



## GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Birmingham City University to present honorary doctorate to actor Preity Zinta for her contributions to cinema & biz world

LEISURE P2



## NO 'TARIKH-PE-TARIKH'

CJI DY Chandrachud urges lawyers to not seek adjournments in fresh matters, saying he doesn't want SC to become a 'tarikh-pe-tarikh' court

DOWNTOWN P3



## 'KING OF CRYPTO' CONVICTED

Sam Bankman-Fried, who was once known as the 'King of Crypto', has been found guilty of fraud and money laundering

BUSINESS P11

### SHORT TAKE

#### Class X boy found hanging in school

**BHUBANESWAR:** A Class X student allegedly died by suicide on his school premises in Khurda after his mobile phone was seized Friday, police said. The deceased was identified as Publias Karji, 16, a native of Gajapati. Karji was found hanging from a tree Friday, a police officer said. He reportedly took the extreme step after his mobile phone was seized by the school authority. "We've recovered the body and informed his family members. Investigation is on," said SDPO (Khurda Sadar) Dilip Das.

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Why do we need snake poison when we already have poisonous air?

## Parikrama from Jan 17

AGENCIES

**Puri, Nov 3:** Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee Chairman Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb Friday said the much awaited Puri Heritage Corridor (Srimandir Parikrama) will be dedicated to the devotees January 17, 2024. Deb, who is the chief religious functionary of the famed temple visited the spot earlier in the day.

The titular king of Puri, who is considered the first servitor of the sibling deities - Lord Jagannath, Goddess Subhadra and Lord Balabhadra - later said, "Many of the works are nearing completion and it will be open to the public January 17, 2023. A special puja and 'havan' will be organised on the occasion."

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das said the Parikrama project will be inaugurated in a lavish programme with the help of the district administration.

He said a grand puja will be held for about five days on the occasion and is likely to be witnessed by large number of people from home and abroad.



### CORRIDOR FEATURES

- 6 toilets
- 3 shelter pavilions
- 6,000 capacity reception centre
- Jagannath cultural centre (including Raghunandan Library)
- Badadanda heritage streetscape
- Jagannath Ballav pilgrim centre
- Multi-level car parking

The temple's ritual sub-committee will take a final decision on the proposed grand puja Friday evening, Das said.

"The work of the Sree Setu (a bridge project) is in its last legs. I think it will be completed before the Corridor Project inauguration, around December 15.

However, the Jagannath Ballav Parking project may get delayed a bit. But we are planning to complete it before February next year," Das said.

The Puri Heritage Corridor Project was first conceived in 2016 and was unveiled in December 2019 with the objective to transform the pilgrim town into an place of heritage of international importance.

The ₹800 crore project includes redeveloping major portions of the town and in the vicinity of the temple for visitors and tourists while creating an unobstructed 75-metre corridor around the Meghanada Pacheri (the outer wall of the 12th-century shrine).

The amenities, to be available within the 55-m radius of the temple boundary wall, include six toilets and three shelter pavilions in the south, north and west directions of the temple. A 6,000 capacity Srimandir reception centre, Jagannath cultural centre, including Raghunandan Library, Badadanda heritage streetscape, Jagannath Ballav pilgrim centre, multilevel car parking and other amenities.

Apart from the heritage corridor project, the town will also have Pramoda Udyan (enjoyment park).

## BAGHEL UNDER ED SCANNER

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday claimed that a forensic analysis and a statement made by a 'cash courier' have led to 'startling allegations' that Mahadev betting app promoters have paid about ₹508 crore to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel so far, and that 'these are subject matter of investigation'.

The alleged agent, Asim Das, has been arrested by ED in Raipur after it recovered ₹5.39 crore cash from him. He was allegedly sent by the app promoters from the UAE 'especially, to deliver large amount of cash for electioneering expenses of the ruling Congress party'.

"Asim Das has admitted that the seized funds were arranged by the Mahadev app promoters to be delivered to one politician 'Baghel' for upcoming election expenses in Chhattisgarh," ED said.

"From the questioning of Das and forensic examination of the phone recovered from him apart from examination of an email sent by Shubam Soni (one of the high ranking accused of Mahadev network) many startling allegations have come forth, namely, that regular payments have been made in the past and so far around ₹508 crore have been paid by Mahadev app promoters to Bhupesh Baghel," it said.

## DELHI CHOKES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Delhi's air quality worsened to the 'severe plus' category Friday with a hazardous layer of smog engulfing the national capital, even as the Centre deferred implementation of stricter measures saying air quality index in the region is already showing a declining trend.

Lt Governor VK Saxena, who held a high-level meeting with Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai, said the situation in the city is "extremely worrying" and appealed to the people to remain indoors and not to expose themselves and especially children and elderly to the alarming ambient conditions.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index Friday reached 468, placing it in the "severe plus" category. This is the stage in which all emergency measures, including a ban on polluting trucks, commercial four-wheelers, and all types of construction, are mandated in Delhi-NCR.



The city's AQI of 468 was the worst since 471 recorded November 12, 2021. During a review meeting, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) decided to monitor the air pollution situation for a day or more before implementing stricter curbs.

It said curbs under Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan were implemented only a day ago; and it is reasonable to allow time to have their full impact on AQI in the region.

## QUAKE HITS NEPAL, TREMORS IN DELHI

**New Delhi:** A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.4 jolted Nepal around 11.32 pm Friday, with tremors reverberating through parts of north India, including Delhi NCR, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said. The epicentre of the quake was in Nepal at a depth of 10 km, the NCS said. People in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) felt strong tremors and rushed out of their homes. This is the third time in a month that strong quakes have struck Nepal.

DSPL-335

## ସୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶିକ୍ଷା ପୁରସ୍କାର

୫-ଟି ଉଚ୍ଚ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ରୂପାନ୍ତରକରଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଅଧୀନରେ ଅଭିନବ ପ୍ରୟାସ

ମିଳିବ ସମ୍ମାନ | ବଢ଼ିବ ଉତ୍ସାହ | ଆଣିବ ଆଗ୍ରହ

### ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପୁରସ୍କାର ପାଇଁ ଆବେଦନ ଆରମ୍ଭ

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ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ଗଣଶିକ୍ଷା ବିଭାଗ

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# leisure



## BEN MAKES ME FEEL MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER: JLO

Singer-songwriter Jennifer Lopez has revealed that her actor husband Ben Affleck wants her to understand her worth and know her value. "I feel even more relaxed and comfortable, which makes me feel even more beautiful than I have ever felt with someone else," she told Vogue.

## NICOLAS CAGE CALLS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE A 'NIGHTMARE'

Acclaimed actor Nicolas Cage has slammed the use of AI in filmmaking, calling it a 'nightmare' while referring to his cameo as Superman in *The Flash*. Though initially glad he got to play Superman at least for once, Cage has since then dismissed his cameo appearance.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You will achieve things today, not by the sleight of your hand but by your communication skills, says Ganesh. Your eloquence shall win many hearts. The stars suggest monetary benefits, but you need to guard against injury and minor ailments.

**TAURUS**  
You are likely to confront a turning point in relationships today, foresees Ganesh. Because you are in need of some compassion and support, you will feel the need to spend time with friends and relatives. Your beloved or better half may bring a change in mood by helping you shed your negative frame of mind, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
Your desire for a clean house will reach the level of obsession, predicts Ganesh. You may plan to wash your car, clean your yard and arrange your wardrobe. And you don't trust the household with any of the chores, because no one can clean the house better than you.

**CANCER**  
Today is a crucial and fascinating day for you, predicts Ganesh. You will learn and gain from your bosses and elders. Peers and siblings may extend their full support to you. Your chances of winning legal battles are remote, so an out-of-court settlement may be your best bet.

**LEO**  
If it's a fresh start that you have been looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesh. If you have already chalked out any plans for your future, today is the day to initiate the implementation. Remember Lions, though, that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution.

**VIRGO**  
Today finds you ambitious and meticulous. Actions will not speak - they'll roar! Your planning and scruples will set the pace at work. Expect pats on the back from your bosses and a round of cheers from your peers.

**LIBRA**  
Of late, you have been very concerned about the health of one of your close friends. Take this day to lay your fears to rest by spending time with that friend. Work can wait, as today you must prove to yourself, if not to others, that 'a friend in need is a friend indeed'. Ganesh wishes you the very best.

**SCORPIO**  
Your mind shall take over the proceedings today. And it shall, in all likelihood, draw you to the work bench and keep your nose to the grindstone. But your heart will flutter like a butterfly, and if you manage to strike the right balance, you may win over your special one and your boss too, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
The way you keep your interests alive will keep your mind occupied. Leisure activities and by-lines will by-pass the mundane routine today, foretells Ganesh. Pamper yourself by doing what you like, be it gardening, cooking or even plain old reading.

**CAPRICORN**  
Today, you will remain untroubled by the commotion around you, says Ganesh. However, the emotions locked up inside you will probably cloud your power of reasoning and may leave you feeling a little lost. But this will only be a passing phase, and you will come out of the bewilderment in no time.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today, you will experience the harmonious balance between logic and emotion. You will consequently know how to mix business with pleasure. Money wise, you are content, but trivial issues may bother you today, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
An action-packed day awaits you, busy as you will be corresponding with old contacts, telephonic interviews, organising meetings and scheduling tasks, says Ganesh. Do not forget to breathe!

## Radhika recalls being rejected

Mumbai: Actress Radhika Madan, in a recent interview has said that in her earlier stage of struggle in the film industry, she was often told that she was not pretty enough, and had a crooked jaw.

"I was told that I'm not pretty enough and that my jaw is slightly tedha (crooked). I was quite surprised because I was Kareena Kapoor in my head. Maybe they couldn't see it but ek achhi johori ko heera dikhi jaata hai," she told the media agency.

In the interview, she also revealed, "For me, social media is just like putting on a mask. It's the only validation that we are seeking in life. I know people who will be like 'Hey I cannot follow you on social media because you don't have a number of followers.' It's extremely sad because that is your perception, it's time to realise that we are much more than the number of followers. We are letting Social media control our lives, where it should be the other way around."

On the work front, Radhika was named as a part of the jury panel at the International Emmy Awards 2023 and has Hindi remake of *Soorai Potru* and *Sanaa* in the pipeline.

AGENCIES



## Sushmita connects her reel with real life

Mumbai: Readers may recall that actress Sushmita Sen survived a massive heart attack earlier this year while shooting for the third season of *Aarya* in Jaipur. She says, shooting soon after the illness was whole new beginning for her.

