



## SECRET OF SUCCESS

Actor Kriti Sanon narrates her gruelling training sessions that were required to nail the character in upcoming movie 'Ganpath'

LEISURE P2



## PASSPORT RACKET BUSTED

CBI busts fake passport racket involving officials and middlemen in West Bengal and Sikkim

NATIONAL P9



## NO INDIGENOUS VOICE

Australia decisively rejects a proposal to recognise Indigenous people in the Constitution

INTERNATIONAL P10

## 2 Hamas commanders killed in Israeli strikes

AGENCIES

Jerusalem, Oct 14: Israel's military said Saturday that it killed two Hamas commanders who were behind the cross-border deadly rampage into Israel a week ago.

The military said it killed Merad Abu Merad, who was the head of the Hamas aerial system, and Ali Qadi, a company commander of a commando force.

"Ali Qadi led the inhumane, barbaric October 7 massacre of civilians in Israel. We just eliminated him. All Hamas terrorists will meet the same fate," the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) wrote on X.

The IDF said Ali Qadhi, a company commander in the so-called Nukhba unit, was killed in a drone strike following intelligence efforts by the Shin Bet security agency and Military Intelligence Directorate.

According to the IDF, Qadhi was arrested by Israel in 2005 over the kidnapping and murder of Israeli civilians and had been released to the Gaza Strip as part of the 2011 Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange.

Meanwhile, thousands of people - Israelis, Palestinians and foreigners - have been killed since Hamas militants attacked Israel from the Gaza Strip last Saturday. Most were civilians, with horror stories emerging about the militants' rampage and the devastating military retaliation it provoked.

Thousands of Palestinians began fleeing their homes and moving south after Israel's military delivered sweeping evacuation orders for almost half of Gaza's 2.3 million people earlier on Friday ahead of an expected ground offensive.

MORE P10

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I want to go to Israel and join its army as my chances of enlisting in the Indian army have been curbed by the govt

## WEATHER

|          | BHUB             | CTK    |
|----------|------------------|--------|
| MAX      | 34.2°C           | 34.5°C |
| MIN      | 24.3°C           | 25.4°C |
| Humidity | 83%              | 85%    |
| Rainfall | Nil              | Nil    |
| Forecast | Mainly clear sky |        |

# Antilia, Cherrapunji among 60 Guinness records from India

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 14: The latest edition of the Guinness World Records has 2,638 achievements from around the world, including over 60 from India with the entry on rainfall in Meghalaya's Cherrapunji being one of the oldest. Mukesh Ambani's 27-storey personal skyscraper Antilia also figures in the list.

Distributed in India by Penguin Random House, the book has nine fact-packed chapters - Blue Planet, Aquatic Life, Humans, Recordology, Adventures,

History, Science and Technology, Arts and Media, and Sports - and five special features: Hall of Fame, Young Achievers, Gaming, Explainers, and Bucket List.

The 2024 edition is the final instalment in the partnership with award-winning artist Rod Hunt. According to the publishers, completing the illustrated Guinness World Records universe, the cover artwork takes readers on a deep-sea odyssey to the bottom of the ocean. Among the oldest records involving India is related to rainfall.

On June 15-16, 1995,

Cherrapunji, a high-altitude town in Meghalaya, received 2,493 mm (8 ft 2 in) of rain over the complete 48-hour period, the record book says.

"While this normally means that the region gets a high level of annual rainfall, this is the most extreme 48-hour period on record - as verified by the WMO," it adds. "For a calendar month, the record is 9,300 mm (366 in) at Cherrapunji in July 1861 and the 12-month record was also set at Cherrapunji, with 26,461 mm (1,041.75 in) between August 1, 1860 and July 31, 1861," it adds. Between August 1, 1860

and July 31, 1861, a total of 26,470 mm (1,042 in) of rain fell at Cherrapunji, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

The largest, tallest and most expensive private house in the world is businessman Mukesh Ambani's 27-storey personal skyscraper Antilia. Out of the 1,154 sites recognised by UNESCO, the Taj Mahal in Agra, is currently the most searched-for World Heritage Site racking up 1.4 million searches in the month of March 2022, according to a report published by Zitango Travel in April 2022.

# INDIA ROUT PAK

Rohit Sharma emerges the undisputed star of the match, scoring a 63-ball 86 to power his team to the modest target of 192

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah adjudged the Man of the Match for his spell of 2/19

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, Oct 14: India fired on all cylinders in what was supposed to be war minus the shooting, blowing away arch-rivals Pakistan by seven wickets in a World Cup face-off that ended in a damp squib after causing unbridled hysteria and logistical hassles.

In what is seen as the pinnacle of cricket for fans in the sub-continent, Indian captain Rohit Sharma emerged as the undisputed star of the match, scoring a 63-ball 86 to power his team to the modest target of 192 with as many as 19.3 overs to spare here Saturday.

Jasprit Bumrah was a tiger on the prowl and Mohammed Siraj displayed wolf-like aggression before skipper Rohit completed the annihilation as



EUPHORIA: India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates the wicket of Pakistan's Shadab Khan during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match between India and Pakistan at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Saturday

India produced a near-perfect performance in one of the most lopsided World Cup games between the arch-rivals.

Rohit just casually flaunted his repertoire of strokes, which included a pull shot behind square of Shaheen Shah Afridi and a square driven six off Harris Rauf, as India were home by 8.05 pm local time.

The win was India's eighth in the 50 over global event, where Pakistan had never been able to match their neighbours in terms of skill, strategy or execution since 1992.

Just like he brushes his teeth, drinks water, pulling and hooking is a part of Rohit's daily chores. The 1,150 gram willow is an extension of his arm and

those strong but supple wrists does its job at his beck and call. On the day, it responded to his call 12 times - six of which went over the ropes.

People love to err on side of caution but Rohit is ready to err on side of risk - whether its spin of coin or dismissing a fast bouncer from his presence.

MORE P12

## MAHANGA DOUBLE MURDER

# Court asks Jena to appear October 31

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahanga, Oct 14: The Salipur Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) Court Saturday issued a notice to Mahanga MLA Pratap Jena to personally appear before it October 31 in connection with the gruesome double murder of local BJP leader Kulamani Baral and his associate Dibyasingha Baral in January 2021.

A special court messenger served the court order at Jena's government residence, which the MLA has reportedly received.

The BJD legislators' name surfaced in the FIR lodged by Ramakant Baral, son of deceased Kulamani. The former Law Minister is among 13 persons accused of being involved in the murders that created a sensation in the state.

The needle of suspicion pointed at the Mahanga MLA in the backdrop of reports that he had threatened to kill both Kulamani and Dibyasingha over an issue of corruption. Kulamani's son Ramakant alleged in the FIR that his father (and his associate) had been killed on Jena's instruction as he

often raised his voice against corruption, including housing scams.

However, the police later removed Jena's name from the chargesheet. Protesting the police action, Jena had filed a petition in Salipur JMFC Court, seeking fresh investigation in the case. Later, a review petition was filed by Ramakant's brother Ranjit following the former's death.

"After going through the statement of the complainant, witnesses, and other available materials on record, we found that a prima facie case punishable for the offences under Sections 302, 506, 120 B of the IPC be made against the accused Pratap Jena," the court had stated in its earlier order September 25 while hearing the review petition.

The Salipur JMFC court has already committed the case to a special court in Bhubaneswar.

Worth mentioning here that Kulamani and Dibyasingha were killed by unidentified miscreants January 2, 2021 while they were on their way home on a motorcycle. The assailants intercepted the two-wheeler and later hacked them to death.

# 4 killed, 2 critically hurt in two separate mishaps

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 14: Four persons, including three Class X students, were killed and two critically injured in two separate road accidents in Cuttack and Kalahandi districts Saturday.

In the first accident, three Class X students were killed when the bike they were riding collided head-on with a van near Ranasankha village under Banki police station in Cuttack district.

The students were returning from Chakuleswar village after attending their tuition when the accident occurred. After the accident, local people rushed

all the three to Banki hospital. However, the doctor declared two of them dead. The third student was shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, but he died while undergoing treatment there, sources said.

In the second incident, a girl was killed and her mother and uncle critically injured while a truck hit their scooter from behind while they were returning to their village Dulakibandh under Kalampur police station of Kalahandi district. The accident occurred when the victims were returning after attending the 'Shraddha' function of one of their relatives.

## SHORT TAKES

### SIMILIPAL NAT'L PARK REOPENS FOR PUBLIC

Baripada: The Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district reopened for visitors Saturday, after remaining closed for four months due to monsoon, officials said. This year, the park was opened early instead of the usual November 1, they said. On the first day, 13 vehicles with 73 tourists entered the park. These tourists, 50 from Odisha and 23 from other states, were welcomed at the gates with flowers. While 35 vehicles are allowed through the Kaliani gate in Jashipur, 25 vehicles can enter the park from Lulung in Baripada every day, officials said.

