Story*, opened up about her recently released short film *Kofuku*. The film is a light-weight emotional story that was a part of the Jio Cinema Film Festival on October 9 and is based on the story of two different yet similar individuals who are finding comfort in the company of each other whilst learning a new perspective of life.

Speaking about the film and discussing her future plans, Adah Sharma said, "I trust my instincts while choosing scripts and that is something that will always continue, may it be before, during or after the success of *Kerala Story*. I am very proud of all the works I have been a part of, and it has never changed." She further added, "My debut film was a horror genre, and after that, I kept getting horror roles. However, after *The Kerala Story*, I started receiving different types of roles, and I'm happy that filmmakers can see my potential. For example, my next upcoming project will be completely different from my role in *Kerala Story*."

*Kofuku*, co-starring Jatin Sarna, premiered on Jio Cinema October 9 during the ongoing Jio Cinema Film Festival. **IANS**



## Sanya believes in women friendship

**Mumbai:** Sanya Malhotra is currently riding high on the success of *Jawan*, and she can't stop gushing about the chemistry she shares with her co-stars from the film. Movie buffs would be aware that the recently released Shah Rukh Khan starrer has had several female stars and the actress opened about her camaraderie with female co-stars. Sanya addressed the subject of cat-fights on the sets and revealed

that she continues to share a great friendship with the girls in *Jawan* and that they have a special chat group where they speak to each other. "I have found such a nice friendship with all the girls in *Jawan*. We have a messaging group, and we keep updating each other about our emotional state even post release. Even when we were shooting, we created so many good moments together", the actress said.

The actress said about how she believes in women friendship as she concluded, "I cherish that I have very strong womanhood around me. Apart from working with wonderful women on set, I have some amazing women who inspire me in my life. Actresses indulged in a catfight might be a good PR peg, but it is not a reality. There are no catfights in the industry. I have seen women supporting each other around me, which really makes me happy." **AGENCIES**



### AMITABH @ 81

## Hollywood celebs on Big B

Baz Luhrmann, a top US filmmaker, says Amitabh Bachchan is the Marlon Brando of India while Tom Hanks is easily the Amitabh Bachchan of America

**Mumbai:** Regarded as one the greatest icons of Hindi cinema, veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan celebrated his 81st birthday Wednesday. Several members of the film fraternity such as Akhay Kumar, Chiranjeevi, Ajay Devgn, Vicky Kaushal, Kajol and Sairabanu wished the megastar for his long healthy life and narrated in their posts how he changed the entertainment landscape of India.

Not only in Indian films, Bachchan also made an impact in Hollywood movies and here's what some of the stars have had to say about working with the legend.

**Leonardo DiCaprio** couldn't help but shower praise upon his *The Great Gatsby* co-star, Amitabh Bachchan. In a 2013 interview, Leonardo said, "He couldn't be a more gentle, wonderful individual to work with. And astoundingly talented. To come and play Meyer Wolfsheim in this movie and em-

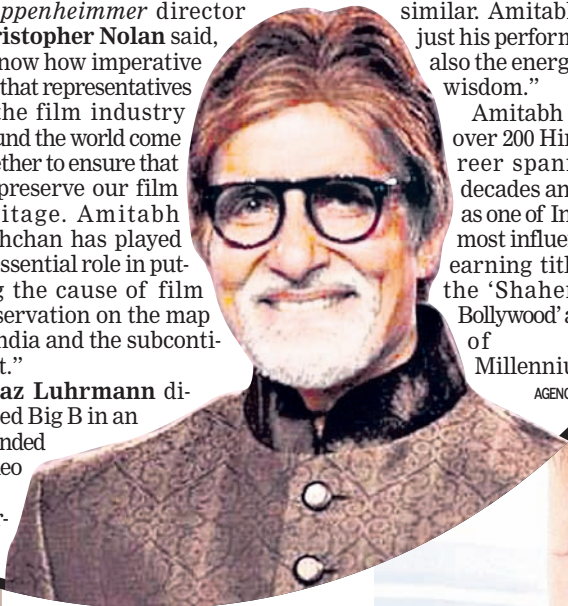
body that roughness and a mystery, everything that comes out of his mouth is filled with so much more and so much presence." **Tobey Maguire**, who shared screen space with Amitabh in the same movie, said, "It was really an honour working with him. He's so great. He's so thoughtful. And his presence, you can feel it. He's regal, in a sense, but also really down to earth and so modest."

**Oppenheimer** director **Christopher Nolan** said, "I know how imperative it is that representatives of the film industry around the world come together to ensure that we preserve our film heritage. Amitabh Bachchan has played an essential role in putting the cause of film preservation on the map in India and the subcontinent."

**Baz Luhrmann** directed Big B in an extended cameo appear-

ance in *The Great Gatsby*. He compared the charisma of Big B with Hollywood stars and called him 'the Marlon Brando of India'. "Amitabh Bachchan in my view is not only the Elvis of India but also the Marlon Brando of India. Tom Hanks is easily the Amitabh Bachchan of America and I mean it... I think about him and I think about Tom, they are so very similar. Amitabh would bring not just his performance to the set but also the energy, inspiration, and wisdom."

Amitabh has appeared in over 200 Hindi films in a career spanning over five decades and is celebrated as one of Indian cinema's most influential figures, earning titles such as the 'Shahenshah of Bollywood' and 'Star of the Millennium'.



## Nayanthara: Times are changing for the better



**Hyderabad:** Nayanthara is undoubtedly one of the top actors in the country at the moment, with her pan-India movie *Jawan* opposite Shah Rukh Khan sweeping box offices across the globe.

The *Darbar* actress is known to break these social norms, repeatedly portraying strong characters over the course of her career which spans more than two decades. In a recent interview with Elle India Magazine, Nayanthara revealed that she believed times were changing for the better, and that today's audience focus more on the character, and what the women play, rather than just judging by the face value. She also revealed that she believes people should love their best self.

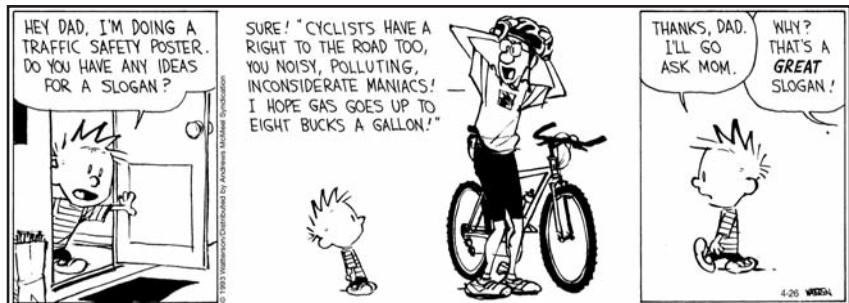
"I think times are changing. People are fond of characters and what women play instead of judging actors at face value. I'm always for people accepting and loving themselves. Loving their best selves."

On the professional front, Nayanthara recently made her Hindi film debut with Atlee's film *Jawan*. The film boasted an ensemble cast including King Khan, Vijay Sethupathi, Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani, Sunil Grover, Sanjeeta Bhattacharya, and more. **AGENCIES**

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

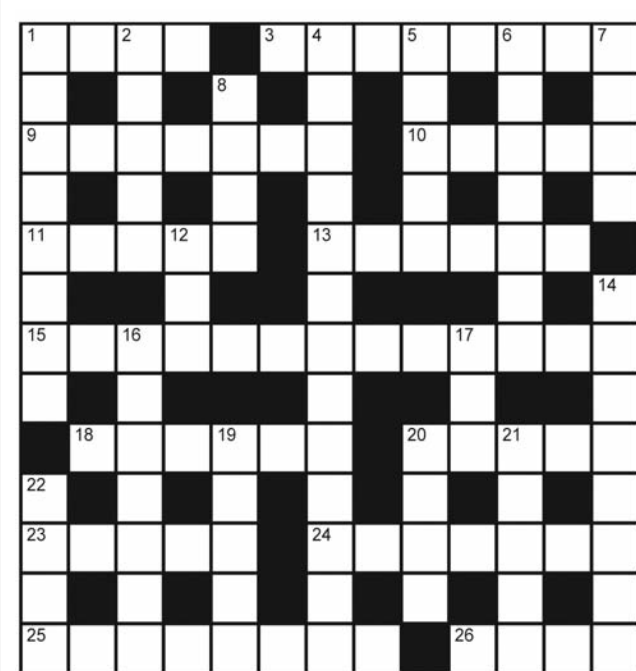


### BREVITY



### FUN post

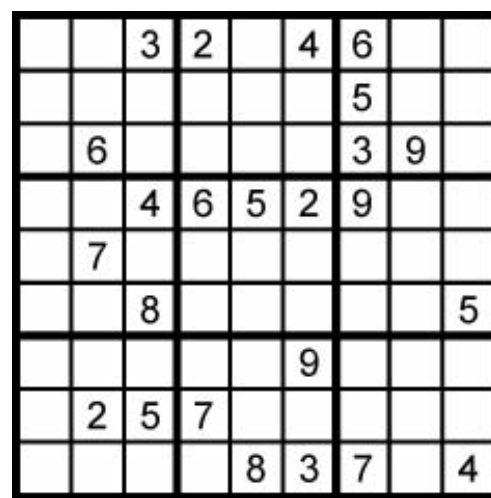
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Keep \_\_\_ on (watch)
  - 3 Transverse flutes
  - 9 Fishermen
  - 10 Bit of Gothic architecture
  - 11 Fake jewelry
  - 13 First-aid item
  - 15 North Atlantic feeder (5,8)
  - 18 Mixture of soluble salts
  - 20 Poncho, e.g.
  - 23 Take place
  - 24 Awards show candidate
  - 25 Type of pig or stove
  - 26 Table scraps
  - Down**
  - 1 Monastic order
  - 2 Phony
  - 4 Like some speakers
  - 5 Locked up
  - 6 Tripoli locale
  - 7 Flower part
  - 8 Relinquish
  - 12 Beachgoer's goal
  - 14 Incompetent
  - 16 Unlawful
  - 17 Jellied delicacy
  - 19 Be in harmony
  - 20 Toothed object
  - 21 Title holder
  - 22 It's available in bars

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



# downtown

## PAYING TRIBUTES

People from various walks of life pay tributes to martyr Baji Rout on his death anniversary, during an event organised by Odia Language, Literature and Culture department in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



## CM FELICITATES ROHIDAS, EKKA FOR HANGZHOU FEAT



**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday felicitated hockey players Amit Rohidas and Deep Grace Ekka for their remarkable feat in the recently-concluded Hangzhou Asian Games. While Rohidas received Rs 1.5 crore cash reward, Ekka was felicitated with Rs 50 lakh cash prize.

Both the players were members of the Indian hockey teams. While the men's team bagged the coveted gold and qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024, the women's team secured the bronze. Expressing immense pride in the achievements of Rohidas and Ekka, Patnaik said the two outstanding players have brought great honour to the state through their dedication, hard work, and

exceptional talent. ST Secretary VK Pandian, who was present during the felicitation, congratulated both the players for their commitment and hard work for the country. Rohidas, a prominent hockey player, has consistently displayed exemplary skills on the field. He has been a key part of the Indian men's hockey team, contributing significantly to their victories on the international stage. Rohidas's stellar performance has made him a role model for aspiring athletes across the nation, particularly in Sundargarh, the hockey cradle of Odisha. Ekka, a star in the world of women's hockey, has also been a source of pride for the young women players of the state. Her consistent excellence in defense has been instrumental in the success of the Indian women's hockey team during many international events. Rohidas and Ekka expressed their gratitude for the honour and vowed to continue working hard to bring more glory to Odisha and the nation through their sporting achievements.

# Mobility boost for WSHGs



**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** In a move towards empowering women, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday launched 'Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana', a scheme to provide mobility support to women self-help group (WSHG) members of the state. The state government will spend Rs 528 crore towards interest subvention in the next five years. As many as 100 women were

## CM LAUNCHES 'MISSION SHAKTI SCOOTER YOJANA'

Today marks a pivotal moment in the journey of women's empowerment. We have taken a significant stride towards supporting our mothers as they receive their Mission Shakti scooters. The government will provide an interest subvention of Rs 528 crore over the next five years," Patnaik said, adding that over two lakh women will benefit from the scheme.

Altogether, 15,000 Mission Shakti women receive scooters on the inaugural day of the programme. The scheme is aimed at providing mobility support to SHG federation members and community staffers through full interest subvention on bank loans up to Rs 1 lakh for the purchase of two-wheelers of their choice.

"Today marks a pivotal moment in the journey of women's empowerment. We have taken a significant stride towards supporting our mothers as they receive their Mission Shakti scooters. The government will provide an interest subvention of Rs 528 crore over the next five years," Patnaik said, adding that over two lakh women will benefit from the scheme. Better mobility of women SHG members will accelerate Odisha's development and it will bring more economic opportunities for them, he said. Sources said nearly 1,25,000 federation leaders at panchayat, block and district levels and

around 75,000 community support staff will directly benefit from the new two-wheeler scheme. The objective of the programme is to enhance their ability to carry out their responsibilities effectively, to promote efficiency and to expand their outreach within the community. Mission Shakti Minister Basanti Hembram said mobility is empowerment for women. Mission Shakti department secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan said the scooter is the 'symbol of the special identity of women SHG members and their capabilities'.

## UP girl loses hand, legs for resisting sexual harassment

**Bareilly (UP), Oct 11:** A 17-year-old girl lost one hand and both her legs after she was hurled before a train here by a youth for objecting to sexual harassment, police said Wednesday. Her condition is critical, doctors say. The girl suffered multiple fractures in the incident that took place in the CB Ganj area of Bareilly City Tuesday, police said. One person was arrested in connection with the matter and three policemen suspended for negligence, the District Magistrate said.