Despite her health scare, Sushmita was determined to complete the shoot for *Aarya 3*. She revealed that all the action sequences of the show were shot after she recovered from the heart attack. Talking about the scene from the trailer of the show when she falls on the ground after being shot, Sushmita shared, "When Aarya gets shot, falls to the ground, and she's gasping for air, in a crazy way it was like the reel and real life, finally coming to a beautiful cathartic union feeling. As dark as that sounds, I think it was a whole new beginning for me."

Speaking of *Aarya 3*, the show has



started streaming the third season from November 3, that is today. Besides Sen, the show also features Sikander Kher, Ila Arun and

Namit Das, among others. The Disney Plus Hotstar series is based on the Dutch drama series *Penoza*.

AGENCIES

**Academic honour for Preity in Birmingham**

Mumbai:

Birmingham City University has conferred an honorary doctorate on actor Preity Zinta for her contributions to Indian cinema and the business world, as a film producer and cricketing association with Indian

Premier League IPL team Punjab Kings. The honour was announced by the West Midlands Combined Authority WMCA and the regions Mayor, Andy Street, as he prepares to welcome Zinta to the region this weekend for special Diwali celebrations in Birmingham.

It is understood that the honorary degree will be formally presented to the actor by BCU in India next year. "It's a tremendous privilege to be receiving this hon-

orary doctorate from BCU - especially given its strengths in business and media that chime so well with my own career," said Zinta.

"I'm very excited to be part of the Diwali celebrations in Birmingham and look forward to meeting all the wonderful people there - marking the Festival of Lights together. I cannot wait to see you all in Birmingham," added the *Dil Se* actress.

AGENCIES



## PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR @119

# INDIAN CINEMA'S REGAL PATRIARCH

If there is no place for him in Indian films, he'll swim across the seven seas to Hollywood and make it there as an actor, Prithviraj had once told to a film reporter

Mumbai: He is the only actor who has played the roles of Rama (twice) - and of Raja Dashrath, Arjuna - and Karna, Vikramaditya, Harishchandra, Emperors Akbar and Shah Jahan, Alexander the Great - and a quarter-century later, his determined Indian opponent, Raja Porus, and for good measure, Persian strongman Rustom, and Hannibal of Carthage.

With his chiselled looks, strapping figure and emoting abilities, which made him consummate performer on stage, screen, and in his own life, Prithviraj Kapoor was a patriarch in all

senses, be it with a range of regal roles in a career spanning silent films to the technicolour era, and in bequeathing Indian filmdom its most famous family, whose fourth generation is still flourishing.

As part of the latter, he is possibly the only Indian actor who has appeared in two films featuring three generations of a family - with his father and sons in *Awaara* (1951) and his son and grandson in *Kal Aaj aur Kal* (1971).

It was not only his ability that made Prithviraj Kapoor a star and ensured his presence among



the founding fathers of Hindi cinema, but also his brimming confidence. As his advent in films drew an acerbic comment from leading film journalist Baburao Patel of Film India that there was "no place in the films for un-

couth brawny Pathans who think they can make it as actors", an unfazed Prithviraj Kapoor retorted: "Baburao, do not provoke this Pathan. If there is no place for me in Indian films, I shall swim across the seven seas

to Hollywood and make it there as an actor." As things turned out, he did not have to plunge into the Arabian Sea, for he made waves on the land itself.

Belonging to a fairly well-to-do family living in what was then undivided Punjab's Lyallpur, and in Peshawar. Prithviraj Kapoor did his graduation from the renowned Edwardes College in Peshawar and studied law for a year, before deciding it was not for him, and decided on a film career instead.

He came to Bombay in 1928 with money borrowed from an aunt and started his film journey as an unpaid extra in *Do Dhari Talwar* (1929), but moved to lead roles by his third film, *Cinema Girl* (1930).

He had a supporting role in Indian films' first talkie *Alam*

*Ara* (1931) and made his presence felt through the decade with films like *Draupadi* (1931), where he played Arjuna, *Rajrani Meera* (1933), *Ramayana* (1933) and *Seeta* (1934), where he played Ram, and *President* (1937) along with Indian films' sole male singing superstar KL Saigal.

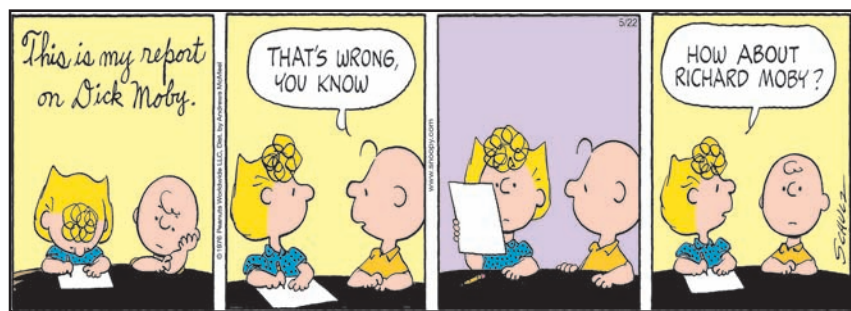
However, it was *Sikandar* (1941), where his Grecian looks made him perfect for the role of the legendary conqueror and his skills enabled him to hold his own against equally bombastic Sohrab Modi playing Raja Porus.

While Prithviraj Kapoor is most known for his role as Emperor Akbar in *Mughal-e-Azam* (1960) there were many other roles he played with equal elan.

The Superstar succumbed to cancer in May 1972.

IAN5

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

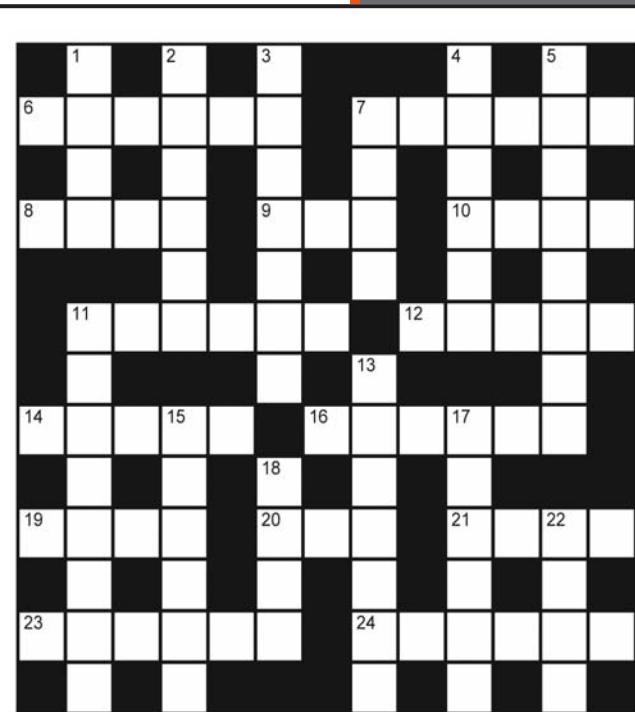


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD

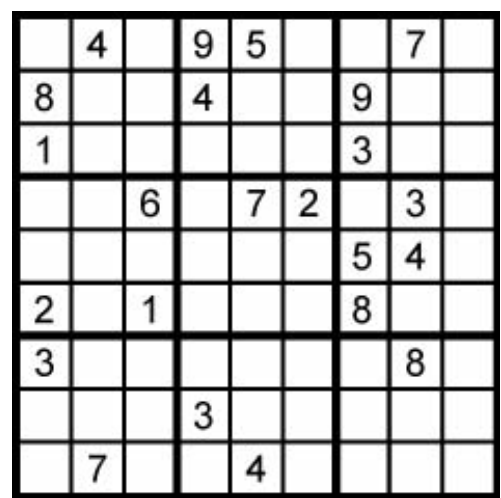


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- Across**
- 6 Meek
  - 7 Raffaello
  - 8 Stylish
  - 9 Swiss canton
  - 10 Enemy type
  - 11 Sculpture material
  - 12 Oktoberfest souvenir
  - 14 Jewish turnover
  - 16 Echo and Oread, e.g.
  - 19 Word-of-mouth
  - 20 Globe
  - 21 Stubborn sort
  - 23 Quarrel
  - 24 Ukrainian port
  - Down**
  - 1 Achray or Ness
  - 2 Lobster part
  - 3 Agave liquor
  - 4 Bosphorus, for one
  - 5 Clairvoyants
  - 7 Related
  - 11 Transportation system
  - 13 It can be raised
  - 15 Gazelle hound
  - 17 Saddlebow
  - 18 Decant
  - 22 Verdant, or a heavy drinker

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

IN SYNC

Artistes perform during a cultural programme organised by Kasturba Nari Mahal at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday



## Don't want SC to become 'tarikh-pe-tarikh' court: CJI

CJI DY Chandrachud flags the issue of lawyers seeking adjournment in fresh matters by saying that during September and October, adjournment slips were moved in 3,688 cases



**“Unless it is very, very necessary, please don't file the adjournment slips...I don't want this court to be a 'tarikh-pe-tarikh' court”**

DY CHANDRACHUD | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

**Press Trust of India**  
New Delhi, Nov 3: Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud urged lawyers Friday to not seek adjournments in fresh matters, saying he does not want the Supreme Court to become a 'tarikh-pe-tarikh' court as such deferment "defeats trust of citizens".

At the start of the day's proceedings, the CJI flagged the issue of lawyers seeking adjournment in fresh matters and said in the last two months of September and October, adjournment slips were moved in 3,688 cases by advocates.

"Unless it is very, very necessary, please don't file the adjournment slips...I don't want this court to be a 'tarikh-pe-tarikh' court," the CJI, who was sharing the bench with justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said.

"On one hand, the listing of matters is expedited and on the other hand, they are first

Sunny Deol dialogue in Hindi film 'Damini' where the actor rued the adjournment culture in courts.

Justice Chandrachud said now, with the help of lawyers' bodies, the time gap in the listing of fresh matters after their filing in the top court has been significantly reduced.

He, however, rued the fact that after their listing before the benches, lawyers seek adjournments which sends a bad signal to the outside world.

"I have been seeing that the period from filing to listing is reducing. We could not have achieved this without the support of the SCBA (Supreme Court Bar Association) and the SCAORA (Supreme Court Advocates-on Record Association)," the CJI said.

"For November 3, we have 178 adjournment slips. For each miscellaneous day since October, 150 adjournment slips were there on each day, and from September to October, 3,688 adjournment slips were circulated..." he said, adding, "This defeats the very purpose of expediting the case".

Referring to statistics, Justice Chandrachud said 2,361 cases were mentioned for urgent listing in the top court since September 2023.