### AUGUST 23 NOTIFIED AS NATIONAL SPACE DAY

New Delhi: The Union government has notified August 23, the day Chandrayaan-3 made soft landing on the moon, as National Space Day. "...The Government of India has declared the 23rd Day of August of every year as the 'NATIONAL SPACE DAY' to commemorate this historic moment," said a notification issued by the Department of Space. India has become the fourth nation in the world to land a spacecraft on the moon and the first to land near the south pole of the lunar surface. The Vikram lander had also deployed the Pragyan rover on the moon to study the lunar surface.

## What does your toothpaste have in it?

# Jhooth (Lie)

Using Jhoothpaste in the name of toothpaste has resulted not only in unclean teeth, but its chemicals made the teeth and gums even worse!

Patanjali Dant Kanti has the time-tested

# Truth of Ayurveda

That's why it's called

# Truthpaste

Made of 16 herbs (Akarkara, Neem, Babool, Tomar, Mint, Cloves, Peepli (small), Vajradanti, Bakul, Vidang, Turmeric, Peelun and Majufal etc.) it gives teeth

the power to fight cavities, foul smell, yellowness, pyorrhea and all other oral diseases.

# leisure

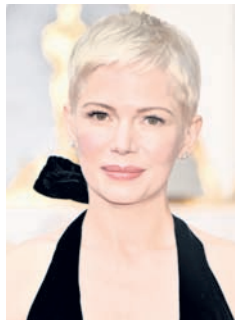


## SELENA GOMEZ FEELS THERAPY 'COULD CHANGE THE WORLD'

Singer-actress Selena Gomez hopes to 'change the world' after starting her therapy journey. The 31-year-old superstar had been battling her mental health for years and fell into a dark place. Since starting therapy, however, she has begun to heal.

## MICHELLE WILLIAMS TO NARRATE BRITNEY SPEARS' MEMOIR

Hollywood actress Michelle Williams will read Britney Spears' memoir *The Woman in Me* - which charts the life and career of the pop superstar as her 13-year conservatorship from her own point of view. She would find it 'too emotional' to read it aloud herself, says Britney.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

#### ARIES

You will be the focus of everyone's attention today - for your visual appeal or for your abilities. Ganesh suggests that you should make the best of the opportunity and recharge yourself. You can accomplish quite a lot with the energy you gain.

#### TAURUS

This day could be full of surprises, mostly unpleasant, fears Ganesh. Nothing is likely to turn out as planned and expected. There will be sharp and sudden twist and turns, unexpected shocks and setbacks all day long. You will, however, with the grace and blessings of the Almighty, manage to stay steady and unruffled, and move ahead.

#### GEMINI

You will be in the mood to spend the day doing the things that you really love. You will consider helping people in need and will be in a generous mood. Your charitable bent of mind will bring you elevated social status and improved self-esteem, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

Your career will reach a decisive moment. You can expect a transfer, promotion or pay hike. Alongside your responsibilities will also increase. A chance of new job is also indicated. You can reject a tempting job offer.

#### LEO

You will spend an enjoyable day with your favourite relatives and friends. In the office also, you will be afforded rare co-operation from all your colleagues. Financial gains are indicated. It is a good time for lovers, who will experience an intimate bond with their partners, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

Business and pleasure will be well balanced. Ganesh says you will enjoy the party which will seem endless today. Your monetary outflow will be in direct proportion to the time you spend just lazing around. However, Ganesh advises you to spend sensibly and not to worry about it.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says those of you in the field of business will find this to be a good time for them. In any work that you undertake your vision and ability will be showcased. You will have to spend more time at your workplace. Ganesh says you should try and maintain a balance between your work and your family.

#### SCORPIO

You go on a shopping spree and that too with your beloved. This may be quite therapeutic for your for your relationship. You may be just happy to use your bargaining skills to the optimum. Spending lavishly, first on shopping and then on sumptuous dinner to treat your taste buds. What more one wants in life!

#### SAGITTARIUS

A tiring day is in store for you today. Find yourself labouring worse than Hercules. The positive outcome would be that you would lose a few extra calories. But late in the day, a nice quiet time with family and friends would relieve you of all the stress.

#### CAPRICORN

Everything you do today will be driven by the desire to meet the expectations of your family members, says Ganesh. For those of you pursuing studies, pending projects will finally get completed, and you will look forward to taking up new assignments.

#### AQUARIUS

You will receive some good news today. Whatever has been in the pipe line may come out in the open and you'll see the desired output, feels Ganesh. Courageous and patient, you can deal with the toughest of challenges with an ease and Ganesh gives a pat on your back for that.

#### PISCES

You will work hard to organize your day to day routine but due to the ill alignment of the planets you will not be able to sort things out successfully today. Ganesh advises you to be patient and let things be as they are but also to hold on to the sentiments of change.



## 'Can't understand why people drink alcohol'

Mumbai: Actor Sunny Deol, who is celebrating the success of *Gadar 2*, has been a teetotaler for many years now and in a recent interview, the actor spoke about the time when he tried alcohol but did not enjoy it at all. He shared that he was much younger when he tried it in London and did not understand the hype.

During promoting his son Rajveer's debut film *Dono*, Sunny shared what he thinks about alcohol consumption. "It's not that I didn't try. When I went to England, I tried to be part of the society but I never understood it. It's so bitter, such bad smell, and gives you a headache, so why drink it?"

Asked if his sons also drink alcohol, the *Ghayaal* actor said, "I didn't know when both my sons started drinking. My father also didn't know many things about me. Like this, the children stay a little disciplined. A child will do what he has to do," said Sunny.

The actor added, "I come from such a strict family but I did whatever I had to do but I never liked alcohol."

AGENCIES

## KRITI SHARES HER JOURNEY AS AN ACTION STAR

New Delhi: Actress Kriti Sanon now becoming an action star in her own right for the very first time in *Ganpath*. Showcasing various scenes of her training to be in tip-top condition for the sci-fi-action film, Kriti had to learn many things. This included using nunchucks, martial arts, riding a dirt bike, kickboxing, as well as grueling fitness exercises such as iron body, full-out stretching, cardio and more.

The actress said: "I've been dying to do action on-screen and I was supposed to use nunchucks as my main weapon." Kriti added: "This is the first time I've done action

ever, (laughs) but I knew I had a very long way to go. With every weapon you use, you first have to master the art of using it."

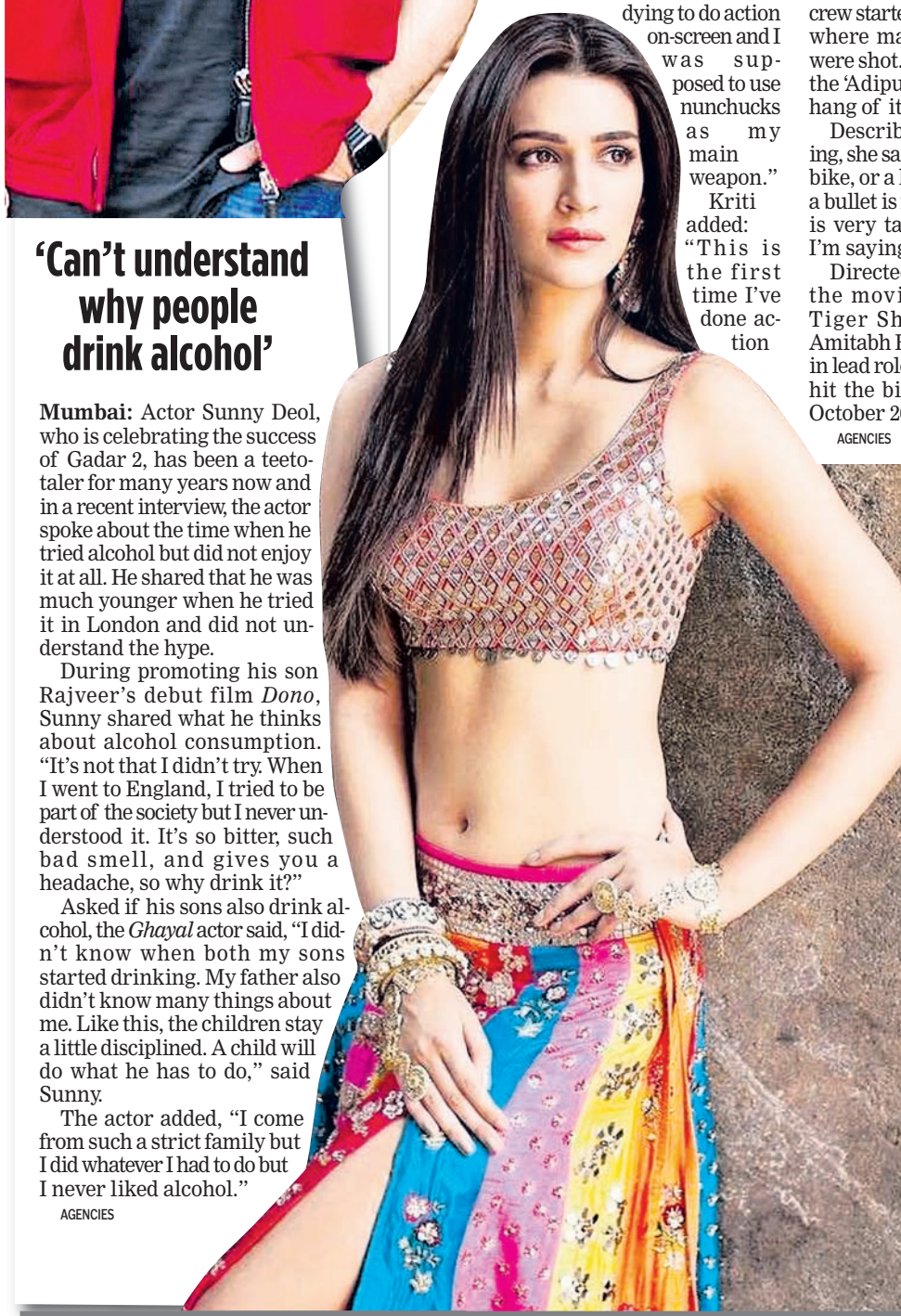
Elaborating on other parts of her training, she said: "Apart from nunchucks there was also kickboxing training which I did. There was also, you know, a dirt bike, I was supposed to ride a dirt bike and I didn't even know how to ride a bike before this."