According to the father of the girl, his daughter was returning from her coaching centre Tuesday evening around 4.30, when Vijay Maurya of their village stopped her and indulged in indecent talk and harassed her. The father in his complaint said that Maurya was seen by another youth following his daughter. On the basis of his complaint, Maurya was booked under sections 307 (attempt to murder), 342 (forcibly restraining someone), 504 (intentional insult), 354 D (outraging the modesty of a woman), and 326 (causing grievous hurt by dangerous means) of the IPC and also sections of the POC SO Act, police said. Inspector of CB Ganj Police Station, Radheshyam, said Vijay Maurya and his father Krishna Pal have been arrested in connection with the incident. According to the girl's father, his daughter, an intermediate student, ran towards Khadau to escape but Maurya pushed her in front of a train, as a result of which, her legs and one hand got amputated.

## War of words over NH project implementation

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** The ruling BJD and Opposition BJP Wednesday targeted each other over delay in implementation of several national highway (NH) projects in the state. While the BJD threatened to hit the streets protesting the Centre's negligence towards several NH projects, the BJP blamed the state government and accused it of non-cooperation.

Both the parties held separate press conferences during the day and blamed each other over NH project delays. Addressing media, BJD spokespersons Lenin Mohanty and Shreemayee Mishra alleged that though the state government moved the Centre for early completion of projects, the elected BJP MPs remained silent. "What our BJP MPs and Union ministers are doing for Odisha? They have ignored the interest of Odia people who elected them in 2019 Lok Sabha elections," Mishra alleged.

BJD's press conference apparently came in wake of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's meeting with his cabinet colleague for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari during the day. "Today, I discussed with the Union Minister of Road Transportation and Highways @nitin\_gadkari about the major national highway projects being implemented in Odisha. In two pack-

ages under NH-55, the progress of under construction Cuttack-Angul highway, Angul-Sambalpur section, Talcher to Kamakshyanagar bypass under NH-53, Sambalpur Ring Road, Odisha Coastal Highway and Capital Region Ring Road were discussed," Pradhan said in a X post. However, the BJD leaders blamed the BJP MPs and Union ministers for not exerting pressure on the Centre. There has been tremendous delay in Cuttack-Sambalpur National Highway project and people of Odisha are suffering. It is the lifeline between western Odisha and coastal Odisha. Many people are killed due to bad road condition. This highway needs to be completed at the earliest, BJD leaders said.

They also alleged that despite all support from the state government, there has been no progress on the Coastal Highway project of Odisha. "This road was expected to transform the coastal region. However, there is no such development," the BJD said, adding that Bhubaneswar Ring Road was not progressing despite the state government giving all requisite clearances.

The BJP, on the other hand, rejected the allegation and instead blamed the BJD government for the delay of NH projects. "The BJD government did not approve land acquisition, forest clearance and other associated works required for NH projects," claimed BJP spokesperson Anil Biswal. Biswal also alleged that the state government frequently changes the alignment of the coastal highway project leading to unnecessary delay.

**What our BJP MPs and Union ministers are doing for Odisha? They have ignored the interest of Odia people who elected them in 2019 Lok Sabha elections**

SHREEMAYEE MISHRA | BJD SPOKESPERSON

**The BJD government did not approve land acquisition, forest clearance and other associated works required for NH projects**

ANIL BISWAL | BJP SPOKESPERSON

## Mines ministry decriminalises 27 rules

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** The Ministry of Mines has decriminalised at least 27 rules by bringing amendment to the Atomic Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 to ensure ease of doing business as part of the Special Campaign 3.0 which commenced from October 2. The ministry has set a target for

Special Campaign 3.0 for disposal of pending matters including easing of rules/processes, records management, public grievances and elevating work place experience in the offices under its control. The ministry said that it has attained 100 per cent of the target set for easing of rules/procedure by decriminalising 27 rules. During the first week of the Special

Campaign 3.0, the ministry has redressed 95.45 per cent of the pending public grievances and completed 52 per cent of the task earmarked for records management besides attaining 43 per cent of the target for weeding out physical files, thereby freeing up about 9,212 sq ft office space. So far, 103 of the 344 cleanliness campaigns have been carried out throughout the country.

## Youths more susceptible to early onset of arthritis

Traditionally associated with older individuals, arthritis is now increasingly affecting young adults as well as teenagers, said health experts on World Arthritis Day. World Arthritis Day is celebrated October 12 every year to raise global awareness about the disease. Sedentary lifestyles, obesity, dietary choices, genetic predisposition, joint injuries from sports, and inadequate workplace ergonomics are to be blamed for the alarming surge seen among the youths, the doctors said. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), worldwide approximately 9.6 per cent of men and 18 per cent of women aged over 60 suffer from osteoarthritis - typically caused by wear and tear, injury, infection, age, and genetics. In India, osteoarthritis is the second most common rheumatologic problem, with a prevalence ranging from 22 per cent



to 39 per cent. Common symptoms include joint pain, restricted movement, swelling, and a painful grating sensation. "In recent years, an alarming and consistent rise in arthritis cases among young adults is being seen. Out of total orthopaedic patients, 15-20 per cent are 35 years old or younger," Vivek Mahajan, Senior Consultant, Orthopaedic and Joint Replacement Surgeon, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi, told IANS. "Young adults, particularly those between 25 and 45, are more susceptible to early-onset arthritis. Regular physical activity to maintain joint flexibility, weight management, and a balanced

diet rich in anti-inflammatory foods can reduce the risk," added Hemant Bansal, Consultant - Orthopaedics, Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Gurugram. The orthopaedic experts noted that until a decade back, most arthritis patients were above the age of 45. Now, a patient can even be even 16 years old. In addition, a lot of working professionals around the age of 30 are also presenting with pain and stiffness in their joints. "Inactive routines and a growing obesity epidemic are significant contributors. A lethargic and laid-back approach and excess body weight place undue stress on joints, accelerating wear and tear," Bansal told IANS. Rheumatoid arthritis -- an autoimmune disease where the body's immune system attacks the joint lining, leading to cartilage and bone damage -- is also more common in younger individuals, and poses a greater threat.

Our endeavor is that our youth should be flexible and can adopt the fast-changing nature of job. Today, Skilling, Reskilling and Upskilling is the greatest need of the hour.

- Narendra Modi

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# Kaushal Deekshant Samaroh

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## NARENDRA MODI

Prime Minister will virtually address the students at the ceremony

#### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

About 1.5 Crore candidates trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

Around 5000 new ITIs have been established over the last 9 years

More than 24 lakh apprentices engaged and introduction of Direct Benefit Transfer under National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

85% women beneficiaries trained in Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Felicitation of candidates from skill training institutes across the country
- Students from ITIs, NSTIs short-term training and entrepreneurship development programmes will be felicitated in the convocation ceremony
- Release of 100 ITI books in 12 Indian regional languages
- Release of Handbook on Entrepreneurship Development

**In the august presence of**

**Dharmendra Pradhan**  
Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India

**Rajeev Chandrasekhar**  
Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

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**Odisha students shine at nat'l expo in Delhi**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, Oct 11:** As many as five projects prepared by students from Odisha were awarded at the 10th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) organised by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. The felicitation ceremony was held at Vigyan Bhawan here, Wednesday. According to sources, as many as 27 students (14 boys and 13 girls) along with eight associate teachers from Odisha had visited New Delhi to participate in the three-day exhibition. Out of five projects from the state which got recognition at the event, 'Automated Straw Processing and Packaging Machine for Oyster Mushroom' by Khurda's Shreyansh Nayak secured a nationwide third rank.

**'State will be self-sufficient in meat, egg production'**

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Odisha will be self-sufficient in animal husbandry, milk production, meat and egg production, said Asit Tripathy, Principal Advisor to Chief Minister, during a review meeting of Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (FARD) department held in the conference hall at Kharavel Bhawan here, Wednesday. Tripathy informed the meeting that all kinds of facilities will be provided to the farmers of Odisha to become successful entrepreneurs through Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana. About 60 lakh families engaged in agriculture in Odisha practice traditional farming and also take up cattle rearing, fishing and poultry farming. Tripathy opined that this has given them an opportunity to become entrepreneurs. A recent survey was conducted with the help of APICOL and FARD department. A scheme

will be prepared to promote potential farmers as successful entrepreneurs. Incentives will be provided to skilled farmers identified in this survey of about 6,000 farming families to do multiple farming. Tripathy has directed to conduct a similar survey and prepare a plan for their progress after taking feedback from the farmers. Cross breed cows, distribution of fodder, subsidy in animal husbandry are being supported in the state to increase cattle rearing. Steps are being taken to connect producers with markets. On the other hand, egg and meat production has increased in the state through commercial poultry farms, semi-commercial poultry farms and backyard poultry. Suresh Kumar Vashishth, Principal Secretary of FARD and other officials of the department were present at the meeting. In addition, members of OMFED and APICOL were also present.



**SAY 'NO' TO CHILD MARRIAGE:** Guests and participants at a programme organised by Ruchika Social Service Organisation in association with Puri District Administration to spread awareness about 'Child Marriage-Free India' on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child in Puri, Wednesday. OP PHOTO

**Centre okays royalty rates for lithium, niobium, REE**

**THE CABINET APPROVAL FOR SPECIFICATION OF ROYALTY RATES WILL ENABLE THE CENTRE TO AUCTION BLOCKS FOR LITHIUM, NIOBIUM AND RARE EARTH ELEMENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE COUNTRY**

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** The Union Cabinet specified the royalty rates for critical and strategic minerals namely lithium, niobium and rare earth elements (REE) during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here, Wednesday. The Cabinet approved amendment of Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and specified the royalty rate at 3 per cent for lithium and niobium and 1 per cent for REE. The Union Mines Ministry said that the Cabinet approval for specification of royalty rates will enable the Centre to auction blocks for lithium, niobium and REEs for the first time in the country. "Royalty rate on minerals is an important financial consideration for the bidders in auction of blocks. Further, manner for calculation of Average Sale Price (ASP) of these minerals has also been prepared by the Ministry of Mines which will enable determination of bid parameters," the ministry said. Significantly, the Second Schedule of the MMDR Act has provision of royalty rates for



**The Cabinet approved amendment of Second Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 and specified the royalty rate at 3% for lithium and niobium and 1% for rare earth elements**

various minerals. The ministry said that as per Item No 55 of the Second Schedule the royalty rate for the minerals, whose royalty rate is not specifically provided therein, shall be 12 per cent of the ASP which is considerably high for lithium, niobium and REE as compared to other critical and

strategic minerals. Recently, the MMDR Amendment act, 2023 was passed by the Parliament and it came into force August 17. The amendment, among other things, delisted six minerals, including lithium and niobium, from the list of atomic minerals, thereby allowing grant of concessions for these minerals to private sector through auction. Further, the amendment provided that mining lease and composite licence of 24 critical and strategic minerals (which are listed in Part D of the First Schedule of the Act), including lithium, niobium and REEs (not containing uranium and thorium), shall be auctioned by the Union government. The ministry further stated that critical minerals such as lithium and REEs have gained significance in view of India's commitment towards energy transition and achieving net-zero emission by 2070. It added that the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has recently handed over the exploration report of REE and lithium blocks. Further, GSI and other exploration agencies are conducting exploration for critical and strategic minerals in the country. The Union government is working to launch the first tranche of the auction of critical and strategic minerals like lithium, REE, nickel, platinum group of elements, potash, glauconite, phosphorite, graphite, molybdenum and others shortly, the ministry added.

**INT'L DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD**

**Empowered girls become empowered women: CM**

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Empowered girls become empowered women who shape a better world, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child, Wednesday. Taking to official social media account, he said, "Let's celebrate the immense capabilities of our girl children and continue to make concerted efforts to equip every girl child with the power of education and skill so that they can realise their true potentials." A programme was also held on this occasion at Commissionerate Police by Ruchika child line where Twin City Police Commissioner Saumendra Priyadarsi took oath to raise voice for girls and stand up for their rights. "According to 2011 Census report, 51,57,863 girls in India and around 2.59 lakh children were married off before turning 18 in Odisha. This is a cause of grave concern and requires immediate action to protect young girls from the evil of child marriage," he said. The National Family Health Survey-V (NFHS 2019-21) reports that nationally 23.3 per cent women between the age group of 20-24 were married off before attaining the age of 18.

**Mani Mahal at Nayapalli set to be a crowd puller this Dusshera**



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Among the gigantic pandals that are being installed across the City for the upcoming Dusshera celebrations, the one by the Nayapalli Durga Puja Committee stands out. Fifty artisans from West Bengal are presently busy setting up the massive 85x120 ft structure which is a replica of the famous Mani Mahal of Gujarat. Naba Kishore Behera, a core member of the Nayapalli committee said that work on the model will be over before Sasthi. Notably, the committee is entering its 36th year of hosting Durga Puja, this year. About security and safety measures in and around the pandal during the festivities, Behera said the organisers have made provisions for bug parking near the mandap area. The committee will install

more than 35 CCTV cameras to maintain surveillance on the crowd, along with the deployment of 200 volunteers, including transgenders and security guards, in the area, Behera said. To entertain visitors, the organisers have roped in melody artistes from Jatras who will perform every day till Dashami, he added. In 2022, the Nayapalli committee had designed the pandal on a theme to spread message among people against the erosion of family values. It is worth mentioning that preparations for the approaching Durga Puja have gathered steam all over the City. This year's celebrations 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. Puja committees are seen 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 famous monuments. BOX: About Mani Mahal Mani Mahal in Morbi, Gujarat is an excellent example of art. Built by Thakor Saheb Sir Waghi to immortalize his love for a girl named Mani (Manibai), the building is a symbol of love that stands testimony to excellent workmanship. Built in 1935, this magnificent structure took shape in Jaipur stone, adorned with exquisitely carved elements-arches, brackets, jalis, chhatris and shikhara. The structure enshrines the images of Lakshmi Narayan, Goddess Kali, Lord Ram, Radha- Krishna and Lord Shiva.

**NAVEEN THANKS VIKAS KHANNA**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Oct 11:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday thanked celebrity chef Vikas Khanna for unveiling a replica of Konark wheel at Times Square in New York and showcasing Odisha's timeless sculpture to a wider audience. He also encouraged him to popularise Odia delicacies across the world. On the occasion of India's 77th Independence Day, celebrity chef Vikas Khanna had unveiled a replica of the Konark Sun Temple wheel at Times Square in New York. The replica, made by Odisha artist Amaresh Chandra Bindhani and his team, is displayed till August 22, after which it was installed at Khanna's upcoming flagship restaurant in New York City which is scheduled to open next year.