However, once the matters get listed for hearing, adjournments are sought by lawyers and this creates a "paradox", the CJI said.

mentioned seeking listing and then they are adjourned. I request the members of the bar to not seek adjournments unless really, really necessary. This cannot become a 'tarikh-pe-tarikh' court. This defeats trust of citizens in our court," the CJI said.

"Tarikh-pe-Tarikh" (repeated adjournments) was a famous



**EXPO IN CITY:** Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister of State Rita Sahu on the inaugural occasion of exhibition 'Mrutika-2023' at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Friday

### Singer Debesh held

**Bhubaneswar:** Odia playback singer Debesh Pati has been arrested for allegedly indulging in a physical relationship with a woman on the pretext of marriage and later abandoning her, a police official said Friday. "On the basis of an order of a local court, we have registered a case under different IPC Sections, including rape and cheating, and IT Act. He was forwarded to the court," said Satyaranjan Pradhan, IIC of Nayapalli police station.

### 'AMA ODISHA NABIN ODISHA' IN TWO MORE DISTRICTS

## CM: Villagers entitled to development on all fronts

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Rural people are now entitled to development on all fronts, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while launching the state's flagship scheme 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' (Our Odisha, New Odisha) in tribal-dominated Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts, Friday.

Under provision of the scheme, each gram panchayat of a district will get ₹50 lakh for infrastructure development.

The scheme was launched in five Assembly constituencies of Kalahandi district with a budgetary allocation of ₹155 crore.

The constituencies are: Junagarh, Lanjigarh, Narla, Dhamagarh and Bhawanipatna. In all, 4,678 projects will be implemented in 310 panchayats under 13 blocks of the district with the sanctioned fund, officials said.

Similarly, ₹94.5 crore has been sanctioned for four constituencies in Nabarangpur district. These are: Dabugaon, Nabarangpur, Umerkote and



The scheme was launched in five Assembly constituencies of Kalahandi district with a budgetary allocation of ₹155 crore

₹94.5 crore has been sanctioned for four constituencies in Nabarangpur district

and banking facilities are its other features. It will also open up vast opportunities for youths, women and farmers in rural areas, he said.

Chairman of 5T (a transformational initiative) and Nabin Odisha VK Pandian said the Chief Minister has announced five gifts for women during his fifth term in the government.

Pandian listed the gifts as daily meal at ₹5, financial assistance of ₹5,000 to every pregnant woman under Mamata scheme, travelling in buses under LAccMI scheme at ₹5, interest-free loan of ₹5 lakh to each Mission Shakti and additional treatment cost of ₹5 lakh under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana.

## Naveen rewards Bhagat & Soundarya

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik felicitated para-athletes Pramod Bhagat and Soundarya Kumar for their incredible performance at the recently concluded Asian Para Games and presented them with cash awards. Bhagat's performance was recognised with a cash award of ₹2 crore while Soundarya received a cheque of ₹1.5 crore.

Bhagat's performance was outstanding with three medals in para-badminton, including a gold while Soundarya won a gold and a silver medal in chess.

Congratulating the athletes, the Chief Minister said, "I am incredibly proud to felicitate our para-athletes, Pramod Bhagat and Soundarya Kumar, for their outstanding achievements at the



Asian Para Games. Their dedication, talent and perseverance have brought immense glory to our state."

Patnaik further assured both para-athletes of unwavering support in their journey ahead, including Pramod Bhagat's upcoming campaign at the Olympics in Paris.



Chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha VK Pandian, who was present on the occasion, extended his best wishes to the athletes.

Soundarya and Bhagat expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister and thanked Odisha for supporting and encouraging them on their pursuit of excellence.

### Badminton player Pramod Bhagat received a cash award of ₹2 crore while chess player Soundarya Pradhan received ₹1.5 crore

At the Asian Para Games, the reigning Paralympic and Asian Para Games champion Bhagat won the gold to defend his title in the para badminton men's singles SL3 event. He also secured bronze medals in men's doubles SL3-SL4 and the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 events respectively. Soundarya won gold medal in Team Rapid VI B1 chess and secured a silver in the Individual Rapid VI B1 chess event.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	64363.78 ↑ 282.88
NIFTY	19230.60 ↑ 97.30
DOLLAR	83.22 ↓ ₹0.08
EURO	89.09 ↑ ₹0.68
GOLD	₹61,045 ↑ ₹134
SILVER	₹72,142 ↑ ₹742

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 32.2°C	32.2°C
MIN 23.9°C	22.5°C
Humidity 83%	85%
Rainfall Nil	Light rain very likely



**ODISHA TOUR:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha arrives at Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Friday

## J&K Lt Governor Sinha visits O-hub

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha along with senior officials from the Union territory visited Startup Odisha at O-hub Friday.

On the invitation of Startup Odisha, Vice-Chancellor of Ahmedabad University Pankaj Chandra also joined the delegation.

Executive chairman of Startup Odisha Omkar Rai made a presentation briefing Sinha about the unique initiatives, programmes and best practices, and showcased the notable accomplishments that have positioned Startup Odisha in the national

arena. Rai also highlighted Startup Odisha's commitment towards women with 41 per cent of the recognised startups having women founders and the team's endeavor towards further increasing this number.

The J&K Lieutenant Governor shared his perspective on the innovation landscape in the UT, highlighting the increased number of startups in the fields of agriculture and horticulture. He discussed Government's commitment to fostering the startup ecosystem in J&K by actively working to strengthen an enabling environment that will help startups flourish in the region.

Additionally, Rai accompanied Sinha and showed him O-

hub and the work being carried out in the campus.

Rai said, "It's indeed an honour for us that Manoj Sinha visited our campus, and we are greatly inspired by his visit. It's our collective commitment at Startup Odisha to working towards creating a strong and robust foundation that promotes collaboration, innovation and progress for our startup community and the broader society. I am glad for Sinha's visit, which has served as a source of motivation for Odisha's startup ecosystem."

Odisha has been recognised as a 'top performer' state in the states' Startup rankings framework by the Centre's DPIIT.

## Odia film producer Tutu Nayak booked

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Odia film producer Sanjay Nayak, aka Tutu Nayak, was booked Friday for allegedly slapping and abusing a woman journalist while she was at a theatre here to cover a premiere show, police said.

Nayak was booked after the journalist lodged a complaint at Kharvel Nagar police station against him.

"Nayak slapped me on my face and hurled abuses. I was shocked and my mike and mobile phone fell off my hands. As I sat down to gather the items, he hit me on my back. I don't know why he behaved like this," she said in her complaint. Since the incident occurred in front of other scribes, the journalist said she felt humiliated and hurt.

"We have registered a case against the producer under different Sections of IPC and started investigations," a woman officer at Kharvel Nagar police station said.

The producer said, "The allegation is false and fabricated. I was in a hurry to go to Maharaja film hall from Swati Talkies. As she was standing in the middle of the gate, I mildly patted her asking her to give space. Neither I had the intention to beat her, nor did I indulge in an argument with her. If I have hurt her, I am sorry for that."

## One sleepless night can reverse depression for days

While waking up all night can exhaust you both mentally and physically, an interesting study claims that it can lift your mood for days. In a new study, neurobiologists of Northwestern University in the US induced mild, acute sleep deprivation in mice and then examined their behaviours and brain activity. Not only did dopamine release increase during the acute sleep loss period, synaptic plasticity also was enhanced - literally

rewiring the brain to maintain the bubbly mood for the next few days.

The new findings, published online in the journal Neuron, could help researchers better understand how mood states transition naturally.

It also could lead to a more complete understanding of how fast-acting antidepressants (like ketamine) work and help researchers identify previously unknown targets for new antidepressant medications.

"Chronic sleep loss is well studied, and its uniformly detrimental effects are widely documented," said Prof Yevgenia Kozorovitskiy at the varsity.

"But brief sleep loss - like the equivalent of a student pulling an all-nighter before an exam - is less understood.

"We found that sleep loss induces a potent antidepressant effect and rewires the brain. This is an important reminder of how our casual activities, such as a sleepless night, can



fundamentally alter the brain in as little as a few hours," Kozorovitskiy added. In the research, the team de-

veloped a new experiment to induce acute sleep loss in mice that did not have genetic predispositions related to human mood disorders.

The experimental setup needed to be gentle enough to avoid causing substantial stress for the animals but just uncomfortable enough to prevent the animals from falling asleep.

After a sleepless night, the animals' behaviour shifted to become more aggressive, hyperactive and hypersexual as

compared to controls that experienced a typical night's sleep.

Using optical and genetically encoded tools, the researchers measured the activity of dopamine neurons, which are responsible for the brain's reward response. And they found activity was higher in animals during the brief sleep loss period.

While researchers do not fully understand why sleep loss causes this effect in the brain, Kozorovitskiy suspects evolution is at play.

IANIS

# ₹4,940 crore investment intents for wind energy



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** The state government received investment intents worth ₹4,940 crore for generating 575 megawatt (MW) wind energy during the 'Odisha Wind Energy Summit - Investor Roundtable' held here, Friday.

Organised by Grid Corporation of Odisha (Gridco) - the nodal agency for development of renewable energy in Odisha - in collaboration with iFOREST at a private hotel here, the summit aimed at exploring investment opportunities in the wind power sector in the state.

The summit saw active participation of 25 key players in wind energy production and manufacturing industry from across the country.

Following one-to-one meetings with senior officials of Gridco and other departments, many of the investors proposed to the state government to invest ₹4,940 crore for generating 575 MW wind energy in Odisha,

an official said.

Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, in his keynote address, highlighted the state's determination to extend comprehensive support to the wind industry for establishing power plants and manufacturing hubs in Odisha.

Finance and Energy department Principal Secretary and Gridco Chairman Vishal Kumar Dev reiterated Odisha's unwavering commitment and endeavour to attract investments for wind energy development aligning with Odisha Renewable Energy Policy (OREP) - 2022 and Industrial Policy Resolution - 2022. He also expressed confidence that the summit would certainly serve as a vital stepping-stone in Odisha's ambitious journey towards accomplishing the prospective, vision and mission of wind energy sector.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Joint Secretary Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale praised the proactive

The summit saw active participation of 25 key players in wind energy production and manufacturing industry from across the country

Following one-to-one meetings with senior officials of Gridco and other departments, many of the investors proposed to the state government to invest ₹4,940 crore for generating 575 MW wind energy in Odisha, an official said

Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena highlighted the state's determination to extend comprehensive support to wind industry for establishing power plants and manufacturing hubs in Odisha

initiatives of the Odisha government in translating the mandate of OREP - 2022 into reality towards achieving clean and green energy targets.