The video showed various scenes of her just struggling to ride a normal bike, before the crew started practicing in Ladakh where majority of the scenes were shot. Eventually, however, the 'Adipurush' actress got the hang of it.

Describing her bike training, she said: "Riding a normal bike, or a heavy bike, or even a bullet is fine, but a dirt bike is very tall, and you know I'm saying that."

Directed by Vikas Bahl, the movie also stars Tiger Shroff and Amitabh Bachchan in lead roles. It will hit the big screen October 20, 2023.

AGENCIES



## Kareena on unique work approaches of three Khans

Mumbai: Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is currently enjoying the success of her recent release *Jaane Jaan*, recently talked about her working experience and approaches of the Bollywood superstars, the Khans.

In a recent interview with the media, the Refugee actress talked about her work experience and work approaches of the Khans of Bollywood. Spilling beans on the unique work approaches of the three superstars, the actress talked about how these distinctive qualities set them apart.

The Heroine actress sang praises about SRK. "The emperor, the conqueror, everything that people have been saying I think is less for Shah Rukh."

On Salman and Aamir, she remarked "Salman always relies on his persona, his personality, his super-duper stardom. Aamir is very focused. He just becomes that character. He gets obsessed and only thinks about his work."

On the work front, Kareena Kapoor Khan was last seen in *Jaane Jaan* and has *Singham Again*, *The Buckingham Murders*, and *The Crew* in the pipeline.

AGENCIES

### WEEK-LONG THEATRE EXTRAVAGANZA IN BHUBANESWAR

## Nabina Barnali's Saptarupam from Oct 17

Bhubaneswar: City's leading drama troupe Nabina Barnali Theatre will present seven Odia plays in seven days starting Tuesday here at Bhanjakala Mandap.

It has been learned that all of the dramas will be performed by troupes based in Bhubaneswar.

Titled *Saptarupam*, the first evening of the event will witness *Bhinna Eka Galpa*, a presentation by the host organisation. Written by Hemendra Mahapatra, the play has been directed by the troupe's founder, Nabin Parida. On the second evening, Labanya Theatre will perform *Bhinna Eka Rajaputra* (playwright: Narayan Sahoo; direction: Satya Jena). The other plays of the festival are *Ei Bodhe Prema* by Bidyakanak Srujanusthan (playwright-Dilip Balabantaray; direction-Jagadish Prasad Maharana), *Suna Sujane*



A file photo of Odia play *Bai Chadheira Dena*

by Dyanamic Platform (playwright-Biswajit Das; direction-Debabrata Pattnayak), *Ama Ghara Katha* by Sai Bidyadhar Charitable Trust (playwright and direction-Dilip Balabantaray), *Bai Chadheira Dena* by Nabina Barnali Theatre (playwright-Nabin Parida; direction-Bhakti Ranjan Das), and *Jantrika* by

Magic Theatre (playwright-Nabin Parida; direction-Pragyanranjan Khatua).

Several officials of state's Culture Department and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi have given their consent to attend the event as guests on these seven days, said Nabin Parida, the president of the host organisation.

PNN

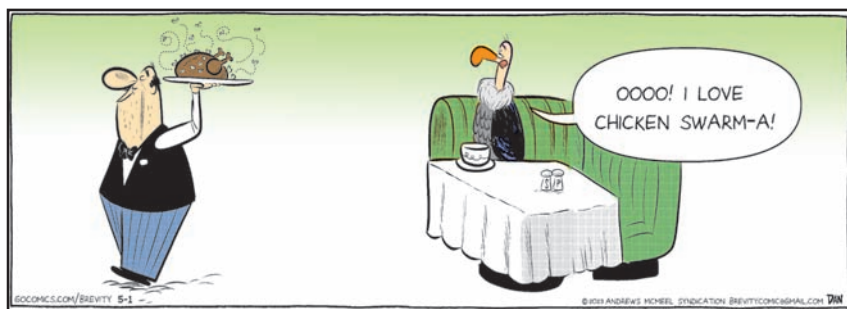
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

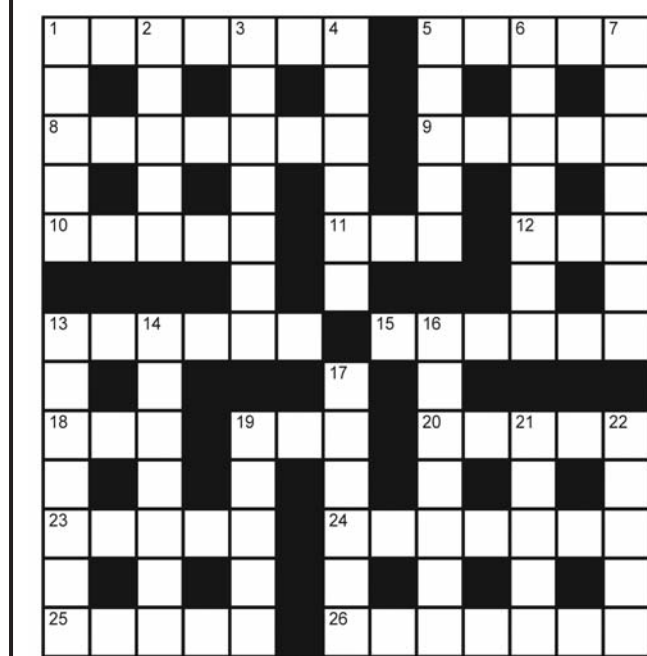


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com

#### Across

- 1 Aspic
- 5 Scimitar
- 8 Unclear
- 9 Stomach woe
- 10 Before firma or cotta
- 11 Family dog, for short
- 12 Record keeper
- 13 Seabird with brightly coloured bill
- 15 Ares or Mars, e.g. (3,3)

#### Down

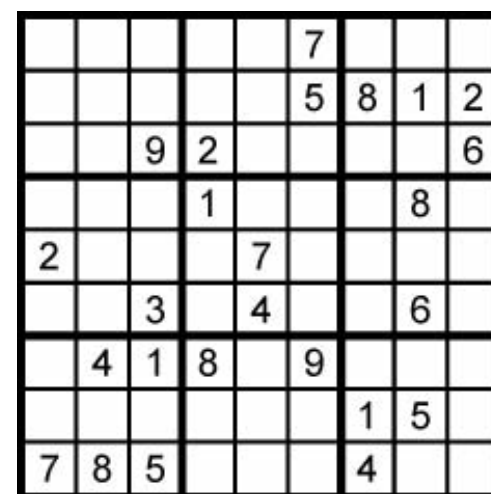
- 18 Name fit for a king?
- 19 Venom carrier
- 20 "The Lord of the Rings" figure
- 23 Blatant
- 24 Pickle type
- 25 Helicopter part
- 26 Wild boars, for sure
- 1 Hamlet's father, e.g.

