



MEHREEN'S ANGST

Actress Mehreen Pirzada criticises a few media outlets for allegedly making marital rape appear less important

LEISURE P2



SIMILIPAL TIGER CENSUS BEGINS

Odisha Forest department launches tiger census at Similipal National Park amid suspicion over the number of big cats in the state

STATE P5



NETHERLANDS STUN SA

The Netherlands pull off a shocking victory over South Africa in the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

SPORTS P12

Hundreds killed in Israeli airstrike on Gaza hosp

Khan Younis: The Gaza Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike Tuesday hit a Gaza City hospital packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter, killing hundreds. If confirmed, the attack would be by far the deadliest Israeli airstrike in five wars fought since 2008. The ministry said at least 500 people had been killed. Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said there were still no details. "We'll get the details and update the public. I don't know to say whether it was an Israeli air strike," Hagari said. P10

14 killed in 2 Tamil Nadu firecracker unit blasts

Virudhunagar (TN): At least 14 persons were killed and two injured in two separate fire accidents at fireworks units in Rangapalayam and Kichanayakanpatti village in the district Tuesday, police said. Police, fire and rescue service personnel, and the public put up joint efforts in extinguishing the flames and trying to rescue the victims. CM MK Stalin condoled deaths in the accidents and announced a solatium of ₹3 lakh each for the families of the deceased and ₹1 lakh for the grievously injured.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Have faith in the police... if caught, we'll be let off by the court... anyway, we've never criticised the PM

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	66428.09 ↑ 261.16
NIFTY	19811.50 ↑ 79.70
DOLLAR	83.26 ↓ ₹0.04
EURO	88.02 ↑ ₹0.25
GOLD	₹59,300 ↑ ₹134
SILVER	₹71,779 ↑ ₹742

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	33.7°C	33.6°C
MIN	23.4°C	24.5°C
Humidity	80%	78%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	



BIG CAT IN NET: A tiger that killed two farmers being rescued by the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve officials in Uttar Pradesh, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

CM launches 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' in 3 more districts

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' programme in Mayurbhanj, Bargarh and Deogarh districts through virtual mode from Bhubaneswar, Tuesday.

Under the programme, five constituencies of Mayurbhanj district: Badsahi, Bangiriposhi, Baripada, Morada and Udala have received ₹111.50 crore. A total of 3,081 projects will be undertaken in 223 gram panchayats in these constituencies with the allocation. Similarly, ₹126.50 crore has been sanctioned for five constituencies of Bargarh district: Attabira, Bijepur, Bargarh, Padampur and Bhatli. A total of 3,335 projects will be undertaken in 253 gram panchayats in these constituencies. In addition, a sum of ₹35 crore has been approved for one constituency in Deogarh and 991 projects will be implemented in 70 village panchayats of the district.

The programme aims to spread Jagannath culture in every village, develop every place of worship to strengthen the basic foundation of Odisha's culture.

'No' same-sex marriage

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Oct 17: In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court Tuesday refused to grant legal recognition to the marriages and civil unions between same-sex couples and left it to the Parliament to decide on enacting laws with respect to the matter. It, however, held that same-sex couples have the right to cohabit. Hearing a batch of 21 petitions filed by members of the LGBT+ community seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage under Special Marriage Act, a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court held that there is no unqualified right to marry and same-sex couples cannot claim marriage as a Fundamental Right.

In a majority judgment of 3:2, the apex court ruled against the recognition of civil unions between same sex couples as these are not recognized under law. Underlining the doctrine of separation of powers, the Constitution bench held that it is under the domain of the Parliament to enact law for the recognition of the marriages between same-sex couples and the Supreme Court cannot create a legal framework on this aspect



AS IT HAPPENED

- **NOV 25, 2022:** Two gay couples approached SC seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriage under Special Marriage Act.
- SC issues notice to Union govt
- **JANUARY 6, 2023:** SC directs transfer of all petitions seeking recognition of same-sex marriages from high courts to apex court
- **MARCH 12:** Union government opposes same-sex petitions
- **MARCH 13:** SC refers case to five-judge Constitution bench
- **APRIL 1:** Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind opposes petitions
- **APRIL 17:** NCPDR opposes adoption of children by same-sex couples
- **APRIL 18:** SC starts hearing arguments
- **MAY 11:** SC reserves verdict
- **OCTOBER 17:** SC refuses to grant recognition to same-sex marriage

as it involves policy decisions. The apex court, however, passed a slew of directions to ensure that queer couples enjoy

the liberty to choose their partners without facing any discrimination or harassment. It asked the Union government to set up a high-powered committee under the Cabinet Secretary to examine the rights and benefits of the same-sex couples. The bench also agreed on the rights of transgender persons in heterosexual relationships to marry under existing laws.

A Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and comprising Justices SK Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha rendered four separate judgments on the petitions seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriages. In the majority ruling, Justices SRavindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha disagreed with the Chief Justice of India on the right of same-sex couples to adopt children and held that regulation 5(3) of the CARA regulation, which deals with adoption, cannot be declared unconstitutional. The bench further said that same-sex couples do not have rights to adopt children under existing laws. The Supreme Court also refused to strike down the provisions of the Special Marriage Act.

SC RULING: KEY TAKEAWAYS

- No legal recognition of same-sex marriages
- Right to marry or civil unions is not fundamental
- Parliament can enact law for legal recognition of same sex marriage
- No right to adopt children
- Same-sex persons have right to choose their partners
- Same-sex couples can cohabit but can't claim recognition
- Centre to set-up committee to examine issues related to same-sex marriage

Significantly, the top court had reserved its verdict on the batch of petitions seeking legal recognition of same sex marriage May 11 after a marathon hearing for 10 days. The petitioners had submitted that the recognition would ensure same-sex couples lead a 'dignified' life like heterosexuals. The Union government, the national child rights body NCPDR, and the Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind, a body of Islamic scholars had opposed the petitions. **MORE P3**

2 drown during post-death ritual

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jagatsinghpur, Oct 17: Two brothers drowned in Devi river in Jagatsinghpur district while performing 'dasaha karma', the 10th day post-death ritual, of a relative Tuesday, police said. Another person had a close shave in the incident.

The incident occurred near Baradia village under Biridi block in Jagatsinghpur. The deceased were identified as Subharanjan Pal, 32, an assistant professor in a college at Hyderabad and Swadesh Pal, 22, a student of Plus three final year science at UN College of Science and Technology in Adashpur.

While taking a bath following the ritual, the two failed to come out of the river as they did not know swimming. Following this, locals fished them out and rushed them to the Adashpur hospital where doctors pronounced them dead.

Residents plunged into mourning after reports of the brothers' deaths spread in the locality.

The twosome had come to the village to participate in the post death rituals of their cousin, BSF jawan Satyanarayan Pal, 32.

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32. Satyanarayan's nephew Anwesh Kumar Pal, a student of Plus three final year Science at UN College of Science Technology at Adashpur had a close shave and is recovering following hospitalization.

Satyanarayan was posted at Kolkata for the last 10 years. He had recently come home on leave. He had gone to Bhubaneswar for some work and returning home when he was killed in a road mishap at Choupada, under Gobindpur police limits in Cuttack district, October 8.

His body was brought back to his native Baradia village and cremated with full honours by the BSF that included gun salutes and guard of honour, October 9.

Tuesday's sad incident occurred at the river ghat when Satyanarayan's family members and kin had assembled to perform the post-death rituals.

Indian on Moon by 2040: PM to ISRO Arab preacher who lives on in Hamas' weapons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Buoyed by the success of the Chandrayaan mission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday set ambitious goals for ISRO, asking them to set up an Indian Space Station by 2035 and send the first Indian to the Moon by 2040. Modi's directions came during a briefing by ISRO Chairman S Somanath on the progress of the Gaganyaan mission, which is to have its first demonstration flight of the crew escape system October 21, and other initiatives. India's first human space flight is now expected to take off in 2025, a PMO statement said after the meeting. During the meeting, the Prime Minister outlined the future of

India's space exploration endeavours and urged scientists to work towards interplanetary missions, including a Venus Orbiter Mission and a Mars Lander and also explore the Moon in greater detail. "Building on the success of Indian space initiatives, including the recent Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L1 missions, the Prime Minister directed that India should now aim for new and ambitious goals, including setting up the 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' (Indian space station) by 2035 and sending first Indian to the Moon by 2040," the statement said. To realise this vision, the Department of Space will develop a roadmap for Moon exploration, it said.

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Oct 17: This Arab militant leader's struggles during his life may not have achieved much, but the ongoing crisis in Israel brought his name back into the spotlight as Hamas' military wing, which carried out the attacks, is named after him, as are the short-range missiles it keeps on firing into Israeli territory. Hamas' Izz ad-Din Al Qassam Brigades - and the Qassam missiles - are named after Syrian cleric and militant Izz ad-Din Al Qassam (1881/82-1935), and the name was appropriate. Al Qassam spent most of his fairly short life planning and fighting at least three colonial powers from Libya to Syria, before beginning his operations in Palestine, proving the seamless continuum of the Arab world and its politics. Born in what was then Ottoman Syria, Al Qassam studied at the renowned Al Azhar University in Cairo in the first

decade of the 20th century, and along with the religious training, acquired a political outlook. His aim was basically to revitalise his religion from its current stagnation, focus on development and uplift of the middle and lower classes, and reliance on armed struggle against European colonists, rather than the Arab elite's practice of cutting deals for mutual benefit. Returning home to Syria to begin his religious work, he came out strongly against the Italian invasion of Libya in 1911 and sought to collect funds for the Libyan tribesmen resisting it - even crossing swords with a local Ottoman official who had his eye on the money. Al Qassam also gathered a band to go and fight in Libya and had reached Alexandria, but were not allowed to go further. After the First World War, Al Qassam came out against the French control over Syria, and led a group of rebels fighting



Syrian cleric and militant Izz ad-Din Al Qassam (1881/82-1935) spent most of his fairly short life planning and fighting at least 3 colonial powers from Libya to Syria, before beginning his operations in Palestine, proving the seamless continuum of the Arab world and its politics

against French troops in northern Syria in 1919-20. However, the revolt was soon crushed, and he moved to Palestine, where he became a Waqf official. Infuriated at the plight of Palestinian Arab peasants and the growing influx of Jewish immigrants, Al Qassam, in the 1930s, formed bands of local fighters and launched attacks against British and Jewish targets. He was eventually killed in a shootout by the British security forces in 1935, following his alleged role in the killing of a policeman. Though Al Qassam's guerrilla operations had limited impact during his lifetime, his actions and his death were one factor in the outbreak of the 1936-1939 Arab revolt in Palestine - one of the biggest headaches for the British mandatory authorities and leading to the realisation that their rule - amid resurgent Jews and increasingly aggrieved Arabs - would not be very tenable.

He could have renamed a footnote in the fractious history of the Middle East, but his legacy would endure. As displaced Palestinians sought to organise themselves in the 1950s following the debacle of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, the fideyean who emerged in the 1960s held Al Qassam to be their inspiration. The founders of Fatah, which, under Yasser Arafat became the main constituent of the PLO, had initially considered naming their group the "Qassamiyun", as Al Qassam's followers had styled themselves in the 1930s. Palestinian militant and place hijacker Leila Khaled, who became the face of the resistance after her iconic photo cradling a gun circulated, had noted her Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was continuing in Al Qassam's footsteps as his generation started the revolution, and her generation intended to complete it. However, it was left to Hamas to revive Al Qassam's name.

leisure



PAYNE BARRED FROM DRIVING FOR 6 MONTHS

Singer Liam Payne has been forbidden from getting behind the wheel due to repeat offending and was fined over \$300 after he was caught on camera behind the wheel speeding to 43mph in a 30mph zone in west London in February, reports aceshowbiz.com.

WOMEN'S PLEASURE IS THEIR RIGHT: GILLIAN ANDERSON

American actress Gillian Anderson is about to launch a book about female fantasies. She says women need to let go of any feelings of "shame" they have about being pleased. "Pleasure is a right. It's not trivial. It's not frivolous," adds the actress.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 5181

ARIES
The stars are sending out a warning today, and it will prevent you from getting cheated. Even though you manage to remain a step ahead of people, you are likely to make a few enemies along the way. Ganesh says today is not auspicious for buying a house or a vehicle.

TAURUS
Today, says Ganesh, you will be likely to encounter someone who is bent upon provoking and getting on your nerves. You are urged not to retaliate and do things unbecoming of your good nature. Keep calm and unruffled. Respond and behave in a manner befitting your better nature.

GEMINI
You will be in an extremely emotional and romantic mood today. You may be worried about your personal relations, health, diet, career etc. You need to guard against giving into excessive stress and worry and look after your health, says Ganesh.

CANCER
The day is very favourable, says Ganesh. You will feel a sense of joy and happiness with your valuable possessions. You may fall into love or have a strong romantic ties with someone. A great time for lovers.

LEO
You will be extremely serious about your work today and will work diligently to finish your tasks. You will be focused and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning. Traders can expect good financial gains today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your ambitions and desire to undertake more work will be very prominent today. After working hard all day, try to get yourself some recreation and relaxation, perhaps at a private party, a social gathering or maybe even at a marriage reception, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
You will be drawn towards those of the opposite sex today says Ganesh. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon, and this will lead to a lot of interesting discussions. You will want to expand upon your knowledge of the world today and will be successful in your efforts.

SCORPIO
Expressing your feelings becomes important at some point of time. Today, you are in a mood to express emotions for your near and dear ones. And why not? After all, they need to be appreciated. Though your heart is full of emotions today, do not express in a way that you become vulnerable in eyes of general public.

SAGITTARIUS
You are like a new hope for your company and you are assigned with many challenging projects, today. And your hard work and efforts are appreciated when you handle the projects successfully. If you are fortunate enough, you may also gain incentives very soon, predicts Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You are armed with good communication skills, it helps you convince the most adamant of those around you. But, you'll need to hone this talent once again, says Ganesh. You'll look into heart of the matter and find the answers you have been searching for. As the day progresses, your creativity will come to the fore, impressing the people around. You can ask for the support of your peers to move ahead, feels Ganesh.

AQUARIUS
Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a quicksand, and there is none out there to pull you out. But, the independent Aquarius is capable of dealing with adversities alone. And, that tendency shall hold you in a good stead even today.

PISCES
The mundane routine of daily life will finally catch up with you, and you will feel the urge to take a break and travel somewhere. And a break is well deserved considering the number of hours you have slaved over your current projects. A picnic or a short journey with your partner is very much on the cards, says Ganesh.

69TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS

Honours for Alia, Allu, Kriti



New Delhi: The 69th National Film Awards ceremony was a grand celebration of outstanding achievements in Indian cinema, held at the prestigious Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi today, October 17. The star-studded event honoured some of the most talented individuals in the film industry, including acclaimed actors Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon who jointly bagged Best Actress awards for their movies *Mimi* and *Gangubai Kathiawadi*. Expressing her gratitude, Kriti

Pratiksha bags Silver Lotus

New Delhi: Anupam Patnaik Tuesday received the National Award as his directorial *Pratiksha* was adjudged the Best Odia Film at the 69th National Film Awards ceremony here. He took home a Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus) and cash prize of Rs 1,00,000. Expressing his happiness, the *Gangs of Puri* director told media that his father Amiya Patnaik had also received the National Film award for his first film. Produced by Amiya Patnaik Productions, the movie is based on a short story penned by Gourahari Das. Significantly, the President conferred the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award to veteran actress Waheeda Rehman on the occasion.

got the Best Feature Film honour, while Vivek Agnihotri's *The Kashmir Files* received the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration. The ceremony also featured an array of notable winners.



Mehreen slams media for 'trivialising' marital rape

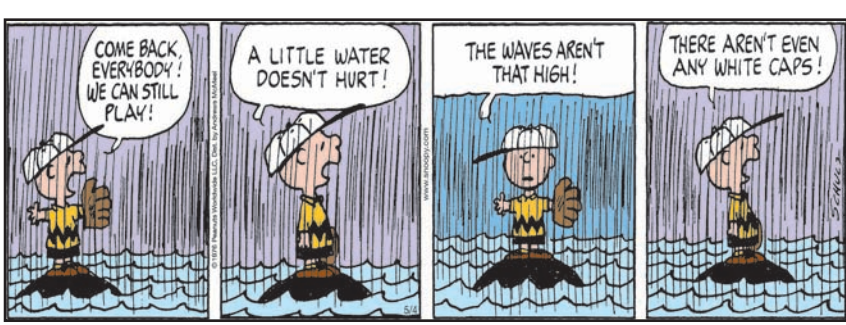
Mumbai: Mehreen Pirzada, who recently made her OTT debut in *Sultan of Delhi* featured in some bold scenes. Soon, many media deemed the scene as some usual 'sex scene' from a movie or series. The actress recently took it to her official X handle and reacted to this. She criticised how the media deems these scenes as something like sex clips, rather than seeing the horrendous act that is occurring in the lives of millions of women worldwide. She said, "There was a scene in *Sultan of Delhi* that depicted a brutal Marital Rape. It pains me to see that a serious issue like Marital Rape has been described by many in the media as a 'Sex Scene.' This trivialises something that is a serious issue that many women the world over are currently dealing with." She added, "It disturbs me that a certain section of the media and people on social media have picked upon this, these people should understand that they have sisters and daughters too and I pray to god they never have to go through such trauma in their own lives." The actress also shared how she has to do justice to the art and job she does by committing to a story's narrative even though the acts in the story may not be palatable.



Kirti's insights on her international debut

Mumbai: Actress Kirti Kulhari, who will be seen in *Sach is Life*, says the feeling of making an international debut is still sinking and shared a little details about the upcoming film. The actress said: "The feeling of making my international debut is still sinking in! I feel very blessed and grateful that I am getting to meet so many people and explore so much. It's a film about a mother's determination to not only save her son but give him a life that defies logic, science and is no short of a miracle." Kirti added: "It's a story about rising above our circumstances, unleashing the power of unconditional love and celebrating human spirit and always holding on to that little thing called hope." Written and directed by Harsh Mahadeshwar, who is a music video veteran, *Sach is Life* is produced by Romila Saraf Bhat and Rahul Bhat for New Jersey-based Red Bison Productions.