National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) Director General Rajesh Katyal gave a presentation and assured all cooperation and technical support from NIWE to harness the full potential of wind power in Odisha.

During the high-level deliberation, the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) presented its findings on Odisha's wind energy potential by shedding light on the promising opportunities ahead in building a viable wind power sector in the state.

iFOREST, the technical partner of Gridco, highlighted Odisha's readiness to attract and accelerate flow of investment into the wind power sector.



**MESSAGE FOR ALL:** A street play being organised by Cuttack Vigilance Division near Regional Transport Office in the Silver City to mark Vigilance Awareness Week, Friday

## Nurturing creativity can lead to fulfilling careers: Minister

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** In the current special school setting, it is challenging to identify and nurture the creative potential of majority of adolescents with disabilities (AwDs) due to barriers in infrastructure and attitudes, said Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEP) Minister Ashok Chandra Panda here Friday.

Panda, addressing Inaugural programme of a two-day workshop titled 'Nurturing creative expressions of AwDs: Pathways to 5T transformation in special schools' said that nurturing creativity in AwDs can lead to development of hobbies, which, with sustained effort and dedication, can evolve into specific skills that could eventually become the foundation for a fulfilling career.



The workshop, organised by SSEPD department, with collaboration of UNFPA, is aimed to develop guidelines for identifying, nurturing and integrating creative expressions in special schools to achieve the larger objectives of 5T transformation of special schools under the SSEPD Department. Bishnupada Sethi, principal secretary of SSEPD Department, Dillip K Ray, special secretary and Nadeem Noor, state head, UNFPA, Odisha and other participants deliberated on the issue while emphasizing on 5T Transformation for better future of AwDs. Notably, representatives of some 90 NGOs managing the special schools participated in the workshop.

## Govt inks three MoUs for semiconductor production

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** The Odisha government has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with three entities to build an ecosystem for the manufacturing of semiconductors, officials said.

The government inked the three MoUs with India Electronic and Semiconductor Association (IESA), global semiconductor giant Synopsys and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESCE).

According to the agreement with IESA, the association will facilitate the Odisha government in developing capacity-building programmes and promoting the semiconductor ecosystem through events and conceptualisation of knowledge materials, the officials said.

The MoU with Synopsys will involve collaboration in areas such as the O-Chip programme, talent transformation, workforce development, readiness assessment of the state in semiconductors and the very large-scale integration (VLSI) domains, and internship and placement assistance to students of Odisha's engineering institutions. The third MoU with ESC will

promote electronics and IT/ITES exports from the country.

The government successfully hosted Odisha4Silicon-2023, a pioneering initiative to build a robust semiconductor ecosystem in the region.

The event also witnessed the launching of the pan-India Design Challenge under O-Chip organised by Electropreneur Park, Bhubaneswar.

In addition to the MoUs, there are other initiatives, like the launching of the IESA Odisha Chapter, and the Campus Connect Programme which aims at fostering innovation, skill development, and industry-academia collaborations in the state.

The programme met with enthusiastic responses from attendees and showcased the state's dedication to becoming a hub for semiconductor research and development, said Odisha's Electronics and IT Minister TK Behara.

Addressing the event virtually, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik accentuated that Odisha4Silicon-2023 will enable the state to create a vibrant semiconductor ecosystem, drive innovation, economic growth and generate employment opportunities for people.

## Samanta felicitated for green energy efforts

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta was honoured at the Solar World Congress, in session in New Delhi, Friday for promoting green initiatives in KIIT and KISS campuses and harvesting solar power for day-to-day operations. The felicitation was done under aegis of the Solar Energy Society of India (SESI).

SESI president Praful Pathak felicitated Samanta in presence of IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra. On the occasion, organizers at the Solar World Congress also appreciated Samanta's role in promoting education among indigenous children and for using renewable energy sources and green campuses inside KIIT-KISS.

Earlier in 2018, KISS was awarded the prestigious Energy Globe Award by the Energy Globe Foundation in Tehran for its green efforts.



On the occasion Pathak said, "Samanta's unwavering dedication to create awareness and implementing green energy technologies has had a profound impact on our community and the environment at large." SESI in a statement at the Solar World Congress said that Samanta is a source of inspiration for all to develop a clean, green, and sustainable future on Earth.

## Korea, Odisha to enhance economic cooperation

**Bhubaneswar:** A team comprising representatives of the Korean Embassy and members of Korean trade and industry associations met state industry department officials to discuss ways of enhancing the economic cooperation between Odisha and the Republic of Korea. "Team Korea" included members of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME) among other policymakers and dignitaries.

## Stroke deaths preventable with better awareness, say experts



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Global medical technology firm Stryker launched an awareness campaign here Friday for the World Stroke Week to highlight the significant role played by stroke as a leading cause of disability in India and to promote prevention and improved treatment options.

A panel discussion was organised on the occasion comprising Somnath Jena, senior consultant, neurosurgery and neuro intervention at SUM Ultimate Medicare and S Mohanty, director medical education and training Odisha.

According to the Global Burden of Disease (2019), Odisha

ranks among the top 10 states in India for disability-adjusted life years (DALY) caused by brain stroke. Odisha ranks fifth among all states when it comes to the average mortality rate due to ischemic stroke, as per data from the Global Burden of Disease.

This can be significantly reduced with the right and timely administration of already available treatments and through better awareness about the issue. Through this initiative, Stryker aims to unite individuals, health-care professionals, and policymakers in the fight against stroke to save lives and enhance the quality of life for survivors, said the experts.

During the discussion, Jena addressed challenges faced by stroke survivors, including physical and communication disabilities, cognitive changes, work, income loss, and the burden on caregivers. He emphasized the growing stroke epidemic in India, particularly in the northeastern states, where stroke is the leading cause of death.

## Zoonotic infection deaths expected to rise 12 times: Study

**A**nimal-to-human infections, or zoonotic diseases, have been increasing at an "exponential rate" and in 2050, are predicted to kill 12 times as many people as they did in 2020, researchers have warned in a new British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health study.

Animal-to-human infections, also called 'spillover' infections, have been the cause of most modern epidemics, including Covid-19, the researchers from Ginkgo Bioworks, an American biotechnology company founded in 2008, said. Analysing 60 years of historical epidemiological data, the researchers detected a general pattern of increasingly larger and more frequent spillover events, even as their analysis did not include the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Climate and land use changes

are predicted to drive the frequency of spillover events, facilitated by population density and connectivity, the researchers explained.

However, the researchers said that the implications of these findings for future global health are difficult to characterise, given the limited historical data on the annual frequency and severity of zoonotic spillover over time. Thus, to understand the implications, the researchers drew on their own epidemiological database, built on data from a wide range of official sources, to look for trends in spillover events that might shed light on future expected patterns.

Their database covered epidemics reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), outbreaks caused by a viral pathogen that killed 50 or more



They focused on four groups of viruses with potential to pose a significant risk to public health: Filoviruses (Ebola virus, Marburg virus), SARS Coronavirus 1, Nipah virus, and Machupo virus, cause of Bolivian hemorrhagic fever

people and historically significant outbreaks, such as the 1918 and 1957 flu pandemics.

The researchers focused on four groups of viruses, which, according to them, had the potential to pose a significant risk to public health and economic or po-

litical stability - Filoviruses (Ebola virus, Marburg virus), SARS Coronavirus 1, Nipah virus, and Machupo virus, which causes Bolivian hemorrhagic fever.

Looking at over 3,150 outbreaks and epidemics between 1963 and 2019, the team identified a total

of 75 spillover events occurring in 24 countries. These events had caused a total of 17,232 deaths, more than 90 per cent of which (15,771) across 40 outbreaks - mostly in Africa - were caused by Filoviruses, the researchers found.

## Odisha audit officer in CBI net over bribery

**New Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an Assistant Audit Officer, PAG (Audit-1) in Bhubaneswar over the charges of bribery. The accused, identified as Santosh Kumar Panigrahy, was arrested for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 6,500 from a person. The CBI had registered a case against Panigrahy following a complaint that the officer allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 6,500 - 10 percent of the bill amount - as he had not objected to medical bills of Rs 65,000 during audit. According to officials, CBI laid a trap and nabbed the accused while accepting bribe of Rs 6,500 from the complainant. "Searches were conducted at the premises of accused in Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam which led to recovery of documents related to immovable properties at Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Berhampur," the CBI said. The accused was produced in the court of Special Judge, CBI cases, Bhubaneswar Friday.

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# Stolen astadhatu idol to be reinstalled in Jaipur temple

The assurance was given by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** An astadhatu idol of Maa Kotrakshi, an incarnation of Goddess Chamunda, which was stolen two years ago from the deity's shrine in Jajpur district, will be reinstalled there soon.

The idol, considered an antique, was stolen from the temple at Darpangarh village in January 2021 and was recovered by the Customs department sleuths from the airport in New Delhi while attempts were made to export it.

The assurance for its reinstallation was given by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, whose attention was drawn by Union Education and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in July this year.

Pradhan sought her help for the idol's return to Odisha. The local police had failed to locate



the idol.

After the idol was recovered, it was examined by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which found it to be that of Maa Kotrakshi, the presiding deity of Darpangarh. After it was recovered, the idol was kept in the Custom Commissioner's office of New Delhi Air Cargo.

Sitharaman, in a letter to Pradhan, said that Delhi Customs has been recommended to return the idol to the Maa Kotrakshi Temple in Jajpur district.

"As the investigation lodged in

Odisha at Badachana police station, regarding the idol missing from the temple is also being undertaken by the police authorities of Odisha, the Central Bureau of Indirect Taxes and Customs has requested the Director General of Police, Odisha to adopt a suitable procedure for establishing the identity of the seized antiquity and to obtain decision in law regarding return/restoration of said idol to the temple," her letter said.

Pradhan informed Sitharaman that there was demand from local people to bring back the stolen idol. They had installed another idol of Maa Kotrakshi seven months after the theft.

"The repatriation of the Maa Kotrakshi idol to its rightful place holds immense cultural and emotional significance for the villagers," Pradhan said.

It is a symbol of the faith of the villagers, their heritage and community spirit, he added.

Village head Niranjana Senapati said the 26-inch idol weighs 38 kg and is over 100 years old.



**YOUTHFUL GAME:** A Kabaddi match underway at the 52nd Inter-College Kabaddi Tournament held at People's College at Buguda in Ganjam district, Friday

# Hopes for Fisheries College brighten

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur, Nov 3:** Hopes for establishment of a college on pisciculture in Subarnapur district brightened after the district administration swung into action to prepare a detailed project report (DPR), sources said Friday.