#### 2 Failure

- 3 Disaster at sea
- 4 Tease
- 5 Young pigeon
- 6 Procrastinator's work problem
- 7 Fuming
- 13 Common room
- 14 Most wily
- 16 Postal need
- 17 Faucet
- 19 Fragrant oil
- 21 It's just over a foot
- 22 Penalties

### 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













Devotees gather to perform 'Tarpan' for their ancestors along the banks of Ganga river on the occasion of 'Mahalaya', the last day of 'Pitru Paksha', in Kolkata



Devotees carry an idol of Goddess Durga to a pandal ahead of the Durga Puja in Nagpur



A two-day comprehensive Coastal Security Exercise Sagar Kavach involving all maritime security agencies conducted by the Indian Navy in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the UT of Puducherry begins



The Gokarnanatheshwara Temple illuminated on the eve of Dasara celebrations in Mangaluru



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin felicitates DMK's Kanimozhi as PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi look on at the 'Women's Rights Conference' organised by the DMK's Women's Wing at Nandanam YMCA Ground in Chennai



Palestinian supporters protest during a demonstration against Israeli attacks on Gaza, in Pamplona, northern Spain



Smoke billows after a fire broke out at a godown in Howrah district



Members of Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind participate in a protest rally to show solidarity with Palestine in Kolkata



of the day quote

In view of the upcoming elections, we need to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. We also need to strengthen the NDA. The BJP is holding organisational meetings and preparing strategies for the 2024 polls

Awareness is necessary to effectively deal with natural disasters

Justice to the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, which were politically motivated, started being delivered only after the Narendra Modi government assumed office in 2014

SHORT TAKES

Five Naxals held

Chatra (Jharkhand): Five members of the banned Naxal outfit Triitya Sammelan Prastuti Committee (TSPC), including two self-styled sub-zonal commanders, have been nabbed in Jharkhand's Chatra district, police said Saturday.

Prisoner escapes

Bhopal: A 29-year-old convict, who was sentenced to death in a murder case, escaped from custody when he was brought to a hospital for treatment in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal Saturday, police said.

Meth tablets worth ₹12 crore seized

Aizawl: Methamphetamine tablets worth ₹12 crore were seized in Mizoram's Champhai district and two persons were arrested, the Assam Rifles said Saturday.

49-yr-old Chinese national rescued

Mumbai: The Indian Coast Guard Saturday rescued a 49-year-old Chinese national suffering from a "stroke" combined with "hemiplegia" from a Panama-flagged ship off the Mumbai coast.



The Modi government is allergic to any critical global data, but even Indian data says that our people are going hungry

JAISHANKAR TO VISIT VIETNAM, SINGAPORE External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a six-day visit to Vietnam and Singapore from Sunday to shore up bilateral cooperation in diverse areas



LeT terror module busted; two arrested

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said the terror module is being handled by Firdaus Ahmed Bhat, an active Lashkar-e-Taiba member



Chandigarh, Oct 14: In a joint operation with central agencies, the Punjab Police thwarted a possible terrorist attack in the border state by busting a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)-backed module and arresting two operatives, a top official said Saturday.

Police also recovered from their possession two Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), as many hand grenades, one .30 bore pistol with two magazines and 24 cartridges, eight detonators, one timer switch and four batteries.

MASSIVE PASSPORT SCAM

CBI raids 50 places in WB, Sikkim

New Delhi/Kolkata, Oct 14: The CBI Saturday busted a fake passport racket involving officials and middlemen in West Bengal and Sikkim, and arrested two persons, including an official of Passport Laghu Seva Kendra in Gangtok, an agency spokesperson said.



The CBI teams searched the passport office in Kolkata, besides places in Salt Lake and Howrah

The probe began with the arrest of Goutam Kumar Saha, posted as Senior Superintendent at Passport Seva Laghu Kendra, Gangtok, and Dipu Chetri.

(PSLK), Gangtok entered a criminal conspiracy with others including passport agents, middlemen and in pursuance of the said conspiracy, the accused were issuing passports on the basis of false and forged identity documents submitted by middlemen on behalf of those persons/applicants who are non-residents of India in lieu of illegal gratification," the spokesperson said.

Om Birla protests resolution on India

New Delhi, Oct 14: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Saturday lodged a strong protest with European Parliament Vice President Nicola Beer over its resolution on India's "internal issues".

Birla told the European Parliament Vice President that every nation and Parliament is sovereign and internal issues of other countries should not be discussed by others.



"Birla underlined India's sovereignty and protested against bringing a proposal in the European Parliament on India's internal issues," the Lok Sabha Secretariat said in a statement.



Cheryapani, a ferry which will run between Nagapattinam (India) and Kankesanthurai (Sri Lanka), during its flagging off ceremony, Saturday. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar digitally flagged off the ferry service

Woman job aspirant's death sparks protests

Hyderabad, Oct 14: A 23-year-old woman who was preparing for competitive exams allegedly died by suicide at her hostel in Ashok Nagar here, sparking protests by government job aspirants against the BRS dispensation, police said Saturday.

TV visuals showed the police dispersing the crowds, though officials denied resorting to lathi charge. A police official told reporters that in the suicide note that was recovered, the woman, Pravallika, had tendered an apology to her parents for being unable to do anything for them.



after verifying CCTV footage, (we find that) she committed suicide as the boy cheated her and is getting married to another woman. It (suicide) has nothing to do with any other issue," the official claimed.

slap penal sections relevant to abetting suicide against the man. Venkateshwarlu said Pravallika had been preparing to take government exams to secure a job but that her suicide had nothing to do with the exams.

woman, who hails from Warangal, killed herself on Friday night due to personal issues. However, the protestors claimed that she had ended her life dejected over not being able to get a job and the postponement of the Group-2 exam by the Telangana State Public Service Commission again.

SC slaps ₹5 lakh cost on man for challenging 'defective oath'

THE APEX COURT SAID THAT IF THE COST IS NOT DEPOSITED WITHIN THE AFORESAID PERIOD, THE SAME SHALL BE COLLECTED AS ARREARS OF LAND REVENUE THROUGH THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE AT LUCKNOW

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Supreme Court has imposed a cost of Rs 5 lakh on a man for claiming in a PIL that the oath taken by the Bombay High Court chief justice was "defective", and said it was a frivolous attempt to gain publicity.



olous attempt to use the PIL jurisdiction to propagate some publicity for the petitioner. "The petitioner does not, as

he possibly cannot, dispute that the oath of office was administered to the correct person. The oath having been administered by the Governor and having been subscribed to after the administration of the oath, such objections cannot be raised.

Manoj Misra said. It said the time has come when the court should impose exemplary costs in such frivolous PILs. "We accordingly dismiss the petition with costs of ₹5,00,000, which shall be deposited by the petitioner in the Registry of this Court within a period of four weeks," the bench said.

PIL filed by Ashok Pandey contending that he is aggrieved by what he described as a 'defective oath' administered to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay. The petitioner stated that the Chief Justice did not use the expression "I" before his name while taking the oath, in contravention of the Third Schedule of the Constitution. "I" before his name while taking the oath, in contravention of the Third Schedule of the Constitution. He also contended that the representatives and administrator of the Government of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu were not invited to the oath ceremony.

# international



This is just the beginning. We will end this war stronger than ever. We will destroy Hamas  
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

## SECOND FLIGHT FROM ISRAEL LANDS

The second flight carrying 235 Indians from Israel landed at Delhi airport Saturday morning. The government has launched Operation Ajay to facilitate the return of those who wish to come back home from Israel, amid fresh tensions due to the Israel-Hamas conflict. The first flight from Tel Aviv, also operated by Air India, carrying more than 200 people landed at Delhi Friday morning



## 'Palestinians must stay on their land'



- Egypt, Jordan both warn against Palestinian exodus
- Arabs fear new permanent displacement of Palestinians
- Egypt opens border for aid not mass movement of people

the 1948 war that accompanied Israel's creation.

Jordan's King Abdullah warned "against any attempt to forcibly displace Palestinians from all Palestinian territories or cause their internal displacement, calling for preventing a spillover of the crisis into neighbouring countries and the exacerbation of the refugee issue."

The head of the 22-member Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, urgently appealed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to condemn "this insane Israeli effort to transfer the population".

The fate of Palestinian refugees is one of the thorniest issues in the moribund peace process. Palestinians and Arab states say a deal should include the right of those refugees and their descendants to return, something Israel has always rejected.

Egypt says the Rafah crossing is open and they are trying to secure the delivery of humanitarian relief into Gaza, although this has been hampered by Israeli bombardments close to the border. Cairo has also indicated that the resolution of the issue through any mass exodus of Palestinians is unacceptable.

The conflict around Gaza has also stirred long-standing fears in Jordan, home to a large population of Palestinian refugees and their descendants, that a wider conflagration would give the Israelis the opportunity to implement a transfer policy to expel Palestinians en masse from the West Bank.

**Amman:** Calls for a humanitarian corridor or an escape route for Palestinians from Gaza as a conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas has escalated have drawn a blunt reaction from Arab neighbours.

Egypt, the only Arab state to share a border with Gaza, and Jordan, which is next to the Israeli-occupied West Bank, have both warned against Palestinians being forced off their land.

It reflects deep Arab fears that Israel's latest war with Hamas in Gaza could spark a new wave of permanent displacement from land where Palestinians want to build a future state.