**WORLD SIGHT DAY TODAY**

**Sight loss costs Indian economy \$27bn every yr**

**A**voidable sight loss would add \$27 billion per year to India's economy, according to a global study released Wednesday, ahead of the World Sight Day. Held on the second Thursday of October each year, World Sight Day, organised by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) is a UN-recognised international event dedicated to draw attention to the global issue of visual impairment. The theme this year is "Love Your Eyes at Work," which highlights the significance of eye care at workplaces. The Indian economy loses more to avoidable sight loss than any other country barring China and the US, according to the research by IAPB, a global alliance



**■ THE INDIAN ECONOMY LOSES MORE TO AVOIDABLE SIGHT LOSS THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY BARRING CHINA AND THE US, ACCORDING TO THE RESEARCH BY IAPB, A GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF ORGANISATIONS WORKING TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS**

**■ AN ESTIMATED 30% OF PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS EXPERIENCE A REDUCTION IN EMPLOYMENT, WITH WOMEN, PEOPLE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES AND ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS AMONG THE GROUPS MOST AFFECTED**

of organisations working towards the elimination of avoidable blindness and vision impairment. As technology transforms the world of work, the future economy will be dominated by service industries and office-based jobs involving the prolonged use of screens. Without proper precautions, this can lead to eye strain and negatively impact eye health. The research, also led by Kevin Frick from Johns Hopkins University, US, drew on GNI per capita data from the World Bank. The data was used to estimate the

productivity losses in people aged between 50-65 years with moderate to severe vision impairment and blindness due to uncorrected refractive error, or unoperated cataract. India, with currently 70 million people with visual impairment, had the third-highest potential savings of all countries in the study. Sight loss costs the global economy \$411 billion every year, according to the Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health. An estimated 30 per cent of people with sight loss experience a reduction in employment, with women, people in rural communities and ethnic minority groups among the groups most affected. However, 90 per cent of sight loss is avoidable

with early detection and treatment. Preventing sight loss with early detection and treatment for eye conditions like cataracts and myopia is vital to protect livelihoods and allow businesses to thrive. "Business leaders have played a vital role in raising awareness of workplace wellbeing, from mental health to menopause," said Peter Holland, CEO of IAPB and Love Your Eyes campaign spokesperson, in a statement. "Whether it's through eye health education, connecting employees with eye health services, adding eye health to insurance plans or adjusting screen settings, there are many ways to build a vision-friendly work environment and create healthier, happier workers." IANS

**BLOOD DONATION CAMP BY CREDAI**



**Bhubaneswar:** Credai Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with Capital Hospital Blood Bank, organised a blood donation camp here Wednesday. The event was graced by chief guest Bhubaneswar (North) MLA Susant Kumar Rout, BMC Ward-12 Corporator Jayanti Sahoo and socialist Prasanna Kumar Sahoo. Credai Odisha State Federation chairman DS Tripathy, vice-chairman Binay Krishna Das, president Swadesh Kumar Routray, and vice-president Umesh Khandelwal were present on this occasion. Speaking on this occasion Rout exemplified commitment of Credai for the welfare of the community and the importance of voluntary blood donation.

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# Fake certificates: 576 teachers under scanner

Rayagada education department has taken up a certificate verification exercise after dismissal of 12 fake teachers from service in August

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Oct 11:** As many as 576 teachers posted in Rayagada district have come under scanner after the district education department launched verification of the teachers' certificates, a report said Wednesday.

The certificate verification exercise was taken up by the district education department after 12 fake teachers were dismissed from service in August after their certificates turned out to be fake. Such allegations have kicked up a row which is indicative of a crumbling education system in the district.

Reports said that as many as 1,194 youths have received appointment as teachers by submitting certificates reportedly of Guwahati University, Bundelkhand University, Andhra University, Kashmir University,



Ambedkar University, South India University, Himachal Pradesh University and Gulbarga University.

The dismissal of 12 teachers on ground of forged certificates has unnerved hundreds of such fake teachers working in the district. Currently, the district education department has launched

certificate verification of 1,194 contractual teachers who had received appointment in the district from 2011 to 2018. Certificates of 618 teachers of the lot were verified and their services regularised while the rest 576 teachers are under scanner.

The certificates submitted by them during their appointments

have been sent to their respective universities for verification. After receiving reports from the concerned universities, the district education authorities will dismiss the fake teachers who received appointment by submitting fake certificates.

Sources said the district education department sacked 12 fake teachers after a probe wherein their certificates were found to be forged. Among the sacked teachers, seven had submitted fake BEd certificates, one fake CT certificate, another fake Plus III certificate and two others fake Plus II certificates while information about another sacked teacher could not be gathered.

Before the advent of Covid pandemic, it was found many youths aspiring for government service have purchased forged certificates of various univer-

sities and received appointments as teachers by submitting those.

Despite many institutes providing BEd degree courses in state, many of these youths were found to have purchased fake certificates from universities located outside state and received employment as teachers using those.

After learning about the fraud, the state Education department has directed all district education departments to verify certificates of teachers.

When contacted, district project coordinator-cum-district education officer Purna Chandra Bariha said the teachers' certificates have been sent for verification to the respective universities. After receiving the reports, action will be taken against the teachers who have received appointments on the basis of fake certificates, he added.

# ITI's green jumbo wins Centre praise



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Berhampur, Oct 11:** The 23-ft-high elephant sculpture made with plastic bottles and scrap items by the students of ITI, Berhampur under the 'Waste to Wealth' mantra has won applause and appreciation by the Central government. The elephant sculpture has been recognized as a best practice under

the campaign to spread the message of 'Swachhata'.

As per the information, Berhampur ITI students had built a 23-foot elephant statue inspired by the Prime Minister's call for 'Swachhata Hi Seva' ahead of the Gandhi Jayanti. The statue has been built by using 30,000 used plastic bottles and was inaugurated October 1 on the occasion of Swachhata Divas.

# No Durga puja immersion rally in Sambalpur this yr

PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR 'KALASH YATRA' AND 'RAVAN PODI'



PNN & AGENCIES

**Sambalpur, Oct 11:** The Sambalpur district administration has prohibited immersion processions of Durga idols here this year to maintain peace and order in the city, officials said.

The decision was taken at the peace and coordination committee meeting here Tuesday in presence of Sambalpur collector Ananya Das and SP Mukesh Kumar Bhamoo.

The move comes in the wake of the violence that took place

during Hanuman Jayanti celebrations here in April, they said.

Speaking to reporters, Bhamoo said, "We requested the Durga Puja organising committees not to hold immersion processions this year. However, permission has been granted for Kalash Yatra and Ravan Podi," he said.

The meeting decided that the idols will be taken for immersion on vehicles. The city hosts around 47 Durga puja celebrations, officials said. In July, the district administration prohibited Muharram and Hanuman Jayanti processions in the city for a year. This apart, Ganesh Puja immersion processions were also not held on roads here this year.



**GIRL CHILD DAY:** Artists perform an awareness street-play 'Gute Jhi ra Katha' at a district-level programme on the occasion of 'International Day of the Girl Child' at Sambalpur, Wednesday

# Rayagada gets state's first rail coach restaurant

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Oct 11:** In good news for restaurant hoppers and rail enthusiasts alike, Odisha's first ever rail coach restaurant has been thrown open to the public at the Rayagada Railway Station here and the one-of-a-kind dining facility in state will remain open 24X7.

Odisha Law minister Jagannath Saraka, who was present as chief guest, inaugurated the restaurant Tuesday. Also present at the function were Rayagada MLA Makaranda Muduli, former Rajya Sabha member N Bhaskar Rao, SP Vivekananda Sharma, Rayagada Municipality chairperson P Mahesh Patnaik and BYJD district president

Abinash Bisoi.

The fine dine facility has been set up as part of the Indian Railways' efforts to provide an innovative experience to train passengers and generate non-fare revenue.

An unserviceable AC coach was lying abandoned for a long time here. Officials decided to transform it into a modern restaurant with a good ambience and converted it with interior modifications to meet the requirements of both train passengers and the general public. It occupies an area of 110 sq. metre.

Officials said facilities inside the restaurant will attract people of all age groups. Efforts have been made to keep a var-



ied range of cuisines so that it caters to the taste buds of all and sundry. The seating arrangement resembles the chairs that one finds in the AC chair cars of trains. Seats have been designed in a manner that people can relax comfortably after a tiring journey.

It is expected that the restaurant will attract residents of this town, domestic tourists and those travelling also from regions of Andhra Pradesh, Saraka said while inaugurating the restaurant. "This restaurant will certainly help in the economic growth of Rayagada town," Saraka said.

Notably, officials said the proj-

ect was awarded to a private tender 'Keerti' through an open tender with payment of a license fee.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Saurabh Prasad said that this initiative by the Waltair division of East Coast Railways (ECOR) aims to enhance the passenger experience and generate additional revenue by utilising railway infrastructure creatively.

It will not only provide a memorable experience to the locomotive users but will also improve ambience of the railway station in a self-sustaining and revenue-generating model, he added.

# NHRC seeks ATR on woman-daughter walking naked in Sundargarh street

PNN & AGENCIES

**Kendrapara, Oct 11:** National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought Action Taken Report (ATR) from the Sundargarh District Collector and Superintendent of Police on the incident of woman and her daughter walking naked in a busy street in broad daylight without any help and assistance from anybody.

The NHRC took up the case and issued the direction Monday, acting on a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, who highlighted the abominable phenomenon of the woman and her daughter walking naked in broad daylight.

The petitioner stated that the woman and her daughter were found walking naked at College Road, one of the busiest roads in Sundargarh town October 6.

Earlier, it was informed by the victims who were in traumatic situation that they hail from the bordering village of Khairimunda in the adjacent Simdega district of Jharkhand.

Subsequently, the woman, in her mid-40s, and her daughter, in mid-20s, who are currently un-

dergoing recovery at Aastha Gruha, a shelter for mentally-ill women located in Rangadhapa of Sundargarh town, stated that they are from Chhattisgarh.

They alleged sexual assault and outraging modesty throughout their walk from their state to Odisha.

They were spotted by local MLA who ensured that the government machinery kept them in Aastha Gruha in Sundargarh.

The woman has three daughters. After her husband's death she was raped by one person. The daughter who went to Delhi returned and faced the ordeal.

The petitioner contended that the mother daughter duo, unable to bear the plight and immense pain lost mental balance, walked naked and landed in Sundargarh without any help and assistance from the onlookers and government. Neither the government machinery nor the civil society could come to their rescue.

The failure of Chhattisgarh government in punishing the criminal and rehabilitating the victims posed a serious violation of human rights, Tripathy said.

The negligence in rescuing two naked victims walking in

full public view in a busy town like Sundargarh also posed a serious question of human rights in Odisha, he said.

The petitioner further stated that neither the police patrolling, government agency nor the civil society, onlookers, or any Good Samaritan could help the situation, rather they were harassed throughout their journey.

Tripathy requested the NHRC to investigate in detail the plight of the victims, take immediate legal action against the culprits, and rehabilitate them with reuniting the entire family with compensation and benefits of welfare schemes.

The copy of instant proceeding be forwarded to the Odisha Chief Secretary and DGP for information and also for ensuring compliance of direction of the commission by the authorities, the NHRC order stated.

The commission further said "Let a copy of the complaint be also transmitted to the secretary of the concerned State Human Rights Commission, calling upon him to inform this commission the date of cognizance, if any, taken at their end in the matter within four weeks."

# Tirkey calls probe an eyewash, to move HC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Oct 11:** Continuing probe into the Sushmita Minz death case, police here have questioned the last person with whom Sushmita had spoken as the call details record (CDR) suggested.

DSP Banita Majhi of the Investigative Unit of Crime Against Women (IUCAW) declined to disclose the identity of the person.

Sushmita's death has caused a great deal of embarrassment for the police and the Sundargarh district administration. No one is ready to believe the cause of death as stated in the post-mortem report. Several tribal leaders and also various outfits have staged massive demonstrations at different places. The biggest of all was the one carried out in front of the Sundargarh Collectorate.



Demonstration at the Collectorate was all the more vital because the brother of Sushmita, Sandeep Minz in his complaint directly brought allegations against the ADM Rourkela and Collector of Sundargarh.

Meanwhile, George Tirkey, for-

mer MLA of Biramitrapur and tribal leader, is helping the family in filing a case in the Orissa High Court demanding a CBI inquiry of the case.

Speaking about the issue George said, "The family would have filed the case October 4. But, in between Alice Lugun died and the demonstration was held at Sundargarh. We are going to file the case in high court in a couple of days," he said. However, George called the investigation being headed by a DSP level officer a farce.

"They have questioned everybody, but there was no complaint against whom Sandeep filed the complaint. "Do you think a DSP will call the ADM and Collector for questioning? For that I called it a farce," said George. He reiterated that the CBI inquiry was the only way forward in the case.

| <b>Bank of India</b><br>Zonal Office : Star House,<br>1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015  |  | <b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b><br>[Rule-8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002 |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers/guarantors in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here-in below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule-8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property & any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Jagatsinghpur Branch for the amount stated below with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets. |  |  |  |
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Take Truth for your force; take Truth for your refuge.

THE MOTHER



## Money Is There

With her ambitious Bridgetown Agenda to reform the international financial architecture, Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley has become a powerful advocate for climate justice. But she is not the only world leader rising to meet the profound challenges we face today. A new generation of leaders from the Global South are making their voices heard.

Kenyan President William Ruto, for example, is forging a new path toward climate-positive growth in Africa: by taking advantage of its abundant natural resources and realising its green-manufacturing potential, the continent could supply the developed world with goods and services to accelerate the clean-energy transition. In Latin America, Colombian President Gustavo Petro has called for a new Marshall Plan to finance global climate action. And Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, now in his third non-consecutive term as Brazil's president, aims to tackle hunger, poverty, and inequality, promote sustainable development, and reform outdated global governance arrangements during his country's G20 presidency in 2024.