As per sources, a committee formed by the district administration has asked the principal of College of Agriculture under Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) at Chipilima in Sambalpur district to prepare a detailed project report in this regard.

Over 50-60 acre of land is required for the Fisheries College. The land will be used for construction of administrative block, hostels for the students apart from ponds, both small and big, for fish farming. As a result, the district administration has launched a search for land along the Mahanadi in Binka, Ulunda and Birmaharajpur blocks of the district.

The district has a big fish farm spread over 55 acre and owned by Odisha Pisciculture Development Corporation (OPDC) at Rahila near Binka town. Similarly, the farm of Fisheries department in Subarnapur has small and big ponds spread over 75 acre of land.



**ADMIN IN ACTION MODE**

Major rivers like Mahanadi, Tel, Anga and Suktel which flow through this western district as well as the Harijor dam will help the authorities in making temporary arrangements for the students' learning when the college is established.

The district administration sprung into action after the Principal Secretary of state Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department proposed for establishment of a fisheries college in Subarnapur district.

After receiving the report from the Subarnapur district administration, state government will take steps towards establishment of the college.

Sources said Subarnapur district, which was carved out of the

undivided Bolangir district, lacks any major establishment either of the state government or the Centre. The district has ample facilities and opportunities for freshwater fish cultivation. Residents have been demanding for establishment of a fisheries college in the district for a long time.

A Zilla Parishad (ZP) member Laba Kumar Sahu had advocated for the same at the Zilla Parishad meeting held in the month of June. The issue also cropped up when a delegation of residents met the then 5T Secretary (now Chairman) VK Pandian during his visit to the district July 4, and submitted a written memorandum demanding establishment of a fisheries college in the area.

Similarly, office of the Deputy Director, Planning and Statistics also forwarded a request letter through the Collector to the Principal Secretary of Fisheries and Animal Resources department in this regard, July 21.

In his reply, the Principal Secretary, Fisheries and Animal Resources department, asked Subarnapur Collector Bimalendu Ray to submit a detailed project report highlighting the available infrastructure, plan outline, available land for the establishment of the college.

Accordingly, a high level committee under the chairmanship of ADM Surya Narayan Dash was formed in which Joint Director, Planning and Coordination department, Principal of Sonepur College and Sonepur Krushi Vigyan Kendra chief were included as members.

Later, the District Collector also formed a sub-committee under the chairmanship of the ADM, August 25. The Vice-Chancellor of Rajendra University at Bolangir, Joint Director of Planning and Coordination department, Principal of Sonepur College and Chief of local Krushi Vigyan Kendra were taken in as members.

# 3 dead after dumper, bike collide head-on

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Ghasipura, Nov 3:** In a tragic incident, a biker and two pillion riders were killed in a head-on collision with an iron ore laden dumper vehicle near Barigaon petrol pump along the under-construction NH-20 under Ghasipura police limits in Keonjhar district Friday.

The deceased were identified as Prabhudutt Biswal and Bibhudutt Biswal, sons of Prabhat Biswal of Bancho village under Anandapur police limits. They were residing at Baragadia village in Jajpur district and the third victim of the mishap, a young woman, was their neighbour.

As per sources, the trio was reportedly going to Bancho village on a two-wheeler and from there they had to go to Bhadrak. However, a speeding truck collided with their bike head-on near Barigaon petrol pump. All the injured were rushed to the Sub Divisional Hospital at Anandapur. However, they were all declared dead by the doctors at the hospital.

On being informed, Ghasipura police rushed to the spot and launched an investigation into the accident. Police have seized the dumper and the bike. The driver of the dumper fled the spot after the accident.

A pal of gloom descended on the hospital campus after the family members of the deceased reached hospital. A heart-wrenching scene was witnessed as the mothers of the deceased were crying inconsolably.

# Pregnant woman dies, hubby critical in road accident



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chandbali, Nov 3:** In a tragic incident, a pregnant woman died and her husband was critically injured after a pick-up van hit the bike they were riding at Muni Chhak on Bhadrak-Chandbali main road, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Anita Nayak and her critically injured husband as Debabrata Raula of Baghatana village of Orasahi panchayat under Chandbali block.

As per reports, the couple was riding a bike when the pick-up van hit them from behind at Muni Chhak. The vehicle turned turtle and plunged into a nearby pond. Locals then rescued the couple in a critical condition and rushed

them to Chandbali hospital. As the condition of Anita deteriorated, she was shifted to Cuttack but succumbed to her injuries on the way. Anita was reportedly four months pregnant.

Informed, Chandbali police nabbed the fleeing driver from a nearby paddy field and took him to police station for interrogation.

Tension was palpable in the area as angry locals blocked the Bhadrak-Chandbali main road demanding compensation for next of the kin of the deceased. However, Chandbali PS IIC, Panchanan Mohanty reached the spot and pacified the agitating crowd. Subsequently, the road blockade was removed and the traffic movement was normalised.

# Tech-fest 'Innovision' kicks off at NIT-R

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Nov 3:** The 3-day annual tech-fest 'INNOVISION' was inaugurated Friday at the BB Auditorium in NIT, Rourkela. Innovision, regarded as one of the biggest tech fests in Eastern India, is organised by the technical society of the Student Activity Centre (SAC) of the premier technical institute.

The event hosts an average of 60-70 events ranging from VR showcase, drone displays, code hunts, maze hunts, robo race, car and bike shows, artistic exhibitions, and many more. Over the years, this has remained one of the most awaited events by many participating colleges. The theme of this year's tech-fest is 'TECHTOPIA' and the event will



conclude November 5.

Congratulating the collective efforts of the Innovision team, Dean (Student Welfare) Siddharth S Jena said, "I encourage everyone to relish the experience and gain knowledge, as this is the chance to showcase your innovation and talents. I hope that you all build new friendships and engage enthusiastically. My wish is for everyone to gain valuable insights from their time at NIT Rourkela campus."

# T'gana team visits Sundargarh, takes round of spirulina project

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh, Nov 3:** A 15-member delegation from six departments of Telangana government visited Sundargarh district for two days - Tuesday and Wednesday - on the instruction of Special Chief Secretary of Telangana government's Finance and Planning department to learn about spirulina farming.

The delegates met the DMF team first and had a vivid discussion on how the spirulina project was implemented in Sundargarh on pilot basis.

They also visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) located at Kirei, where spirulina has been cultivated. The scientists of KVK along with Mahesh RV, founder of



Spirulina Foundation, from Karnataka gave them practical insights about the spirulina cultivation. The visit was planned to understand spirulina cultivation in KVK Sundargarh, local spirulina chikki manufacturing in Rangadhapa by Maa Lakshmi Producer Group and Maa Tarini SHG in Chungimati in Rajgangpur.

Then they visited chikki making units which are managed by SHG members. They learnt about the process, financials, arrangements

and profit margins etc. In the evening they again met at the DMF office and interacted with officials, who conducted the pilot study of spirulina in Lephripara block in 2020. On Wednesday, they visited Anganwadi Centres in Subdega and Bargaon, and interacted with the mothers and Anganwadi workers to understand the process. Later they visited Chungimati in Rajgangpur, where they understood a relatively low cost model of setting up chikki making unit.

# VEDVYAS SANGEET NRUTYOTSAV-2023

# Second evening leaves audience spellbound

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Nov 3:** The second evening of the mega cultural event 'Vedvyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav-2023' being organised by Bhanja Kala Kendra at the Bhanja Bhawan here witnessed record number of enthusiastic audience.

The cultural evening began with a captivating 'guitar concert' by the artistes of Bhanja Kala Kendra under the direction of Anil Kumar Dutta. They kept the audience glued to their seats and received a standing ovation

when the performance was over. Next in queue was a riveting Kathak performance by internationally acclaimed exponent Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharjee and his troupe from Kolkata. The nearly one-hour display of classical Kathak was a sheer visual delight for all.

Then came the scintillating Gotipua performance by 'Abhinna Sundar Gotipua Nrutya Parishad' led by Laxman Moharar and his troupe from Raghurajpur followed by a popular Sambapuri folk dance by 'Sangeet Parishad'



led by Rajesh Guria from Padmapur. Both the perform-

ances kept the audience enthralled. The open air auditor-

rium remained almost packed until the curtains came down. Internationally acclaimed artistes from different parts of India are performing in the five day-long extravaganza of classical dance and music.

Raghunathpalli MLA Subrat Tarai graced the evening as the chief guest and inaugurated the programme. He congratulated the members of Bhanja Kala Kendra for organising such an event for the last 26 years and bringing national recognition to the art forms.

**CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Regional Office- Maurya Lok Complex, Block-A, 2nd Floor,  
Dakbungalow Road, Patna-800001  
Phone No.-0612-2225949 E-mail-rmpat@cewacor.nic.in

**No. CWC/RO\_PATNA/ENGG/ZMC/23-24/ E-TENDER NOTICE**

CWC invites on-line tenders from the contractors for the following works:

SL	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Last date of on-line submission
1	Execution of Miscellaneous Repair/ Maintenance, upgradation and Construction works in Zone 9 - a cluster of central warehouses located at Balsore-I, Balsore-II, Jajpur Road, Marshaghai, Baljitpada On Annual rate Contract basis.	310.97	17.11.2023
2	Execution of Miscellaneous Repair/ Maintenance, upgradation and Construction works in Zone 10 - a cluster of central warehouses located at Aska, Berhampur On Annual rate Contract basis.	112.22	17.11.2023
3	Execution of Miscellaneous Repair/ Maintenance, upgradation and Construction works in Zone 11 - a cluster of central warehouses located at Choudwar, Cuttack, Jatni, Mancheswar On Annual rate Contract basis.	222.47	17.11.2023
4	Execution of Miscellaneous Repair/ Maintenance, upgradation and Construction works in Zone 12 - a cluster of central warehouses located at Sonepur, Bargarh, Kalamati, Bolangir, Kendupalli-I, Kendupalli-II On Annual rate Contract basis.	485.89	17.11.2023
5	Execution of Miscellaneous Repair/ Maintenance, upgradation and Construction works in Zone 13 - a cluster of central warehouses located at Nabarangpur, Jeypore, Junagarh, Rayagada and Koksara On Annual rate Contract basis.	294.77	17.11.2023

Detailed Tender Notice along with Conditions of Contract and Notice Inviting E-Tender may be seen and downloaded from the CWC's website www.cewacor.nic.in or e-tender website www.cwcpocprocure.com or CPP Portal http://eprocure.gov.in/publish/app. Further Corrigendum/Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on above websites only. Press advertisement in Newspapers shall not be issued for the same. **Regional Manager**

FOCUS CONFLICT

# THE FUTILITY OF EVIL



As matters stand now, a political solution is a very long way off, given the traumatic cycle of terrorist violence and brutal revenge. But in a war against evil, it will be impossible

Arab would agree to Palestine belonging to the Jews."