"This is the cause of all causes, the cause of all Arabs," Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said. "It is important that the (Palestinian) people remain steadfast and present on their land."

For Palestinians, the idea of leaving or being driven out of land where they want to forge a state carries echoes of the "Nakba", or "catastrophe", when many Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes during



# PALESTINIANS' PLIGHT

IN ISRAEL'S CALL FOR THE EVACUATION OF HALF OF GAZA'S POPULATION, MANY PALESTINIANS FEAR A REPEAT OF THE MOST TRAUMATIC EVENT IN THEIR TORTURED HISTORY, THEIR MASS EXODUS FROM WHAT IS NOW ISRAEL DURING THE 1948 WAR SURROUNDING ITS CREATION

REUTERS

**Gaza, Oct 14:** Thousands of Palestinians fled the north of the Gaza Strip Saturday from the path of an expected Israeli ground assault, while Israel pounded the area with more air strikes and said it would keep two roads open to let people escape.

Israel has vowed to annihilate the Hamas militant group that controls Gaza in retaliation for a rampage by fighters, who stormed through Israeli towns a week ago, gunning down civilians and making off with scores of hostages. Some 1,300 were killed in the worst attack on civilians in Israel's history.

Israeli forces have since put the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, home to 2.3 million Palestinians, under a total siege and bombarded it with unprecedented air strikes. Gaza authorities say more than 2,200 people have been killed, a quarter of them children, and nearly 10,000 wounded.

Israel had given the entire population of the northern half of the Gaza Strip, which includes the enclave's biggest settlement Gaza City, until Saturday morning to move south. It announced overnight that it would guarantee the safety of Palestinians fleeing the area on two main roads until 4:00 pm.

Hamas has told people not to leave and says the two roads

are unsafe. It says dozens of people have been killed on them in strikes on cars and trucks carrying refugees Friday, which Reuters could not independently verify. Israel says Hamas is preventing people from leaving to use them as human shields, which Hamas denies.

In Gaza City's Tel Al-Hawa neighbourhood, part of the area Israel has ordered evacuated, warplanes bombed a residential area during the night, hitting several houses, according to residents who posted appeals on social media platforms.

Hundreds of residents of the area took refuge at the nearby Quds hospital and planned to join those fleeing to the south in the morning.

### 'RELEASE OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN'

The attacks on Israel plunged the nation into deep mourning and galvanised the country, which mobilised hundreds of thousands of reservists within days.

Families of the Israeli hostages kidnapped by Hamas are terrified for their safety. Avichai Brodetz, a farmer from Kibbutz

**Around the Gaza Strip, Israeli reserve soldiers in formation (are) getting ready for the next stage of operations. They are all around the Gaza Strip, in the south, in the centre and in the north, and they are preparing themselves for whatever target they get, whatever task**

JONATHAN CONRICUS | MILITARY SPOKESPERSON, ISRAEL



Kfar Aza whose wife and three children were taken captive to Gaza, set up a camp outside the Israeli army headquarters to focus at-

tention on their plight.

"The first thing that needs to happen is the release of the women and children," he told reporters. "I don't want to be political, I don't want to stand here with you. I love my friends and my home and my kibbutz. I hope we can return there and you'll never see me again."

Israel's attacks on Gaza have not halted Hamas missile strikes deep into Israeli cities. Air raid sirens wailed in central Israel on Saturday morning and rockets

**Israel's ultimatum that over one million people in northern Gaza should relocate within 24 hours is extremely dangerous and simply not possible. Even wars have rules**

ANTONIO GUTERRES | CHIEF, UN

smashed into a greenhouse in Ashkelon and wounded four people at a kibbutz.

The Gaza Strip is already one of the most crowded areas in the world, and Israel's evacuation order for the northern half meant those fleeing south were forced to shelter with relatives and friends, in schools or in hastily rented apartments.

## Hamas makes al-Qaeda look pure: Biden

President Joe Biden has said Palestinian militant group Hamas, which attacked Israel and killed over 1,000 people, is worse than al-Qaeda, the terrorist group behind the 9/11 attacks, as he reaffirmed that the US stands with the Jewish state. At least 27 American citizens have died and 14 remain unaccounted for as a result of unfolding violence in Israel triggered after Hamas carried out unprecedented attacks in Southern Israel last Saturday. "The more we learn about the attack, the more horrifying it becomes. More than 1,000 innocent lives lost, including at least 27 Americans," Biden said in Philadelphia. "These guys make - they make al-Qaeda look pure. They're pure evil. Like I said from the beginning, the United States, make no mistake about it, stands with Israel. The United States stands with Israel," he said Friday.

## SETBACK FOR RECONCILIATION

# Oz junks Indigenous referendum

Australia's Indigenous citizens, who make up 3.8% of the country's 26 million population, have inhabited the land for about 60,000 years but are not mentioned in the constitution and are, by most socio-economic measures, the most disadvantaged people in the country

REUTERS

**Sydney, Oct 14:** Australia Saturday decisively rejected a proposal to recognise Indigenous people in the constitution, in a major setback to the country's efforts for reconciliation with its First Peoples.

Nationwide, with 45% of the vote counted, the "No" vote led "Yes" by 57.35% to 42.65%. Australian broadcaster ABC and other TV networks have projected that at least four states - New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia - would vote against altering the 122-year-old constitution.

A successful referendum requires at least four of the six states to vote in favour, along with a national majority. Because of Australia's time zones, voting in Western Australia was still under way as it became clear the referendum was lost.



Australians had to write "Yes" or "No" on a ballot paper that asked whether they agree to the proposal, which would recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people through the creation of an Indigenous advisory body, the 'Voice to Parliament'.

"I'm devastated," Indigenous leader and prominent "Yes" campaigner Thomas Mayo said on ABC News. "We need a Voice. We need that structural change."

Academics and human rights advocates fear a win for the "No" camp could set back reconciliation efforts by years.

The Voice to Parliament was proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a 2017 document crafted by Indigenous leaders that set out a roadmap for reconciliation with wider Australia.

Supporters of the proposal believe entrenching an Indigenous Voice into the constitution would unite Australia and usher in a new era with its Indigenous people.

Many Indigenous people favour the change, but some say it is a distraction from achieving practical and positive outcomes. The political opposition has criticised the measure, saying it is divisive, would be ineffective, and would slow government decision-making.

Referendums are difficult to pass in Australia, with only eight of 44 succeeding since the country's founding in 1901. This is the first referendum in Australia in almost a quarter of a century.

In 1967, a referendum to count Indigenous people as part of the Australian population was a resounding success with bipartisan political support. The 2023 referendum has not garnered unified political support, with leaders of the major conservative parties campaigning for a "No" vote.

"The problem that the 'Yes' campaign had was they went and spoke to the leadership, the elites of this community, and they kept on saying: 'We've got these communities'," said Warren Mundine, a leader of the "No" campaign across the country.

The Voice has been a key feature of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's term in office, and a referendum loss would stand out, political analysts say, as his biggest setback since coming to power in May last year.

"The task ahead for us is to come together and chart a new path forward," Foreign Minister Penny Wong said. "I don't know yet what that would be but it's something that we can do as a country."

## FRANCE ON ALERT

# Louvre Museum, Versailles Palace evacuate visitors

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, Oct 14:** The Louvre Museum in Paris and Versailles Palace evacuated visitors and staff Saturday after receiving bomb threats. The government has put France on high security alert after a fatal school stabbing by a suspected extremist.

The Louvre communication service said no one was hurt and no incident was reported. Paris police said officers searched the museum after it received written bomb threats.

The former royal palace at Versailles also received bomb threats, a police spokesperson said. Alarms rang out through the Louvre, a vast space also in a former royal palace Paris overlooking the Seine River, when the evacuation was announced, and in the underground shopping centre beneath its signature pyramid.

Videos posted online showed people leaving, some hurriedly and some stopping to take photos, others apparently confused about what was happening.

The French government raised the threat alert level and is deploying 7,000 troops to increase security after Friday's school attack. French authorities say a former student suspected of Islamic radicalisation killed a teacher and wounded three other people before being captured. The government is also concerned about fallout in France from the war between Israel and Hamas.

# National Party's Luxon to lead new govt in NZ

National won over voters by promising relief for struggling middle-income New Zealanders, and to bring historically high inflation under control while reducing the country's debt

REUTERS

**Wellington, Oct 14:** New Zealand's centre-right National Party led by Christopher Luxon will form a new government with its preferred coalition party ACT, as Prime Minister Chris Hipkins conceded his Labour Party could not form a government after Saturday's general election.

The National Party, now in opposition, had 39% of the votes with 92% counted, while the ACT party had 9%. That would give the two parties enough seats to form a government, according to the Electoral Commission.

"On the numbers tonight National will be in the position to lead the next government," Luxon, a former executive who once ran Air New Zealand and entered politics just three years ago, told supporters in Auckland. "We will make this an even better country."