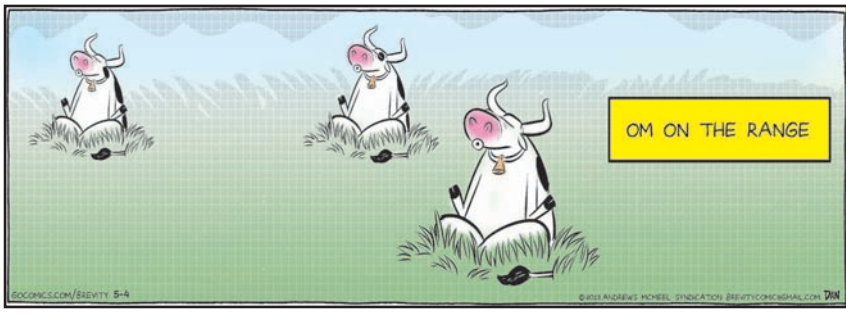
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

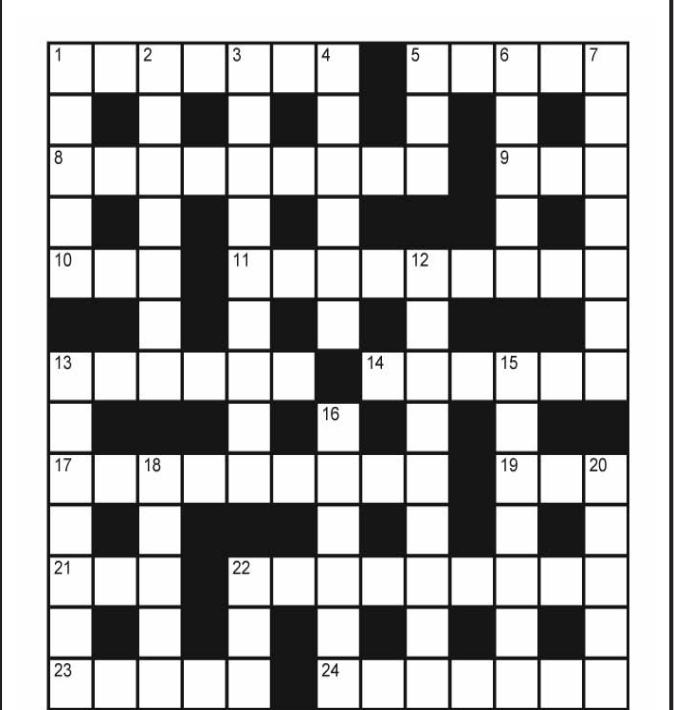


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



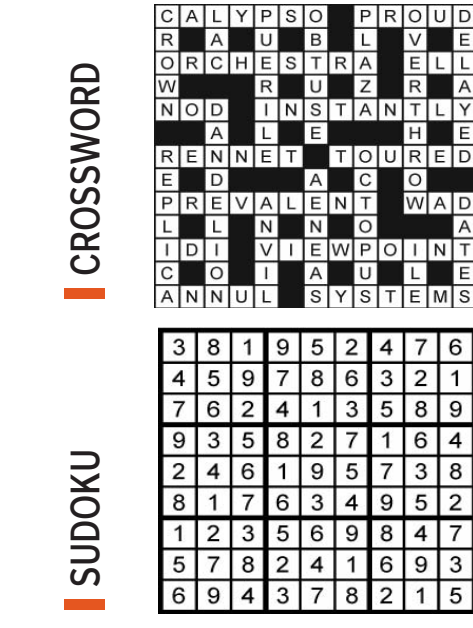
- Across**
- 1 Dracula, e.g.
 - 5 Coffee order
 - 8 Friendly Islands locale
 - 9 Veto
 - 10 Lobster coral
 - 11 Track event (5,4)
 - 13 Guru's forte
 - 14 Artful
 - 17 Sweepstakes
 - 19 River inlet
 - 21 Sphere
 - 22 Steep cliff
 - 23 Hard wood
 - 24 Garden-variety
 - Down**
 - 1 Puff adder
 - 2 Polo gear
 - 3 Shoe part
 - 4 Canvas holders
 - 5 Extinct flightless bird
 - 6 Latin American dance
 - 7 The jitters
 - 12 Pudding type
 - 13 Type of mat
 - 15 Napoleon Bonaparte's birthplace
 - 16 Picture house
 - 18 It's a no-no
 - 20 Narrow ridge
 - 22 Take care of the bill

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Orissa High Court Judge Justice Sashikant Mishra and other dignitaries attending the 3rd death anniversary of advocate Banoja Kumar Pattanaik at the Orissa High Court Bar Association Convention Hall in Cuttack, Tuesday



downtown

Queer couples can't adopt children: SC

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court, by a majority of 3:2, Tuesday upheld one of the adoption regulations prohibiting unmarried and queer couples from adopting children. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice DY Chandrachud, however, in a minority judgement, maintained that the freedom of queer couples to enter into a union is protected by Part III of the Constitution. The SC, in minority judgment, also ruled that queer couples can jointly adopt children.

The Constitution bench comprising the CJI, Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha delivered four separate verdicts and they agreed on some legal issues and differed on others. The top court, by a majority

CJI DY Chandrachud, in a minority judgment, however, maintains that queer couples can jointly adopt children



of 3:2, refused the right of adoption to queer couples.

The CJI and Justice Kaul, in their two separate and concurring verdicts, held one of the guidelines of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), prohibiting unmarried and queer couples from adopting, as unconstitutional and illegal.

Regulation 5(3) of CARA says 'no child shall be given in adoption to a couple unless they have at least two years of stable marital relationship except in the cases of relative or step-parent adoption'. "There was no ma-

terial on record to prove that only a married heterosexual couple can provide stability to a child," the CJI said while pronouncing the verdict.

"The regulation 5(3) indirectly discriminates against atypical unions. A queer person can adopt only in an individual capacity. This has the effect of reinforcing the discrimination against queer community. Law cannot assume that only heterosexual couples can be good parents. This would amount to discrimination. So the adoption regulations are violative of the

Constitution for discrimination against queer couples," the CJI said.

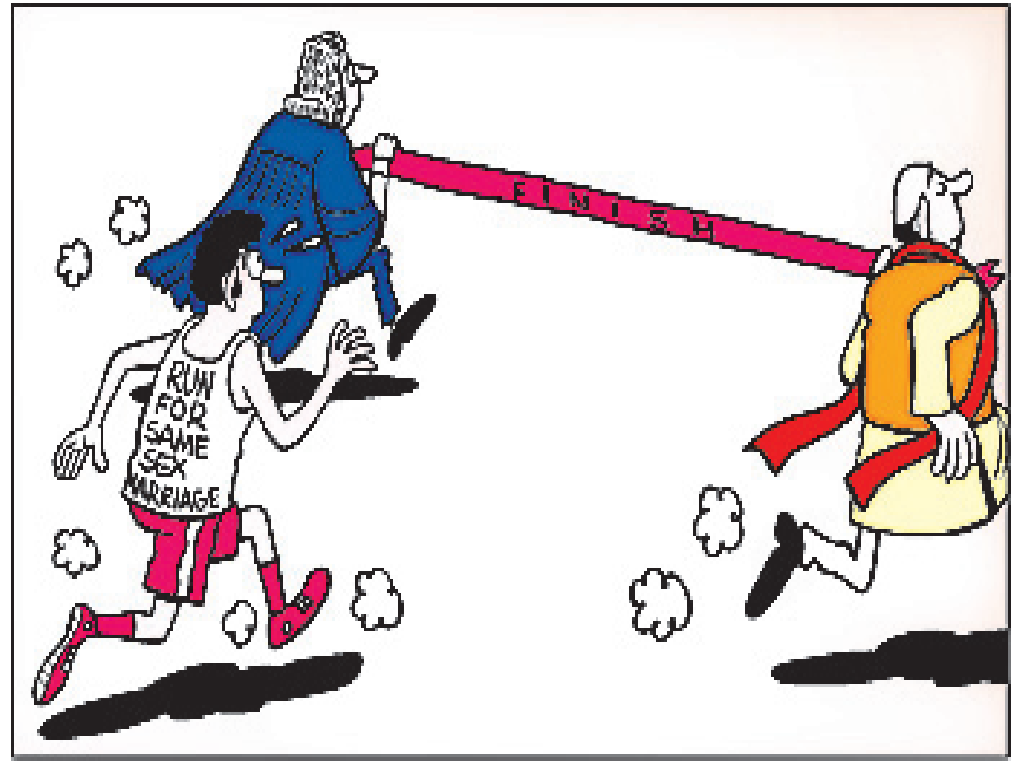
However, three other judges -- Justice Bhat, Justice Kohli and Justice Narasimha -- differed with the CJI and upheld the CARA regulations.

This is not to say that unmarried or non-heterosexual couples cannot be good parents, Justice Bhat said, adding that the state, as the guardian, has to explore all areas and ensure that the benefits reach such children who are in need of stable homes.

The CJI said that provisions of the Special Marriage Act cannot be struck down and words cannot be read into it to allow same-sex marriages.

The majority opinion of Justice Bhat, Justice Kohli and Justice Narasimha said there is no unqualified right to marriage and the entitlement to civil unions can be only through enacted laws.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



SG Tushar Mehta hails SC verdict

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Solicitor General Tushar Mehta Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court judgement refusing to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act and leaving the issue for Parliament to decide.

The solicitor general, the key lawyer for the Centre who urged the top court to let Parliament take a call on the matter since it fell within the ambit of the legislature, said, "I wholeheartedly welcome the judgement. I am happy that my stand has been accepted."

"All four judgments have taken the jurisprudence of our nation and the intellectual exercise which went into writing the judgments to a next level. There are very few courts in the world where one can expect this level of intellectual and scholarly judicial exercise. This judgement would be read across jurisdictions," he said in a statement.

Hailing the verdicts, the top law officer said they balance the interests of individuals with

that of a civilised society.

"It is an important step in jurisprudential development on the question of separation of powers and provides vivid and eloquent insights into the working of the Parliament, the Executive and the Judiciary which function complementing each other strictly as per the Constitution," he said.

Arguing for the Centre, the law officer had highlighted the enormity of the statutory exercise if same sex marriages were validated and suggested that the Centre can set up a high-powered panel to look at the issues in entirety.

The right to choose a partner does not necessarily imply the right to marry such person over and above the procedure established by law, he had told the Supreme Court.

Mehta had said there cannot be a presumption that the State is obliged to recognise all human relationships, rather the presumption has to be that the State has no business to recognise any personal relationship unless it has a legitimate interest in regulating the same.

Landmark ruling, claims Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Muslim organisation Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court's refusal to grant legal recognition to same-sex marriages, saying the order "reinforces the preservation of the traditional institution of marriage".

A five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court Tuesday unanimously refused to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriage under the

Special Marriage Act, ruling that it is within Parliament's ambit.

The top court, however, recognised equal rights for queer people and their protection, as it called for sensitisation of the general public against gays.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (Maulana Mahmood Madani faction) hailed the ruling as 'landmark' and noted that the court arrived at the decision after carefully examining the arguments presented by various

social, governmental, and religious organisations.

In a statement, Madani welcomed the verdict and emphasised that the ruling reinforces the preservation of the traditional institution of marriage, which has been a fundamental pillar of our society for centuries.

"It underscores the importance of upholding the moral and ethical principles that have long defined our cultural identity," Madani said.

Judgement evokes mixed response

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The Supreme Court judgement on same-sex marriage evoked mixed reactions from trans and queer communities. The judgement was a decision of 3:2 majority of the five member part of the Supreme Court Bench.

Termining the decision as a landmark move, many have welcomed it. However, others dubbed the decision as regressive in nature.

Hailing the decision, Sadhna Mishra, a social development officer at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), said, "Every positive development begins with a minor step. I am hopeful that the Parliament will undertake a constructive debate before arriving at final decision. At this moment, the trans community needs to be integrated for a favourable result in future."

Similarly, Amit Bisoi, another LGBTQIA+ gender activist, hoped that the Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud's ruling on child adoption rights to queer people will usher in a positive change in the society. He also



added that, the Centre should create policies that will protect trans and queer couples from getting harassed and discriminated in the society. Meanwhile, Salma, a trans lawyer at Barbil Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court, expressed her anguish and mentioned that the decision tramples the fundamental rights of trans people.

She stated that, "The Supreme Court had given a clear mandate for same-sex relationship through decriminalising Article 377. But when it comes to the subject of legalising marriage, it fails to arrive at a conclusion. The judgement exposes the hypocrisy of the judiciary in identifying the rights of trans and queer people."

Countries where same-sex marriage is legal

AGENCIES

New Delhi: Even as the SC's five-judge Constitution bench Tuesday refused to grant legal recognition to same-sex marriages, there are 34 countries where marriage between same-sex couples is legally performed and recognised with the most recent country being Andorra. Same sex marriage will become legal in the 35th country, Estonia, from the next year.

Among the 34 countries where same-sex marriage is legal at present are: Argentina: Same-sex marriage was legalised in 2010.

Australia: Same-sex marriage was legalised in 2017.

Germany: Same-sex marriage was legalised in 2017.

Mexico: Same-sex marriage was legalised in Federal District (Mexico City) in 2010, while the legalisation dates vary in different other states.

United Kingdom: Same-sex marriage was legalised in 2014.

Scotland: Same-sex marriage was legalised in 2014.

Northern Ireland: Same-sex marriage was legalised in 2020.

Since July 9, 2015, married same-sex couples throughout the United States have had equal access to all the federal benefits that married opposite-sex couples have.

There are 35 countries with legal recognition other than marriage (eg, civil unions or registered partnerships).

Some of the countries with

legal recognition are:

Denmark: It was the first country to legalise civil unions for same-sex couples in 1989.

Brazil: Civil unions were first created for opposite-sex couples in 2002.

Andorra: Legal recognition for same-sex couples was granted in 2014.

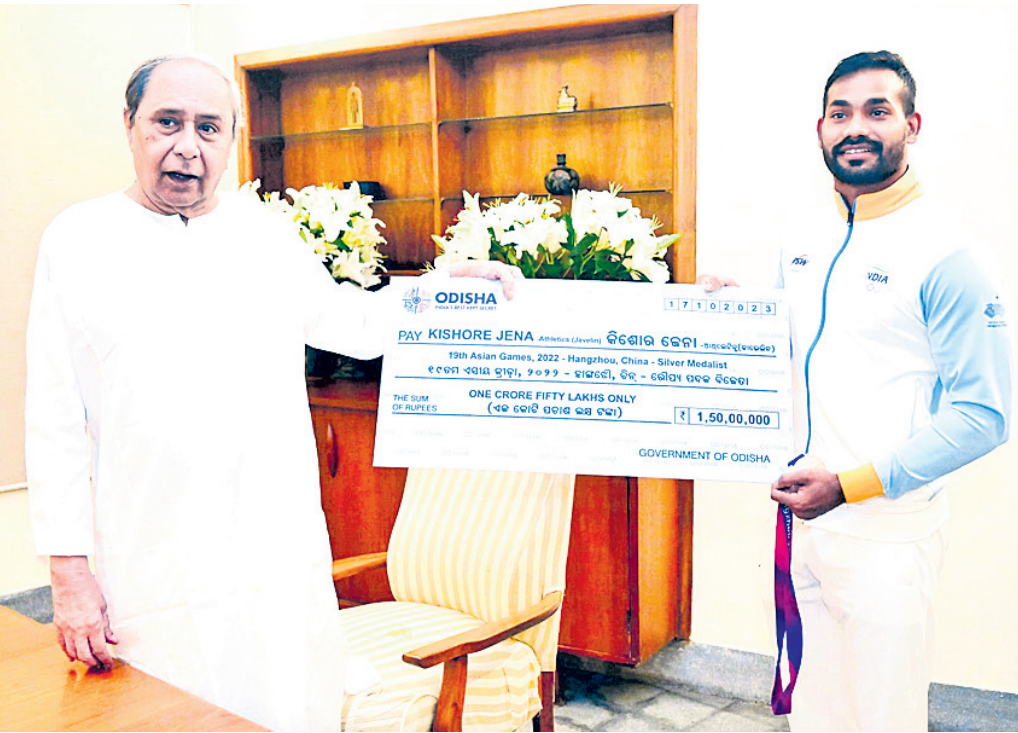
Chile: Legal recognition for same-sex couples was granted in 2015.

Estonia: Legal recognition for same-sex couples was granted in 2016.

Japan: Legal recognition for same-sex couples was granted in some municipalities before 2021.

Slovenia: Legal recognition for same-sex couples was granted in 2017.

CM felicitates Javelin star Kishore Jena



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday felicitated javelin star Kishore Kumar Jena with a cash award of ₹1.5 crore for his stellar performance in the recently-concluded Asian Games in China.

Jena, a resident of Puri district, bagged silver in the Asian Games, and sealed his berth in the 2024 Paris Olympics. He attained a personal best of 87.54 m to secure the silver medal.

The Chief Minister said that Jena made the state proud, and expressed confidence that he

would bring more laurels in the future.

Jena thanked Patnaik for recognising his efforts, and expressed his gratitude to the state government for supporting sports persons.

Patnaik also announced that the state government will support him for the Paris Olympics.

Before the Asian Games, Jena bagged fifth place at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest. For that, the state government gave him a cash award of ₹50 lakh.

State Sports Minister TK Behera had felicitated Jena at a programme in the Kalinga

Sports Complex Monday.

Meanwhile, the SAI International campus was abuzz with excitement as Jena paid a visit to the school Tuesday to inspire the students. SAI International chairperson Dr Silpi Sahoo said, "Kishore Jena's silver medal at the Asian Games is not just a victory for him but for the entire nation. At SAI International School, we believe in creating an environment where our students can thrive in both academics and sports."

SAI International Principal Nilakantha Panigrahi felicitated Jena on the stage.

3 'fake candidates' held during university exam

AGENCIES

Jajpur, Oct 17: Three people were arrested in Jajpur district Tuesday for appearing in a university examination in place of the registered candidates, police said.

The incident happened at Ratnakar Sanskrit College in Saudia when the first-semester examination, conducted by the Shree Jagannath Sanskrit University, was underway, they said.

The three persons were caught red-handed while appearing in the examinations in place of the registered examinees, they added.

The accused were identified as Durga Madhav Prusty, Sunanda Sahoo and Manisha Sahoo, officials said.

Man gets 10-yr RI for raping minor

AGENCIES

Baripada, Oct 17: A POCSO court in state Tuesday awarded 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) to a 45-year-old man for raping a minor girl in 2014.