Since then, there has been plenty of violence, miscalculation, and bad faith from both sides. Much like Ben-Gurion before him, Netanyahu believes that the conflict cannot be resolved, only managed. By sowing political divisions among the Palestinians, expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and initiating periodic military offensives in Gaza, Netanyahu thought he could maintain control over the Palestinians and ensure Israel's security. While this strategy has failed spectacularly, drawing parallels between the actions of the Israeli government and those of Nazi Germany is both spurious and almost invariably anti-Semitic.

At the same time, Israeli leaders' insistence on framing the war against Hamas as an existential battle between good and evil will make things worse. Evil is a concept that belongs to metaphysics, not politics. As Ben-Gurion himself put it, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is fundamentally about land and sovereignty. Such disputes require a political resolution.

But as long as Israeli leaders see the gates of Auschwitz behind every instance of Palestinian hostility, there can be no resolution. Only total domination will do. The same goes for Palestinians. As long as Israelis are seen as evil "settler-colonialists" and compared to Nazis, horrific terrorist attacks like the one on October 7 will be lauded as brave and necessary acts of resistance. As matters stand now, a political solution is a very long way off, given the traumatic cycle of terrorist violence and brutal revenge. But in a war against evil, it will be impossible.

*The writer is the author, most recently, of The Collaborators: Three Stories of Deception and Survival in World War II.* ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

In 2002, during a visit to Ramallah, Nobel Prize-winning Portuguese writer José Saramago compared the living conditions of Palestinians in the West Bank to the extermination of Jews in Auschwitz. This extraordinary remark triggered an international uproar, but Saramago asserted that as an intellectual, it was his duty to "make emotional comparisons that would shock people into understanding."

Saramago was by no means the first (and surely not the last) to invoke Nazi Germany's attempted annihilation of the Jewish people to condemn the actions of the Jewish state. In the final volume of A Study of History, published in 1961, the British historian Arnold J. Toynbee posited that, through Zionism, "Western Jews have assimilated Gentile Western civilization in the most unfortunate possible form. They have assimilated the West's nationalism and colonization." In his view, "the seizure of houses and lands and property of the 900,000 Palestinian Arabs who are now refugees" was "on a moral level with the worst crimes and injustices committed, during the last four or five centuries, by gentle Western European conquerors and colonists overseas."

Every one of these assertions is absurd: the equation of Gentile Western crimes with "Gentile Western civilization"; the suggestion that most European Jews who migrated to Israel were nationalists, conquerors, and colonizers, rather than displaced refugees from pogroms and genocide; and the attempt to draw a moral equivalence between the seizure of Palestinian lands and property - however reprehensible - and the extreme violence against non-Western peoples by Western colonizers. One can only hope Toynbee was not including the crimes of Nazi Germany.

While history is rife with mass murders, the Nazis' at-

tempt to eradicate an entire people based on a grotesque racist ideology remains unparalleled. Comparing it to other forms of violence, whether out of malice or sheer ignorance, such as when US Congressman Warren Davidson likened COVID-19 vaccine mandates to the Holocaust, is not just wrong but also destructive. Such comparisons invariably trivialize the atrocities committed against the Jews during the 1930s and 1940s and distort our understanding of current events.

And yet, these Holocaust analogies are again being used to describe the tragic events unfolding in Gaza. In a joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu labeled Hamas the "new Nazis." He noted that "the savagery that we witnessed, perpetrated by the Hamas murderers coming out of Gaza, were the worst crimes committed against Jews since the Holocaust."

Netanyahu's comments undoubtedly reflect the view of many Israelis. I heard an Israeli critic of Netanyahu say that the current situation is like 1940, and the war against Hamas is a "war against evil" that must



Ian Buruma

**AS LONG AS ISRAELI LEADERS SEE THE GATES OF AUSCHWITZ BEHIND EVERY INSTANCE OF PALESTINIAN HOSTILITY, THERE CAN BE NO RESOLUTION**

The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught.

SRI AUROBINDO



## A Rare Climbdown

It's indeed a rare climbdown for the Modi sarkar: Barely a week after issuing a circular deputing joint secretary, directors and deputy directors as district "rath prabharis" to highlight the government's achievements, the Centre has backed down after facing a severe backlash from, among others, babus themselves! Even more surprising is that the Election Commission has issued a notice saying that such activities cannot be held in constituencies where the Model Code of Conduct is in force until December 5.

After facing criticism from Opposition parties and several retired senior bureaucrats, I&B Secretary Apurva Chandra, too, echoed the poll panel's words, adding that using the term "rath prabharis" for senior government officers is improper and these officials would now be addressed as nodal officers. While the campaign will continue, the negativity it has created in the bureaucracy and among the public may have surprised the government itself.

For most of its tenure, it has cultivated a pliant babu culture, with few daring to question their political masters, especially on issues like propriety and ethics of governance. This strong resistance from the babus, then, is a rare occurrence indeed, but one that bodes well for the future of civil services and democracy.

### Watching the Saints come marching in

The recent request by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the central deputation of seven high-ranking IPS officers from the Gujarat cadre has stirred more than the usual buzz and anticipation, particularly among those officers who feature prominently in the list.

The IPS officers on the list include V Chandrashekar, IGP of Surat range, Achal Tyagi of Mehsana, Praveen Meena, SP of Anand, Amit Vasava, SP of Ahmedabad, Ajit Rajian, DCP of Ahmedabad Cyber Cell, Sunil Joshi, SP of ATS and Shweta Shrimali, SP of Ahmedabad Central Jail. It's noteworthy that this would be Chandrashekar's second stint in central deputation, having previously served as DIG with the CBI.

Also notably, the husband-wife duo of Sunil Joshi and Shweta Shrimali has opted for central deputation with the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Joshi's request to steer clear of the CBI reportedly led to his assignment with the NIA. The Home Ministry, meanwhile, has expressed a preference for CBI deputation for the remaining five IPS officers.

According to sources, in total, 13 IPS officers from various states were initially shortlisted for central deputation. The MHA has already approached other states to relieve six IPS officers and a similar request for the seven Gujarat cadre officers is expected soon.

Sources say that this move is taking place in the context of more than 10 Gujarat cadre IPS officers who are already serving in various key positions in central agencies. Gujarat never had it so good until the advent of the Modi sarkar!

Meanwhile, though DKB is scrupulously avoiding being casteist, our deep-throats are murmuring about a certain central agency that has a promotion list that's skewing some balance and disconcerting some. But on that, maybe more later?

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect



**BABUDOM BYTES**

Dilip Cherian

### WISDOM CORNER

- Preparation for tomorrow is hard work today. **BRUCE LEE**
- Take the risk of thinking for yourself. **CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS**
- Instead of thinking outside the box, get rid of the box. **DEEPAK CHOPRA**

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1925:** First woman governor of a state in the US. Nellie Tayloe Ross became the first and only female governor of the state of Wyoming in the United States. In addition to being the first woman to be ever elected as a state governor in the US, she was also the first female director of the United States Mint.
- 1946:** UNESCO was officially established as its constitution entered into force; this specialized agency of the UN called for the promotion of international collaboration in education, science, and culture. It has 194 member states and 12 associate members, as well as partners in the non-governmental, intergovernmental and private sector. Headquartered in Paris, France, UNESCO has 53 regional field offices and 199 national commissions that facilitate its global mandate.
- 1979:** A hostage crisis in Iran began as the US embassy in Tehran was seized by Iranian militants in a move sanctioned by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The 444-day crisis began when a group of students took over the American Embassy in Tehran and took 52 Americans hostages. The crisis led to a breakdown in American and Iranian diplomatic relations.
- 1995:** Yitzhak Rabin assassinated. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, co-recipient with Shimon Peres and Yāsir Arafāt of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1994, was assassinated this day in 1995 by a Jewish extremist while attending a peace rally. He was killed in Tel Aviv by Yigal Amir, an Israeli who opposed the role that Rabin played in the Oslo Peace Accords. The Accords were a collection of agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization that set up the process of Palestinian self-determination and created the Palestinian Authority.

### LOL

#### Time for the wedding

A police officer stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street. "But officer," the man began, "I can explain." "Just be quiet," snapped the officer. "I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back." "But, officer, I just wanted to say," the



motorist said. "And I said to keep quiet! You're going to jail," the officer said. A few hours later the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief's at his daughter's wedding... He'll be in a good mood when he gets back." "Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."

### SPECTRUM LITIGATION

## Arbitration sans court intervention

Arbitration, an ADR method, does not require court involvement in arbitrator selection or award issuance. The pace of judicial administration in India and legislative support for ADR must be examined to understand this assertion. We have thoughts, observations, and impressions about Indian justice delivery and processes - "Justice in India is extremely expensive," "Justice is only possible for the wealthy."

Despite irritation causing scepticism and strong sentiments, these are not unwarranted. The National Judicial Data Grid reports about 4.47 lakh cases waiting in courts from the highest to the lowest institutional level. Ironically, 85% of these cases are in district courts. Over six lakh of these cases have been languishing for over 20 years, and 95,000 for over 30. About 1.10 million civil lawsuits and 3.33 million criminal cases are pending. They must be great for a reason.

Three points to note - One: Indian courts have an alarming volume of cases. Two-criminal cases are three times more numerous than civil cases. Three, Indian crime has skyrocketed in recent decades. Criminal cases added in one year exceed civil cases added over 30 years.

This has plagued the Indian Justice Administration for years. To speed up justice delivery and enhance access, the country must reduce crime and courts' workload. Policymakers considered alternate justice delivery methods or alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanisms.

The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (the Act) is a major ADR statute in free India. It has some roots in the 1940 Arbitration Act. From 2015 through 2021, the 1996 statute was amended to make arbitration available to anybody who desired to resolve disputes outside of court. Arbitration aims to give arbitrators' rulings with the same weight as a court's judgement. Section 7 of the Act requires parties to freely agree to arbitrate. Both disputing parties should go to an arbitration institution to find a mutually agreed arbitrator. Arbitrators hear cases like courts do and make awards. The difference between mediation and arbitration is minimal. In mediation, disputing parties choose a mediator/mediation institution, consult them, and resolve the conflict on their own with the mediators' expert advice, while in arbitration, parties give the arbitrator decision-making power

with mutual consent. Then the arbitrator passes an award that is enforceable legally.