"The overwhelming driver was dissatisfaction with the (Labour government)," said political commentator and former National staffer Ben Thomas.



Under former leader Jacinda Ardern, Labour in 2020 became the first party to capture an outright majority since New Zealand switched to a mixed member proportional system in 1996.

But Labour has since lost support, with many New Zealanders disgruntled over the country's long Covid-19 lockdown and the rising cost of living.

Hipkins has tried to re-engage with those voters, focusing on what he termed "bread-and-butter issues", but was unable to gain traction in the polls. The National-ACT majority is slim and the two parties may need support from the populist New Zealand First Party to form a government. Coalition negotiations between National and ACT are expected to begin in the coming days.



**The ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict may disrupt the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor project's timelines and outcomes, marking a pivotal juncture in the development of this ambitious economic corridor**

AIJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

## WFH: HCLTECH FOLLOWS TCS'S MOVE

HCL Technologies (HCLTech) is mandating that employees should come and work from office three days a week, CEO and Managing Director C Vijayakumar said asserting that remote working in perpetuity "is not a good idea at all". TCS Wednesday announced that it has asked its 6.14 lakh-plus employees to work from offices, ending the practice of work from home (WFH) that started due to the pandemic



## of the day **QUOTE**

The government aims to bring 1,500-2,000 products under the ambit of mandatory quality standard certification in the next 2-3 years



PIYUSH GOYAL | FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS MINISTER

The government is working on the 'Swachhata Rating Framework' to rate all tourism businesses on the basis of sanitation, cleanliness and hygiene



V VIDVAYATHI | TOURISM SECRETARY

Housing prices have been climbing in major Indian cities in post-Covid years. While this upward trend in capital values is attracting investors to India's key real estate markets, there is reduction in unsold housing stock



SAMIR JASUJA | FOUNDER & CEO, PROPEQUITY

## SHORT TAKES

### ESIC adds 19.42L members in Aug

**New Delhi:** The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) added 19.42 lakh new subscribers in August, according to provisional payroll data. "The provisional payroll data of ESIC reveals that 19.42 lakh new employees have been added in the month of August, 2023," the Ministry of Labour & Employment said in a statement Friday. According to the data, around 24,849 new establishments have been registered and brought under the social security umbrella of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation in the month of August, 2023, thus ensuring more coverage. Data revealed that more jobs have been generated for the youth of the nation, as out of the total 19.42 lakh employees added during the month, 9.22 lakh employees up to the age group of 25 years constitute new registrations, which is 47.48 per cent of the total employees.

### D-Mart Q2 net profit down 9%

**New Delhi:** Avenue Supermarkets Ltd, which owns and operates the retail chain D-Mart, Saturday reported a 9.09 per cent fall in consolidated net profit at ₹623.35 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, as gross margins were impacted due to lesser contribution from general merchandise and apparel business. The company had posted a net profit of ₹685.71 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, said Avenue Supermarkets in a regulatory filing. However, its revenue from operations was up 18.66 per cent to ₹12,624.37 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹10,638.33 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal.

### BMW sees record sales so far in '23

**New Delhi:** German luxury vehicle maker BMW Group reported a 10 per cent rise in total car sales at 9,580 units in India in the first nine months of 2023, driving towards another record sales in the year. The group's three brands -- BMW, MINI and BMW Motorrad (two-wheeler) recorded the best-ever January-September period sales in the country, BMW Group India said. The BMW brand clocked 8,998 units in the first nine months of the year, up 10 per cent from the year-ago period, while the MINI brand posted 582 units, also at a growth of 10 per cent. The group's premium motorcycle brand BMW Motorrad registered sales of 6,778 units in the January-September period, rising 26 per cent from the same period a year ago.

## WANING DEMAND

## Tech majors put once-hot IT jobs on ice

Many tech giants have held off, or are revisiting plans on recruiting from colleges and working on improving employee utilisation, or the number of billable working hours for an employee

REUTERS

**Bangalore, Oct 14:** India's top IT service providers are going slow on hiring as clients cut back spending and defer projects due to macroeconomic challenges, in a U-turn from the excesses of the past few years made in anticipation of further growth. Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and HCLTech have seen employee headcount reducing in the second quarter as they reported weak results. Infosys and HCL trimmed their full-year revenue outlook.

A slowdown in campus hiring - the mainstay employee resource of the Indian IT industry



Firms overhired in 2021-2022 in anticipation of further growth this year, which has not materialized, and there is a big emphasis from most service providers to utilize their current workforces

PHIL FERESH | CEO, HFS RESEARCH

which has build its niche on being able to appoint throngs of engineers on various client projects - began in the April-June quarter and has accelerated since, triggering fears of a hit to the economies in the US and UK.

Analysts have said they do not see demand for IT services

returning anytime soon, reinforced by muted hiring trends across the top IT firms, as clients cutting discretionary spending after a pandemic boom.

Infosys added over 83,000 employees in the last two fiscal years, while TCS' employee headcount surged by over 120,000 and

## Russian imports swell

INDIA'S OIL BINGE ON DISCOUNTED RUSSIAN CRUDE HAS PROPELLED ITS IMPORTS TO SECOND-LARGEST IN H1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** India's imports from Russia rose by about 67 per cent to \$30.42 billion during the April-September period this fiscal on higher shipments of crude oil and fertiliser, according to the commerce ministry data. With this, Russia has become India's second-largest import source during the first half of this fiscal.

The imports were \$18.24 billion during April-September 2022. From a market share of less than 1 per cent in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's oil imports rose to over 40 per cent.

India, the world's third-largest crude importer after China and the United States, has been buying Russian oil that was available at a discount after some countries in the West shunned it as a means of punishing Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine.

The ministry's data showed that imports from China dipped to \$50.47 billion during the period against \$52.42 billion in the same period last year.

Similarly, imports from the US declined to \$21.39 billion during the period under review from \$25.79 billion in April-



From a market share of less than 1% in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's oil imports rose to over 40%

September last year.

Imports from the UAE contracted to \$20.7 billion during April-September 2023 compared to \$27.8 billion a year ago.

During the first half of this fiscal, imports also dipped from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Indonesia, Singapore and Korea.

Among all the top ten import source nations of India, imports from Hong Kong increased to

\$10.21 billion as against \$10 billion in April-September 2022.

On the export front, India's exports to seven of its top 10 destinations have recorded a negative growth rate during the period.

During the first six months of this fiscal, the country's merchandise exports to the US, the UAE, China, Singapore, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Bangladesh have dipped.

However, exports to the UK, Australia and the Netherlands have recorded positive growth.

India's merchandise exports contracted by 2.6 per cent to \$34.47 billion in September even as the country's merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$19.37 billion during the month under review, according to the government data released Friday.

## Risk of banks' unsecured retail loans turning sour rising: UBS

UBS has turned "neutral" on the banking sector and sees a higher probability of regulatory tightening on unsecured loans



REUTERS

**Bangalore, Oct 14:** The risk of Indian banks' unsecured retail loans turning sour are rising as lending to borrowers with overdue debt has increased, UBS said in a note.

In recent months, lenders in Asia's third-largest economy have boosted their unsecured lending portfolios as the pandemic-induced stress on household finances has eased.

Last week, the country's central bank said it is closely monitoring the segment for signs of nascent stress.

"The share of loans to borrowers with weaker risk profiles has risen along with an increase in retail borrowers' leverage," UBS said October 12,

citing a study it conducted. Banks' outstanding receipts from credit cards rose to ₹2.18 trillion as of August 25, from ₹1.68 trillion a year earlier, central bank data showed. Outstanding personal loans rose 26% in the same period.

The share of lending to borrowers with overdue loans rose to 23% in fiscal 2022-23 from 12% in fiscal 2018-19, UBS said. The number of borrowers with multiple retail loans rose to 9.3% in fiscal 2022-23 from 3.9% in fiscal 2017-18, it added.

UBS has raised its credit cost forecasts for Indian banks under its coverage by 5-10 basis points for the fiscal year ending March.

The brokerage has cut its rating on State Bank of India and Axis Bank to "sell" and "neutral," respectively, from "buy" on rising credit costs.

It has also lowered the price target for SBI to ₹530 from ₹740 and that for Axis Bank to ₹1,100 from ₹1,150.

Unsecured loans as a percentage of total loans rose to 11.1% for SBI and 10.7% for Axis Bank in June 2023, UBS said.

The brokerage prefers HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank.

## Govt keeps basmati rice floor price

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** India said Saturday it will maintain the floor price for basmati rice exports until further notice, according to a government order, as the world's biggest exporter continues to curb overseas shipments of the grain.

India imposed a \$1,200 per ton minimum export price (MEP) on basmati rice shipments in August to calm local prices ahead of key state elections.

A government order Saturday said it would maintain the MEP, initially in place until Sunday, until further notice.