After a decade of protectionism and fragmentation, these initiatives seek to build a global consensus around enacting sorely needed reforms. The post-COVID-19 world is currently experiencing what the G20 has called "cascading crises," including a dramatic surge in energy and food prices, unmanageable debt burdens in the world's poorest countries, and a record number of climate disasters. Developing countries need at least \$1 trillion annually to make significant progress on the climate transition and to achieve their development goals. But the costs of inaction are even greater.

Our collective future hinges on a dramatic increase in funding, and the place to start is a levy on windfall revenues from fossil fuels. The global oil and gas industry's revenues were around \$4 trillion in 2022, according to Fatih Birol, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency – an astonishing \$2.5 trillion more than the average in recent years.

Where has this money come from? The short answer is consumers. Some of the world's richest companies are raking in bumper profits from a cost-of-living crisis – largely fueled by high energy prices – that has disproportionately affected the poor and vulnerable. The largest beneficiaries of this effective tax on the global economy have been petrostates, whose total export revenues, when complemented by the export earnings of countries like Canada, Australia, Iraq, and Iran, totaled almost \$1 trillion in 2022.

The biggest of these countries, whose per capita incomes are among the highest in the world, are well able to pay a voluntary levy on their exceptionally high hydrocarbon-export revenues into a global fund for sustainable development. A 3% tax on the 2022 export earnings of the United Arab Emirates (\$119 billion), Qatar (\$116 billion), Kuwait (\$98 billion), Norway (around \$174 billion), and Saudi Arabia (\$311 billion) would raise roughly \$25 billion in total – a sum not that much larger than what the Saudis alone have recently spent on soccer, golf, Formula One racing, and other sports deals.

It is fortuitous that this year's COP28 will be held in one of these countries, the UAE. Outlining his plan of action in July, COP28 president-designate Sultan Al Jaber named "fixing climate finance" as one of its four pillars, arguing that "all forms of finance must be more available, more accessible, and more affordable." Similarly, he has called on donor countries with overdue pledges to "show me the money."

But as president-designate, the UAE has the responsibility to take the lead. The best way to kickstart COP28 would be for Al Jaber – who is also the MD and group CEO of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company – to announce that his country will contribute \$3 billion of its windfall earnings to a global finance facility and that it will seek to persuade its wealthy Gulf neighbours to do likewise. More than half of the contributions could go to the Loss and Damage Fund, which was agreed at COP27 but still has gained little initial funding, with the rest used as capital and grant funding for new facilities for climate mitigation and adaptation.

And the international community must use this levy to kickstart a wider financing programme for the developing world, based on the principle that rich, historically large polluters with the capacity to pay should contribute more to help poorer countries adapt to global warming. Not only should aid budgets be raised, but the International Development Association, the World Bank's financing facility for the poorest countries, must also receive a generous replenishment next year.

Providing \$90 billion in concessional finance for low-income countries is at the heart of the proposals from the economist NK Singh and former US Treasury Secretary Lawrence H Summers in their two volumes of reports to the G20, the first proposed ahead of the recent G20 summit in New Delhi. As they argue, the system of multilateral development banks must increase its overall capacity, which means tripling its annual commitments to \$300 billion in non-concessional finance for middle-income countries. As part of their proposals, which include recapitalisation of World Bank itself, they favour the wider use of guarantees. High-income countries could and should provide such guarantees that will enable MDBs to borrow from capital markets on attractive terms.

Such initiatives, if properly managed, could mobilise private-sector lending, which is essential to meeting our climate objectives. And it is the combination of the levy and the use of guarantees that, if agreed at COP28, could be the platform for achieving \$1 trillion in annual financial flows to developing countries by 2030.

Seventy-five years ago, under the original Marshall Plan, the US lent \$13.3 billion (\$169 billion in today's money) to Europe for its post-war reconstruction. It was a remarkable act of global leadership that helped secure decades of stable economic growth and international co-operation. While today's world and the crises it faces are very different, the scale of the response must be equally ambitious. Countries in the Global South are charting a way forward. Now, their rich counterparts in the Global North must step up and provide the necessary funding. The money is there, but we need the political imagination and will to use it, before the next crisis arrives.

The writer is a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

### WISDOM CORNER

Anti-social behaviour is a trait of intelligence in a world full of conformists.

NIKOLA TESLA

The day you stop racing, is the day you win the race.

BOB MARLEY

People generally see what they look for, and hear what they listen for.

HARPER LEE



Jagdish Rattanan

THE GAME IS TO STAY RELEVANT IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING LANDSCAPE



Gordon Brown

Countries in the Global South are charting a way forward. Now, their rich counterparts in the Global North must step up and provide the necessary funding

### FOCUS BIG OIL

# MAKE THEM PAY



The numbers show that Big Oil has ample profits to take in even if it is a slide from hereon

Big changes sometimes come without big headlines. One of these happened last month in California, the largest and the most productive states in the US which comprises around 15% of the US GDP and by itself would form the world's fifth largest economy. The state took the unusual step of suing oil & gas industry giants and their trade association and mouthpiece, the American Petroleum Institute (API), for worsening climate change, for deception, for lying to the people and a host of other charges. The case will test new waters as it pushes to expand the damages that can be imposed on American corporate in the standards they follow, the integrity of their operations and messaging to the public, and the nature and character of the business in the age of climate change.

The five companies sued are Exxon Mobil, Shell, BP, ConocoPhillips, and Chevron, global giants of the oil & gas industry that have reported unprecedented profits in a post-pandemic comeback. In 2022, these five companies reported combined net profits totaling around \$180 billion, riding on increased demand in the aftermath of COVID-19, aided by price gouging amid the disruption and uncertainties caused by events like the conflict in Ukraine. Some would see this as the expansion that comes ahead of a star moving towards certain death, a sunset sector which proclaims to transform but is rooted in the business of drilling and flaring that it can't get away from. Yet, the numbers show that Big Oil has ample profits to take in even if it is a slide from hereon. The game is to stay relevant in a rapidly changing landscape.

Thus, the API on its website quotes the International Energy Agency (IEA) to say that "under the IEA's Sustainable

Development Scenario, natural gas and oil will furnish nearly half the world's energy in 2040, even if every nation meets the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement." This reinforces the story that there is no easy escape from the oil & gas sector, and the world will have to just live with the carbon footprint it brings if the economy is to grow and nations are to thrive. What, after all, can run without energy in the modern economy, and who can provide this energy but the oil giants? In the words of API: "Our industry is essential to supplying energy that makes life modern, healthier and better – while doing so in ways that tackle the climate challenge: lowering emissions, increasing efficiency, advancing technological innovation, building modern infrastructure and more."

Environmentalists would disagree. They are now joined by the state of California that has come out in the strongest possible language to hold Big Oil to account for its actions. Just consider the language of the statement issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom: "For more than 50 years, Big Oil has been lying to us – covering up the fact that they've long known how dangerous the fossil fuels

they produce are for our planet. It has been decades of damage and deception. Wildfires wiping out entire communities, toxic smoke clogging our air, deadly heat waves, record-breaking droughts parching our wells. California taxpayer shouldn't have to foot the bill. California is taking action to hold big polluters accountable and deliver the justice our people deserve."

While it is possible to see this as a politicised lawsuit replete with sweeping statements, the colour and flavour of the case also showcases it as a gamechanger. It pushes the boundaries and carries the capacity to change forever the way corporates are held to account for their actions. California is not the only one to have filed for damages from oil giants. Similar lawsuits have been filed by local area municipalities and at least seven other states, according to the New York Times. California's is the most significant of these, and it suggests that the game has changed from working with oil companies to going all out against them to make them pay for climate change and all the associated damages that are directly being attributed to the sector.

One of the areas highlighted

in the case is evidence that the oil giants knew of the damage but painted a different picture before the people. It argues, for example, that Shell claims online it aims to become a net-zero emissions energy business by 2050, and that it is "tackling climate change." However, Shell's CEO told the BBC on July 6 that cutting oil and gas production would be "dangerous and irresponsible." How do the two go together? This is setting a new bar on holding companies to account for greenwashing, for naming and shaming them publicly and making them pay overwhelming costs and damages as a means of forcing change.

No business leader in any sector can ignore the message embedded in the lawsuit. It must send warning bells across the globe. At a time when trust in big business is low and is declining further, when sustainability has almost become a game to be played and indeed manipulated by showcasing small achievements made on the side while the main business continues to drain resources and have negative impacts on the environment and on society, California provides a test case for the road ahead and the response likely from regulators.

There are no immediate impacts in India but think just how many companies can come under the radar for advertisements that misguide, mislead or are outright wrong in the claims being made and the benefits being sold. It is possible to see the California case as a "watershed moment to hold polluters accountable," to quote Jane Fonda, the actress, author and activist, and it carries implications businesses can ignore only at their peril.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

# Economic history as mirror to present



Satya Narayan Misra

GOLDIN'S HALLMARKS HAVE BEEN ORIGINAL THINKING, INTENSE INVESTIGATION AND CLARITY OF EXPRESSION AND VIEWS, WHICH IS RARE AMONG ECONOMISTS

This year's Nobel Prize winner in Economics, Claudia Goldin, is a rare bird who has not only advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes but has also catapulted economic history as a fascinating subject. When she was young the idea of peering through a microscope and discovering an entire world was fascinating. In college, though she was captivated by economics. Areas that have been neglected in economics like urban slavery, labour history of American women, have attracted her. Educational movements and their influence on American economy has been a major thrust of her economic research. The loss of microbiology is gain of economics! Goldin's hallmarks have been original thinking, intense investigation and clarity of expression and views, which is rare among economists.

Her most influential papers are in women's quest for career and family, co-education, impact of pill on women's career and marriage, women's surnames after marriage as a social indicator, and the new life cycle of women's employment. Goldin realised

that female workers have been largely overlooked in economic history. In her seminal work "Understanding The Gender Gap" (1990), she refutes the notion that women's employment advances were a response to social revolution, rather than long run economic progress. The present economic status of women evolved gradually over the last two centuries while past conceptions of women workers persist. World War II was a watershed in the lives of American women and altered the way in which women were perceived as workers. Alluding to the Palmer Survey, Goldin brings out how wartime work did not by itself greatly increase women employment.

In a recent interview Goldin observed that gender will always be a difference. "No matter how many of these differences begin to fade, I do not think, they will ever go away entirely."

Goldin's fascinating research delves into both the supply and demand function of labour over the years. Behind the supply function, there are several variables and parameters of which the substitution and income effects are the most important.

Increase in labour force participation depends largely on whether the substitution effect is greater than the income effect. On the demand side, she notes that manufacturing goods demand more men than women while the reverse is true on the services. The supply side is dependent on fertility, household production technology and social stigma of women in labour force. She finds that job switches in the 1920s to white collar work and huge increases in clerical and service sector employment showed that women in labour force were indistinguishable. The social stigma disappeared.

Goldin brings out that where women find marriage to be unstable, wives will like to build their human capital. In such cases, the income effect may not be as strong as in a stable marriage with husbands having a steady income. Taking a historical perspective, she brings out how the supply side factors were more important, while during 1940-60 the demand side factors were more important. During 1960-80 the supply and demand sides were sharing the load. Though Goldin has not re-

searched into the period 1980-2000, her premonition is that the demand factors have regained more importance. Economic history for her is the continuation into the past of what people are interested in today. It links together different periods, eras and years in a "seamless web of cloth." Goldin seems to echo the sentiments of TS Eliot in Four Quartets: "Time present and time past are both perhaps present in Time Future." Unlike John Maynard Keynes who wrote "in the long run we are all dead," Goldin believes that it is important to study the long term trend to fathom the present.

Peter Nobel, the great grand-nephew of Alfred Nobel, was very critical about installing a Nobel Prize in Economics. He wrote: "My great grandfather despised people who cared more about profit than about society's wellbeing." He would have been possibly happy for Goldin to have received this rare honour and giving pride of place to economic history as a mirror to the present.

The writer teaches Macro Economics.

## 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)

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### Prioritising vision

Sir, Vision, our vital sense, plays an often-underestimated role in daily life, from learning and work to safety and mental sharpness. Globally, on October 12th, people unite for the World Sight Day, dedicated to raising awareness about blindness and vision issues, with this year's theme emphasising "workplace eye health."

In 1998, the inaugural World Sight Day, initiated by Lions Club International Foundation's (LCIF) "Sight First Campaign", aligned with the World Health Organization's "VISION 2020" initiative, highlighting LCIF's renowned global efforts in sight-related work. Recent alarming statistics reveal over 13 million worldwide suffer work-related vision impairments, with 3.5 million workplace eye injuries yearly. This day spotlights the troubling global prevalence of blindness and partial sight, emphasising awareness, eye health advocacy, and the staggering fact that over two billion individuals globally have vision impairments, with one billion being potentially preventable or treatable cases, including children. World Sight Day raises awareness and advocates preventive measures and treatments, emphasising the value of routine eye check-ups and promoting vision protection, both at work and home. Sadly, inadequate healthcare access leaves millions with preventable visual impairments, highlighting the urgent need to make eye care universally accessible by 2030 through the Love Your Eyes campaign.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

### Tackling quakes

Sir, It is unfortunate to note that powerful earthquakes have left a huge trail of destruction in Afghanistan. Whatever it is, the fact of the matter is that countries have miles to go in the matter of tackling quakes. Going by all the facts and figures, there have been serious lessons to learn from natural disasters. It is time to co-exist with Mother Earth and its abundant natural resources. The over-exploitation of natural sources must be avoided at all costs. As a matter of fact, rigorous human activities have long been impacting the nature of Mother Earth. What is the best way out of this? Mega building structures (skyscrapers) must be banned across the board. Plus, quake-prone areas should be excluded from rigorous construction activities in the best interests of all. In fact, such practical and precautionary steps will go a long way.

P. Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI



DEFICIT RAINFALL

K'taka facing acute power shortage

Bangalore, Oct 11: Karnataka is facing an acute shortage of approximately 1,500-2,000 MW, and at present the state is facing an extraordinary situation of high-power demand due to deficit rainfall, according to the Energy department.

it said in a note explaining the power situation in Karnataka. Due to the absence of normal monsoons in the state, a surge in demand is being experienced. Except for the last two weeks in July, the monsoon was highly in deficit for the period of August and September, and this has resulted in low storage in major hydro dams in the state.