Mayurbhanj POCSO court judge Sumita Jena convicted the accused Lambu Soren, Special Public Prosecutor Abhinna Kumar Pattanaik said. It directed the Mayurbhanj district legal services authority to pay a compensation of ₹4 lakh to the victim, he said.

On August 9, 2014, Soren kidnapped the minor from Sammouda village and raped her.

Hold training programmes for notaries, HC tells state

AGENCIES

Cuttack, Oct 17: Expressing concern over most notaries being unaware of their functions and duties, the Orissa High Court has asked the state government to hold training programmes for them on a regular basis and issue a list of dos and don'ts for them at the earliest.

Hearing a case where a notary public has issued a marriage certificate, despite the Notaries Act, 1952 not conferring any such authority on notaries, the HC bench of Justices SK Sahoo and Chittaranjan Dash said, "We direct the State Government to arrange training programme for the notaries of the State on a regular basis, either physical or through virtual mode, and also issue guidelines to apprise them of their functions and duties as has been laid down under section 8 of the Notaries Act, 1952 and what to do and what not to do."

The notary public later appeared before the HC and submitted an apology, informing the HC that he issued the certificate only because he was ignorant of the law.

The HC accepted the apology but took a serious view of the larger issue. "We find the issue to be a grave one as actions of Notaries can affect rights and lives of common people who do not have fair understanding of law. Issues like the present one



The case originates from a petition of Partha Sarathi who claimed that his 'wife' was illegally confined by her parents against her will

reminds this Court of the loopholes that the incumbent system possesses and inaction on the part of the Government to cure these shortcomings can cause severe prejudice to the rights of innumerable citizens," the HC observed.

The case originates from a petition of Partha Sarathi who claimed that his 'wife' was illegally confined by her parents against her will. To substantiate the wedding, the petitioner claimed that he is in possession of a marriage certificate executed and issued by a notary public.

Observing that execution of

marriage certificate is not one of the functions of notaries, the HC had September 14 sought an explanation from notary public Aswini Kumar Mohanty.

Meanwhile, the HC also directed the police to interact with the 'detained' woman to see if she was being illegally confined by her parents against her will. On October 10, the HC learnt that the woman was voluntarily staying with her parents. She denied being confined by her family, although she admitted that she had signed a 'marriage declaration' document before a notary public.

As the HC concluded that there was no illegal confinement or wrongful detention, it dismissed the plea by Sarathi.

Advocate Pravash Chandra Jena appeared for the petitioner, while additional Government Advocate Arupananda Das argued on behalf the state government. Advocate Chittaranjan Swain appeared for the notary public.

Short films effective tool for road safety: Min Sahu

State announces 2nd National Road Safety Short Film Festival to raise awareness about road safety and help reduce road accidents



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu Tuesday announced that filmmakers of the state can now submit their films for 2nd edition of the National Road Safety Short Film Festival, organised to raise awareness about road safety and help reduce road accidents in the country.

The last date for entry submission has been kept as November 17, 2023, and the festival will be held at multiple locations in the state like Berhampur, Sambalpur, Angul

and Bhubaneswar.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Sahu said, "Every life is precious. Road safety is a high priority for our government. Short films can be an effective tool of communication for spreading the message of road safety."

"As a society we have become insensitive to road accident deaths. Road accidents and fatalities related to it are like slow haemorrhage. Over-speeding is the root cause of many road accidents. Road safety is a shared responsibility. Together we can make a difference," said DGP Sunil K Bansal.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges consisting of film industry veterans and professionals from other industries. The jury members include actor Archita Sahu, IPS Arun Bothra, disability rights activist Jitendra Biswal, chairman of OFDC Kuna Tripathy, Raghendra Kumar, and Sabyasachi Mishra. Former MP Sujit Mahapatra, social worker Sneha Mishra and film critic Surya Deo are also part of the panel.

The 'Best Film in Odia' will receive a reward of ₹1,00,000, first runner up will get ₹80,000, second runner up, ₹60,000, with ₹25,000 each for best director; best music, best cinematography, and best actor.

Filmmakers can mail their entry via Google drive or We Transfer Link to roadsafetyshortfilms@gmail.com. All the details are available on <http://odishatransport.gov.in/>.

Notably, Transport department organised first edition of National Road Safety Short Film Festival in 2022, which had received 230 entries in 6 languages from 8 states.



FESTIVE MOOD: A beautiful pandal awaits visitors at Khannagar in Cuttack as Durga Puja approaches near, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

AIDSO stages stir for student union polls

Bhubaneswar: All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) Tuesday staged a protest here against state government's decision of withholding student union elections in educational institutions for past five years. The protesters also sought immediate filling of vacant posts intended for professors and teaching staffers across colleges in Odisha. The issue of fee hike in academics also found a mention in the demands. The delegation submitted memorandums in this regard to Higher Education Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aravind Agrawal and School and Mass Education Commissioner-cum-Secretary Aswathy S. It urged the state government to boycott National Education Policy (NEP 2020), terming it as unproductive and inefficient. It stated the policy emphasises privatisation of education with little regards for its sustained development. AIDSO state president Siddharth Rath said, "The sudden closure of thousands of primary schools has deprived students of education. The lack of teacher appointments in Odisha has pushed the state of education into doldrums." The protest was led by AIDSO members Bhagyabati Das, Sunil Bhoi, Nasim Sarkar, Paramananda Sahoo, Madhusudan Nayak, Prashant Das, Harekrishna Das and Sanjukta Das among others. Students from across various districts including Sambalpur, Kalahandi and Kandhamal also joined the agitation.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, SAMIRA KUMAR MOHANTY, S/o Jadumani Mohanty, Resident of village Baulanga, P.O.-Baulanga, P.S.-Gop, Dist.-Puri, Pin No. - 752017, Odisha Declare that this Affidavit No. - 4137, Dated - 11.10.23 that now onwards I shall be known as SAMIR KUMAR MOHANTY for All future purposes.

I, Swalekha Khaton, W/o Shaikh Abdul Rahim, resident of Village-Kazimohalla, PO/PS-Puruna Bazar, Dist.-Bhadrak, PIN-756100, Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 1673 dtd-08.09.23, that now onwards I shall be known as SWALEHA KHATOON for all future purposes.

State committed to clean energy: CS



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Odisha is committed to developing its clean energy capacity in line with the Renewable Energy Policy of 2022, said Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena while inaugurating the 'Odisha Energy Transition Workshop' here Tuesday.

The workshop was organised by GRIDCO, under the Energy department in collaboration with the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST) and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation to deliberate on the draft 'guiding documents' for energy transition planning.

The Chief Secretary hoped that the workshop would provide a crucial platform for the stakeholders to strategize and collaborate with each other to ad-

vance the state's energy transition agenda. In his address, additional chief secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal said that the state government is taking all possible measures to develop an energy action plan, working towards devising a sustainable and inclusive transition plan.

The workshop featured sectoral sessions and in-depth discussions on clean energy, transport, mining, agriculture and fisheries. Experts from various fields shared insights on renewable energy during the workshop was structured in a way to facilitate discussions and collaborations among participants.

Speakers from think tanks, international organisations, academia, and industry highlighted the Odisha's significance in the context of India's mission to achieve 500 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

WSC students leave for Singapore under SIP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Like every year, the World Skill Centre (WSC) Tuesday sent a total of 24 meritorious students to Singapore under annual Student Internship Programme (SIP).

The students were selected from among the current batch pursuing various advanced courses in WSC.

The enthusiasm of boarding the flight was visible on the students as they geared up for their 6-month sojourn. They expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for providing the lifetime opportunity.

On the occasion, Odisha Skill Development Authority Chairperson and CEO Alka Misra congratulated the students who went to Singapore. She said that this program will further hone their skills and give them required exposure and confidence.

"I dreamt of working in an international company. Pursuing Electrical Technology at World Skill Center has fulfilled this dream of mine. I'd get a new experience by going to Singapore and working in multinational organizations," said Shruti Arpita Bud, a student of World Skill Center.

CSIR-IMMT hosts India Research Tour



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: CSIR-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) hosted the Springer Nature India Research Tour Tuesday to share insights on: Breaking Barriers for Women in STEM and engaged in an invigorating panel discussion on the topic "Her Research, Our Future: Women Leading Discovery".

The event was attended by scientists, faculties, research scholars from research institutes and universities from Bhubaneswar. Speaking on the occasion CSIR-IMMT Director Ramanuj Narayan, said, "India Research Tour is an initiative uniting Indian research communities and fostering collaboration and publishing meaningful and impactful research."

"A special focus on young and women researchers are the key

highlights of India Research Tour. Springer Nature's "Her Research Our Future" is a wonderful initiative to empower women researchers in India," he said.

Springer Nature India Managing Director Venkatesh Sarvasiddhi said, "The National Research Tour embodies a holistic approach to foster research, innovation, and knowledge-sharing throughout India. Our joint objective with the Ministry of Education is to strengthen India's research landscape, empowering young researchers, promoting access for all, and advancing Sustainable Development Goals."

The India Research Tour's primary objective is to fortify the Indian research landscape by nurturing the talents of young researchers and creating an inclusive environment for knowledge dissemination.

10-day NCC sailing expedition at Chilika



Bhubaneswar: INS Chilka executive officer commander Sanjeev Tomar flagged off a sailing expedition of 60 cadets from National Cadet Corp (NCC) Group HQ Cuttack at Chilika lake Saturday. As per sources, the expedition, consisting of 35 senior division cadets and 25 senior wing cadets of 3(0) Naval Unit of Cuttack NCC, will sail for 10 days covering more than 210 km. As part of the expedition, the cadets will also participate in various social activities, intended to inculcate discipline, confidence and a spirit of adventure amongst them. The expedition was flagged off in presence of officer-in-charge commander Piyush Pratim Das and safety officer commander Sunil Kumar Behera.

KiIT-IS signs MoU to care for special kids



Bhubaneswar: KIIT International School (KIIT-IS) Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with New-Delhi-based Action for Autism (AFA) to develop the department of Special Educational Needs (SEN) on the school campus. The MoU was signed between KIIT-IS and AFA in presence of SSEPD Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi and KIIT-KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, while AFA Founder Merry Barua and Chairperson of KIIT-IS Mona Lisa Bal signed the document. Speaking on the occasion, Sethi said, "I am overwhelmed with the way the department of SEN is being operated inside KIIT-IS and it really surprised me that such an institution is here in Odisha to take care of the needs of the special children." He said that the government will do every possible help in order to develop the SEN Globe at KIIT-IS into a Centre of Excellence of Global repute. Samanta, in his speech, said, "KIIT Group of Institutions has really made a global mark for its compassionate and holistic development of the society. We will take the responsibilities of five to six special kids from poor economic background so that they would be taken care of at SEN Globe facilities of KIIT-IS." Founder of AFA Barua congratulated KIIT-IS for its dedication and sincerity in making the SEN Globe a unique platform to transform the lives of special kids.

Bat genes may play role in beating Covid, cancer

Bat genes could hold the key to unlocking new ways to battle cancer and Covid-19, a new study has found.

The study published in the journal Genome Biology and Evolution looked at the rapid evolution of bats' abilities to host and survive infections like Covid-19 and cancer.

The scientists at the US-based Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) sequenced the genomes of the 'Jamaican fruit bat' and 'Mesoamerican mustached bat', compared these sequences to other mammals and found that rapid evolution has streamlined bat genomes to defend against infection and cancer.

"We didn't know immune system genes were so positively selected in bat genomes. Bats have



a number of very unusual things about them. They don't respond to infections the way we do. In retrospect, it's not surprising this difference in the immune system may be involved in both the ageing and cancer response," said CSHL Professor W. Richard McCombie.

The scientists at the US-based Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) sequenced the genomes of the 'Jamaican fruit bat' and 'Mesoamerican mustached bat', compared these sequences to other mammals and found that rapid evolution has streamlined bat genomes to defend against infection and cancer.

The Jamaican fruit bat and Mesoamerican mustached bat belong to the world's most ecologically diverse superfamily of mammals.

The researchers compared these sequences to 15 other bat and mammal genomes, including humans, which revealed an unknown shift in levels of two inflammatory protein-coding genes called - interferon-alpha and - omega, the study noted.

"Bats have dialled down the immune system's alarm by shedding genes that produce interferon-alpha. This may be responsible for their high viral tolerance. It prevents overactive immune responses that harm healthy tissue - one of the reasons infections are so damaging to humans," explained Armin Scheben, Postdoctoral Fellow at CSHL.

The researchers also found that compared to other mammals, bat genomes contain more changes in cancer-related genes, including six that repair DNA and 46 that suppress tumours.

"Our work highlights how immunity and cancer response are deeply interconnected. The same immune genes and proteins play important roles in cancer resistance," Scheben said.

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Koraput potato farmers resort to distress sale

Lack of sufficient cold storage facilities a major hurdle for tuber cultivators



Commission (RMC) has three cold storages with each having a capacity of 30 tonne. However, two of these are non-functional. Amid this backdrop, it should be stated here that more than 7,500 farmers in the district have gone for potato cultivation. With no storage facility available after harvest, they have no option but to sell off the produce as the traders are offering them 'cash on delivery'.

The farmers are selling potatoes at ₹12 to ₹17 per kilogram, said Anand Kumar Mallick, coordinator of 'Dangarrani Farms'. Traders from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh are fleecing the farmers by paying them less, he alleged.

Tuber has been cultivated on 1,060 hectare of farmland in Nandapur block, 940 hectare in Semiliguda block, 760 hectare in Lamtaput block, 440 hectare in Dashmantpur block, 400 hectare in Koraput block, 800 hectare in Pottangi block, 100 hectare in Lakshampur block and 150 hectare in Jeypore sub-division.

When contacted over the lack of cold storage facilities, Sudam Biswal, deputy director of the District Horticulture department rebuffed the allegations. He said that cold storages at Jeypore and Koraput still have space to store 20,000 tonne of tuber. He added that farmers have been asked not to sell the tuber at such a low rate when the current market price of potatoes is ₹20 to ₹25 per kilogram.

For majority of farmers in this district. Potato cultivation is mostly done in the kharif season. Farmers are now disposing of close to 100 quintals of potato grown in the months of June and July.

Sources pointed out that for the huge amount of potato cultivation only four cold storage facilities are available. Two of these with a capacity of 5,000 tonne each are in Jeypore sub-division while two others of the same dimension are in Koraput sub-division. However, all the four are being used to store various types of vegetables.

Other than these four storage facilities, one more with a capacity of 10 tonne is available at Kunduli. The Regulated Market

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Oct 17: Potato farmers have resorted to distress sale of tuber due to absence of proper marketing facilities and lack of adequate numbers of cold storages in this district, sources said Tuesday. It is expected that the total potato production will be close to 45,000MT after harvest is completed this year. Farmers are now at a loss regarding the storing and preservation of the potatoes. With no option available, they are now selling off the produce at throwaway prices and it is the traders who are benefitting.

Sources said that the climate and soil of Koraput district is conducive for potato cultivation. It is the main source of income



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Tribals armed with traditional weapons take out a rally Tuesday to the Collector's office at Sonepur demanding fulfilment of their 15-point charter of demands including the inclusion of Subarnapur district in the Special Development Council

Many oppose Vedanta's bauxite project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rayagada, Oct 17: The administration in this district held Monday a public hearing for Vedanta Limited's proposed Sijimali bauxite mining project, amid protests by those opposed to it. While more than 150 armed police personnel were guarding the venue at a school at Sungen under Kashipur block, hundreds of men and women assembled to participate in the discussions.

Though several people alleged that they were denied entry to the venue, the Rayagada district administration claimed that the views of both sides were taken and their grievances redressed during the meeting.

"There was no law and order situation at the public hearing venue though several hundred



people participated in the meeting. There were some arguments at the venue, but it happened as the villagers were asked to speak freely," District Collector Swadha Dev Singh said Tuesday.

While some of the people supported the mining project, oth-

ers opposed it, she said. "We have recorded all the views. The opinion of the people will be sent to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change," Singh said.

The public hearing was attended by the officials of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), Bhubaneswar, district administration officials and project proponents.

People who are opposed to the project raised slogans and allegedly broke a police barricade during a protest. The police, however, controlled the situation. Anti-displacement activist and advocate Biswapriya Kanungo termed the public hearing as an 'arbitrary procedure' claiming that people attended it in an atmosphere of fear and anxiety. "Therefore, the very purpose of

holding the public hearing is defeated," Kanungo said.

Another activist Narendra Mohanty said 21 people have been arrested and put behind bars for opposing the mining project while more than 95 people were booked in 'fake' cases for not supporting the project.

Sources said that the proposed bauxite mining at Sijimali area is likely to displace 100 families from 18 villages and also affect the livelihoods of an additional 500 families. "About 80 per cent of the people to be displaced due to the proposed project are tribals," Kanungo said.

The proposed mining lease area where 18 villages are located is classified under Schedule V in the Constitution due to the preponderance of the Adivasi population.

ECoR clarifies

Propos to the story '17 Railway Project hangs fire' published in OrissaPOST dated October 17, 2023, the East Coast Railway has provided the following clarification. ECoR has said that it is factually incorrect that the surveys have not been completed as mentioned in the article.

Jajpur-Keonjhar Road railway station to Dhamra via Jajpur and Aradi in Bhadrak district, the final location survey for this new line was sanctioned September 11 this year and survey work is in progress.

Survey has been completed by ECoR for the 118-km long Junagarh-Nabarangpur rail route and the DPR submitted October 17, 2022.

The final location survey has been completed for the 125-km Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam route. Survey has also been completed for the Sasubohumali-Sijumali-Kutrumali bauxite mines to Tikiri route and the project report has been submitted July 1, 2023.

The final location survey has been completed for the new line between Malkangiri-Bhadrachalam, a distance of 176km and the detailed project report submitted on 17.10.2022. The project report for the 79-km route from Naupada-Gunupur to Therubali has been submitted December 15, 2021.

The field survey for the 282-km long Talcher-Gopalpur stretch has also been completed. The detailed project report is under finalisation.

ECoR also clarified that in most of the other projects work is progressing smoothly.

FM University signs MoU to help students



POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Oct 17: After receiving 'A' grade recognition from the NAAC, an MoU between Fakir Mohan University and Nandi Foundation was signed Monday at the conference hall of the educational institution at Nuapadhi. The Nandi Foundation will prepare the students to develop their personality and various talents and get them ready for the competitive job world.