The South Asian country in July banned exports of non-basmati white rice and Friday imposed a 20% duty on exports of parboiled rice.

The MEP aims to help authorities ensure that non-basmati rice is not exported as basmati rice.

## INDIA-PAK CRICKET CLASH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Oct 14:** Online food delivery platform Swiggy Saturday said it received orders for more than 250 biryanis per minute as millions glued to their TV sets on Saturday to watch the thrilling action between arch rivals India and Pakistan during the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup group match.

## HIGHEST IN YEARS

## Securitisation volume crosses ₹1L-cr in H1



THE OPTIMISM IS UNDERPINNED BY THE ANTICIPATION OF GDP GROWTH EXCEEDING 6%, WHICH WILL SERVE AS A CATALYST FOR SUSTAINED GROWTH IN THE SECURITISATION MARKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Oct 14:** Securitisation volume crossed the ₹1 lakh crore mark in the second quarter of the current fiscal after a strong start in the June quarter.

Securitisation volume in the April-June period of the current fiscal was at ₹55,000 crore. According to Care Ratings, the volume includes both Pass-Through Certificate (PTC) and Direct Assignment (DA) transactions and the volume, which clipped at over 40 per cent on-year, was primarily driven by robust credit expansion and a sustained demand for loans that meets Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms.

Total securitisation volumes reached around ₹1.01 lakh crore in the April-September period, marking a substantial 40 per cent increase over the same pe-

riod in FY23 -- the highest volume in recent years.

The anticipated higher economic growth will further drive consumer spending, boosting credit growth and securitisation, it said.

In the last two quarters, there has also been a noticeable increase in the volume of transactions backed by unsecured loans, both in the PTC and DA categories.

Traditionally, DA transactions dominate overall volumes, however, due to the merger of HDFC entities, DA volumes declined during the quarter.

For the first time, the share of DA transactions in the overall volume was around 49 per cent in H1, while PTC issuances contributed to over half of overall volume during this period.

Mortgage-Backed Securitisations (MBS) comprised 44 per cent of DAs with Asset-Backed Securitisation (ABS) and microfinance loan transactions constituting around 35 per cent and 21 per cent of the DA volume, respectively, the ratings agency said.

It anticipates securitisation volume to continue to grow and gain further momentum this fiscal.

Sriram Rajagopalan, an associate director at the agency, if the trend seen in H1 continues at its current pace, the market is poised to achieve record-breaking annual volumes in FY24.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Malabar brings 'exclusive branded jewellery show'

**BHUBANESWAR:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar showroom presents 'Exclusive Branded Jewellery Show', an exclusive exhibition and sale of gold, diamond, and precious gems jewellery. EBJ show was inaugurated by Chief Guest Supriya Nayak, Bollywood actress in the presence of Malabar Gold & Diamonds Management Team, distinguished guests and well-wishers. The show offers ruby, emerald, uncut diamond and diamonds jewellery. It features the exclusive brands of Malabar Gold & Diamonds MINE - diamond jewellery, ERA - uncut diamond jewellery, PRECIA - precious gems jewellery, ETHNIX - handcrafted jewellery, DIVINE - Indian heritage jewellery, and Starlet - kid's jewellery. The show has commenced from October 14 and will last till October 22, exclusively at Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Chandrasekharapur, Bhubaneswar showroom. The brand has also announced a slew of Diwali offers like 100mg Gold Coin on purchase of every ₹30,000 worth gold jewellery, up to 30% off on the diamond value and up to 30% off on making charges of gemstone & polki jewellery. These offers are available in all the stores of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.



### Union Bank holds 'note exchange cum coin distribution mela'

**BHUBANESWAR:** Union Bank of India has conducted a 'Note Exchange cum Coin Distribution Mela' in Ruchika Market, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Bhubaneswar October 14. The event was inaugurated by Sarada Prasan Mohanty, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar. In this event Devi Prasad Panda, General Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar, along with other senior officials from RBI Bhubaneswar also participated. Mohanty appreciated the efforts of Union Bank of India for putting the Mela for helping the country to achieve Clean Note Policy. In this event the bank has exchanged old, soiled and mutilated notes of the general public and also distributed coins among them. It will conduct more of such events in the coming days and wish to inform the general public to take the benefit of such events to help the country to reach its motive of circulating clean notes.



## 250 biryanis ordered per minute on Swiggy

Swiggy saw 250 biryanis being ordered per minute since the match started. "One household in Chandigarh ordered 70 biryanis in one-go; it seems they were already celebrating," said the company. Additionally, Indians also ordered over 1 lakh cold drinks during the match. "10,916 and 8,504 units of blue lay's (chips) and green lay's were



ordered respectively today. Of course blue is winning here as

well," Swiggy posted on X. The company further added: "3,509 condoms ordered, some players are playing off the pitch today". India bowled out Pakistan for just 191 in the highly-anticipated clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad in front of more than 1,00,000 fans, and then, easily cruised to a seven-wicket victory.

# PERFECT DAY AT OFFICE

SKIPPER ROHIT GUSHES AFTER BOWLERS' EXCEPTIONAL SHOW AS INDIA HUMBLE PAKISTAN TO MAKE IT 8-0 IN ICC MEN'S WORLD CUPS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 14: Indian skipper Rohit Sharma Saturday lauded his bowlers for bundling out Pakistan for a paltry 191 on a pitch that had nothing much in it for the bowlers during their marquee World Cup match.

Five Indian bowlers grabbed two wickets apiece as the home side bowled out Pakistan in 42.5 overs, before chasing down the target in the 31st over. Rohit was

chuffed with his bowlers for laying the foundation of India's eighth successive win over Pakistan in ODI World Cups.

"The bowlers were the ones who set the game up for us. I don't think it was a 190 kind of pitch. At one stage, we were looking at 280," said Rohit during the post-match presentation.

"The way they (bowlers) showed grit says a lot. That is something we pride ourselves in. Whoever gets the ball does the job for the team," said Rohit.

"We've got six individuals who can do the job with the ball. My job as a captain is important there as well. It's to read the conditions and figure out who's the

right guy to do the job," he added.

The skipper also praised his batters who have been firing on all cylinders. "It's only because the guys - before entering the World Cup - they got a lot of runs. We were very clear (about) what we wanted to do. We didn't want to be in two minds about who's going to bat where."

However, Rohit said it would be important to keep the momentum going and not get carried away. "All in all, it's looking good. I want to keep my fingers crossed, and don't want to get too excited. I don't want to get too low as well. We want to stay balanced, keep calm and keep moving forward."

"Every opposition we come up against is all quality. You have to play well on that particular day, and that's what we're looking at."

'Hard lengths were key'

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was adjudged the Man of the Match for his spell of 2/19, said his focus was on reading the wicket quickly and it helped him to find the correct length.

"It felt good. You get to analyse the wicket as soon as possible. We knew the wicket was on the slower side, so the hard lengths were the way. We were trying to make it as difficult as possible for the batters. When I was young I used to ask a lot of questions, so



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

## Jersey confusion

AHMEDABAD: Virat Kohli was Saturday forced to leave the field after the Indian batting maestro, inadvertently, wore the wrong jersey ahead of their high-profile World Cup clash against arch-rivals Pakistan here. Realising the mistake, Kohli, architect of some of India's biggest wins over Pakistan, left the field in the seventh over and returned before the eighth over, in which Mohammed Siraj claimed the wicket of Abdullah Shafique. The Delhi dazzler initially took the field wearing a jersey with plain white stripes on the shoulders instead of the shirt that has the tri-coloured stripes on it. While the normal Indian jersey has three white stripes, a special one has been made for the World Cup with the tri-coloured stripes on the shoulder.

## BRIEF SCORES

**Pakistan 191** (Babar Azam 50, Mohammad Rizwan 49; Jasprit Bumrah 2/19, Hardik Pandya 2/34, Kuldeep Yadav 2/35, Ravindra Jadeja 2/38, Mohammed Siraj 2/50)

**lost to India 192/3** (Rohit Sharma 86, Shreyas Iyer 53 n.o.; Shaheen Shah Afridi 2/36) by 87 wickets.

that has helped me develop a lot of knowledge. I like to read the wickets and try a lot of options."

'Collapse cost us'

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam blamed the batting collapse for his side's flop show. The Men in Green had a good start and were 155/2 until the 30th over before losing the remaining eight wickets for just 36 runs.

"We started well. We just planned to play normal cricket and build partnerships. Suddenly, there was a collapse, and we could not finish well. The way we started, our target was 280-290, but the collapse cost us. The total was not good."



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

# England look to better net run-rate vs Afghans



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: Their campaign back on track after the humiliating loss in the opener, title holders England would look for a dominating all-round effort against a battered Afghanistan in the World Cup here Sunday, with eyes firmly set on bettering their net run rate.

Defending champions England's campaign started on a disappointing note as they lost by nine wickets against New Zealand in the tournament opener in Ahmedabad October 5.