However, in October, the state again faced an increased demand of more than 15,000 MW. The state is facing a daily shortfall of 40-50 MU. Due to sub-normal rainfall in the state, the reservoir levels are very less when compared to last year, leading to heavy dependence on thermal sources to meet the demand.

mines, from where the state receives its coal for thermal power plants have received heavy rains. Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) is receiving wet coal, resulting in frequent breakdown of plants. All the above adverse circumstances have led to the state facing acute shortage of approximately 1500-2000 MW, it added.

2024; this power is to be returned to Uttar Pradesh from June to September 2024. A similar swapping arrangement has been finalised with Punjab for a quantum of 500 MW of Round-The-Clock (RTC) power from November 2023 to May 2024. The state is proposing to procure power through a short-term tender to the extent of 1,250 MW power on a RTC basis and 250 MW on RTM as and when required (primarily for peak hours). The permission has been obtained from Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) to procure power on a cap rate basis.

B'lore set to host buffalo racing sport 'Kambala'

KTAKA GOVT TO PROVIDE ₹1CR GRANT



Bangalore, Oct 11: IT city Bangalore is all set to host 'Kambala', the popular Indian sport of buffalo racing in coastal Karnataka that came to the lime-light across the country after the release of the superhit film 'Kantara', next month.

the people of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi have come together under the leadership of MLA Ashok Rai to save and develop Kambala sport," Shivakumar added.

HOT COOKED MEALS FROM NAVRATRI IN UP SCHOOLS



Lucknow, Oct 11: The Uttar Pradesh government will launch 'Hot Cooked Meal' scheme in the state schools from the upcoming festival of Navratri. The directions for this were issued by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during a review meeting of the departments of Bal Vikas Sewa Evam Pushtabhar and Women Welfare and Child Development.

The chief minister also spoke about the need to ensure the availability of proper utensils at the municipal and gram panchayat levels. He asked for an inclusion of millets in the hot cooked meals and coarse grain biscuits and other essentials to be given to the children. He said that anganwadi centres which are currently being operated in rented spaces should be shifted into their own buildings.

Akhilesh jumps gate to garland JP's statue



Lucknow, Oct 11: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav and his supporters, in a dramatic turn of events, Wednesday scaled the main gate of Jayaprakash Narayan International Centre (JPNIC) to pay tribute to the late leader on his birth anniversary.

still not complete, a statue of Jayaprakash Narayan is installed inside the building. Akhilesh garlands the statue every year. As soon as Akhilesh Yadav crossed and jumped the boundary, the workers accompanying him also emulated him and entered inside the building and garlanded the statue of Jayaprakash Narayan. "JP was the hero of the 'Sampurn Kranti', the government did not want to allow us to garland his statue and the government is suppressing the voice of socialists. I had to enter by jumping the wall as I was stopped. I come here and garland the statue every year, however, the police deployed this time stopped me from doing so," Akhilesh told reporters.

According to the government spokesman the programme will help in enhancing the nutritional status of children aged three to six years. They should also be given fruits. Officials should also make efforts to boost enrolment and attendance at anganwadi centres.

There are 12,800 anganwadi centres which have to be shifted to permanent buildings. He said that anganwadi centres should be established near parks in residential areas. These buildings should be built with the help of CSR funds, urban development funds and contributions from affluent individuals.

The main gate had been locked and tin sheets were put up allegedly to prevent anyone from entering the premises of the

Earlier, Akhilesh had also posted on X (formerly Twitter) the video of the building and alleged that arrangements were made to stop him from entering the building premises.

On Wednesday, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar participated in the 'kere pooje' (groundbreaking ceremony) at the Palace Grounds in Bengaluru. The event is titled as 'Bengaluru Kambala-Namma Kambala'. Speaking after the event, Shivakumar announced that the state government would give Rs 1 crore grants for the encouragement of the Kambala sport. As much as five lakh rupees would be given to 20 Kambala events. Kambala sports which is desi and historical would be encouraged in the state, he added. The discussion will be held with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the Kannada and Culture Department in connection with the release of funds to Kambala sport, he said. "Human beings will not take away anything with them and when the time comes, they should leave everything here and have to go. But, it is a matter of joy that

"The coastal region of the state is an asset for the whole country. The people from this region have made big names in education, industries, hotel industry, tourism and banking sectors. The initiative of MLA Ashok Rai to introduce Kambala sport in Bengaluru is commendable," he said. "The culture of the land is the biggest asset of this nation. Dakshina Kannada district cherishes rich folklore tradition. Thousands of youth from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi are settled in Bengaluru." "Our government will fully support the organisation of Kambala sport in Bengaluru. God will only give opportunities; he will neither give a curse nor blessings. One should utilise the opportunities. No one should bog down to hurdles, they should march ahead," Shivakumar added. Former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP MLA Ashwath Narayan, Congress MLAs - NA Harris, Ashok Kumar Rai - and Kambala Committee members Gurukiran, Prakash Shetty, Gunaranjan Shetty and Umesh Shetty were present.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-1065 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KALAHANDI (R&B) DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA E-mail: eekalahandi@gmail.com, Fax No.: 06670-230512 E-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. BC KLD-22/2023-2024 No. 12085 Dated: 09.10.2023

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-1258 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, TITILAGARH E-Mail Id: eerw\_titilagarh@yahoo.co.in E-Procurement Notice IFB IDENTIFICATION NO. SETIG-Online-05/2023-24

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI), AGRIL ENGG. DIVISION, PURI E-mail ID - eeaag-puri@gov.in INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No.03/2023-24-e-Procurement Notice No.1245/Agri. Date:10.10.2023

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ROURKELA IRRIGATION DIVISION, ROURKELA email id:seridrkl@gmail.com e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SERID-RKL-06/2023-24, Dt. 09.10.2023

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବିଜେପୁର AT/PO/PS: Bijepur, Dist-Bargarh (Odisha), PIN:768032 Email ID: bijepurnac2018-od@gov.in, bijepurnac2018@gmail.com, Website: bijepurnac.in Letter No.1243/NACB Date:11.10.2023

ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, DEOGARH (Deptt. of Health & FW, Govt. of Odisha) No.3997 Dt.09.10.23 TENDER CALL NOTICE

Government of Odisha No. O-1256 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA Email: eerw\_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel.: 06645-271643 Bid Identification No. Online - SEJSG - 11 of 2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER GHUMSUR NORTH DIVISION Bhejiput, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam, Odisha, Pin-761126 Tele/Fax-06821-241008, E-mail: dfo.ghumsurnorth@odisha.gov.in Letter No.261/Dtd.05.10.2023

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ରେଢାକ୍ଠାଳ OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, REDHAKHOL (ODISHA), DIST- SAMBALPUR E-mail: eonacrdl@gmail.com, Website Address: www.nacredhakhol.in Letter No.1930/ Date: 09.10.2023

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION No.47846 Dt.07.10.2023 COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement NOTICE INVITING TENDER





Uttarakhand Chief Secretary SS Sandhu checks preparations ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Adi Kailash, in Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand



German nationals perform 'pindadaan' and 'tarpan' ritual during 'pitrapaksha' for the salvation of their ancestral souls, at Devghat in Gaya, Bihar



President Droupadi Murmu inspects a guard of honour, in Srinagar



An art installation at a community puja pandal where theme is 'Tradition' as it represents 'Tilottama Kolkata', ahead of Durga Puja, in Kolkata, West Bengal



An Afghan girl carries a child amid destruction after an earthquake in Zenda Jan district in Herat province, western Afghanistan. Another strong earthquake shook western Afghanistan Wednesday morning



Brazilians who were caught in the latest Israel-Palestinian war kneel down in thanks on the tarmac as journalists cover their arrival to the Air Force air base in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Brazilian Air Force flew its citizens home, first landing in Brasilia



Blue Man Group performs at Edge New York to celebrate 17,000 performances



Fishing boats anchored at the Vizhinjam fishing harbour, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala





Earlier, there was Sedition Law; now, in the name of withdrawing those provisions, they are introducing more severe and arbitrary measures in the proposed Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which can affect citizens more gravely

### SC & IIT MADRAS SIGH MoU

The Supreme Court and IIT Madras have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate digital transformation of Indian judiciary and improve access to justice



### of the day quote

The officials would tell how the Department of Energy had been functioning. The previous BJP government had given Rs 10,000 crore to the Energy Department

We have an example of Manipur where women were paraded, faced personal attacks, and killed. If anything happens like this, NCP's women's wing should hit the streets. They will file cases against you but that should not bother you

It is a well-known fact that the ancestors of these leaders sowed thorns for Punjab and its younger generations by indulging in this unpardonable crime of constructing the SYL

## NIA raids in six states against PFI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: The NIA Wednesday carried out searches at 20 locations across six states against the banned Popular Front of India in connection with a case related to creating disturbance during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bihar last year, officials said.

An official spokesperson said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out extensive search operations at 20 different locations, including Fazalpur, Shaheen Bagh, Okhla and Chandni Chowk in the national capital.

Raids were conducted in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Thane and Mumbai in Maharashtra, Tonk and Gangapur in Rajasthan, and Lucknow, Siddharthnagar, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Kanpur and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, he said.

Additionally, searches were also conducted in Madurai, the spokesperson added.

These operations are part of ongoing investigations in cases linked with the PFI and its involvement in unlawful and anti-national activities, he said.

During the searches, a substantial cache of crucial evidence in the ongoing case was found which included various digital devices such as laptops, mobile phones, SIM cards, memory cards, pen drives, and hard discs, the official said.

Incriminating documents have also been recovered during the operations, the spokesperson added.

The NIA has seized Rs 8.5 lakh cash. The agency had taken over



Police personnel stand guard as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) teams raid on the premises of the banned outfit Popular Front of India (PFI), at Mumtaz building in New Delhi

Raids were conducted in Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Thane and Mumbai in Maharashtra, Tonk and Gangapur in Rajasthan, and Lucknow, Siddharthnagar, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Kanpur and Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh

These operations are part of ongoing investigations in cases linked with the PFI and its involvement in unlawful and anti-national activities

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the probe from the Patna Police, which had registered an FIR July 12 last year. Ten days later, the central anti-terror agency re-registered the case and started its investigation.

The Patna Police had raided the premise of one Athar Parvez in the Phulwarisharif area July 11 last year resulting in the seizure of PFI literature and a document titled "India 2047 Towards Rule of Islam in India, Internal Document: Not for circulation".

Several individuals, including Athar Parvez, Md Jalaluddin Khan, Nooruddin Zangi alias Advocate Nooruddin, and Arman

Malick alias Imteyaz Anwer, were arrested in the case.

The NIA has filed three charge sheets so far against 13 suspects in this case and arrested 17 people.

"They are alleged to have been actively involved in furthering the unlawful activities of PFI, including the illicit funneling of funds from overseas to the PFI members and suspects in this case," the agency said.

The allegation of this case centres on a gathering of individuals with suspicious intent in the Phulwarisharif area of Patna to disrupt the rally that was to be attended by the prime minister.

Previously, the NIA had conducted multiple searches in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala in order to collect evidence against the accused persons and suspects in the present case

During the ongoing investigations, the NIA apprehended Anwar Rashid, a former member of the banned organisation Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

Anwar Rashid's arrest is linked to his involvement in a criminal conspiracy, alongside FIR-named suspects Athar Parvej, Manjar Parvej, and others, all working towards advancing the agenda of the PFI. Their aim has been the pursuit and establishment of Islamic Rule in India by the year 2047, the agency said.

Following the ban on SIMI, its members, including Anwar Rashid, were associated with the Wahadat-e-Islami, an organisation formed by former SIMI members, who continued to promote the ideology of Islamic rule in India.

The investigations revealed that accused Anwar Rashid, in his association with a publication house, was involved in the supply of material for promoting the ideology of the PFI, specifically the establishment of Islamic Rule in India, the spokesperson added.

## FRESH TROUBLE FOR NEWSCLICK



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 11: The CBI has registered a case on the allegations of violations of FCRA provisions against NewsClick, including its editor Prabir Purkayastha and others.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Wednesday also carried out searches at two locations in the national capital on the office premises of NewsClick and its editor Purkayastha, who was arrested October 3. A CBI spokesperson here said that the agency has registered a case against Delhi-based private company (NewsClick) and others, including its Director.

The official said that it was alleged that NewsClick had received unexplained export remittance of Rs 28.46 crore through four foreign entities in violation of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) provisions. "It has also been alleged that there was an unexplained receipt of foreign fund of Rs 9.59 crore by incorrect characterization of the fund as FDI. The Director of said private company with his close associates had allegedly

violated the provisions of FCRA, 2010," the official said.

The official further said that the provisions of FCRA, 2010, prohibiting acceptance of foreign contribution by company engaged in production and broadcast of audio-visual news or current affairs programme through any electronic mode and by any correspondent or columnist or writer or owner of such company, were violated.

The development comes days after the Delhi Police's Special Cell carried out searches at multiple locations in the national capital, including the premises of NewsClick and journalists associated with it in connection with a case registered under the provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

On October 3, in a statement regarding the search, seizure and detentions carried out in connection with the UAPA case registered by the Special Cell, the Delhi Police had said that a total of 37 male suspects were questioned at the office premises, while nine female suspects were questioned at their respective places of stay.

### SHORT TAKES

#### ED grills Abhishek's wife for over 7 hrs

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Wednesday interrogated Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's wife Rujira for over seven hours in connection with its ongoing probe into the alleged irregularities in the cash-for-jobs scam, an officer said.

#### Court summons BJP leader in rape case

New Delhi: A Delhi court Wednesday summoned BJP leader Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain on a woman's complaint alleging rape and criminal intimidation. The court took cognisance of the alleged offence and directed the former union minister to appear before it October 20. "This court after going through the cancellation report, protest petition filed by the complainant, the reply to the protest petition filed by the IO and other material on record is of the view that the complainant has given consistent statements to the police, to the court in her application and before the Magistrate in her statement under section 164 Cr.P.C.," the judge said.

#### NIA confiscates property of Rode

New Delhi: An NIA court in Mohali has ordered the confiscation of land, in Punjab's Moga district, belonging to Pakistan-based designated terrorist Lakhbir Singh alias Rode, the self-styled chief of banned Khalistan Liberation Front, an official said Wednesday.