Director of student welfare and programme convener, Nihar Ranjan Raut gave information about the programme and introduced the guests and welcomed everyone. PG Council chairman Professor Sabyasachi Patnaik said that a short-term training session called 'Mahindra Pride Class' will be hugely beneficial for the students.

Inaugurating the programme, Vice-Chancellor Prof Santosh Kumar Tripathi stressed on the need for proper development of personality and other skills including communication. He advised the students to successfully implement the knowledge that will be imparted to them. Munmun Singh, state coordinator of Nandi Foundation mentioned that the main objective of the programme is to help prepare students for jobs and also to develop their overall personality. There were other speakers who also harped on the importance of personality development.

2 cops held for raping minors

Baripada: Two police personnel of Jamda in Mayurbhanj district were arrested by officers of the same police station in connection with two rape cases. The arrested are an assistant sub-inspector of police and a home guard, said Minati Naik, the officer in-charge, Jamda police station. The ASI was arrested Tuesday for allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl who worked as a domestic help in his house. The home guard was arrested on Monday for allegedly raping a minor girl from Jharkhand, she informed. Both of them were arrested under POCSO. Later in the day the two were forwarded to the court. Naik said the ASI engaged the minor girl to take care of his three children after the death of his wife.

New funds for Vedvyas beautification



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 17: The Vedvyas Dham will soon see a complete image transformation as the government has sanctioned additional funds for the project. This famous religious tourism destination is a leading Shaivite shrine. The shrine is witnessing massive development work and the additional state government funds will only spur the process.

The Odisha government has sanctioned an additional ₹14.50 crore for the development of the Vedvyas Dham. This information was provided by PWD executive engineer Manoj Kumar Mahananda here Tuesday.

"An additional ₹14.50 crore has been sanctioned for developmental purpose of Vedvyas. Soon, tenders will be floated for major work on the gates and other areas of the shrine," Mahananda said.

Earlier this year, 5T Secretary VK Pandian visited Vedvyas

Dham, January 14. He was briefed about the place by officials. During his interaction with officials, Pandian stressed the need for total development of the place keeping in tune with the state government's decision to develop all major religious destinations that draw massive crowds for festivals.

"Vedvyas has tremendous potential as a religious tourism destination and we are going to take all steps to develop this place. The government will do everything to give it a new look," Pandian had then said.

Currently the main gate, 29 metres in height and 29 metres wide is in the last phase of construction. A four-lane road with a divider leading to the main area has already been completed. Decorative lights on either side of the road leading up to the Gurukul Ashram have been also been installed.

The additional funds will be used for peripheral beautification. Among them is the mod-

ernisation of the Kalyan Mandap, development of the Balunkeswar, Radheshyam, Hanuman, Jagannath and Chandrasekhar temples and beautification of the banks of the Brahmani river. In addition a hanging bridge will be constructed over the Brahmani river.

Vedvyas Dham place is located on the confluence of the Koel, Sankha and Saraswati rivers. This confluence has made the place the most sought after destination for devotees from neighbouring states like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Devotees from most of the districts in Odisha also visit the place.

Many come here to complete the 11th day rituals after death in a family. Besides, immersion of the last remains in this place is regarded holy and pious. During the month of 'Sharvan' lakhs of devotees come here. During the Shiva Ratri festival, this place plays host to a grand fair, which is 165 years old.

173 teams conducting Similipal tiger census

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Oct 17: The Forest department Tuesday launched the tiger census at Similipal National Park amidst suspicion over the number of big cats in Odisha. The state government decided to go for the tiger census after the All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2022 released in July this year said that the total number of tigers in Odisha has gone down to 20 during the year from 45 in 2006.

Deputy director of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), Samrat Gowda said "The government has started the headcount at Similipal and other forest divisions of Baripada forest circle in Mayurbhanj district as part of the all Odisha tiger census."

The Forest department said Satkosia Tiger Reserve is left with no big cat. Between 2018 and 2022, the state registered a drop in the population of the big cat from 28 to 20 with STR as the only silver lining, which saw the number double from eight to 16 during the period.



The census is being carried out in 173 beats of 16 ranges in Similipal and Baripada, Rairangpur and Karanjia Forest division areas. It will be held from 9.00am to 4.00 pm everyday till October 31, director of the tiger reserve Prakash Chand Gogineni said. Camera trapping will be done between November and January and pugmarks and stool samples of tigers will be collected for DNA sampling, he added.

KORAPUT FINDS PLACE IN GLOBAL COFFEE MAP

COFFEE PRODUCED IN THE DISTRICT WINS 3 PRIZES IN DIFFERENT SEGMENTS AT WORLD MEET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Oct 17: Koraput is known to be one of the backward districts of Odisha. However, it has now come to the limelight and found a place in the global coffee map by winning laurels at the 'Vth World Coffee Conference' which was held last month at Bangalore, where Koraput-made coffee won several laurels.

One variety of the beverage grown in the district won the award for the best 'Natural Coffee', another got best prize in the 'Semi-Washed' category and another variety got fifth place in the 'Washed' segment.

"The Arabica variety of coffee produced in Koraput is known for its distinct flavour and low

acidity content, making it a strong competitor to established brands," informed Ashutosh Nanda, the district marketing manager of Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation Odisha Limited (TDCCOL) of Koraput.

Coffee cultivation has changed the lives of many in the district. Sidharth Pangi, a 38-year-old resident of Khudubu village in Nandapur block of the district was working as a migrant labourer in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. Four years ago he decided to cultivate coffee on two acres he owned. Today Pangi and his family thank coffee and black pepper cultivations for their comfortable life.

"I never imagined that growing coffee could increase my income to the extent that I will no



longer be required to work as a migrant labourer. I earned around ₹70,000 by selling coffee

beans and another ₹60,000 from black pepper in 2022-23," informed Pangi.

Approximately 50 tribal farmers of Khudubu collectively earned over ₹13 lakh by selling more than 24 metric tonne of coffee beans at ₹55 per kilogram in the 2022-23 season, officials said.

Coffee cultivation in the district was first introduced by the erstwhile Maharaja, Rajbahadur Rama Chandra Deo in 1930. The Odisha government through the Soil Conservation department undertook coffee plantations as a measure to prevent siltation in the Machkund basin of the Machkund hydroelectricity project of the district in 1958.

However, things changed for the better after Coffee Board Officer Ajit Rout intervened and it was at his behest the district administration established the Coffee

Development Trust in May 2017. Since then, Koraput district has become the coffee hub of Odisha.

But it was not without pitfalls as marketing coffee beans posed a challenge to the growers. Middlemen from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh procured the produce from the farmers at very low prices.

"To address this, the TDCCOL was approached by the district administration and it stepped in to procure coffee beans directly from farmers," Rout said.

Subsequently, TDCCOL established a curing center, including roasting, grinding and packaging unit, at a cost of ₹50 lakh. The procured beans were processed and marketed as filter coffee under the brand 'Koraput Coffee'.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.: ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-36, Dtd. 09.10.2023

Name of Work: PROVISION OF SLIDING ROOM AT 6 NOS INTERLOCKED BUSY LC GATES (JT-5, JT-19, JT-69, RV-151, RV-175, RV-226) OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Tender Value : ₹ 33,50,817.90
Bid Security : ₹ 67,000/-

Tender Closing Date and time : At 1100 hrs. on 31.10.2023

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

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

NOTE: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15(Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. <http://www.irps.gov.in>

Divl. Signal & Telecom Engineer
PR-667/O/23-24 Sambalpur

FOCUS POLITICS

IS BJP LOSING GROUND?



The AIADMK has become the fourth major ally since 2019 to dump the BJP, following in the footsteps of the JD(U), Shiromani Akali Dal and the Shiv Sena (UBT)

ect, "Anti-Muslim Hate Speech Events in India" referred to "255 documented incidents of hate speech gatherings targeting Muslims in the first half of 2023... Overwhelmingly, 205 incidents, 80% of these hate speech events occurred in BJP-ruled states and Union Territories." Hindutva Watch pointed out that states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat witnessed the highest number of hate speech gatherings.

Remember, one of the big news recently has been the AIADMK, the biggest ally of the BJP in south India quitting the NDA. The BJP's perceived attempts to swallow the political space of its partners after earning a toehold and a latent partiality to the Brahmanical order that reared its head during the Sanatan Dharma controversy are being seen as the reasons behind the rupture in the run-up to the general election. It may be mentioned here that the AIADMK has become the fourth major ally since 2019 to dump the BJP following in the footsteps of the JD(U), Shiromani Akali Dal and the Shiv Sena (UBT).

The BJP has been perceived to be harassing the Muslim community in the hope that it would be recognised as a party dedicated only to the interests of strengthening and propagating Hindu religion and philosophy. The Ram Temple is possibly opening to the public in January, again demonstrating that the RSS-BJP combine is wedded to preach and practice Hindu religion. But all this may not garner the expected votes to the party as larger social and economic issues are there and the lower castes are struggling for a better existence.

While this is no doubt a political strategy and the ruling party understands this well, the question remains if the BJP may win the next elections due to Modi's image and somewhat good governance? The voters will need to weigh their options carefully.

INFA

Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are expected to have a wide effect on the national scenario as they form a core area of the Hindi belt. In these states the BJP and Congress may clash directly. Opinion surveys so far have given a clear edge to the Congress in Chhattisgarh, while in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh the contest is expected to be tough. And while the BJP is banking on Modi's image, the Congress is trying to counter Rajasthan and economic issues to attract the lower segments of society.

Campaigning expectedly has picked up momentum. The BJP is counting on the success of G20 and India's strength in the global order, whereas the Opposition is harping on issues of unemployment, inflation and social fabric being destroyed. Freebies such as reducing LPG prices, subsistence allowance to women are being announced. While the Centre has reduced the price of an LPG by Rs 200 - in trying to counter Rajasthan which sells these at just Rs 500 - global oil prices are rising, which obviously will strain the economy, but votes instead are being eyed.

The Congress has importantly promised a nation-wide caste survey which has sent a clear signal that it wants to give more opportunities in education and job quotas to the EBCs, who are deprived and oppressed. This is expected to have an enormous effect on the lower castes in the Hindi heartland. Moreover, the old pension scheme that has been implemented in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh appears to have tilted the scales in favour of the Congress.

As for the BJP, though it had constituted the Rohini Commission to look into sub-categorisation of OBCs. There is no doubt that the demands for a nation-wide caste census and sub-categorisation of reservation benefits may have a deep impact on OBCs. While the BJP

has maintained a studied silence, Congress is on the offensive.

Economic growth has not been creating jobs and there is massive unemployment and underemployment in states, more so because governments are not filling up vacancies in critical areas like health and education. There are other issues which go against the ruling parties - inflation and dwindling sources of income.

In Rajasthan, the BJP by sidelining its former CM Vasundhara Raje and promoting lesser-known leaders may impact its fortunes. Similarly, in curbing the importance of Shivraj Singh Chouhan in MP, the party may be making a tactical mistake with a formidable Kamal Nath of Congress firmly entrenched. The incumbency factor weighs very much in both states. However, a redeeming feature for the Congress is that in Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot is firmly entrenched in the state and differences about leadership issues have been resolved.

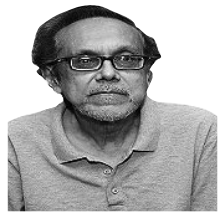
In Telangana, there are expectations that the Congress would make its presence felt. Having won Karnataka, it is expected that Dalits and OBCs would be attracted to it, more so because of party president Mallikarjun Kharge. The party has created a welfare strategy

based on guarantees that may benefit the poor and help its electoral prospects.

In fact, the Opposition combine is taking the OBCs seriously as these constitute half the country's population. It expects the demand for adequate representation and distribution of wealth and opportunities to generate hope among the OBCs, segments of which have been enticed by the call of Hindutva despite it giving them no real empowerment.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been asking this segment to demand real empowerment instead of settling for religious dominance. Addressing a public meeting in Chhattisgarh recently, and pushing the button to transfer an instalment of money to beneficiaries of a housing scheme, he said: "Modi too pushes the button and PSUs get privatised, Adani gets airports, mines, railways and other infrastructure contracts." But he indicated that his party has been working for the poor and the backward sections and in most Congress ruled states, special schemes have been started to help them.

Meanwhile, global reports of exploitation and harassment of Muslims has put the BJP in a somewhat difficult position. The half-yearly report of Hindutva Watch, a US-based research proj-



Dhurjati Mukherjee

WHILE THE BJP IS BANKING ON MODI'S IMAGE, THE CONGRESS IS PUTTING A HOST OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES TO ATTRACT THE LOWER SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY

Fishy Politics

Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved.

THE MOTHER



A virtual "fish" war has started between Japan on one hand and Russia and China on the other. It has been triggered by Russia's decision 16 October to follow its ally China in suspending all Japanese seafood imports over Tokyo's release of wastewater from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant. Rosselkhozadzor, Russia's body responsible for regulating agriculture products, sought to explain the step as nothing but a "precautionary," provisional quality control measure to temporarily restrict the import of fish and seafood products from Japan. But experts smell a conspiracy by both Russia and China to use the opportunity to punish Japan for its support to the US-led military and strategic campaigns against the two countries. Japan has reasons to suspect so since Russia has not taken kindly its support to Ukraine in the war with Russia. Its relations with China have also considerably deteriorated.

In 2011, three reactors at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear facility in north-eastern Japan went into meltdown following a massive earthquake and tsunami that killed around 18,000 people. Twelve years on, in August Japan began discharging treated contaminated water from the stricken plant into the Pacific Ocean.

China in response banned all Japanese seafood imports over the 'selfish' and 'irresponsible' release, accusing Japan of treating the sea like a 'sewer.' But, Japan has brushed aside China's reservations insisting that the operation is safe. It has also claimed the International Atomic Energy Agency has certified that the water has been properly treated. According to Japan, the diluted radioactive wastewater has been released into the ocean eliminating chances of any harm being caused by it.

However, the wastewater discharges, which are expected to continue for decades, have been strongly opposed by fishing groups and neighbouring countries including South Korea, where hundreds of people have protested. China seized the opportunity to settle scores with Japan and banned all imports of Japanese seafood the day the release began in August. This has been badly hurting Japanese seafood producers and exporters.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said its senior officials notified the Russian Embassy in Tokyo that Japan has been providing transparent and scientific explanations about safety of the treated water released from the Fukushima plant and Japanese seafood. The ministry also said the Japanese side sincerely and politely responded to Russia's abrupt request for a dialogue last week on the issue by submitting documents. The ministry called Moscow's restrictions unjust and demanded their withdrawal.

To Japan's credit, it has invited experts from the IAEA who reviewed the safety of the wastewater release. Their conclusion is that if carried out as planned, the release would have a negligible impact on the environment, marine life and human health. A team of IAEA experts from China, South Korea and Canada is set to conduct sampling of seawater and marine life at and near the plant this week as well to allay fears.

Japan has begun emergency measures to tackle the ban and suspension of import of seafood by China and Russia. It has set up a relief fund to help find new markets and reduce the impact of the ban. Measures also include the temporary purchase, freezing and storage of seafood and promotion of seafood sales at home. Before the ban, China was Japan's biggest market for fish, accounting for more than \$500 million worth of exports in 2022. Russia is much less important for Japan, accounting for around \$1.7 million worth of marine product exports in 2022. In fact, a lot more seafood — \$1.04 billion — went the other way from Russia to Japan.

But, the facade of a trade war masks the political tension and mutual suspicion gripping Japan's relations with both Russia and China. The two latter countries have come closer in the wake of the Ukraine war. Things have come to such a pass that Japan's close ally, the US, has gone out of its way to back Tokyo. When the US ambassador to Japan publicly ate fish from the Fukushima area, it was more than a symbolic act. He sought to underscore the fact that the US, with the help of Japan and its other allies in Asia, is determined to take on both China and Russia.

Fish as a business is sure getting fishy.

WISDOM CORNER

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

DESMOND TUTU

The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for.

FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY

Within you there is a stillness and sanctuary to which you can retreat at any time and be yourself.

HERMANN HESSE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1851: Moby Dick is published for the first time. The epic written by American novelist, Herman Melville, is about a sailor's obsession with tracking down and killing an elusive whale that took his leg in a previous encounter. The book was published as *The Whale* in London for the first time and then a month later as *Moby Dick* in the United States. It is thought to be one of the best works of fiction written in modern times.

1867: After much opposition, a deal negotiated by U.S. Secretary of State William Seward for the U.S. purchase of the Russian colony of Alaska was approved, and on this day in 1867 the U.S. flag was flown over the capital, Sitka. US had purchased the large and sparsely populated territory of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million. The purchase was not seen as a positive acquisition by many American citizens who believed that adding Alaska to the US's territory was a waste of taxpayers' money. Many called the act, Seward's folly after Secretary of State William H. Seward, who was responsible for making the purchase. Alaska was admitted to the Union as a state in 1959. October 18 is annually celebrated as Alaska Day in Alaska.

1967: First space probe to enter the atmosphere of another planet. The Soviet Probe Venera 4 entered Venus' atmosphere and sent back information to Earth for about 90 minutes before it lost contact. When Venera 7 landed on Venus a few years later, it became the first probe to land on another planet.

2007: After eight years of self-imposed exile, Benazir Bhutto—who, as two-time prime minister (1988-90 and 1993-96) of Pakistan, was the first woman leader of a Muslim nation in modern history—returned to her home country, and hours later she was nearly killed when her motorcade was bombed in Karachi; she was assassinated in December.

LOL

CROWDED STORE



back, amid loud and colourful curses. On the man's second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw, and knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again. As he got up the second time, he said to the person at the end of the line... "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!"

A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed

IN JEST THIS

Be careful what you 'feed' your animals

Did you hear about the poor water buffalo in Maharashtra that had to undergo jewellery-extraction surgery?

It happened in a village in Washim district, where a farmer named Ramhari Bhoir grows soybeans (also known as soya beans). On a recent day, the farmer's wife, Geeta, did some de-hulling, removing soybeans from their hulls (or husks). She placed the hulls in a bowl, so she could feed them to her buffalo the next morning. She took a bath afterward, but before doing so, she placed her 25-gm gold mangalsutra (bridal necklace) in the same bowl. The next day, she couldn't find her necklace and remembered where she had placed it. But it wasn't there any longer.

The buffalo had expected to get its usual meal, thinking as it approached the bowl, "Soybean hulls again? They keep giving me soybean hulls. Why not something different for a change? Don't they care about me?"