But the Jos Buttler-led side bounced back in style, humbling Bangladesh by 137 runs in Dharamsala Tuesday. Despite putting up a competitive 282/9 in the opener at a batting-friendly Narendra Modi Stadium pitch, England bowlers were taken to the cleaners by Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra as New Zealand romped home in 36.2 overs.

But England made a superb comeback in their next match with both the batting and bowling departments clicking in unison.

It was not the batting unit which was the cause for concern for England against New Zealand, but their bowling, comprising Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, Sam Curran, Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid, which looked ordinary when Conway and Ravindra batted.

But in their next match against Bangladesh, England showed their might with a clinical performance. They would be banking on another good start from their openers to post a massive total on a flat pitch at the relatively smaller Arun Jaitley Stadium that has witnessed huge scores in all the matches it has hosted so far in the tournament.

England's decision to replace an ineffective Moeen Ali with Reece Topley paid rich dividends against Bangladesh as the left-arm pacer inspired the bowling attack with figures of 4/43 from his 10 overs.

England would not just look for a victory against Afghanistan but would also want to win the match handsomely to boost their net run rate (NRR), which took a beating in their opener.

The Afghans, on the other hand, are low on confidence after successive defeats. Dark horses Afghanistan lost by six wickets against Bangladesh before they were thrashed by hosts India by eight wickets. Come Sunday, they would look for a reversal and cause the first upset of the tournament. But it is easier said than done.

Afghanistan's concern lies in all departments of their game. In their first outing against Bangladesh, the batters faltered, making a below-par 156. Then, against a batting-heavy India, the bowling attack fumbled despite posting a competitive 272/8.

Afghanistan's main concern is the performance of their openers. In the two matches they have played so far, both the openers, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadran, have failed to provide a decent start, which resulted in the team's downfall. Skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi would desperately want his openers to take the responsibility upfront.

Afghanistan's bowling too looked ordinary in both the matches and the team would look for a much-improved outing from the likes of Fazalhaq Farooqi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Naveen-ul-Haq and Rashid Khan in the upcoming games to match the might of teams such as England, New Zealand and Australia.

# SINDHU GOES DOWN IN ARCTIC OPEN SEMIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vantaa (Finland), Oct 14: Indian shuttler PV Sindhu's bid for a title came to an end in the Arctic Open, as the eighth seed went down fighting to fifth seed Zhi Yi Wang of China here Saturday.

Sindhu lost the opening game 12-21 before bouncing back in the second 21-11. However, the Chinese upped the ante in the final game, beating Sindhu 21-7.

The Indian had begun the tournament with a win over Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the opening round, followed by a straight game victory over Hsu Wen-chi of Taiwan in the second round. In the quarterfinal, Sindhu prevailed over Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen before her semifinal loss that ended India's run in the tournament.

The two-time Olympic medalist was back at her valiant best as she overcame a first-game deficit to down Thuy Linh in a marathon 91-minute battle.

The eighth-seeded Indian won 20-22, 22-20, 21-18 to halt a four-match winning run by of the unseeded World No.26 Nguyen.

Struggling to get into her elements before the Paris Olympics, Sindhu then faced the fifth seed and World No.11 Wang Zhi Yi of

China in her bid to win the first BWF title of the season. But it all ended in agony.

Sindhu thus made her fourth semifinal on the BWF World Tour this year. She had earlier advanced into the last-four at the Spain Masters (finalist), Malaysia Masters and Canada Open.

Sindhu was the only Indian left in the fray here after Kiran George, Kidambi Srikanth, Aakarshi Kashyap and the pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto made their respective last 16 exits Thursday.

From an 11-4 lead at the mid-game break, the Indian World No.13 saw herself trailing 14-18 as she lost the game 20-22 after some long rallies. But in the second game, Sindhu hit six straight points going into the interval.

The Vietnamese tried to find her way back into the game, winning three points on the trot and took an 18-14 lead. But the 2019 World Champion Sindhu was back at her fighting best as she denied her opponent three points to seal the match, reeling off five successive points that took the match to the decider.

Nguyen produced a late fight-back but Sindhu was at her best as she raced to a 20-15 lead before sealing the match.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

# France, Portugal & Belgium qualify for Euro



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 14: Kylian Mbappe and Cristiano Ronaldo both scored twice each to help France and Portugal secure a spot at next year's European Championship - Euro 2024 - with a perfect record in qualifying, with Belgium also clinching a berth in Germany Friday.

The three European powerhouses all needed a win to qualify for the tournament and their star strikers made sure they got them.

Mbappe's two goals - including a long-range strike for the second - helped secure a 2-1 win over the Netherlands in Amsterdam for a perfect sixth win in Group B.

Mbappe opened the scoring in just the seventh minute when he beat Lutsharel Geertruida to a cross from the right by Jonathan Clauss to volley past



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brighton goalkeeper Bert Verbruggen. It was Mbappe's 41st international goal, drawing him level with France great Michel Platini.

Mbappe doubled the lead in the 53rd minute when he exchanged passes with Adrien Rabiot on the edge of the Netherlands' penalty area before curling a shot over Verbruggen. Quilindschy Hartman made it 1-2 for the Dutch with 10 minutes to go. It was the first goal France has conceded in the campaign.

Greece moved up to the second place with 12 points after Giakoumakis and Giorgos Masouras scored a goal apiece to beat Ireland 2-0 in Dublin. The Netherlands remains on nine in third with a game in hand.

Ronaldo's double improved his record tally of international goals to 125 in 202 appearances and led Portugal to a 3-2 win over Slovakia.

Ronaldo converted from the penalty spot in the 29th minute, sending Slovakia goalkeeper Martin Dubravka the wrong way to double the lead to 2-0. Forward Gonçalo Ramos had given the hosts the lead with a header 11 minutes earlier.

After David Hancko pulled one back for Slovakia in the second half, Ronaldo restored a two-goal advantage off a low cross from Bruno Fernandes that found him at the far post. Stanislav Lobotka scored the second for Slovakia in the 80th.

Slovakia remain on 13 points in second with Luxembourg trailing by two in third after holding Iceland to a 1-1 draw in Reykjavik. Bosnia won 2-0 at pointless Lichtenstein and is fourth on nine with Iceland another two back.

**LUKAKU ON TARGET** Romelu Lukaku scored again

# INDIA YET TO MAKE FORMAL BID TO HOST ATHLETICS WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 14: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) will need a "couple of more days" to decide on making a formal bid for hosting the World Athletics Championships in 2027, said its president Adille Sumariwalla here Saturday.

While the recent edition of the Worlds was held in Budapest, Hungary, the next championships will be held in Japan in 2025 with India reportedly in the fray to make a formal bid for hosting the event for 2027.

"We have not made a formal bid," Sumariwalla told PTT during an event organised by the AFI and the World Athletics (WA) here. "We are discussing that internally and in the next couple of days, we will finalise that," Sumariwalla added.

With India also planning to make a formal bid to host the 2036 Olympics, WA president and International Olympic Committee (IOC) member, Sebastian Coe, said he would love to see the Games coming to India. "I would love to see the Olympic Games coming to India," Coe told PTT.

"For very obvious reasons, partly personal and partly familiar reasons but India is an amazing country and I think the development of the games would be fantastic. I think everybody recognises that. But that is for the International Olympic Committee to decide," he said.

Coe told the media here that India is crucial for the development of athletics and wants the country to host global events. "It is very important that the countries that have the ability, the economics, the political will and the sporting passion to stage events. You would be surprised, as the president of World Athletics, if I did not want to stage one of the events," he said.

"I am not here to sell other sports, I am here to promote athletics and I also want to see India stage as many of our events as possible. This is important for us. You have one of the largest populations in the world and you have a very strong economy," said Coe.

# Dutch tour: Indian sub-junior hockey teams excel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Indian men's and women's sub-junior (U-17) hockey teams began their maiden international tour on a positive note with victories against the Senior EDE teams in the Netherlands. The women's team defeated the Senior EDE side 3-2, while the men's side thrashed their Dutch counterparts 8-0.

In the women's game, despite EDE taking the early lead, goals from Ravina, Karuna Minz, and

Bhavya helped India fight back and lead 3-1. The third quarter saw EDE reduce the deficit to 3-2, but a determined India ensured that there were no more defensive lapses in the final quarter.

Former India skipper and the current women's sub-junior coach Rani Rampal said the resilience of the players stood out in the contest. "On the pitch, their determination, teamwork and resilience were truly inspiring. This victory demonstrates that we are on the right track. Of course,

the work is not finished yet, and we have a lot more to do. But we are pleased with their performance because this victory reflects not only their abilities but also their heart and spirit.

"We will carry on this momentum and strive for excellence in the upcoming matches. The future of Indian women's hockey is bright," said Rampal.

The men's game saw complete dominance from the Indian side with Aashu Maurya scoring the first goal followed by a hat-trick