#### Mizoram Assembly Speaker resigns

Aizawl: Mizoram Assembly Speaker and MNF leader Lalrinliana Sailo resigned as a legislator Wednesday, and said he would join the BJP "to usher in development" in the state. Sailo, who won the Chalfihl seat in the 2018 assembly polls, was denied a ticket by the ruling party for the 2023 election to be held in November. He is likely to be inducted into the BJP Thursday, party sources said.

#### India, China hold 20th round of military talks

New Delhi: India and China exchanged views in an open and constructive manner for an early and mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, the Ministry of External Affairs said Wednesday, a day after the two sides concluded two days of military talks.

## Anurag Thakur unveils 'Bharat Hain Hum' trailer

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 11: Union minister Anurag Thakur Wednesday launched the trailer of an upcoming animated series that will shed light on the unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle.

Titled "Bharat Hain Hum", the animated show will be showcased on leading streaming services Prime Video and Netflix as well as government-run Doordarshan, as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The I&B minister unveiled the show's trailer at an event here.

"Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under his vision, it is our humble endeavour to reignite the nation's memory and ignite gratitude towards these unsung heroes, who deserve our unwavering admiration and respect. We have a very few heroes that the country has celebrated but there are so many un-

sung heroes who were not given their due credit in our history. Thirty percent of these heroes are women and these stories will inspire generations to come," Thakur said.

Created by Munjal Shroff and Tilak Shetty, "Bharat Hain Hum" will consist of 26 episodes in season one, each featuring a 11-minute animated narrative.

According to makers, the series aims to introduce lesser-known but equally significant freedom fighters whose contributions were instrumental in India's path to independence August 15, 1947.

The trailer launch was also attended by I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra; Sushant Sreeram, Country Head, Prime Video; Kiran Desai, Senior Director, General Counsel, Legal, Netflix India; Prasar Bharti CEO Gaurav Diwedi; and Dharendra Ojha, Director General, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC).



### SNIPPETS

#### Girl thrown before train; loses hand, legs

Bareilly (UP): A 17-year-old girl lost one hand and both her legs after she was hurled before a train here by a youth for objecting to sexual harassment, police said Wednesday. Her condition is critical, doctors say. The girl suffered multiple fractures in the incident that took place in the CB Ganj area of Bareilly City Tuesday, police said. One person was arrested in connection with the matter and three policemen suspended for negligence, the District Magistrate said. According to the father of the girl, his daughter was returning from her coaching centre Tuesday evening around 4.30, when one Vijay Maurya of their village stopped her and indulged in indecent talk and harassed her.

#### Israel war: India sets up 24-hour control room

New Delhi: As fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas militants continued, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has set up a round-the-clock control room in Delhi and separate emergency helplines in Tel Aviv and Ramallah to monitor the situation and provide information and assistance to Indians who may require help. The phone numbers at the Delhi control room are 1800118797 (Toll free), +91-11 23012113, +91-11-23014104, +91-11-23017905m +919968291988. And the email is situationroom@mea.gov.in. In addition, Embassy of India in Tel Aviv has set up a 24-hour emergency helpline, which can be accessed on phone numbers: +97235226748, +972-543278392 and email cons1.Telaviv@mea.gov.in.



Students with their painted faces take part in an awareness campaign on the International Day of the Girl Child, in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

## ECI shuffles top officers in 5 poll-bound states

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 11: The Election Commission Wednesday ordered the transfer of several top police and administrative officers, including 25 police commissioners and superintendents of police, nine district magistrates and four secretaries and special secretaries, in the five poll-going states after finding laxity in their work, sources said.

During a review, the EC found that the performance of some officers was "unsatisfactory" and they were found "complacent, if not complicit" in various matters, including the illegal supply of liquor as a possible poll inducement, sources said.

During its review meetings in these five states, the poll panel had directed the enforcement agencies and district administrations for an increased vigil and zero tolerance towards the distribution of inducements during the electoral process.

"Without mincing any words, the commission has directed that the movement and distribution of liquor, cash, drugs and freebies should be dried up. These four are our top priority for free, fair and inducement-



#### EC changes polling date for Rajasthan

New Delhi: The polling dates for the Rajasthan Assembly elections have been revised due to a "wedding rush", the Election Commission of India (ECI) said. The state, which was earlier scheduled to vote November 23, will now exercise franchise two days later November 25. Representations were received by the ECI from various political parties, social organisations and several media platforms to change the date of the poll considering a large-scale wedding or social engagement on that day, the poll body said in a statement.

free elections," Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had said during press conferences in these states.

Citing inputs received by the EC, sources said illegal liquor from Haryana and Punjab enters Rajasthan through

Hanumangarh, Churu, Jhunjhunu and Alwar districts for supply in the hinterland districts as well as the neighbouring state of Gujarat.

After assessing the performance of officials in these sensitive districts, the commission has ordered the transfer of the superintendents of police (SPs) of Hanumangarh, Churu and Bhiwadi, and the Alwar district election officer (DEO) in Rajasthan.

Similarly, during the review meeting in Telangana, the commission noted that several non-cadre officers were posted as district in-charges while officers from administrative and police services were given non-significant postings.

The commission has now ordered the transfers of 13 SPs and police commissioners in the state. Of the 13 police officers transferred in Telangana, nine are non-cadre police officers. The Commissioners of Police of Hyderabad, Warangal and Nizamabad have been transferred. After assessing the performance and relevant inputs, four DEOs in Telangana -- Rangareddy, Medchal Malkajgiri, Yadadri Bhuvangiri, Nirmal districts -- have also been transferred.

### UZBEKISTAN COUGH SYRUP DEATHS

#### India allows firm to reopen factory

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 11: India's Uttar Pradesh state has permitted the resumption of most production at a factory owned by Marion Biotech, whose cough syrups Uzbekistan linked to the deaths of 65 children last year, according to a report.

Marion is among three Indian companies whose cough syrups the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other agencies have linked to the deaths of 141 children in Uzbekistan, Gambia and Cameroon since the middle of last year, in one of the world's worst such waves of poisoning.



"There's no known case of a lack of quality in other medicines manufactured by the firm," the drug controller of Uttar Pradesh where Marion is based, and which cancelled the firm's licence in March, said in the September 14 order sent to the company.

"Therefore, in view of natural justice, the appeal of the manufacturing firm is partially accepted. Its permission to make products using (cough syrup ingredient) propylene glycol is cancelled, and it is allowed to make and sell all other products."

The drug controller, Shashi Mohan Gupta, said in the order that the decision to allow the company to reopen its factory was taken by the state's health department August 11 after an appeal by the company.

Gupta declined to comment on the letter.

Uttar Pradesh closed Marion's factory after Uzbekistan's health ministry found that two cough syrups made by Marion, Ambrolon and DOK-1 Max, contained unacceptable amounts of toxins diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG), which are usually used in products not meant for human consumption.



# international

## ISRAEL HAS RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENCE: POPE

Pope Francis, in his strongest comments since the start of the conflict in Gaza, Wednesday called for the release of all hostages taken by Hamas militants and said Israel has a right to defend itself. Speaking in a sombre voice at the end of his weekly general audience to thousands of people in St Peter's Square. "I continue to follow, with pain and apprehension, what is happening in Israel and Palestine. So many people killed, and others wounded," he said. "It is the right of those who are attacked to defend themselves, but I am very worried by the total siege in which Palestinians live in Gaza, where there have also been many innocent victims," he said



# GAZA'S 75 YEARS OF GLOOM



Desperation has grown among Palestinians, many of whom see nothing to lose under unending Israeli control and increasing settlements in the West Bank, a 16-year-long blockade in Gaza and what they see as the world's apathy

**G**aza is a coastal strip of land that lay on ancient trading and maritime routes along the Mediterranean shore. Held by the Ottoman Empire until 1917, it passed from British to Egyptian to Israeli military rule over the last century and is now a fenced-in enclave inhabited by over 2 million Palestinians.

Here are some of the major milestones in its recent history.  
**1948 - END OF BRITISH RULE**  
As British colonial rule came to an end in Palestine in the late 1940s, violence intensified between Jews and Arabs, culminating in war between the newly created State of Israel and its Arab neighbors in May 1948. Tens of thousands of Palestinians took refuge in Gaza after fleeing or being driven from their homes. The invading Egyptian army had seized a narrow coastal strip 25 miles (40 km) long, which ran from the Sinai to just south of Ashkelon. The influx of refugees saw Gaza's population triple to around 200,000.

**1950s & 1960s - EGYPTIAN MILITARY RULE**  
Egypt held the Gaza Strip for two decades under a military governor, allowing Palestinians to work and study in Egypt. Armed Palestinian "fedayeen," many of them refugees, mounted attacks into Israel, drawing reprisals.

**1967 - WAR AND ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION**

Israel captured the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war. An Israeli census that year put Gaza's population at 394,000, at least 60% of them refugees. With the Egyptians gone, many Gazan workers took jobs in the agriculture, construction and services industries inside Israel, to which they could gain easy access at that time. Israeli troops remained to administer the territory and to guard the settlements that Israel built in the following decades. These became a source of growing Palestinian resentment.

**1987 - FIRST PALESTINIAN UPRISING. HAMAS FORMED**

Twenty years after the 1967 war, Palestinians launched their first intifada, or uprising. It began in December 1987 after a traffic accident in which an Israeli truck

crashed into a vehicle carrying Palestinian workers in Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp, killing four. Stone-throwing protests, strikes and shutdowns followed. Seizing the angry mood, the Egypt-based Muslim Brotherhood created an armed Palestinian branch, Hamas, with its power base in Gaza. Hamas, dedicated to Israel's destruction and restoration of Islamic rule in what it saw as occupied Palestine, became a rival to Yasser Arafat's secular Patah party that led the Palestine Liberation Organization.

**1993 - THE OSLO ACCORDS, AND PALESTINIAN SEMI-AUTONOMY**

Israel and the Palestinians signed an historic peace accord in 1993 that led to the creation of the Palestinian Authority. Under the interim deal, Palestinians were first given limited control in Gaza, and Jericho in the West Bank. The Oslo process gave the newly created Palestinian Authority some autonomy and envisaged statehood after five years. But that never happened. Israel accused the Palestinians of renegeing on security agreements, and Palestinians were angered by continued Israeli settlement building.

**2000 - 2ND PALESTINIAN INTIFADA**

In 2000, Israeli-Palestinian relations sank to a new low with the outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada. It ushered in a period of suicide bombings and shooting attacks by Palestinians, and Israeli air strikes, demolitions, no-go zones and curfews.

**2005 - ISRAEL EVACUATES ITS GAZA SETTLEMENTS**

In August 2005 Israel evacuated all its troops and settlers from Gaza, which was by then completely fenced off from the outside world by Israel. Palestinians tore down the abandoned buildings and infrastructure for scrap. The settle-

ments' removal led to greater freedom of movement within Gaza, and a "tunnel economy" boomed as armed groups, smugglers and entrepreneurs quickly dug scores of tunnels into Egypt.

**2006 - ISOLATION UNDER HAMAS**

In 2006, Hamas scored a surprise victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections and then seized full control of Gaza, overthrowing forces loyal to Arafat's successor, President Mahmoud Abbas. Much of the international community cut aid to the Palestinians in Hamas-controlled areas because they regarded Hamas as a terrorist organization.

**2023 - SURPRISE ATTACK**

While Israel was led to believe it was containing a war-weary Hamas by providing economic incentives to Gazan workers, the group's fighters were being trained and drilled in secret. On Oct. 7, Hamas gunmen launched a surprise attack on Israel, rampaging through towns, killing hundreds, and taking dozens of hostages back to Gaza. Israel took revenge, hammering Gaza with air strikes and razing entire districts in some of the worst blood-letting in the 75 years of conflict.

Gaza's economy has suffered repeatedly in the cycle of conflict, attack and retaliation between Israel and Palestinian militant groups. Before 2023, some of the worst fighting was in 2014, when Hamas and other groups launched rockets at heartland cities in Israel.

### HAMAS

Nearly 1,200 Israelis have died after a surprise terror attack last week, which it responded to with massive shelling of Gaza. The attacks



on Israel were orchestrated by Hamas, which has run the Gaza Strip since 2007. The conflicts involve Hamas launching rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel, followed by Israeli airstrikes and bombardment of Gaza. The group is part of a regional alliance comprising Iran, Syria, and the Shia Islamist group Hezbollah in Lebanon, which all broadly oppose US policy in the Middle East and Israel.

### LEBANON

Just days after Hamas attacked Israel, Lebanon's Hezbollah fired a guided missile at an Israeli tank to express "solidarity" with the

Palestinian people. Israel responded by striking an observation post belonging to the Iran-backed group. The violence marks the most serious escalation along the Lebanese-Israeli frontier since the 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and Israel. Hezbollah was founded by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in 1982 to export its Islamic Revolution and fight Israeli forces that had invaded Lebanon. The group has claimed that "Israel can't even imagine the size of our arms stockpile."

### SYRIA

Israel's army is also scrambling to respond to artillery fire from Syria, which has stoked fears of another front opening in the war. "Soldiers are responding with artillery and mortar shells toward the origin of the front opening in the war." The military said there had been "a number of launches from Syria into Israeli territory". The two countries have been at loggerheads since Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967. Its 1981 annexation of the strategic area is not recognised by the United Nations. The current round of violence has barely started, but it could end up being the bloodiest in decades - perhaps since the war between Israel and the Palestinians in Lebanon during the 1980s.



## ISRAEL RAZING GAZA, AIMS GROUND INVASION

ISRAELI BOMBARDMENT DEMOLISHING ENTIRE NEIGHBOURHOODS



As Palestinians crowded into UN schools and a shrinking number of safe neighbourhoods, humanitarian groups pleaded for the creation of corridors to get aid into Gaza, warning that hospitals overwhelmed with wounded people were running out of supplies.

Israel has stopped entry of food, fuel and medicine into Gaza, and the sole remaining access from Egypt was shut down Tuesday after airstrikes hit near the border crossing.