Arbitral procedures are never interrupted by courts. Arbitrators need not be court-appointed. The parties are free to agree on a procedure for appointing the arbitrator or arbitrators, but if they fail to do so, the court will appoint an arbitrator, according to Section 6(2) of the Act. Section 5 of the Act confirms that no judicial authority shall interfere except as authorised in this Part in matters controlled by this Part.

The courts can intervene four more times at the parties' request. One to refer parties to arbitration under Section 8 of the Act if there is an arbitration agreement. Two, to grant interim measures under Section 9 of the Act if requested by the parties. Three, under Section 11, if the parties cannot agree on a tribunal appointment method or cooperate in making appointments. The fourth intervention is to set aside the award under Section 34 of the Act at the parties' request if the arbitrator did not follow the procedure, there is no agreement, the arbitrator was unilateral, the parties were incompetent, or a conflict of interest existed.

Otherwise, courts have no role in appointing arbitral tribunals or passing awards.

Ignorance about arbitration as a non-court conflict resolution method is a big issue. Even 27 years after arbitration statute was passed in 1996, many advocates are unaware that arbitration can be done without judicial involvement. The Indian government revised the Act in 2021 and established the Arbitration Council of India (ACI) to regulate institutional arbitration, although ACI has not yet been operationalised. Required advocacy initiatives have not been run to reach more people. Private arbitration firms are targeting high-end and multinational clients. Some state governments have signed MoUs with private arbitration institutions to allocate all their cases, which violates the basic principle of arbitration, which requires mutual consent through an arbitration agreement. Using an arbitrator without other disputant's consent is illegal. Arbitration institutions must be notified immediately pending ACI development to govern arbitration justice. Thus, courts can focus on serious criminal cases and reduce case backlog.

*The writer is a former Senior Advisor, United Nations.*



P Madhava Rao

**IGNORANCE ABOUT ARBITRATION AS A NON-COURT CONFLICT RESOLUTION METHOD IS A BIG ISSUE**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### Worsening air quality

Sir, The current 'severe' air quality crisis in Delhi-NCR is deeply alarming, particularly for pregnant women and infants, with data from the Central Pollution Control Board showing the highest pollution levels in Delhi since 2020. Healthcare experts stress the long-term health risks of pollution, especially for children during and after birth, as evident from the increasing hospital visits due to poor air quality. Urgent actions are needed to protect the population's well-being, with government agencies addressing pollution sources. Medical experts recommend simple precautions: wearing masks, eye rinsing, carrying wet wipes, and having inhalers for those with asthma. Using high-quality air purifiers at home is advised. Conversely, avoid early morning outdoor activities, especially if you have respiratory issues, and prevent touching your eyes while outside. Encourage the elderly to stay indoors and seek professional medical advice instead of self-medication when necessary. These measures are vital in safeguarding health amid worsening air quality.

**Krishna Kumar Vepakomma**, HYDERABAD

### Breach of propriety

Sir, This refers to "Moitra, Oppn MPs walk out of Ethics panel meet," Orissa Post, Nov 3. The predicament that Mahua Moitra faces is of her own making. The TMC MP appeared before the Ethics committee to explain charges brought against her by a fellow MP on accepting cash and favours for parliamentary queries as a quid pro quo before walking out in a huff. In what has been a public slanging match involving her former lawyer who had turned against her and another MP who is the complainant, Moitra brought in a lot of extraneous issues while trying to defend herself. The case highlights a breach of propriety in terms of access to a secure system, of which she can, prima facie, be held guilty since she has confessed to sharing her login and ID to a person living abroad, while, also confirmed the receipt of gifts and travel expenses for abroad visits. The difficulty posed by a walkout from the panel hearing lies in whether such a panel can come to any conclusion ex-parte, but that is after she staged a walkout without extending the cooperation due to an inquiry Moitra can't evade enquiry in the case of impropriety on some pretext.

**N Sadhasiva Reddy**, BANGALORE

# Cong slams Centre over targeted killings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 3: Expressing regret over the recent cases of targeted killings in Jammu and Kashmir, Pradesh Congress Committee president Vikar Rasool has said that the Centre should focus on improving the situation in the Union territory rather than just making claims on ending militancy.

"We regret it. Target killings should not take place. A police personnel was martyred and a non-local person was also killed. The government should work on the ground rather than just making claims," Rasool told reporters in Baramulla district in north Kashmir.

Rasool, the president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), said while assembly elections are on in five states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were "beating drums" about improving the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and ending militancy.

"If that is the case, then how were ten of our soldiers martyred in Rajouri? Why were a colonel, a major and a DSP martyred in Kokernag? A policeman was martyred in target killing, why? Is this an improvement in the situation?" Rasool said.

"The BJP and Modi should focus on the situation more than doing politics and improve the



situation in J&K. The Congress party wants the situation to improve in J&K," he said.

Asked whether the Congress would contest the elections alone or as part of the opposition's

INDIA alliance, the JKPCC chief said the party would contest the Lok Sabha election as part of the INDIA alliance, and would take a decision on the assembly polls in the future.



National Conference President Farooq Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti speak with the media after a meeting, in Srinagar, Friday

# J&K govt prohibits its employees from protests

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 3: The J&K government Friday issued an order prohibiting its employees from participating in strikes and demonstrations.

The UT government has warned of strict action in case the employees violate the order. An official statement noted that it has come to fore that some employees are resorting to demonstrations and strikes in favour of certain demands.



"The government has invoked Rule 20(ii) of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971, which states that no government employee shall resort to or

in any way abet any form of strike in connection with any matter pertaining to his service or the service of any other government employee. As per the order the provision of law is not merely declaratory in nature and shall definitely entail consequences in the event of any such employee found imbricative in such acts."

"Therefore, all Administrative Secretaries are requested to circulate these instructions to employees in their respective

Department(s) to desist from all such uncalled for demonstrations and strikes: an act of serious indiscipline and misconduct. Departments are also impressed upon to take strict disciplinary action against employees found involved in organising demonstrations and strikes."

# 95% of ED, CBI cases against BJP's political rivals: Assam Oppn

NOT A SINGLE CASE NAMED ANY LEADER OF THE SAFFRON PARTY, THE OPPOSITION PARTIES CLAIMED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 3: Opposition parties in Assam Friday claimed that 95 per cent of cases registered by CBI and ED in the last four years are against leaders of political parties which are rivals of the ruling BJP.

Not a single case named any leader of the saffron party, they said. In contrast, leaders of the Congress and its allies were named in several cases taken up by these two federal agencies when the UPA was in power for ten years at the Centre, they asserted. The 15-party United Opposition Forum, Assam, asserted that these were manifestations that the BJP is using the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as a 'weapon to control' its political rivals.

Addressing a press conference by the Forum here, Assam Trinamool Congress chief Ripun Bora said, "The CBI and ED are among the two most important autonomous investigating agencies of the country. But unfortunately, under the BJP-led government since 2014, these are being used by BJP as puppets and as weapons

to control political rivals." Besides TMC, other parties in the Forum include the Congress, NCP, Assam Jatiya Parishad, CPI, CPI(M) and the Rajbar Dal. Bora claimed that "95 per cent of cases taken up by these two probe agencies between 2019 and 2023 during the BJP-led regime were against leaders of opposition political parties."

"A total of 129 cases against opposition political leaders has been registered during this period. Of these, highest of 34 have been registered against TMC leaders, followed by 24 against Congress leaders and 11 against NCP top brass. On the other hand, there are no instances of the ED or CBI registering cases against any BJP leader during 2014-2023. Rather, the BJP government has kept pending the old cases under ED and CBI against the party's leaders," he added.

He cited instances of cases against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Union Minister Narayan Rane and West Bengal Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari. "These leaders have been cleansed in the BJP's wash machine."

# Cross-border firing: Labourers leave J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Arnia (Jammu), Nov 3: Farmers in the border areas of Arnia in Jammu and Kashmir are facing a grave shortage of labourers for the harvest of Basmati rice following cross-border firing and shelling last week.

Most of the labourers who come from other parts of India have left the area following the ceasefire violation. As the farmers raised serious concern over any delay in harvesting, the administration on Thursday sent mechanical harvesters to the area for cutting the crops. The cross-border shelling by Pakistan Rangers, the first major ceasefire violation since 2021, started around 8 pm Thursday last in the Arnia area of R S Pura sector and lasted around seven hours, leaving two BSF jawans and a woman injured.



"We are facing difficulty in harvesting Basmati crop due to a shortage of labourers. Most of the labourers who come from outside Jammu and Kashmir have fled the area following cross-border shelling and firing last week," Ram Singh, a farmer, told reporters here.

While rains damaged the crops in the second week of October, the cross-border firing and shelling affected the farmers further, he said. Scores of families were seen engaged in harvesting themselves in the fields in various hamlets along the International Border (IB) in Arnia.

# Bhutan King begins 3-day visit to Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 3: Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk Friday began his maiden three-day tour to Assam with a visit to the famed Kamakhya Temple atop the Nilachal Hills in Guwahati.

Earlier in the day, the 43-year-old king of the neighbouring Himalayan country arrived at the Lokpriya Gopinath International Airport here and was received by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, his cabinet colleagues and state government officials.

Sarma welcomed the king with the traditional Assamese 'Gamosa' (hand towel). The royal visitor greeted the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues



ROYAL GUEST: King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk being felicitated by officials of Kamakhya Temple, in Guwahati, Assam, Friday

with folded hands.

From the airport, the king went to the Kamakhya Temple where he was received by priests, Assam Tourism Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah, senior officials of the state and the Kamrup Metro district administration.

The king, draped with a traditional Buddhist yellow robe, prayed at the 'garbhagriha' (sanctum sanctorum) and did 'parikrama' (circumambulation) of the temple, besides lighting earthen lamps in obeisance to the Goddess, the temple Bor-Doloi (head priest)

Kabindra Prasad Sarma told PTI.

The king also assured the temple priests that he would visit the place of worship again with his family in the future, he said.

The authorities presented a replica of the Kamakhya Temple to the royal visitor.

Various cultural troupes of different communities of Assam performed outside the airport as the king arrived here, and he responded by waving at them from his vehicle.

The king and his entourage will leave for the Kaziranga National Park, famed for its one-horned rhino, Saturday where he will take a safari.