Then the animal spotted the gold necklace and almost jumped out of its hide in excitement.

"They do care about me! They've given me minerals! The vet said I needed more minerals."

The necklace soon disappeared into the complex digestive system of the ruminant, with more compartments than the Chennai Express. Realising what had happened, Geeta Bhoir took her buffalo to a veterinarian, concerned not just about her necklace but also the animal's health. After a sonogram confirmed the presence of the necklace in the buffalo's stomach, a two-hour surgery was performed by the local gastrojewelologist.

Dr. Balasaheb Kondane, a health official from Washim, told the news agency ANI that the buffalo needed more than 60 stitches. That's twice as many stitches as the average human would get after running into a buffalo.

"We request people to be careful while feeding fodder to animals and ensure that nothing else is present in it," Kondane said.

Before you judge Geeta Bhoir, try to remember all the times you accidentally left jewellery in your pet's feeding bowl.

Okay, perhaps you never did that, but surely you've placed a ring within reach of your dog, seen it disappear and then rushed your dog to the veterinarian. Trust me, this happens so often that the Daily Mirror, a tabloid in Britain, has an article template with the headline already written: "My dog ate my engagement ring and now the wedding is off."

In March 2022, the Mirror wrote about an American woman named Shyler Brienne Kraus, who was in an online meeting at home when her dog, Finn, grabbed her wedding ring from her bedside table. She took Finn to the vet's office, where an X-ray showed the ring in Finn's tummy. The vet gave Finn a "bunch of high-fiber food" and asked Kraus to look for the ring in his... uh... "offerings."

It took almost four days for the ring to finally make its way out. Kraus found it in the "offerings" just 15 minutes before Finn was scheduled to undergo jewellery-extraction surgery. Unfortunately Kraus was unable to warn all the women who leave their rings on their bedside

tables. About a month later, Elayna Rattenbury of Worcester, England, left her diamond and sapphire engagement ring on her bedside table and spotted it on an X-ray of her dog Stevie's tummy. Her vet advised her to "let nature take its course," a polite way of saying, "You won't just be picking up after your dog, you'll also be picking through." It took four days for the ring to show up, much to Rattenbury's relief.

Four days may seem like a long time, but not to another American woman named Lois Matykowski. In 2014, her 10-year-old dog, Tucker, threw up, and as she was about to clean up the vomit, she spotted something sparkly. It was a wedding ring that had gone missing six years earlier. Tucker's veterinarian believes that a Popsicle (or ice pop) that he had swallowed a couple of days earlier might have dislodged the ring.

I know what you're thinking: perhaps it would be wise to give all animals, including buffaloes in Maharashtra, a Popsicle now and then.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Combating poverty

Sir, Ongoing global initiatives stress the importance of addressing poverty and safeguarding the environment. The United Nations launched the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 to fight poverty, overseeing various dedicated UN programmes. Despite advancements, 1.1 billion people still confront poverty. It's vital to recognise that poverty extends beyond financial hardship, impacting around 575 million individuals, equivalent to 7 per cent of the world's population, who might continue to face extreme poverty by 2030. UNESCO underscores a sustainable approach to combating poverty through education, science, and fostering a creative economy, aligning with Goal 1 of the 2030 Agenda, which aims to eradicate global poverty. India achieved a significant reduction in poverty, with over 415 million individuals escaping it in just 15 years, witnessing a drop from 55.1 per cent in 2005/2006 to 16.4 per cent in 2019/2021. While global poverty remains a challenge, progress is evident, particularly in India.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Sustainable clothing

Sir, Making a single white cotton t-shirt can take up to 2700 litre of water. That is the amount of water a person drinks over three years. We were shocked when we first learnt this fact. We looked at our wardrobe and wondered how much harm had our favourite garments caused to reach our shelf? As there is hardly any credible information available on how the product was made, we could only take a guess. Fast fashion is growing at an alarming rate, encouraging us to buy newer clothes without much thought. Fast fashion is paving the way for countless environmental concerns. The plastic waste, the water pollution and the towering landfills cannot be ignored anymore. While brands may claim that they are "sustainable," "eco-friendly," in the absence of verifiable information, how are we to know better? The government has to introduce a unified sustainability tag for all garments. If the government assigns a sustainability rating based on how a garment was made citizens too would be encouraged to read that tag and make an informed choice.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI



Solar fencing for UP wildlife sanctuaries soon

UTTAR PRADESH IS HOME TO SEVERAL TIGER RESERVES, INCLUDING AMANGARH TIGER RESERVE, DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE, PILIBHIT TIGER RESERVE, AND RANIPUR TIGER RESERVE

ACCORDING TO THE 2014 TIGER CENSUS, UTTAR PRADESH HAD 117 TIGERS. BY 2018, THIS NUMBER HAD RISEN TO 173, AND IN THE 2022 CENSUS REPORT, IT REACHED 205

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 17: The forest department in Uttar Pradesh has started the tender process for installing solar fencing in regions under the forest department, which have been experiencing man-animal conflicts. S.K. Sharma, the principal chief conservator of forest in Uttar Pradesh, said, "On a trial basis, solar fences were installed at sev-



eral locations a few months ago, and now the installation process will be extended to all conflict-prone areas. We have initiated

the tender process for the same." Uttar Pradesh is home to several tiger reserves, including Amangarh Tiger Reserve, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, and Ranipur Tiger Reserve. According to the 2014 tiger census, Uttar Pradesh had 117 tigers. By 2018, this number had risen to 173, and in the 2022 census report, it reached 205. The trial phase involved fence-

ing the buffer zone of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR). According to a forest official, these solar fences of an appropriate height are designed to deliver a 'very light shock' to animals attempting to cross, aiming to maintain a safe separation between wild animals and humans. In addition to the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Pilibhit, fencing was also one at the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Bahraich.

Why should school HMs bear burden of noon meal prog: HC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Oct 17: The Kerala High Court held that if the noon meal programme in government-run schools is a collaboration between the Centre and the state, why are the headmasters bearing its burden. The observation came in response to a plea filed by a leading organisation of the teachers who approached the Court seeking its intervention in the matter. Notably, with the state government reeling under a massive cash crunch leading to around Rs 163 crore arrears pending, numerous government school heads are forced to bear the ex-



pense of the noon meal programme. When the counsel for the state government informed that the funds from the Centre are not coming on time, the Court said "if that be the case, then remove the name of the Centre from the name of the programme and name it as the Chief Minister's scheme." For long, this has been a major problem for the headmasters/ headmistresses of the state government schools as due to the huge delay in

the funds from the state government to arrive in schools, in order for the school children to get the noon meal, the onus was on the teachers and they used to fund it from their pocket. While the teachers were finding it too difficult to foot the expenses from their pockets, this became a big issue and a leading organisation of the teachers approached the Court seeking their intervention. The Counsel for the state government has informed the Court that steps have now been taken to distribute Rs 81 crore shortly to the schools. The case has been posted for further hearing Wednesday.

Kerala HC beefs up security measures

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Oct 17: The Kerala High Court has decided to beef up security measures on its premises following some recent instances of security breaches. It has been decided to issue Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) cards to advocates and clerks besides strict checking of baggage and body scanning for others entering the High Court building. Also everyone entering the court will be subjected to frisking by the court-handled metal detectors by the security personnel deployed at the entry points. Those advocates who are not in the designated dress have to show their ID cards at the entry points for identification, while the verification of the identity of persons wearing the robes of a lawyer will be done, only if required.

Advocates' clerks shall wear ID cards on entering the High Court building and those who forget to carry their ID cards will have to furnish their name, designation and section to the security personnel and shall mark their bio-metric attendance in the thumb-reader. For government officials, and other visitors, the court has that they should wear their ID cards or should be in proper uniform while entering the High Court.

Further, the Deputy SP (Security), High Court, has been given the permission to take legal action as per law against persons who are not abiding with the security instructions or are using force against the security personnel.

PROMOTING GREEN BIZ IN KERALA Entrepreneurs to partner with govt



AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 17: In a significant move to boost the Malinya Muktha Nava Keralam campaign, aimed at establishing a sustainable waste management system in Kerala, entrepreneurs will be enlisted as key partners to tap into the substantial green business potential of this ambitious project. Recognising the pivotal role of collaboration between public and private sectors in developing an effective waste management system, top officials highlighted the government's efforts to involve private entrepreneurs in exploring business opportunities in this field. This announcement was made at the Green Enterprises summit, jointly organised by the Local Self Government Department and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC). Entrepreneurs from different sectors including those engaged in processing of waste materials like plastic, flex, hair, sanitary waste, septage, e-waste, glass and sewage participated in the meet, an official release

₹42.57 crore subsidy for rubber farmers

Amid the opposition's allegations that the Left government in Kerala was not addressing the plight of rubber growers, Finance Minister K N Balagopal on Monday announced the approval of Rs 42.57 crore as subsidy for farmers in the key sector in the state. Balagopal, in a statement, said the subsidy would benefit 1,45,564 rubber cultivators in the state. With this allocation, the government has disbursed a total of Rs 124.88 crore as subsidy to rubber cultivators for this financial year, including the earlier distribution of Rs 82.31 crore, he said. The minister said that the Rubber Incentive Programme was initiated in light of the existing market conditions for natural rubber.

said here Monday. Inaugurating the meet, Sarada Muraleedharan, Additional Chief Secretary - LSGD, said it was important for the state to draw up a masterplan

for developing Kerala into a green economy, and take it forward expeditiously. Muraleedharan explained the challenges experienced during the campaign so far and sought the wholehearted support from all stakeholders including entrepreneurs. Suman Billa, Principal Secretary, Industries & NORKA, said Kerala is giving waste management a special status of industry since it is one of the biggest challenges faced by the state. Anie Julia Thomas, Officer on Special Duty, Industries Department, spoke on the policies and practices pursued by the state for strengthening the private-public participation in the field of waste management and recycling, based on the motto "Reduce, Recycle, Reuse." Thomas detailed subsidy schemes and other incentives offered by KSIDC to the entrepreneurs engaged in allied activities of waste management. Jiju P Alex, Member, Planning Board, drew attention to the evolving approach to waste management in Kerala in light of the Malinya Muktha Nava Keralam campaign. He urged entrepreneurs to identify business opportunities in this sector, assuring government and local bodies' support. Subsequently, entrepreneurs from various sectors presented detailed insights into their business models and their potential contributions towards making Kerala waste-free. Representatives from LSGD, KSIDC, Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP), Haritha Keralam Mission, Suchitwa Mission, Clean Kerala Company, and the Kerala State Pollution Control Board also participated in the summit.

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, NAYAGARH
At/PO-Nabaganpur, Dist-Nayagarh, Ph-06753-252049, Email:nayagarhrw2006@yahoo.in
1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Tender Online
Division, Nayagarh-05/2023-24 dtd.06.10.2023

No.O-1298: In partial modification to this office Tender Call Notice No.05/2023-24 invited vide this office Memo No.4867 dtd.06.10.2023, the date & time of availability of tender on online for bidding and date & time of opening of tender have been re-scheduled as follows:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding was		Now availability of Tender online for bidding is rescheduled		Date & Time of opening of tender was on	Now Date & Time of opening of tender is rescheduled to
		From	To	From	To		
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Nayagarh	No.Tender-On-line- Divn- Nayagarh-05/2023-24	17.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	31.10.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.	27.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	08.11.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.	01.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	09.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

1. If the lottery will be required for finalisation of the tender, then the same will be conducted on dated 21.11.2023 at 11.30 A.M. instead of dt.10.11.2023 at 11.30 A.M. in the conference Hall of R.W. Division, Nayagarh in presence of the qualified bidders or their authorized representatives who so ever desire to be present. 2. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Divn., Nayagarh
OIPR-25108/11/0011/2324

ODISHA WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
2ND FLOOR, UNNATI BHAWAN, SATYANAGAR, BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA
Phone : (0674) 2571185, e-mail: eicowssb@gmail.com
National Competitive Bidding through e-Procurement
CAD-2480
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RfP)
to empanel Agencies and Rates for Procurement of 500 litres capacity Cesspool Emtier Vehicles for different Urban Local Bodies of Odisha.
Bid Identification No. : 01/OWSSB/RfP of 2023-24, dt.16.10.2023

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost excluding GST (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	a) Manufacture, assembly and supply of 178 (one hundred seventy eight) nos. of Cesspool Emtier Vehicles of 500 litres capacity mounted on a three wheeler vehicle chassis with accessories, safety devices and protective gears for operating personnel, insurance, registration charges, transportation charges, FOR at different Urban Local Bodies of Odisha, demonstration, trial run and training etc. all complete with warranty period of 1 year.	2073.70
	b) Annual Maintenance contract (AMC) charges for a period of 5 (five) years after expiry of warranty period of 1 year including spare parts and consumable items except POL of vehicles for 178 (One hundred seventy eight) numbers of cesspool emtier vehicles.	716.45

a) Period of Completion of Supply: 120 days
b) Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding: From dt. 20.10.2023 (17.00 Hrs) to dt. 13.11.2023 (17.00 Hrs)
c) Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid/RfP: - Engineer in Chief, OWSSB, 2nd Floor, Unnati Bhawan, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751019, Email: eicowssb@gmail.com
d) Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
e) Corrigendum, Clarification, if any for the above works shall be uploaded in the website only. Intending Bidders are urged to visit the above website regularly to keep themselves updated.
Sd./- Engineer in Chief
OIPR-32497/11/0002/2324

KASARAGOD LEADS WAY IN BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kasaragod (Ker), Oct 17: Breaking new ground in the realm of conservation, the Kasaragod district panchayat in Kerala, along with the state Biodiversity Management Committee, has declared flora and fauna that are endangered due to loss of habitat as official species of the district. The white bellied sea eagle (Haliaeetus leucogaster) has been designated as the official bird of Kasaragod district by the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), with

Cantor's giant softshell turtle (Pelochelys cantorii gray) chosen as the official animal. The 'kanjira maram' (Strychnos nux-vomica) assumes the role of official tree, while the Malabar river lily (Crinum malabaricum) is named the official flower of the district. Terming the effort a significant step towards preserving the biodiversity of the region, Kasaragod District Panchayat President Baby Balakrishnan told PTI that the announcement was made during a workshop on biodiversity held October 14.

Portal launched for 1st time voters in Lucknow

Lucknow: To encourage participation of first-time voters in 2024 general elections, the Lucknow district administration has decided to ease the process of getting them registered in the voters' list. It launched 'votesmart-Lucknow', a dedicated portal for all students who are above 18 years of age, to register themselves and get their names on the electoral rolls. The portal will serve as a one-stop hassle-free point of service for all young voters who will be voting for the first time in the 2024 elections. According to the officials, students will have to submit all their identification details on the portal for the registration.

Government of Odisha No.O-1296
Office of the Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division, Jharsuguda
Email:eerw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel: 06645-271643
Bid Identification No. Online-SEJSG-13 of 2023-24
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

- Name of the Work: Road works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
- Total No. of Work : 05 (Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost: Rs.5.88 Lakhs to Rs. 11.76 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 02 (Two) Calendar Months.
- Period and Time of availability of bid document in the portal for Bidding: Dt.20.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 30.10.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Date and Time of bid Opening: Dt.31.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid: S.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda.

(1) Other details can be seen from Detailed notice inviting Tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
OIPR-25104/11/0014/2324

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER U.I.LIFT HEAD WORKS DIVISION KUSUMKHUNTI, DIST:KALAHANDI (ODISHA) No.-A-673;
E-mail: ihd.kusumkhunti@gmail.com
EELHWD No.714 Date: 10.10.2023
1st Corrigendum to Request for Proposal Notice No. EELHWD- RFP (01/2023-24, Date: 09.10.2023

As per Request for Proposal Notice No. EELHWD- RFP (01/2023-24, Date:09.10.2023	Modified to/Read as per 1st Corrigendum
SI.No.01- Type of Work: Preparation of detailed Architectural Consultancy Services (Plan, Estimate, Drawing Works and supervision at stages during construction and completion) for Construction of Museum, Park complex, Phase-2 at Mangalpur in the District of Kalahandi	SI.No.01- Type of Work: Preparation of detailed Architectural Consultancy Services (Plan, Estimate, Design-Drawing Works and supervision at stages during construction and completion) for Construction of Museum, Park complex, Phase-2 at Mangalpur in the District of Kalahandi
SI.No. 04 - Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.13,800/-	SI.No.04-Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.11,500/-
SI.No.06- Class of Contractor: Reputed consultant/ consultancy firms registered under Society Registration Act 1860 and Company Act 1956.	SI.No.06- Class of Contractor: Reputed Consultancy firm registered under Registrar of firms or Indian Company Act 1956.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Sd./- Executive Engineer U.I.Lift Head Works Division, Kusumkhunti
OIPR-32126/11/0008/2324

Panic buttons in UP buses, cabs soon

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 17: The Yogi Adityanath government has decided to install panic buttons along with CCTV cameras in the transport department's city buses, as well as in Ola and Uber cabs in 17 municipal corporations of the state, including Gautam Buddha Nagar, under the 'Safe City' project. The 'Safe City' project is part of the UP government's bid to ensure the safety of girls, women and the elderly during travel. "These CCTV cameras and panic buttons are being integrated with UP-112 by the transport department. This integration will allow passengers to seek help by pressing the panic button in case of any emergency during their journey. When the signal is received, the UP-112 team will be activated and provide immediate assistance. This will ensure a pleasant and safe travel experience for the passengers," a government spokesman said. On behalf of the transport department, testing is being done by CRISIL Company to install CCTV cameras and panic buttons in city buses and integrate them with UP-112. Additionally, the work of testing integration with Uber has already been completed by the transport department. "A MoU is on the anvil between the transport department and Uber for the installation of CCTV cameras and panic buttons. Along with this, a proposal for installation of CCTVs



and panic buttons has been made and sent to the government. Once the government approves the proposal, the installation of CCTV cameras and panic buttons in Uber will commence," the spokesman stated further. On the other hand, a company has been instructed to provide revised facial recognition software (FRS) and technical commercials for integration with Ola. Furthermore, under the 'Safe City' project, 1,861 hotspots have been identified in the state for cases of harassment and molestation of women. Out of these, 656 highly sensitive locations are being continuously patrolled by the police. Under the project, a special campaign (Savera Scheme) was run by UP-112 in 17 Municipal Corporations and Gautam Buddha Nagar to help the elderly. Through the campaign, 1,52,139 elderly people living alone and elderly couples were identified and verified.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, HARABHANGI IRRIGATION DIVISION, ADAVA, Dist: GAJAPATI, ODISHA. e-mail - eeharabhangi@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No.: SE-HID-ADV-03/2023-24
No.A-675: Bid document consisting of work, estimated cost and cost of tender paper, time period of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

- Type of the work : System Improvement Works.
- No. of work : 4 Nos.
- Class of contractor : "D" and "C" Class
- Bid Identification No. : HID-42/2023-24 to HID-45/2023-24
- Estimated cost : Rs. 8.48 Lakh to 15.24 Lakh.
- Period of completion : 90 days.
- Date & time of availability of bid documents : From 25.10.2023, 10.00 AM to 03.11.2023 upto 5.30 P.M. in the portal.
- Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal : 03.11.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.
- Name of the Officer Inviting Bid. : Superintending Engineer, Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Dist.:Gajapati, Odisha.

Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website. Date of opening of the Bid : 04.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer Harabhangi Irrigation Division, Adava, Dist:Gajapati
OIPR-32474/11/0004/2324

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BALASORE (ROADS & BUILDINGS) DIVISION-I AT/PO-PADHUNAPADA, BALASORE
Contact No.:06782262045, E-Mail ID: ee_blsrb@yahoo.co.in
BID INVITATION NO. SE (R and B) BLS-Divn-I-63/2023-24
No.B-1100: Letter No.10004, Date:11.10.2023

1	The Superintending Engineer, Balasore (R&B) Division-I, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids to be received in ONLINE MODE only for Road and Building works.
2	No. of Work : 5 Nos.
3	Nature of Work : Building & Electrical works of Balasore (R&B) Division-I
4	Class of Contractor : "D", "C", "B" MV Electrical Class Contractor
5	Approx. value of Work : Rs.9.65 Lakh to 46.63 Lakh
6	Tender Cost : Rs.4,000/- & 6000/-
7	Availability of Bid documents in the Website : From 10.00 hours of dt.19.10.2023 to 16.00 hours of dt.30.10.2023
8	Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.31.10.2023 at 11.00 Hours
9	Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in .

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Balasore (R&B) Division-I
OIPR-34157/11/0019/2324



SDRF personnel at the site after a portion of a temple collapsed in Jammu



President Droupadi Murmu after presenting the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023 to actor Waheeda Rehman during the 69th National Film Awards ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan, in New Delhi



Sediments dislodged by heavy overnight rains float close to the sea coast in Pondicherry



Inside view of a RapidX train ahead of its scheduled inauguration on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Ghaziabad



ISRO's TV-D1 test flight of Mission Gaganyaan sits at the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Station in Sriharikota. The launch is scheduled for October 21 at 8 am



Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni welcomes Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on the occasion of their meeting at Chigi Palace in Rome



US Special Representative for North Korea who is also US Ambassador to Indonesia, Sung Y. Kim, (centre), shakes hands with South Korean Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Kim Gunn, (left) and Japanese Foreign Ministry's Director General for Asian and Oceanian Affairs Hiroyuki Namazu, (right), during their trilateral meeting on North Korea, in Jakarta, Indonesia



Rising prices have made the lives of poor and middle-class families miserable. But the Prime Minister is not worried about it
JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

SISODIA BAIL PLEAS: SC RESERVES VERDICT

The Supreme Court Tuesday reserved its verdict on the regular bail pleas of former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Manish Sisodia in corruption and money laundering cases arising out of the Delhi excise policy 'scam'



of the day quote

The points Mahua Moitra has been raising in Parliament have unsettled the ruling side (at the Centre). And hence, they are trying to get back at her
TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

By capitalising on the popularity of the brave soldiers of our Indian Army who protect the nation, Modi ji is promoting himself. By politically using the army for elections, the Modi government has done something which has never happened in the last 75 years
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

The Himachal Pradesh government has identified 11 sites for developing and promoting ecotourism in the state
SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

SHORT TAKES

6 students drown

Hazaribag: Six students of Class-12 drowned on Tuesday in Lotwa Dam in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, where they had gone for a picnic "bunking" school, officials said. The students were aged between 17 and 18 years, they said. The incident occurred around 11 am in the dam, about 25 km from Hazaribag town.

President to visit Bihar

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will be on a three-day visit to Bihar from Wednesday to attend a host of programmes. The President will launch the fourth Krishi Road Map (2023-2028) of Bihar in Patna on Wednesday, according to a statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan Tuesday. On October 19, President Murmu will grace the first convocation of Mahatma Gandhi Central University in Motihari. On the same day, she will interact with the members of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) of Bihar at the Raj Bhavan, it said. In the evening, the President will grace the first convocation of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Patna. On October 20, the President will visit Gaya to grace the third convocation of Central University of South Bihar, the statement added.

SC declines interim bail

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday denied interim bail to former Andhra Pradesh chief minister and TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu and said it will pronounce its verdict on his plea challenging the high court order refusing to quash the FIR against him in the Skill Development Corporation scam case. A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi, which reserved its verdict on the TDP leader's petition, did not accept the prayer of senior advocate Harish Salve, who sought interim bail for Naidu, 73, citing his age and the period of 40 days that he has spent in custody.

Defence ministry seals deal

New Delhi: The defence ministry Tuesday said it signed a contract with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd for construction of the first Indian Coast Guard training ship at a cost of Rs 310 crore. It would be the first dedicated training platform with integral helicopter capabilities that will provide basic sea training to Coast Guard personnel and other international trainee officers, according to the ministry.

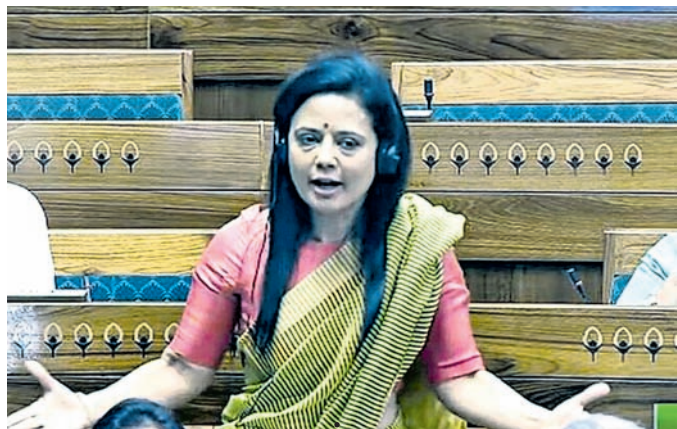
Mahua moves HC to restrict 'defamatory' content

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Trinamool Congress (TMC) member Mahua Moitra Tuesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking to restrain BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, an advocate and several social media platforms and media houses from posting, circulating or publishing any alleged fake and defamatory content against her.

Justice Sachin Datta is likely to hear the matter later this week. Moitra, a member of Lok Sabha representing Krishnanagar in West Bengal, sought permanent injunction and damages against Dubey, advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, social media platform X, search engine Google, YouTube and 15 media houses and to restrain them from making, publishing, circulating per se defamatory, ex facie false and malicious statements against her.

Dubey has accused Moitra of taking "bribes" from a businessman to ask questions in Parliament and urged Speaker Om Birla to constitute an "inquiry committee" to look into the charges against her. Citing a letter he has received from the advocate, Dubey said the lawyer has shared "irrefutable" evidence of bribes exchanged be-



She has sought a direction to the defendants to remove or take down all the alleged defamatory and scurrilous content, including posts, tweets, re-tweets, caption, posted at their respective platforms against her

Dubey has accused Moitra of taking "bribes" from a businessman to ask questions in Parliament and urged Speaker Om Birla to constitute an "inquiry committee" to look into the charges against her

tween the TMC leader and a businessman.

In his letter to the Lok Sabha speaker, Dubey claimed 50 of 61 questions she asked in Lok Sabha till recently were focused on the Adani Group, the business conglomerate which the TMC MP has often accused of malpractices, more so after it was at the receiving end of a critical report of short-selling from Hindenburg.

In her plea in the high court,

Moitra denied the allegations and claimed that they were designed to damage her reputation in relation to the false allegations made by Dubey and Dehadrai against her for alleged exchange of bribe for asking questions in Parliament.

She has sought a direction to the defendants to remove or take down all the alleged defamatory and scurrilous content, including posts, tweets, re-tweets, caption, posted at their respective

platforms against her.

Moitra further sought a decree and an order directing "defendant no.1 (Dubey) and 2 (Dehadrai) to publish a retraction and an apology to the plaintiff in three English newspapers, three Hindi newspapers and three Bengali newspapers for the false and defamatory statements / allegations" made by them against her. She has also provisionally valued the damages at Rs 2 crore and said the defendants be directed to pay her damages that shall be quantified at a later stage on account of the defamatory, derogatory and baseless statements made by Dubey and Dehadrai and published by X, Google and several media houses on their respective platforms.

Moitra said the lawyer was her close friend and recently, the cessation of this friendship soon took an acrimonious turn and he "resorted to sending vile, threatening, vulgar messages to the plaintiff and also trespassed into plaintiff's official residence and stole some personal possessions of the plaintiff including her pet dog, Henry (the same was returned later). Against such actions, the plaintiff had filed two police complaints... And the same were later withdrawn by the plaintiff on account of settlement talks".

HC halts Raghav's bungalow eviction

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani allowed Chadha's appeal and revived the trial court's April 18 order which had prevented the Raja Sabha secretariat from evicting him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha can live in the government bungalow allotted to him for now, with the Delhi High Court Tuesday reviving the trial court's stay on his eviction by the Raja Sabha secretariat.

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani allowed Chadha's appeal and revived the trial court's April 18 order which had prevented the Raja Sabha secretariat from evicting him. The high court said the trial court was in error in returning Chadha's plaint over non-compliance with the provisions of section 80 of the Civil Procedure Code.

Chadha had challenged the trial court's October 5 order which vacated its own order of April 18 on a review plea filed by the RS Secretariat. The trial court had said in its latest order that Chadha cannot claim an absolute right to occupy the government bungalow during his entire tenure as a Raja Sabha member even after cancellation of the allotment.

The Raja Sabha secretariat had opposed Chadha's petition in the high court against the trial court's decision which had cleared the decks for his eviction.

The high court said the April 18 order of the trial court which had directed the Raja Sabha secretariat not to evict Chadha, stands revived and shall remain in force till the time the trial court decides his application for interim relief.

The trial court had returned Chadha's plaint on the ground that he failed to comply with the provisions of section 80 CPC which says no suit shall be in-



stituted against the government or a public officer in respect of any act purporting to be done by the public officer in his official capacity.

The other ground on which the trial court was since the letter cancelling the allotment of the bungalow was issued on March 3, 2023 and the suit was filed only on April 17, Chadha had failed to demonstrate the need for any urgent or immediate relief.

The high court, while deciding the appeal said the RS Secretariat, being the permanent administrative office of the Raja Sabha, is a separate and distinct institution from the government that is the Executive wing of the State.

"In the present matter therefore, it cannot be said that the word 'Government' appearing in section 80 CPC would include the RS Secretariat. Accordingly, in the opinion of this court, section 80 CPC has no application to the suit filed by the appellant, in which the sole defendant is Raja Sabha Secretariat, against whom relief has been sought for in the suit," Justice Bhambhani said.

The high court asked Chadha to present the plaint before the trial court again within three days, and also directed the lower court to proceed with the matter by first deciding the interim relief application which stands restored before it.

Chadha's counsel had submitted before the high court that the MP has been served with a notice and eviction proceedings are going on. Chadha had contended before the high court that he was a victim of "selective targeting" because he was a vocal opposition member of Parliament.

SC ultimatum to Maha Speaker on disqualification pleas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Supreme Court Tuesday granted Maharashtra assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar a final opportunity to give it a realistic time-frame for deciding the cross-petitions filed by the rival factions of the Shiv Sena seeking disqualification of each other's MLAs following a split in the party.

The court said the disqualification petitions have to be adjudicated expeditiously. A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud noted the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that he will personally engage with the speaker during Dussehra vacation and indicate a firm set of modalities.

"We are not satisfied with the time schedule. SG has apprised that during Dussehra breaks he would personally engage with the speaker so as to indicate a firm set of modalities," the bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said while posting the matter for hearing on October 30.

The apex court had earlier come down hard on the speaker over the delay in deciding the pleas filed by the Uddhav Thackeray faction for disqualification of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and several MLAs loyal to him, saying the speaker cannot defeat the orders of the top court. Similar disqualification petitions have also been filed by the Shinde bloc against lawmakers owing allegiance to Thackeray.

On September 18, the top court had directed the speaker to spell out the timeline for adjudication of the petitions.

Four operatives of terror module held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 17: The Punjab Police have averted possible target killings of prominent persons with the arrest of four operatives of a terror module backed by Pakistan-based terrorist Harwinder Singh Rinda and operated by USA-based gangster Harpreet Singh alias Happy Passia, a top police officer said Tuesday.

Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav said the accused were identified as Vikramjit Singh alias Raja Bains of Batala and Bawa Singh of village Luddarh in Amritsar; Gurkirpal Singh alias Gagan Randhawa and Amanat Gill, residents of Amritsar.

Police also recovered one .32 bore pistol along with 10 live



cartridges from their possession, he added.

Following intelligence inputs about Rinda and Happy Passia planning to target some prominent persons in the state and they have hired two shooters to accomplish this task, police teams of the state special operation cell, SAS Nagar launched a special operation and nabbed Vikramjit and Bawa.

Preliminary investigations revealed gangster Happy Passia had a deal with accused

Vikramjit for Rs 15 lakh to carry out a target killing, he said, while adding that Vikramjit had also conducted the recce of the target in the last week of September.

The DGP said the follow-up investigations suggested that the pistol and live rounds for Vikramjit were arranged by Happy Passia through his local associates Gurkirpal, Hari Singh alias Harry and Amanat, all residents of Amritsar.

"Following the disclosures of arrested accused, police teams also nabbed Gurkirpal and Amanat, while Hari Singh managed to flee abroad," he added. An FIR has been registered under the relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act.

POLLUTION IN RIVER STRETCHES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to the chief secretaries of all states and the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) in a matter regarding non-compliance with the tribunal's order regarding the pollution of various river stretches across the country.

In February 2021, the tribunal directed the MoJS to devise an appropriate mechanism for an effective monitoring of the steps for control of pollution and re-

juvenation of all polluted river stretches in the country.

Other directions to the states included addressing the gaps in the treatment of sewage and effluents by setting up adequate effluent treatment plants (ETPs), sewage treatment plants (STPs) and common effluent treatment plants (CETPs).

In a recent order, a bench of Chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said, "Since a larger issue in respect of the implementation of the orders by the different authorities on a



pan-India basis is involved, therefore, we entertain this ap-

plication as an execution application for the execution of

the order which has been finally passed (on February 22, 2021)."

It said the material shown by the petitioner indicated that the tribunal's order was not implemented by all states.

"Hence, we issue a notice to the chief secretaries of all the states and the Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) with the direction to submit the report in respect of compliance of above order of the tribunal," the NGT said. The matter has been listed on December 13 for further proceedings.

Congress releases manifesto for MP polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Oct 17: The Congress Tuesday released the party's manifesto for the upcoming state assembly polls, announcing to conduct caste census and many other sops including 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs, farm loan waiver and Rs 25 lakh medical insurance for all the people in the state.

Releasing the 106-page manifesto listing 59 promises and 101 main guarantees, state Congress chief Kamal Nath also announced to provide LPG cylinders at Rs 500 and to form an IPL team of the state, if the opposition party is voted to power in the November 17 polls.

In order to bring happiness in the state, the party will start the 'Khushhali Mission', Nath said, adding the party's new slogan is "Congress Aayegi, Khushhali Layegi" (Congress will come and bring happiness). The Congress also promised to give an assistance of Rs 1,500 per month to women, farm loan waiver up to Rs 2 lakh, 100 units of free electricity and 200 units at half rate to consumers, free power for 5 HP motor for irrigation purpose to cultivators, waive pending electricity dues of farmers and taking back false cases related to electricity and farm agitations.

"We will provide health insurance cover of Rs 25 lakh, which also has an accidental cover of Rs 10 lakh, for all the people," Nath said while releasing the manifesto. Nath also promised 27 per cent reservation to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in government jobs and schemes.

The former state chief minister also announced purchase of wheat at the minimum rate of Rs 2,600 per quintal and paddy at Rs 2,500 per quintal and ensured that the cultivators will get their input costs.

international



Our rules of engagement on the border are very clear right now: Anyone who comes near the fence will be shot
LT. COL. RICHARD HECHT | ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES (IDF) SPOKESPERSON

TRUMP TRICK

Former US President Donald Trump announced that he will reinstate and expand a travel ban on people from predominantly Muslim nations if he is elected to the White House again in 2024



Injured Palestinians arrive at al-Shifa Hospital following Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City



Palestinians evacuate a survivor from a destroyed house in town of Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip



A mourner reacts as bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes lie at a hospital

AP/PTI/REUTERS PHOTO

The evacuation order has stirred fears in Gaza, where many inhabitants are refugees, that they will never be able to return home. The United Nations human rights office warned Tuesday that the demand could breach international law

ASSAULT CONTINUES

Israel bombed areas of southern Gaza where it had told Palestinians to flee to ahead of an expected ground invasion, killing dozens of people Tuesday in attacks it says are targeted at Hamas militants that rule the besieged territory. With no water, fuel or food being delivered to Gaza since Hamas' brutal attack on Israel last week, mediators struggled to break a deadlock over delivering supplies to increasingly desperate civilians, aid groups and hospitals.

Meanwhile, the Gaza Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike hit the city hospital packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter, killing hundreds. If confirmed, the attack would be by far the deadliest Israeli airstrike in five wars fought since 2008. US President Joe Biden prepared to head to the region as he and other world leaders tried to prevent the war from sparking a broader regional conflict. Violence flared Tuesday along Israel's border with Lebanon, where Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants operate.

In Gaza, dozens of injured were rushed to hospitals after heavy attacks outside the southern cities of Rafah and Khan Younis, residents reported. Basem Naim, a senior Hamas official and former health minister, reported 27 people were killed in Rafah and 30 in Khan Younis.