The country has stepped up its offensive Tuesday, expanding the mobilization of reservists to 360,000. Israel's military said it had regained effective control over areas Hamas attacked in its south and along the Gaza border. In a new tactic, Israel is warning civilians to evacuate neighbourhood after neighbourhood, and then inflicting devastation, in what could be a prelude to a ground offensive. Fighter jets returned multiple times to the al-Furqan neighbourhood, striking 450 targets in 24 hours, the Israeli military said.

Rescue officials in Gaza said "large numbers" of people were still trapped under the remnants of levelled buildings, with rescue equipment and ambulances unable to reach the area.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a leading opposition figure on Wednesday created a war-time Cabinet to oversee the fight against Hamas militants after their stunning weekend attack.

**Jerusalem:** Palestinians in the sealed-off Gaza Strip scrambled to find safety Wednesday, as Israel hammered neighbourhood after neighbourhood in the tiny coastal enclave in retaliation for the deadly mass incursion by Hamas militants and vowed an even more punishing escalation.

Airstrikes smashed entire city blocks to rubble, leaving unknown numbers of bodies beneath mounds of debris, and continued even as Hamas militants hold dozens of captives seized during their shocking attack into Israel over the weekend.

Israel has vowed an unprecedented offensive against the Islamic militant group ruling Gaza after its fighters broke through the border fence and stormed into the country's south, gunning down hundreds of Israelis in their homes, on the streets and at an outdoor music festival. They dragged an estimated 150 people - soldiers, men, women, children and the elderly - into captivity in Gaza.

### DEATH TOLL MOUNTS

In only five days, the war has claimed at least 2,200 lives on both sides

Israel says Hamas gunmen have killed more than 1,200 people and wounded over 2,700 in Israeli cities

On the Gaza side, health officials said 1,055 people had been killed and more than 4,000 wounded

Eighteen Thais, 14 US citizens and 10 Nepalis are among foreigners from over a dozen countries killed

Eight Palestinian journalists have been killed in Israeli air strikes

Militants in Gaza are holding an estimated 150 people snatched from Israel - soldiers, men, women, children and older adults



War spills to multiple fronts



DIVIDED WORLD

Children of the Palestinian community in Chile attend a demonstration in front of the UN building in Santiago, Chile AP/PTI



People hold and wave Israeli flags as they gather during a demonstration in a show of support for Israel AP/PTI



## of the day quote

India is expected to become a \$30-trillion economy by 2050 with per capita income of \$21,000 pushed by robust consumption and exports

**ATANU CHAKRABORTY** | FORMER ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY

The gems and jewellery sector pays Goods and Services Tax to the government and also creates job opportunities. The sector has played an important role in India's economic growth

**NITIN GADKARI** | ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

We thought the worst is behind us, but the supply chain challenges continue. We still have some risk coming out of certain components

**SANTOSH IYER** | MD AND CEO, MERCEDES-BENZ

## SHORT TAKES

### TCS Q2 net rises

**Mumbai:** The country's largest software company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Wednesday said its net profit increased 8.7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 11,342 crore in the September 2023 quarter. The Tata Group flagship had reported a net profit of Rs 10,431 crore in the year-ago period. Its revenue from operations rose 7.9 per cent year-on-year to Rs 59,692 crore in the reporting quarter from Rs 55,309 crore a year ago, the company said. The company's operating profit during the reporting quarter grew 9.1 per cent to Rs 14,483 crore while operating margins widened by 25 bps to 24.3 per cent, the city-headquartered company told reporters here.

### LIC penalised

**New Delhi:** Life Insurance Corporation Wednesday said the GST Authority has imposed a fine of Rs 36,844 on LIC for lower payment of taxes. The corporation has received a communication/demand order for collection of GST, along with interest and penalty for Jammu & Kashmir state, LIC said in a regulatory filing. As per the notice dated October 9, 2023, by the State Taxes Officer, Srinagar, LIC paid 12 per cent GST instead of 18 per cent on certain invoices. The tax authority has raised a demand order cum penalty notice for 2019-20 - GST - Rs 10,462, penalty Rs 20,000 and interest Rs 6,382.



It stands to reason that if the crude oil prices go up then that has a very strong impact and adverse impact on the attempts for a global economic recovery

**HARDEEP SINGH PURI** | OIL MINISTER

### INDIA-UK FTA ON ANVIL

India and the UK are likely to sign a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) in the last week of this month. It will be New Delhi's first such comprehensive deal with an industrialised nation, seeking to spur bilateral annual business beyond the current \$20 billion



## RISK-OFF SENTIMENT

# Inflow into MFs plunges

THE FLOW IN SEPTEMBER ALSO MARKS THE 31ST CONSECUTIVE MONTH OF NET INFLOWS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** Inflow into equity mutual funds slumped by over 30 per cent month-on-month to Rs 14,091 crore in September due to a risk-off sentiment in the stock markets.

Equity mutual funds witnessed an inflow of Rs 20,245 crore in August, according to the data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) released Wednesday.

Despite the decline, inflow through SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) hit a fresh all-time high of Rs 16,042 crore last month. In the first six months of the current financial year, the total SIP amount stood at Rs 90,304 crore, clocking a healthy run rate of Rs 15,050 crore.

"In the month of September, the equity markets experienced a notable shift towards a risk-off sentiment, following the all-time high of 20,200 points. Despite this shift, equity mutual funds continued to exhibit resilience, recording a significant net inflow of Rs 14,091 crore," Akhil Chaturvedi, Chief Business Officer, Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company.

The flow in September also

**INFLOW INTO EQUITY MUTUAL FUNDS AT RS 14,091CR IN SEPT**  
**DESPITE INFLOW DIP, SIPs HIT RECORD HIGH OF RS 16,042CR**



The sustained robust inflows into equity funds demonstrate the underlying positive sentiments of investors. The SIP flows continue to be good and could act as a powerful counterforce against any serious FPI outflows

**G PRADEPKUMAR** | CEO, UNION ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY

marks the 31st consecutive month of net inflows. The equity segment was aided by six new fund launches in September which garnered Rs 2,503 crore.

While overall net flows experienced a dip in various categories of equity funds, thematic or sectoral funds extended their positive trend into the current

month, attracting the highest net inflows.

Thematic funds saw the highest inflows to the tune of Rs 3,147 crore during the month. The spike in the flows of this category could also be attributed to four new fund launches in this category which cumulatively garnered Rs 1,629 crore.

In August too, this category saw the highest flows (Rs 4,805.81 crore) aided by 5 new fund launches. However, the quantum of net flows in both the small cap and the midcap as a category saw a dip compared to the previous months.

Large-cap funds experienced outflows to the tune of Rs 110 crore during the month. This was the fifth consecutive month where the large cap witnessed net outflows. The midcap category at-

tracted Rs 2,000 crore last month, which was lower than Rs 2,512 crore inflow seen in August. Further, inflow into small-cap funds slowed to Rs 2,678 crore, marking the first slowdown after four months of heavy inflows, averaging at Rs 4,298 crore for the May-Aug period.

Debt-oriented schemes witnessed net outflows of Rs 1.01 lakh crore in September, making it the second consecutive month of decline. The segment had witnessed net outflow of Rs 25,873 crores in August.

Expectedly, liquid funds witnessed highest net outflows of over Rs 74,000 crore during the month. The huge net outflow in September could be attributed to the advance tax requirement that corporates need to meet with it being the quarter end, Morningstar India's Santarita said.

Overall, the 44-player mutual fund industry has witnessed an outflow of Rs 66,192 crore during the month under review as compared to an inflow of Rs 14,386 crore in the preceding month.

The mutual fund industry's AUM stood at Rs 46.58 lakh crore in September-end as compared to Rs 46.63 lakh crore at the end of August.

## 52.5% OF BUDGET ESTIMATES

# Tax mop-up rises 22%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** The net direct tax collection increased by 21.82 per cent to over Rs 9.57 lakh crore till October 9, helped by good inflow from corporates and individuals, the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

The net collections have reached 52.5 per cent of the full-year budget estimates (BE) of Rs 18.23 lakh crore.

The provisional figures of Direct Tax collections up to October 9, 2023, continue to register steady growth, the statement said.

With regard to gross direct tax collections, the statement said, it stood at Rs 11.07 lakh crore, which is 17.95 per cent higher than the gross collections for the comparable period of last year. So far, as the growth rate for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) in terms of gross revenue collections is concerned, the growth rate for CIT is 7.30 per cent while that for PIT is 29.53 per cent (PIT only); 29.08 per cent (PIT including STT).

After adjustment of refunds, the net growth in CIT collections is 12.39 per cent and that in PIT collections is 32.51 per



**NET DIRECT TAX COLLECTION INCREASES 22% TO OVER RS 9.57L-CR**  
**2023-24 BUDGET PEGGED THE COLLECTION AT OVER RS 18.23L-CR**  
**TAX COLLECTION WAS AT RS 16.61L-CR LAST FISCAL YEAR**

cent (PIT only)/ 31.85 per cent (PIT including STT).

Refunds amounting to Rs 1.50 lakh crore have been issued from April 2023 to October 9, 2023.

The 2023-24 budget has pegged the direct tax collection at a little over Rs 18.23 lakh crore, 9.75 per cent higher than Rs 16.61 lakh crore mopped up last fiscal.

## Govt okays India digital tech pacts with 4 countries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 11:** The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the country's three separate memorandums of understandings with Papua New Guinea, France, Trinidad and Tobago in the field of digital technologies.

The MoU (memorandum of understanding) with France intends to promote closer cooperation and exchange of information pertaining to digital technologies, and will mutually support each participant's goal to promote access to digital technology in their countries, according to an official statement.

"The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty of the French Republic on cooperation in the field of Digital Technologies," the statement said.

The MoU is likely to enhance bilateral cooperation in digital technologies in the G2G (government-to-government) and B2B domains.

# India has high debt like China, but risks are moderated: IMF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Oct 11:** India has a high debt like that of China but the risks associated with it are not as great as that of its northern neighbour, a senior official from the International Monetary Fund has said, advising India in the medium term to have an ambitious fiscal consolidation plan that brings down deficits.

"The current debt in India is also high. It stands at 81.9 per cent of GDP. Compared to China, which is 83 per cent, it is very similar. Also, when we compare India's debt to the pre-pandemic level in 2019, it was 75 per cent. So it is still quite a bit higher," Ruud de Mooij, Deputy Director, Fiscal Affairs Department at International Monetary Fund, told PTI in an interview.

"What we also see in India is a deficit that is 8.8 per cent projected for 2023. In India, a large portion of this is because of expenditures on interest. They pay a lot of interest on their debt: 5.4 per cent of GDP is spent on that, and the primary deficit is 3.4 per cent. So together they add up to 8.8 per cent," he said.

Responding to a question, Mooij said that India's debt is not



projected to rise like in China. It, in fact, is projected to fall slightly by 1.5 per cent to 80.4 per cent in 2028.

One of the reasons is that growth in India is much higher. India is one of the countries with really high growth. This matters of course for the debt to GDP ratio. Also, just to note that the risks are moderated by some factors, he said.

"One factor is, for instance, the long maturities of the debt. They don't need to be renewed very frequently. This matters for the gross financing needs. And also, in India we see a large domestic domestically held debts and also denoted in domestic currency. So these mute the risks associated with the debts," he said.

The risk factor in India is the state level risks, he observed. "Some states really have high debts, have high financing needs

and face a high interest burden. This is a factor that does mean that there are significant risks also for India," he said.

"What should India do? Well, the policy advice is for the medium term to have an ambitious fiscal consolidation plan that brings down the deficits, especially the primary deficits through a range of measures. It could be on the revenue side, could be on the spending side, and it could also be on fiscal management, sort of using good fiscal rules, fiscal frameworks to manage the fiscal equation going forward. That is the overall advice that we would recommend," Mooij said.

The debt level is projected to be rather stable at 80 per cent. "What we would recommend is at least a decreasing path of debt, because what we see is that interest expenditures are 5.4 per cent of GDP," he said.

Mooij said one of the ways in which India could usefully support fiscal consolidation is by strengthening the tech system. There are several opportunities here. There are opportunities in the general sales tax, which has multiple rates, many exemptions, and maybe not all of them are effective.

# Cheap sunoil from Russia, Ukraine rattles palm oil market

A YEAR AGO, SUNFLOWER OIL HELD A PREMIUM OF OVER \$400 PER TONNE OVER PALM OIL, COMPARED TO \$45 NOW

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Oct 11:** A flood of cheap sunflower oil from Russia and Ukraine is putting downward pressure on palm oil prices as the two top producers take advantage of currency depreciation to grab a larger share of the edible oils market.

Last year, palm oil prices soared after Russia's invasion of Ukraine disrupted sunflower oil supplies from the Black Sea region.

Now, sunflower oil, which typically commands a hefty premium, is cheaper than soyoil and holding a negligible premium over palm oil, said Vipin Gupta, chief executive officer of Dubai-based trader Glentech Group.

"Aggressive selling of sunoil from Black Sea region is putting pressure on palm oil and other

edible oils," he said.

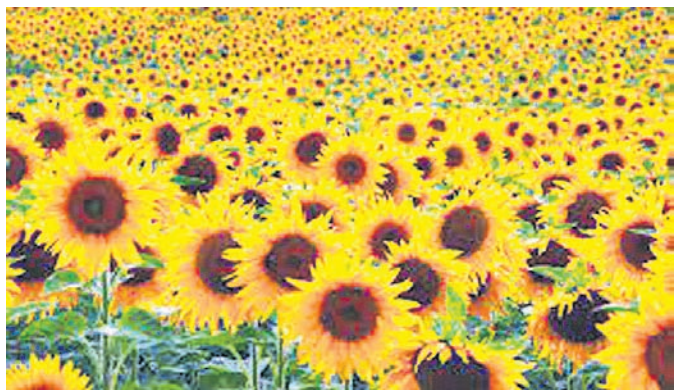
Crude sunflower oil is offered at \$895 a metric tonne including cost, insurance and freight (CIF) to India for October shipments, compared with \$850 for crude palm oil, dealers said.

A year ago, sunflower oil held a premium of over \$400 per tonne over palm oil, compared to \$45 now.