An airstrike in Deir al Balah reduced a house to rubble, killing nine members of the family liv-

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

FRANCE CALLS HAMAS VIDEO OF FRENCH-ISRAELI HOSTAGE "VILE"

WEST BANK MOURNERS MARCH FOR TEEN KILLED IN CLASHES

FOUR HEZBOLLAH FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN KILLED AS TENSIONS FLARED ALONG THE LEBANON AND ISRAEL BORDER



ing there. Three members of another family that had evacuated from Gaza City were killed in a neighbouring home.

The dead included one man and 11 women and children. Witnesses said there was no warning before the strike.

The Israeli military said it was targeting Hamas hideouts, infrastructure and command centers. "When we see a target, when we see something moving that is Hamas, we'll take care of it," Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, an Israeli military spokesman, said.

A strike in the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza killed a top Hamas commander, Ayman Nofal, the group's military wing said — the most high-profile militant known to have been killed so far in the war.

The UN human rights office decried "appalling reports" that civilians who were trying to flee to southern Gaza were killed by a military strike. Health authorities in Gaza say at least 3,000 people have been killed in Israel's intense 11-day bombardment since Hamas militants

ramped into Israeli towns October 6, killing more than 1,300 soldiers and civilians. Another 1,200 people across Gaza are believed to be buried under the rubble, alive or dead, health authorities said.

Emergency teams struggled to rescue people while cut off from the internet and mobile networks, running out of fuel and exposed to unceasing airstrikes. More than 1 million Palestinians have fled their homes — roughly half of Gaza's population — and 60 per cent

are now in the approximately 14-kilometer (8-mile) long area south of the evacuation zone, the UN said.

Aid workers warned that the territory was near complete collapse. Hospitals were on the verge of losing electricity, threatening the lives of thousands of patients, and hundreds of thousands of people searched for bread and water.

The UN agency for Palestinians said more than 400,000 displaced people are crowded into schools and other

facilities in the south. The agency said it has only 1 liter of water a day for each of its staff members

trapped in the territory. Israel opened a water line into the south for three hours that benefited only 14 per cent of Gaza's population, the UN said. Clashes erupted again

Tuesday on the border between Lebanon and Israel, where Israeli forces and armed groups in Lebanon have engaged in a series of low-level skirmishes since the outbreak of the latest war in Gaza. An anti-tank missile fired from Lebanon landed in the town of Metula in northern Israel Tuesday morning, injuring three people, according to the Ziv Medical Centre in Safed.

US officials said the gain might appear modest, but stressed that it was a significant step forward. Still, as of late Tuesday, there was no deal in place. A top Israeli official said Tuesday his country was demanding guarantees that Hamas militants would not seize any aid deliveries. Tzahi Hanegbi, head of Israel's National Security Council, suggested entry of aid also depended on the return of hostages held by Hamas.

AGENCIES

Senior Hamas commander killed

Hamas' military wing, the Qassam Brigades, says that an Israeli airstrike in the central Gaza Strip has killed one of its top militant commanders. Ayman Nofal is the most high-profile Hamas militant to be killed so far in Israeli bombardment on the Gaza Strip. Nofal, known by his nom de guerre Abu Mohammed, was killed on Tuesday in Israeli strikes that targeted the Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip, the militant group said in a statement.

2K US troops put on alert

The US military Tuesday ordered 2,000 personnel to prepare for deployment to the Middle East as a show of force amid the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the deployment would allow the United States "to respond more quickly" to the crisis. The United States has already deployed two aircraft carriers to the region "to deter hostile actions against Israel," Austin said last week.

21 French citizens killed

France's foreign ministry Tuesday confirmed the death of 21 French citizens killed in the Hamas militants attacks on Israel. The Ministry says 11 French citizens are missing. French President Emmanuel Macron, speaking during a visit to Albania Tuesday, said his government was doing "everything possible" for the release of French and other hostages held in Gaza.

Versailles Palace evacuated again in security scare

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct 17: The Palace of Versailles, one of France's most visited tourist attractions, was evacuated Tuesday because of a security scare for the second time in four days, with France on heightened alert against feared attacks after the fatal stabbing of a school teacher.

The former royal palace's account on X, formerly known as Twitter, said: "For security reasons, the Palace of Versailles is evacuating visitors and closing its doors today Tuesday October 17. Thank you for your understanding." Following a police inspection, the palace was cleared to reopen in the afternoon, National Police said. The palace as well as the Louvre Museum in Paris were also evacuated Saturday after receiving bomb threats.

France stepped up its terror alert level in the wake of the school attack in the northern city of Arras last Friday by a suspected Islamic extremist.

The vast Versailles palace was the home of King Louis XVI before his decapitation during the French Revolution. It will be one of the venues for the Paris Olympics next year, hosting horse riding.

Biden to cut China off from more Nvidia chips

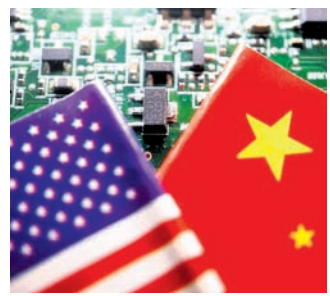
REUTERS

Washington, Oct 17: The Biden administration said Tuesday it plans to halt shipments to China of more advanced artificial intelligence chips designed by Nvidia and others, part of a suite of measures aimed at stopping Beijing from getting cutting-edge US technologies to strengthen its military.

The rules, described by senior administration officials in a press briefing Monday evening, restrict a broader swathe of advanced chips and chipmaking tools to a greater number of countries including Iran and Russia, and blacklist Chinese chip designers Moore Thread and Biren.

The new measures aim to hamper China's military development by closing loopholes in regulations released last October and will probably be updated "at least annually," according to Commerce Department Secretary Gina Raimondo.

The goal is to limit China's access to "advanced semiconductors that could fuel breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and sophisticated



computers that are critical to (Chinese) military applications," she said, stressing the administration was not seeking to hurt Beijing economically.

The United States and China are locked in a years-long technology war, but the sweeping curbs released last October further escalated tensions between the superpowers.

CHINA-ONLY CHIPS HIT
In a statement following publication of the rules, Top AI chip designer Nvidia (NVDA.O) said it complies with regulations and does not expect "a near-term meaningful impact on our financial results." The company, whose shares fell 7%, has made chips such as the A800 and H800 that walked right up the line of the previous rules to continue sell-

ing to China, and AMD (AMD.O), also impacted by the rules, has said it plans a similar strategy. Nvidia's business has soared since the imposition of last year's rules because its China-only chips are still better than alternatives.

The Silicon Valley firm is currently selling almost every chip it can procure as worldwide demand outstrips supply, but would be hurt in the long term as Chinese chip firms seek to fill any voids left by US companies.

Nvidia's A800 and H800 chips will be hit by the new regulations, due to a change in chip parameters aimed at capturing a greater number of chips. But the rules will exempt most consumer chips used in laptops, smartphones and gaming, though some will be subject to licensing and notification requirements by US officials. The previous rules imposed a two-pronged test that measured both a chip's computing performance and its ability to communicate with other chips, an important measure in AI supercomputers where thousands of chips are strung together to chew through huge amounts of data.

POLICE DETAIN GRETA AT LONDON CLIMATE PROTEST

ASSOCIATED PRESS



London, Oct 17: Greta Thunberg was detained by British police Tuesday alongside other climate activists who gathered outside a central London hotel to disrupt a meeting of oil and gas company executives.

Thunberg was among dozens of protesters who chanted "oily money out" and attempted to block access to the InterContinental Hotel on Park Lane, which is hosting the Energy Intelligence Forum.

The conference is hosting speakers, including the chief executives of Saudi Arabia's Aramco and Norway's Equinor, as well as the UK's energy security minister.

An Associated Press photographer saw Thunberg being led away by officers and taken into a police vehicle, along with about 10 other activists.

Ukraine claims a major strike on Russian airfields

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Oct 17: Ukraine Tuesday claimed to have carried out one of the most destructive attacks on Russian air assets since the beginning of the war, as a US official revealed that the longer-range ballistic missiles sought for months by Kyiv had been delivered quietly and are in battlefield use.

Ukraine's Special Operations Forces claimed it destroyed nine Russian helicopters at two airfields in Russia-occupied regions in a nighttime attack on targets in eastern and southern Ukraine. It also hit military equipment, an air-defense system, ammunition warehouses and runways, a statement said.

The claim came hours before an official said the United States had made good on a promise by President Joe Biden to his Ukrainian counterpart last month that it would provide the Army Tactical Missile System, known as ATACMS. While some versions of the missiles can go as far as about 180 miles (300 kilometers), the official said the ones that went to Ukraine have a shorter range and carry cluster munitions, making them suitable for attacks on airfields.

Ukraine's Special Operations Forces claimed it destroyed nine Russian helicopters at two airfields in Russia-occupied regions in a nighttime attack on targets in eastern and southern Ukraine

The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter before an official announcement and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The weapons development piles pressure on the Kremlin as both sides look for battlefield advantages ahead of winter and what is shaping up as a protracted war of attrition.

The airfields, in the Luhansk and Berdyansk regions, are located behind the front line. The Russian military apparently thought that they were at a safe distance from Ukrainian attacks. Meanwhile, Russia is throwing more units into its effort to take a key eastern Ukraine city, Western analysts say, after apparent setbacks that have slowed its dayslong onslaught.



There's nothing wrong with women delivering food - we have hundreds of women who deliver food everyday to earn a livelihood for their families, and we are proud of their work ethic.

DEEPINDER GOVAL | ZOMATO MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO

INDIA EXPORTS 1.16 MT COAL TO NEIGHBOURS

India exported 1.163 million tonnes of coal in 2022-23 to neighbouring countries, including Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan, the coal ministry said Tuesday. The coal was mainly exported to Nepal at 0.833 MT, followed by 0.245 MT to Bangladesh, 0.053 MT to Bhutan and 0.032 MT to others, according to the latest Provisional Coal Statistics for FY23.



of the day quote

The SUV segment is going to be an intensely fought segment. The top three-four players will have just a few thousand (units) here and there. At some point someone will be number one, sometimes somebody else will become number two

SHAILESH CHANDRA | TATA MOTORS PV MD

Right now there's a lot of competition in electric scooters. There are not many players in the electric motorcycle space, so we think this is the right time to expand operations

ANJALI RATTAN | RATTANINDIA ENTERPRISES BUSINESS CHAIRPERSON

There is no violation of net neutrality if a peering charge is applied at an interconnection point between two networks to compensate for an imbalance of data traffic

SP KOCHHAR | COAI DIRECTOR GENERAL

Import curbs on laptops: US, Korea raise concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The US, China, Korea and Chinese Taipei have raised concerns on India's decision to impose import restrictions on laptops, and computers, in a meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), an official said.

The concern was flagged in the meeting of WTO's Committee on Market Access. It was chaired by Renata Crisaldo of Paraguay October 16, in Geneva.

The US has stated that the decision will have an impact on trade of these products, including US exports to India, once they are implemented, the Geneva-based official said.

America has also said that the decision is creating uncertainty for exporters and downstream users.

August 3, India imposed import restrictions on a host of IT hardware products as laptops, personal computers (including tablet computers), micro computers, large or mainframe computers, and certain data processing machines with a view to boost domestic manufacturing and cut imports from countries like China.

The regime would come into effect from November 1.



However, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal last week said that India will not impose licensing requirement on imports but will only monitor their inbound shipments.

The official said that Korea stressed that the proposed measures by India seem inconsistent with WTO rules and could consequently create unnecessary trade barriers.

Seoul requested India to reconsider the implementation of these measures and provide detailed clarifications and information on this issue, including the timeline of its implementation.

India imports about USD 7-8 billion worth of these goods every year.

The country has imported personal computers, including laptops, worth USD 5.33 billion in 2022-23, as against USD 7.37 billion in 2021-22.

Markets rebound after 3 days of fall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 17: Equity benchmark indices bounced back Tuesday after three days of fall amid recovery in global markets and buying in HDFC Bank post its quarterly earnings.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 261.16 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 66,428.09. During the day, it jumped 392.89 points or 0.59 per cent to 66,559.82.

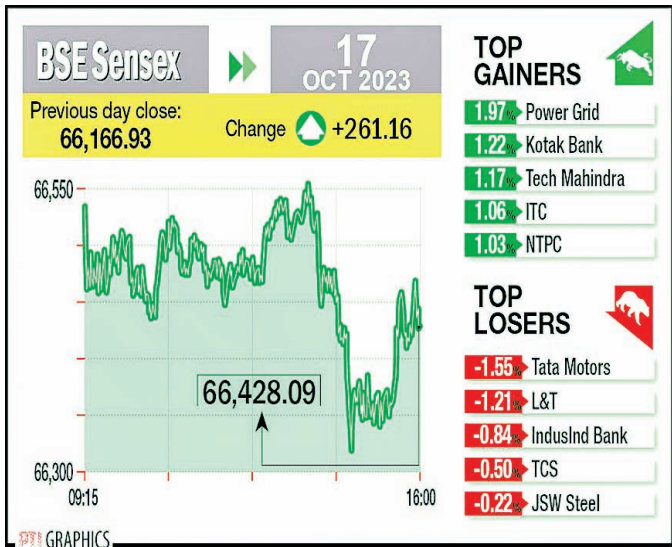
The Nifty gained 79.75 points or 0.40 per cent to 19,811.50.

Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, ITC, Bharti Airtel, Nestle, NTPC, Bajaj Finance, Reliance Industries, Infosys and HDFC Bank were the major gainers.

HDFC Bank ended nearly 1 per cent up after the company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹16,811 crore for the September quarter, its maiden quarterly earnings announcement after merging parent HDFC with itself.

Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, IndusInd Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, JSW Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the laggards.

"The market's gap-up opening today, offsetting the losses of the past three days, indicates an optimism over the ongoing Q2 earnings despite concerns about the Middle East and subdued start by the IT sector. The upward trend was broad-based with par-



ticular upside in banking, oil & gas and FMCG sectors. However, some profit-taking was evident as the day concluded. FIIs continue to withdraw funds due to rise in the US bond yields. An insight about the future direction of interest rates is expected from the Fed chair's upcoming speech October 19th. While the market will also closely monitor the developments in the Israel-Hamas conflict, with a consensus emerging that the geopolitical risk will not elevate," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.70 per cent and midcap index

climbed 0.39 per cent. Among the indices, utilities rallied 1.21 per cent, power jumped 0.98 per cent, energy (0.94 per cent), oil & gas (0.80 per cent), financial services (0.66 per cent) and telecommunication (0.64 per cent).

Capital Goods and realty were the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the positive territory.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.48 per cent to USD 90.08 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹593.66 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

India's pension system improves from 2022: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 17: Even as India's retirement system has improved to some extent from last year, the country ranked 45 out of the 47 retirement income systems analysed, a report said Tuesday.

India had an overall index value of 45.9 from 44.5 in 2022, ranking 45 out of the 47 retirement income systems analysed primarily due to improvement in adequacy and sustainability sub-indices, according to the 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI).

The Netherlands had the highest overall index value (85.0), closely followed by Iceland (83.5) and Denmark (81.3). Argentina had the lowest index value (42.3), it added.

This year, the Global Pension Index compares 47 retirement income systems across the globe and covers 64 per cent of the world's population.

The Global Pension Index uses the weighted average of the sub-indices of adequacy, sustainability and integrity to measure each retirement system against more than 50 indicators.

The 2023 Global Pension index includes three new retirement income systems - Botswana, Croatia, and Kazakhstan.

SHORT TAKES

Govt to sell up to 7% stake in HUDCO

New Delhi: The government will sell up to 7 per cent stake in Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) at a floor price of ₹79 per share. The Offer For Sale (OFS) for over 14.01 crore shares or 7 per cent stake will open for institutional investors Wednesday. Retail investors can place bids for HUDCO shares Thursday. At ₹79 apiece, the 7 per cent share sale in HUDCO would fetch about ₹1,000 crore to the exchequer. The floor price of ₹79 per scrip is at a discount of 12 per cent over Tuesday's closing share price of HUDCO. Shares of HUDCO closed at ₹89.92, up 0.36 per cent on BSE.

Titan to raise ₹2,500cr via NCDs

New Delhi: Leading jewellery and watchmaker Titan Tuesday said it will raise ₹2,500 crore from the markets through unsecured Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) on a private placement basis. The board of the company in a meeting Tuesday "approved the proposal for raising of funds through the issuance of rated, listed, redeemable, unsecured NCDs" for ₹2,500 crore, said a regulatory filing from the Tata group managed firm. The board also authorised a committee to take action with respect to the finalisation of terms of issuance and the allotment of NCDs. Besides, the board, at the said meeting, had also approved "availing of long-term borrowings in the form of long-term unsecured loans up to a limit of ₹1,000 crore from banks/financial institutions," it added.

Bajaj Finance Q2 profit up 28%

New Delhi: Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) Tuesday reported a 28 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹3,551 crore for the second quarter ended September 30. The non-banking finance company had posted a net profit of ₹2,781 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago. Its total consolidated income increased to ₹13,382 crore during the July-September period against ₹9,974 crore a year earlier, BFL said in a regulatory filing. The Pune-headquartered company's total expenditure rose to ₹8,624 crore compared to ₹6,222 crore in the year-ago period. Its consolidated assets under management (AUM) as of September 30, 2022, grew by 33 per cent to ₹2,90,264 crore from ₹2,18,366 crore a year ago.

MUKESH AMBANI'S FINANCE PUSH

JFS set to launch suite of loan products

Penetration of financial investment products in India is low relative to the size of the economy and Ambani is looking to tap into this market after similar disruptive forays into telecom and retail sectors

REUTERS

Bangalore, Oct 17: Jio Financial Services JFS plans to launch auto, home loans and other products, as the billionaire Mukesh Ambani-backed company seeks to establish itself as a full-service financial services firm in a rapidly growing market.

Despite strong growth, penetration of financial investment products in India is low relative to the size of the economy. Ambani is looking to tap into this market after similar disruptive forays into the telecom and retail sectors.

JFS has already launched personal loans for salaried and self-employed individuals in the financial capital of Mumbai and consumer durable loans across 300 stores in India, it said in a presentation to analysts late Monday, offering a first glimpse



into operational details that had largely been vague at the time of its listing in August.

It will now also launch business and merchant loans for self-employed individuals, it said.

The company's insurance broking arm has also partnered with 24 insurance companies, while its payments bank division, which relaunched savings account and bill payment services, plans to launch debit cards.

Betting on technology and artificial intelligence to be its

"growth differentiator," the company is also working on an app to carry its products.

JFS' first earnings report after being carved out of parent Reliance Industries and listed on the stock exchanges showed second-quarter profit doubled from the previous three months.

Shares of the company rose as much as 3.7% in early trading, before paring some of the gains to trade 2% higher.

Jio Financial, which has tied up with US asset manager BlackRock to launch asset management services in India, listed at a sharp discount. The stock was down about 14%, as of Monday's close.

JFS is likely to take a "balanced approach to growth," Jefferies analysts said, adding that they see limited risk for rival Bajaj Finance and other leading retail banks.

The consolidated net profit in three months ended September 30 rose to ₹668.18 crore as compared to ₹331.92 crore in the preceding quarter, the firm said in a stock exchange filing.

Another crisis looms as global debt worries mount

A surge in government borrowing costs has put high debt in the spotlight, with investors demanding increased compensation to hold long-term bonds and policymakers urging caution on public finances

REUTERS

London, Oct 17: Record debts, high interest rates, the costs of climate change, health and pension spending as populations age and fractious politics are stoking fears of a financial market crisis in big developed economies.

A surge in government borrowing costs has put high debt in the spotlight, with investors demanding increased compensation to hold long-term bonds and policymakers urging caution on public finances.

Over 80% of the \$10 trillion rise in global debt in the first half to a record \$307 trillion came from developed economies, the Institute of International Finance says. The United States, where brinkmanship around a debt limit brought it close to a default, Italy and Britain are of most concern, more than 20 prominent economists, former policymakers and big investors told Reuters.

They do not expect a developed economy to struggle paying debt, but say governments must deliver credible fiscal plans, raise taxes and boost growth to keep finances manageable. Heightened geopolitical tensions add to costs. A fragile environment with higher rates and shrinking central bank support raises the risk of a policy misstep sparking a market rout, as shown by Britain's 2022 "mini budget" crisis.

Peter Praet, former chief economist at the European Central Bank, said that while debt still appears sustainable, the outlook is worrying given longer-term spending needs.

"You can take many, many countries today, and you will see that we are not far away from a public finances crisis," said Praet, who joined the ECB during 2011's debt crisis.

"If you have an accident, or a combination of events, then you go into an adverse non-linear dynamic sort of process. That is something which is a real possibility." High funding needs and central banks removing support are increasing pricing uncertainty for investors, Sophia Drossos, hedge fund Point72 Asset Management's chief economist, said.

"Deficit and debt levels make us uncomfortable," said Daniel Ivascyn, chief investment officer at bond giant PIMCO, which is a little bit reluctant to own a



longer-term bond. Spending plans lacking credibility were seen as most likely to spark market turmoil.

TIPPING POINTS

Budget wrangling has hurt U.S. credibility, costing it a top-notch AAA rating.

Oliver Blanchard, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, was most worried about the United States given a "broken political budget process" and large primary deficits.

"How does it end? I suspect not by default, but when markets start reflecting their worries in Treasury prices, by a political crisis and a potentially ugly adjustment," the former IMF chief economist said. Hedge fund Bridgewater

Associates' Ray Dalio expects a U.S. debt crisis.

A US Treasury spokesperson highlighted Secretary Janet Yellen's recent comments on the budget deficit and rising rates.

Yellen told the Wall Street Journal last week the government was committed to a "sustainable fiscal policy" and the budget could be adjusted to ensure that Italy's 2.4 trillion-euro debt pile is the focus in Europe, where the IMF has said high debt leaves governments vulnerable to crisis. Its debt risk premium jumped this month as it cut growth and hiked budget deficit forecasts. Scope Ratings warned Italy could be ineligible for a crucial ECB bond-buying scheme.

A tipping point is Italy's potential to lose investment-grade ratings. Moody's rates it one notch

above junk with a negative outlook.

Rome's debt ratio rising again would make a downgrade more likely. That risks "significant ramifications" for southern Europe, said M&G Investments's Jim Leaviss.

Economy Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti said he did not fear a downgrade but could not rule it out. The ministry declined to comment for this story. Moody's reviews Italy in November.

Low growth has kept Italian debt high, a risk across Europe and Britain, where belt-tightening plans will depress public investments.

"If we don't have a brighter growth outlook in Europe, then the math of debt sustainability looks quite poor," said PGIM fixed income chief global economist Daleep Singh, former adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden.

Britain's Treasury said it was on track to reduce debt and growing the economy with major reforms. Debt is near or higher than 100% of output in Britain, the United States and Italy. Ageing populations, climate change and geopolitical risks such as wars in Ukraine and the Middle East mean significant spending pressures ahead.

Interest payments surging with high rates add to the pressure. U.S. net interest payments will rise from 2.5% to 3.6% of GDP by 2033 and 6.7% by 2053, the

Congressional Budget Office estimates. But Yellen's preferred measure, adjusting for inflation, suggests payments below 1% of GDP for the rest of this decade.

Britain's Office for Budget Responsibility expects interest costs to rise to 7.8% of revenues by 2027-28, from 3.1% in 2020-21, exacerbated by inflation-linked debt.

ACT NOW

Efficient spending, reforms and growth plans are key.

"We need more investment, not less," said King's College London professor Jonathan Portes, Britain's cabinet office chief economist during the financial crisis.

Borrowing is a harder sell at higher rates, so governments need credible plans. The EU is revising its fiscal rules, Britain's opposition Labour Party promises to legally require OBR reviews of tax-and-spending plans.

While unpalatable, taxes need to rise, particularly in the United States and Britain, and some spending cuts are inevitable, economists stressed. Not enough reforms are being implemented, OECD chief economist Clare Lombardelli warned. Delays will hurt governments' ability to address future shocks.

"If we just trundle along as we have right now, we will see a crisis in the next decade," said LBBW chief economist Moritz Kraemer.

Dutch delight at Dharamsala Kiwis face Afghan challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

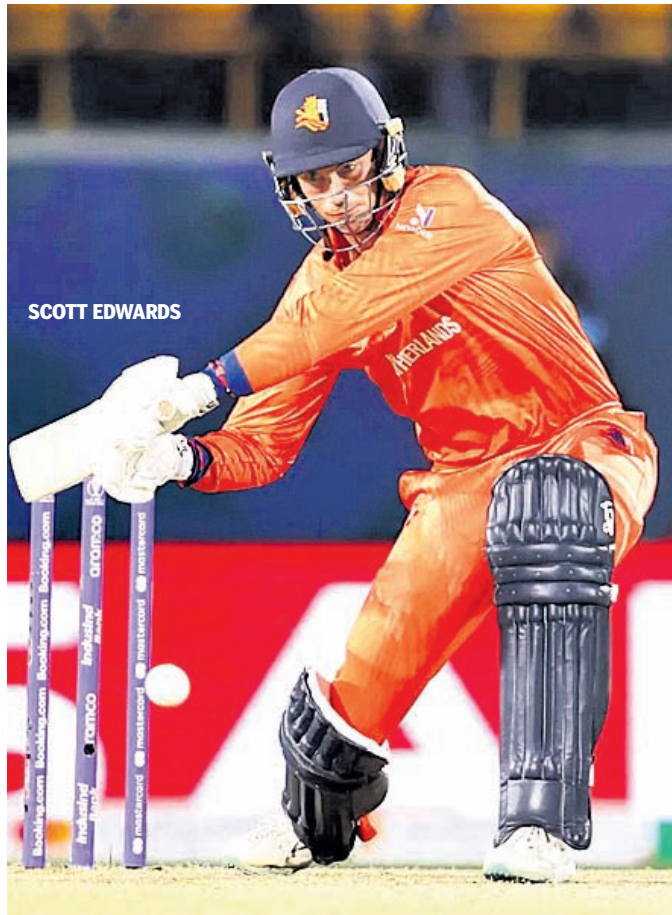
Dharamsala, Oct 17: A bunch of semi-professionals from the Netherlands, including an Uber Eats delivery boy, caused the World Cup's second major upset in three days, as it shocked an in-form South Africa by 38 runs here Tuesday.

Put in to bat in challenging conditions after the rain reduced the contest to 43 overs-a-side, the Netherlands found themselves reeling at 140/7 before their captain Scott Edwards staged a remarkable recovery with an unbeaten 78 (69b, 10x4, 1x6) to take his side to a fighting 245/8.

With the pitch offering variable bounce and some turn, the Netherlands sniffed an opportunity against a formidable South African batting unit which crumbled under pressure to be all out for 207 in 42.5 overs, handing the Dutch their first World Cup win against a Test playing nation.

Until Tuesday, the Netherlands had only beaten fellow associate nations Namibia and Scotland in their World Cup history, having made their debut back in 1996. The surprise outcome came 48 hours after Afghanistan shocked defending champions England in Delhi, adding to the unpredictability of the 10 team competition.

The Netherlands, who qualified for their first World Cup since 2011 by finishing second in the Qualifier earlier this year, have shown significant improvement over the years.



SCOTT EDWARDS

The Dutch had humbled the Proteas in T20 World Cup 11 months ago and at the scenic Dharamsala Tuesday, they recorded another famous win over them in a less unpredictable format.

With the Netherlands reducing South Africa to 109/6, only

David Miller (43) stood between them and a memorable win. Bas de Leede dropping a regulation catch of Miller in the deep raised the nerves in the field and in the dressing room but their fate was sealed in the 31st over when the dangerous left-hander was bowled by pacer Logan van Beek.

Paul van Meekren, who has also worked as an Uber Eats delivery boy, got the crucial wickets of Aiden Markram and Marco Jansen with two cross seam balls shattering their stumps.

Spinners Colin Ackermann (1/16) and Roelof van der Merwe (2/34), who made his international debut for South Africa before shifting allegiance to the Netherlands, also played a major role in the team's success.

Earlier, intermittent rain added an extra chill in the mountain air. South Africa expectedly opted to bowl amid the overcast sky and their bunch of formidable pacers including Kagiso Rabada, Jansen and Lungi Ngidi got a lot out of the surface.

However, their death overs bowling left a lot to be desired as the Netherlands plundered 68 runs in the last five overs. The Netherlands were struggling at 140 for seven in the 34th over.

Edwards shared an entertaining 64-run partnership off 37 balls with Van der Merwe (29) towards the end of the innings to take the team past 200. Aryan Dutt's unbeaten 23 off nine balls also propped up the total.

BRIEF SCORES

The Netherlands 245/8 (Scott Edwards 78 n o, Roelof van der Merwe 29, Aryan Dutt 23 n o; Marco Jansen 2/27, Kagiso Rabada 2/56, Lungi Ngidi 2/57) beat South Africa 207 (David Miller 43, Keshav Maharaj 40; Logan van Beek 3/60, Roelof van der Merwe 2/34, Bas de Leede 2/36, Paul van Meekren 2/40) by 38 runs.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 17: Afghanistan's upset win over defending champions England has given the side a new stature and New Zealand would underestimate Hashmatullah Shahidi's side at their own peril when the two sides clash in their World Cup match here Wednesday.

While the Kiwis would look to keep their unbeaten run going in the tournament, Afghanistan, who shocked England by 69 runs, would be keen to create another big upset and put their campaign firmly on track in the showpiece event.

New Zealand are going great guns in the tournament, having won all three matches so far and are currently placed second on the points table, trailing India on net run-rate.

On the other hand, Afghanistan had an inauspicious start to their campaign losing to Bangladesh and India before leaving Jos Buttler's England in a tizzy with a victory to be cherished for long in New Delhi Sunday.

The Kiwis will again be led by wicketkeeper-batter Tom Latham after their charismatic skipper Kane Williamson suffered a fracture on his left thumb during the match against Bangladesh and was ruled out for a few games.

Despite the huge setback, the Kiwis would be banking on their success so far to win their fourth game on the trot against an unpredictable Afghanistan, who played their guts out against England.



It would be interesting to see if pacer Tim Southee finally gets a chance against Afghanistan, having recovered from a thumb injury, though his match fitness has remained an issue.

The Black Caps will rely heavily on their top order comprising Will Young, Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell, while all-rounder Rachin Ravindra, with his impactful performances across departments, will also be the player to watch.

The Kiwi batters would certainly have watched the video footage of Afghan spinners

Rashid Khan and Mohammed Nabi many times over to counter the slow-bowling threat, given that the duo accounted for five England wickets.

With the meeting happening at the Chepauk, where the pitch has traditionally assisted spinners, NZ will have their hands full when they take on the trio of Rashid, Mujeeb Ur Rehman and Nabi.

As for the Afghanistan batting, opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz is the man in form, having scored 50-plus in two matches so far, while the likes of skipper Shahidi, Azmatullah Omarzai and Ikram Alikhil could come in handy as well.

While Trent Boult and Matt Henry's searing pace will be feared by the Afghan batters, their main challenge could unexpectedly come from the spin duo of Ravindra and Mitchell Santner, with the latter being the most successful slow bowler in the competition so far.



Most Pak players recover, some still under observation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 17: Most of the Pakistani players who were down with viral fever after their arrival here have recovered though some are still under medical observation, PCB's media manager Ahsan Iftikhar Nagi said Tuesday.

Pakistan team arrived here Sunday after their seven wicket defeat against arch-rivals India in Ahmedabad the previous day. Pakistan will be facing Australia in a high-profile World Cup clash here October 20.

The 'Garden City' has witnessed several cases of viral fever in the past few months though it could have been a case of weather change that led to minor health issues to the members of the visiting team.

"Some players got fever in the past few days and most of them have fully recovered from it. Those who are in the stage of recovery remain under the team medical panel's observation," Ahsan told PTI Tuesday.

Sabitzer penalty sends Austria into Euro

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Oct 17: Substitute Marcel Sabitzer scored from the penalty spot shortly after entering the game to secure a 1-0 win for Austria at Azerbaijan and send his country to next year's European Championship in a day overshadowed by a deadly shooting in Brussels which saw Belgium's game against Sweden halted at half-time.

"Due to the incidents in Brussels earlier tonight (Monday), play is suspended. Our thoughts are with all those affected," a post from the Belgian national team read on X, formerly known as Twitter.

European football governing body UEFA confirmed the Group F match had been called off following consultation with both teams and local police.

The score was 1-1 at the time. Viktor Gyokeres gave Sweden a 15th-minute lead, but Romelu Lukaku had Belgium level just after the half-hour. Belgium had already qualified for Euro 2024 while Sweden's chances of a top-two place had been ended by Austria's victory earlier.

MATCHDAY MARRED BY BRUSSELS SHOOTING



Marcel Sabitzer (C) reacts after scoring against Azerbaijan, Monday

AUSTRIA THROUGH

After losing 2-3 to Belgium in Vienna last week in the fight for Group F supremacy — Austria's only defeat in seven qualifying games so far — Sabitzer and his teammates knew a win in Baku would secure a spot at the tournament hosted by Germany.

With several key players sidelined because of injuries, Austria

struggled to create real chances in the first half. It was awarded a penalty just minutes into the second half after a hand ball. Sabitzer was clinical in converting with a strike into the corner in the 48th.

Sabitzer, who plays for Borussia Dortmund, recently returned to competition after recovering from an adductor in-

jury he picked up last month in a Champions League match against PSG.

Austria finished with 10 men after striker Guido Burgstaller was sent off in stoppage time for a second yellow card. Austria became the seventh team to qualify after Belgium, France, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and Turkey, along with host Germany.

RONALDO ON TARGET

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice for Portugal in a 5-0 demolition of host Bosnia in Group J. Bruno Fernandes, Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix also scored with all goals coming in the first half.

Netherlands came away from Greece with a 1-0 win in Group B to revive their hopes. Virgil Van Dijk's penalty in second-half stoppage time sent the Netherlands above their opponents and into second in their group. Both have 12 points. Wout Weghorst earlier failed to convert his penalty.

Iceland routed Liechtenstein 4-0 and Slovakia won 1-0 at Luxembourg in Group J, while Ireland thrashed Gibraltar 4-0 in the Group B's other game. France has already qualified from Group B.

Sindhu, Aakarshi progress; Lakshya, Srikanth bow out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Odense, Oct 17: Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and Aakarshi Kashyap advanced to the women's singles second round but it was curtains for Kidambi Srikanth and Lakshya Sen in the men's event at the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here Tuesday.

Sindhu struggled past World No.28 Kirsty Gilmour of Scotland 21-14, 18-21, 21-10, the 38th-ranked Aakarshi rallied her way to stun German's World No.26 Li Yvonne 10-21, 22-20, 21-12.

Sindhu will face a tricky opponent in Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, seeded seventh, in the next round. The Indonesian has defeated her twice in the last three meetings this year though Sindhu has an overall 8-2 head-to-head record.

Aakarshi will also have her task cut out as she will square off against left-handed Thai Supanida Katethong next. The World No.19 Thai had defeated the Indian in their only meeting at Singapore Open this year.



For 2021 World Championships silver medallist Srikanth, it turned out to be a disappointing day as his gallant fight ended with a 21-19, 10-21, 16-21 loss to China's World No.22 Weng Hong Yang. Sen also couldn't get past the opening hurdle, going down 16-21, 18-21 to Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen.

Role is clear but no place for Shami in 'perfect playing XI'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: At times, the greatest of actors don't fit the character of a particular film and in director Rohit Sharma's 70 mm World Cup panorama, Mohammed Shami is that protagonist who is missing out on a meaty role.

Unlike the 2019 World Cup campaign, the Indian team management seems to have absolute clarity on the role of each squad member, leaving a world class operator like Shami on the bench for the first three games of the ODI showpiece.

With the team ticking all the boxes so far, Shami, who is among the best in the business and ended with a five wicket haul against Australia ahead of the World Cup, might just have to keep warming the bench in the coming fixtures.

Mohammed Siraj is Jasprit Bumrah's new ball partner at the moment while all-rounder Hardik Pandya is performing the role of a third pacer effectively. Shardul Thakur, who has bowled a total of 8 overs in two games, is the fourth fast bowling option on a flat deck and if it is a spin friendly track like the one in Chennai, R Ashwin comes in to the eleven in place of Thakur to complement Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja.

Speaking to PTI, former chief selector MSK Prasad lauded the team's horses for courses approach. "They are using horses for courses and it is working fantastically well for the team.

"If you see they used Ashwin in Chennai and Shardul for the other two games (in Delhi and Ahmedabad). Last game, Shardul was not required as the others did the job (he bowled only two overs). Shami will come into picture if they want to rotate Siraj," said the former India wicketkeeper. Shami might get a go in the later stages of the league phase.

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