Russia has been harvesting a record sunflower seed crop of more than 17 million tonne and farmers are aggressively selling seeds, said a leading Russian edible oil refiner who declined to be identified.

Since crushing has gained momentum, sunflower oil exports are likely to rise this year to 4.5 million tonne from last year's 3.7 million tonne, the refiner said.

In dollar terms, prices have come down in the last three months but Russian farmers are still getting decent returns



India, the biggest importer of both palm oil and sunoil, could import a record 3.2MT of sunflower oil in the new marketing year starting from November 1 but its palm oil imports could fall 8% to 9MT. Usually India imports around 200,000 tonne of sunflower oil per month, but in the last few months it is making purchases of more than 300,000 tonne

**NIRAV DESAI** | MANAGING PARTNER AT GGN RESEARCH, AN EDIBLE OIL TRADER AND BROKER

because of the rouble's depreciation, he added.

The Russian currency has lost more than 38% against the US dollar this year.

Ukraine, which was struggling to ship sunflower oil after Russia withdrew from the Black

Sea grain deal, has also been aggressively selling sunflower seeds, said a Ukrainian exporter. "Ukraine neighbours are processing imported seeds and exporting oil," he said.

Ukraine's central bank devalued the hryvnia currency

## BIZ BUZZ

### India-Japan ties based on shared values, strategic interest: Panda

**BHUBANESWAR:** A FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians delegation is visiting Tokyo as part of an initiative undertaken by the apex business chamber to enhance ties between India and Japan. The delegation was led by Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament. A cross section of Members of Parliament from various po-

litical parties are on a 3-day visit and have had several important meetings with Yoshihide Suga, Former Prime Minister of Japan; Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister for Economy, Trade & Investment; 'Ganesh Group' of Japanese MPs with an interest in India; and Ambassador of India Sibi George.

Subhrakant Panda, President, FICCI, and Managing Director, IMFA said, "The India-Japan bilateral relationship is amongst the most important and has grown deeper on account of shared values and strategic interests which are closely aligned. There are multiple engagements both at multilateral and bilateral levels which have added strength and FICCI will work to bring together various stakeholders - especially businesses on both sides - to realize the full potential."





# HITMAN FLOORS AFGHANS

### ROHIT BREAKS MULTIPLE RECORDS WITH A SPLENDID CENTURY AS INDIA MAKE IT TWO IN TWO AT THE ONGOING ICC MEN'S WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: Rohit Sharma oozed class and elegance en route to a recording-breaking hundred, leading India to an emphatic eight-wicket win over Afghanistan in the ODI World Cup here Wednesday. Hasmatullah Shahidi's dogged 80 (88b, 8x4, 1x6)

view of Rohit's artistry from the non-striker's end. The India skipper brought up his fifty with a rasping strike over mid-on off Naveen Ull Haq. Like the rest of the bowlers, Naveen too was guilty of pitching it short far too often and Rohit got his second maximum by pulling him over backward square leg.

With India racing to 154 in 18 overs, the game was heading in only one direction. Rashid was once again the only Afghanistan bowler who made an impact, removing a well-set Kishan and Rohit, both falling to his googly.

Virat Kohli (55 n o, 56b, 6x4) too looked good and took the team over the line with an uppish straight drive over the bowler's head. He and Naveen hugging each other during the chase was an indication that the duo had very well moved on from their altercation in the IPL earlier this year.

Earlier, Afghanistan skipper Shahidi walked the talk as Afghanistan put up a much-improved effort with the bat compared to what they had managed in their tournament opener against Bangladesh.

His 121-run stand for the fourth wicket with 23-year-old Omarzai allowed Afghanistan to post a fighting total. At 211/4 in 40 overs, Afghanistan looked likely to get close to 300 but India bowlers did well to stem the flow of runs.

Jasprit Bumrah (4/39) was by far the best bowler for the home team, delivering in both the powerplay and the death overs. This

was Bumrah's best figures in a World Cup game. The ball did not turn much but Kuldeep Yadav ended with tidy figures of 1/40 in 10 overs.

It wasn't the smoothest of starts for Afghanistan, who reached 48/1 in the opening Powerplay. While Bumrah got the ball to talk in his first spell of four overs but Mohammed Siraj leaked 28 runs off his first 24 balls. Siraj ended up conceding 76 runs off his nine overs.

The opening duo of Ibrahim Zadran (22) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (21) collected five boundaries off Siraj, whose ploy of consistently targeting the stumps did not pay off.

Bumrah got the breakthrough with a short of length ball on the off-stump that straightened a shade to take the outside edge off Zadran's bat. Gurbaz and Rahmat Shah (16) falling in a space of three balls brought Shahidi and Omarzai in the middle.

The much younger Omarzai, promoted up the order, found the odd boundary while Shahidi played second fiddle. The highlight of Omarzai's innings was the ease with which he played the Indian spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep. Shahidi, on the other hand, was good with cut against the pacers and his stand out shot was the ramp off Hardik Pandya (2/43).

Rashid did come up with some crisp blows towards the end but Afghanistan only managed 61 runs in the last 10 overs with the loss of four wickets.

#### BRIEF SCORES

Afghanistan 272/8 (Hasmatullah Shahidi 80, Azmatullah Omarzai 62, Jasprit Bumrah 4/39, Hardik Pandya 2/43) lost to India 273/2 (Rohit Sharma 131, Virat Kohli 55 n o, Ishan Kishan 47, Shreyas Iyer 25 n o; Rashid Khan 2/57) by 8 wickets.

# Aussies aim for better show against Proteas



press trust of india Lucknow, Oct 11: Smarting from their opening game defeat against India, a determined Australian team is likely to bring in a fit-again all-rounder Marcus Stoinis to bolster its batting line-up against a rampaging South Africa in a World Cup contest here Thursday.

The five-time champions' World Cup campaign was off to a worst possible start as they were handed a six-wicket drubbing by hosts India.

The Proteas will head into the contest, high on confidence, having thrashed Sri Lanka by 102 runs in their opener. With the win, the South Africans announced themselves as contenders.

It is not so much the defeat, but the manner in which Australia lost the game that will certainly be a headache for the team management. The batting lacked aggression. Apart from David Warner and Steve Smith, no one breached the 30-run mark as they once again lost wickets in clutches.

The Australians struggled against India's quality spin attack on a slow Chepauk turner and lack of second front-line spinner also compounded their problems. Adam Zampa was the only option they had since Glenn Maxwell is only a part-timer.

To add to their woes, Mitchell Marsh, who generally has a safe pair of hands, dropped a simple catch offered by Virat Kohli that could have potentially changed the complexion of the game.

Stoinis has recovered from his hamstring injury and looks to set to replace Cameron Green. The all-rounder is a proven match-winner and is also familiar with the ground, having played for Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL.

He will assist Australia's fearsome three-pronged pace attack of Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc, which will look to cause maximum damage. While Maxwell will continue to share the spin bowling



duties with Zampa, the latter will certainly be under pressure to deliver with no other alternative available.

South African team, on the other hand, boast of a trio of centurions, who decimated Sri Lanka during their first game. The destructive Quinton de Kock, who like Stoinis, plays for LSG in the IPL, and understands the surface as well as the Australian does.

Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram, who scored the fastest-ever ton in the World Cup are two gun batters, who can change the course of any game.

After facing much criticism during the IPL, the wicket at the Ekana Cricket Stadium has been re-laid. No one knows how it will pan out. If it aids spins and given Australia's struggle against the slow bowlers, South Africa will be tempted to bring in wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi.

They already have a weapon of destruction in Keshav Maharaj, who is a left-arm spinner like Ravindra Jadeja and can ask probing questions.

The pace department seems to be the only chink in the armour as of now. In the absence of Anrich Nortje's express pace, Kagiso Rabada is under immense pressure to deliver alongside Lungi Ngidi and Marco Jansen. The bowlers have struggled to stem the flow of runs.

South Africa will also have the psychological edge over Australia having notched up a big win in their World Cup opener and also rallied from 0-2 to 3-2 win in last month's ODI series. But the Australians are known for their grit and determination and could very well bounce back strongly.

MATCHDAY AUS SA Star Sports 2 pm Disney+Hotstar

## NUMBERS' GAME

6 This was Rohit Sharma's sixth century in the World Cups, equalling the great Sachin Tendulkar, who achieved the feat in six editions (1992 to 2011) compared to Rohit's three (2015 to 2023)

31 No. of ODI centuries for Rohit, taking him past Australian great Ricky Ponting (30), and only behind teammate Virat Kohli (47) and Sachin (49) in the list

63 Balls taken by Rohit to complete his century, fastest by an Indian at the World Cup, surpassing the previous best of Kapil Dev (72 balls)

556 No. of sixes for Rohit in international cricket across formats (ODI: 297, Test: 77, T20I: 182), most by any batter, surpassing the previous best of West Indies' Chris Gayle (551)

19 No. of innings taken to reach 1000 runs at World Cups, joint quickest alongside David Warner

## Nadal, Osaka, Wozniacki set to return to Oz Open



RAFAEL NADAL



NAOMI OSAKA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melbourne, Oct 11: Three former Australian Open champions — Naomi Osaka, Caroline Wozniacki and Angelique Kerber — are set to return to Melbourne Park in January following maternity leave, joined by 2022 winner Rafael Nadal and hometown favorite Nick Kyrgios.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley told the tournament launch Wednesday that Nadal (left hip flexor) and Kyrgios (knee, wrist) are expected to return from major injuries in a bid to challenge Novak Djokovic's dominance at Rod Laver Arena, where he's clinched 10 of his record 24 Grand Slam titles.

"Our 2022 champion Rafa Nadal has been working hard on his rehab for most of this year," Tiley said. "He always brings his best to Melbourne and no one can doubt how hard he competes. I've been in touch with his team and he's now back on the court and looking forward to returning to Melbourne

in January."

Tiley said Djokovic and No.2-ranked Carlos Alcaraz are expected to lead the men's contingent, while leading players Aryna Sabalenk and Iga Swiatek as well as US Open champion Coco Gauff are also expected to play in the women's draw.

The tournament will run January 14-28, with its opening day of play on a Sunday for the first time. The Australian Open joins the French Open as the only tennis majors to be held over 15 days.

Tiley also announced that the tournament will honor Australian legend Evonne Goolagong Cawley on the 50th anniversary of the first of her four Australian Open title victories in 1974. She also won Wimbledon twice and the French Open once.

Tiley said Goolagong Cawley's image will feature on the coin used before matches at the Australian Open and at all warm-up tournaments in Australia in advance of the first major of the year.

## SHORT TAKES

### Odisha beat Punjab

BHUBANESWAR: Kartik Hantal's goal was enough for Odisha to register a 1-0 victory over Punjab Wednesday in their second match of the 77th National Football Championship for Santosh Trophy 2023-24. Notably, Punjab were one of the semifinalists in the last edition of the competition. This was Odisha's first-ever win over in the history of Santosh Trophy.

### Amiya record broken

BANGALORE: Odisha sprinter Amiya Kumar Mallick is no longer the fastest man of India as HH Manikanta of Services created new men's 100m national record on the opening day of National Open Athletics Championships here Wednesday. The 21-year-old Manikanta clocked 10.23 seconds to win heat No.3 and qualify for the final. He erased the previous national record of 10.26 seconds which was in the name of Amiya, set in 2016.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 11: Experienced midfielder Sushila Chanu has been rested from India's 20-member squad for the upcoming women's Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) hockey tournament due to a suspected Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) injury.

Sushila, who led India at the Rio Olympics, was part of the Indian women's team that won a bronze medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games last week. According to a Hockey India source, Sushila will soon consult a doctor to know the extent of the injury.

"Sushila has been rested because she has a suspected ACL issue. She needs to be checked by a doctor. Sushila is a vital member of the team and she needs to be fully fit for upcoming important tournaments," the source told PTL. Baljeet Kaur has replaced

## Sushila Chanu rested from ACT squad



Sushila in the squad. The Asian Champions Trophy will be played in Ranchi from October 27 to November 5.

Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, who too was in the Asian Games

to be led by goalkeeper Savita. Defender Deep Grace Ekka will continue to be Savita's deputy.

Besides India, Japan, China, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand are the other participating nations. India will open their ACT campaign against Thailand October 27, followed by matches against Malaysia (Oct 28), China (Oct 30), Japan (Oct 31) and Korea (Nov 2). The semifinals and final are scheduled for Nov 4 and 5.

#### THE SQUAD:

(Goalkeepers) Savita (C), Bichu Devi Kharibam; (Defenders) Nikki Pradhan, Udita, Ishika Chaudhary, Deep Grace Ekka (vc); (Midfielders) Nisha, Salima Tete, Neha, Navneet Kaur; Sonika, Monika, Jyoti, Baljeet Kaur; (Forwards) Lalremsiami, Sangita Kumari, Deepika, Vandana Katarriya; (Replacement players): Sharmila Devi, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke.

## MEDALLISTS' HOMECOMING



Indian hockey team members Deep Grace Ekka (L) and Amit Rohidas received warm reception on their arrival at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Rohidas and Ekka were parts of the men's and women's teams, who won the gold and bronze medals respectively, at the recently concluded Asian Games in Hangzhou, China



Indian hockey team members Deep Grace Ekka (L) and Amit Rohidas received warm reception on their arrival at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Rohidas and Ekka were parts of the men's and women's teams, who won the gold and bronze medals respectively, at the recently concluded Asian Games in Hangzhou, China

## Ashraf to arrive in Ahmedabad today for India-Pakistan game

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Oct 11: PCB chief Zaka Ashraf will reach Ahmedabad Thursday to watch his nation's marquee World Cup clash against India Saturday after it was confirmed that Pakistani media personnel were given the go ahead to submit their passports for procurement of visa to cover the global event.

Around 60 Pakistani journalists have applied for visa and further delay could well mean that they will miss the coverage of marquee match.

"I have delayed my travel to India, and I am travelling tomorrow after receiving confir-



mation that Pakistan's journalists have been asked to submit their passports to obtain visas to cover the mega-event," Ashraf said in a press release issued by the Pakistan Cricket Board. "I am happy that my conversation with the foreign office helped in achieving a positive development regarding the visa delay," he added.