The royal visitor will leave for New Delhi Sunday from Jorhat.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BOUDH**  
**Bid Identification No. 10/BMID/2023-2024**  
 E-mail ID: bmidbdh@gmail.com  
 Letter No. 1688/Date. 02.11.2023

**Tender Cancellation Notice**

No. A-759:- With reference to this office Tender Call Notice No. 10/BMID/2023-2024 and Letter No. 1562 dtd. 09.10.2023, SI No. (01 to 05) of the aforesaid tender call notice has been cancelled due to administrative ground.

**Sd./- Superintending Engineer**  
**MI Division, Boudh**  
 OIPR-32279/11/0005/2324

**CASHEW NUTS AND FRUITS SALE NOTICE**

No. MM-249:- CASHEW NUTS AND FRUITS LOTS OF NABARANGPUR FOREST DIVISION SHALL BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION SALE ON 11.12.2023 COMMENCING FROM 11.00 AM IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSIGNED AT/PO:- NABARANGPUR, DIST:- NABARANGPUR.

DETAILED PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSIGNED ON ANY WORKING DAY DURING OFFICE HOURS(10:00 AM TO 5:30 PM).

PLACE: NABARANGPUR  
 DATE: 02.11.2023

**Sd./- (SRI SUBHENDU PRASAD BEHERA, FOS)**  
**DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER**  
**NABARANGPUR FOREST DIVISION**  
 OIPR-08158/11/0007/2324

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SUNDARGARH**  
**Tender Call Notice No. 9106 Dt.2.11.23**

**COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**Bid Reference No. SNGM-18/2023-24/Dt.**

- Total No. of works for which Tenders invited: 05 Nos.
- Place of Execution: Different Locations of Sundargarh Municipality.
- Estimated Cost of Individual Works excluding GST: Rs.4,78,145,00/- to Rs.12,10,934,00/-
- Eligible Class of Contractors: Registered Contractors of Class- 'D' to Class - 'C' as indicated against the work mentioned in the Tender Call Notice.
- Intending bidders have to participate through "On-Line" bidding only. The website for online bidding is <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
- The bid documents will be available in the above website from 11.00 A.M. of 04.11.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 13.11.2023 for online bidding.
- Bids received will be opened on e-Procurement System at 11.00 A.M. onwards on 14.11.2023.
- The bidder must possess valid and compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)
- The DTCN for bid shall be available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> for on-line bidding.

**Sd./- Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality**  
 OIPR-13130/11/0026/2324

**SECTION - I** No. C-1746

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
**COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SUNDARGARH**  
**Bid Reference No. SNGM- /2023-24/ Dt. .2023**  
**No. 9049** Date: 16.10.2023

**Invitation of Expression of Interest for "Preparation of Comprehensive Drainage Master Plan and Detail Project Report for Drainage System of Sundargarh Municipal Area".**

The Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality, Sundargarh, (Odisha) on behalf of Sundargarh Municipal Council invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for "Preparation of Comprehensive Drainage Master plan and Detail Project Report for Sundargarh Municipal Area" from registered and eligible firm/ Consultant for tendering their bids through online mode only.

Name of the work: PREPARATION OF COMPREHENSIVE DRAINAGE MASTER PLAN AND DETAIL PROJECT REPORT FOR DRAINAGE SYSTEM OF SUNDARGARH MUNICIPALITY AREA.

- Intending bidders have to participate through "On-Line" bidding only. The website for online bidding is <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. The bid documents will be available in the above website from 11.00 A.M. of Dt.4.11.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of Dt.20.11.2023 for online bidding. 3. Bids received will be opened from e-Procurement System at 11.00 A.M. onwards on Dt. 21.11.2023. 4. The bidder must possess valid and compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). 5. Further details are available in the DTCN. The DTCN for the work shall be available during the aforesaid period in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in> for on-line bidding.

**Sd./- Executive Officer, Sundargarh Municipality**  
 OIPR-13130/11/0027/2324

**OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI**  
**REMUNA, BALASORE**  
 Tel: 06782-224369, email: ori-remuna@nic.in

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering**  
**Identification No. 03/2023-24 02.11.2023**

No. I-456:- The Block Development Officer, Remuna, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites bids from bidders of eligible class registered with the Odisha State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the works detailed in the table below to be eventually drawn up in P1 contract with design and execution of the following work.

1. Nos. of Work	: 2 Nos. work
2. Estimated Cost	: Rs.24.30 lakhs and Rs.12.60 lakhs
3. Period of completion	: 120 days
4. Availability of bid document in Portal	: Dt. 08.11.2023 at 11.00 hours to 17.11.2023 up to 17.00 hours through online.
5. Seeking Clarification	: Dt. 08.11.2023 at 11.00 hours to Dt. 17.11.2023 up to 13.00 hours
6. Date of opening of Bid	: Dt. 18.11.2023 at 11.00 hours in the O/o BDO, Remuna, Balasore.
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Tender	: BDO, Remuna, Balasore

Bid Cost and EMD will be receipt through electronic payment by NEFT / RTGS. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

**Sd./- Block Development Officer, Remuna**  
 OIPR-19164/11/0009/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. B-1178

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,**  
**GANJAM (R&B) DIVISION NO.1, BERHAMPUR**  
**Phone/Fax: (0680) 2233683, e-mail: sermb1.ganjam@yahoo.com**

**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**Bid Identification No. SE R&B Divn. No.1 Bam. 49/2023-24**  
**Lr. No. 11535 dtd. 2.11.2023**

Name of work	: Electrical Work.
No. of works	: 1 (One) No.
Estimated Cost	: Approximately Rs.19.5 lakh
Period of completion of agreement	: One Calendar month
Date and time of Availability of bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 hours of 08.11.2023 to 16.00 hours of 14.11.2023
Last date/time for receipt of bids in portal	: Upto 16.00 hours of 14.11.2023
Name & address of the Officer inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Ganjam (R&B) Division No.1, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

**Sd./- Executive Engineer,**  
**Ganjam (R&B) Division No.1, Berhampur**  
 OIPR-34109/11/0031/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION ORGANISATION**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RWS&S DIVISION, DHENKANAL**  
 E-mail: eerwss-dkl@nic.in / eerwssdhenkanal@gmail.com

**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement**  
**Bid Identification No - 08/E.E/RWSS/2023-24/Dhenkanal/Dt.02.11.2023**

No. O-1432:- The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage bid through e-procurement in Single cover system from contractors having Experience as mentioned in DTCN of work for the Projects according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.

**Nature of Work: - Execution of External Electrification work in Different RWSS Points under Different Blocks in Dhenkanal District.**

1. No. of Tenders	: 03 Nos.
2. Tender Paper Cost	: 4,000/- to 6,000/- (Online)
3. Value of work	: Rs.5.62 Lakh to 20.00 Lakh (Excluding GST)
4. Class of Contractor	: Electrical (H.T.)
5. Date & time of availability of bid document in portal	: 13.11.2023 Upto 5.00 P.M.
6. Date & time of seeking tender clarification	: 20.11.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.
7. Date & time of opening of tender	: 23.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Dhenkanal.
8. Time of completion	: 02 (Two) Months
9. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <a href="https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a> .	
10. Corrigendum if any shall be publish in the above website only.	

**Sd./- Executive Engineer,**  
**RWS&S Division, Dhenkanal**  
 OIPR-25029/11/0002/2324



People from Manipur stage a protest against the ongoing ethnic violence in the state at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi



Congress Seva Dal workers stage a protest against the soaring price of onions in Kolkata



A vendor sells earthen lamps ahead of Diwali in Jammu



School students during the art exhibition 'Silent Conversation: From Margins to the Centre' in New Delhi



Finishing touches being applied to a lifesize cake figure of Britain's King Charles III at the Cake International show at the NEC in Birmingham, England



Members of BJP Kishan Morcha participate in a protest march towards Khadya Bhavan over the alleged ration distribution scam and demanding immediate resignation of West Bengal minister Jyotipriya Mallick, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last week in connection with the alleged scam, in Kolkata



Vice President Jagdeep Thakkar during an interaction with students of Mody University of Science and Technology in New Delhi



# national

## of the day quote

The key issue of Rajasthan elections 2023 is the seven guarantees being given by the Congress party. I challenge opposition party leader Vasundhara Raje to have a debate with me on this

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

In all the alliances which the Samajwadi Party has entered into so far, it has been its efforts to give full respect to its members. Today, I am saying this in front of you none of the alliance members were disappointed with SP earlier and nor will they be disappointed in the future

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

Kamal Nath's reported comments on Ayodhya Ram temple issue show that Congress had an equal role in the demolition of Babri Masjid as that of BJP-RSS

ASADUDDIN OWAISSI | AIMIM PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Dalit woman raped, killed

**Banda (UP):** A 40-year-old Dalit woman was allegedly murdered after being raped and her body was chopped into pieces in a village here, police said. Tuesday, the woman went to Rajkumar Shukla's house to clean his flour mill. When her 20-year-old daughter reached there, she heard her mother's screams from a room which was bolted from inside, Station House Officer (Girwan) police station Sandeep Tiwari said on Thursday. After some time, when the door of the room opened, the girl saw the mother's body lying in three pieces and informed the police, he said. Following this, an FIR was registered against Rajkumar Shukla, his brother Bauwa Shukla and Ramakrishna Shukla, the SHO said. The accused men are absconding and no arrests have been made in the case, he said.

### Security stepped up at IIT-BHU

**Varanasi (UP):** Security has been stepped up at IIT-BHU and a police officer has been shifted to the police lines for dereliction of duty, a day after a student was allegedly molested and stripped near her hostel, triggering a protest by hundreds of students. Security guards deployed at IIT-BHU gates were seen to be carrying out strict checks on anyone entering the campus on Friday. No arrests have been reported in the case till Friday afternoon.

### Six girls fall unconscious

**Mathura (UP):** Six girl students residing in a nursing hostel fell unconscious Friday morning following a leakage from chlorine gas cylinders in the nearby pump house, a senior official said. They were immediately taken to a hospital, the official said, adding that the leakage has been controlled.

### Malaysian minister to visit India

**New Delhi:** Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir will pay an official visit to India next week to attend a key meeting that is set to explore ways to expand overall cooperation between the two countries. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Friday that Kadir's visit will provide an opportunity to comprehensively review bilateral relations and to explore ways to further strengthen them.



The price of onion has suddenly started increasing at a fast pace, while India is the second largest onion-producing country. Last year, our farmer brothers produced 31 lakh metric tonnes of onion. Where is that? In the warehouse of that big businessman? Or did it rot in the government warehouse due to negligence?

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

## BJP'S CHHATTISGARH MANIFESTO OUT

Yearly financial assistance to married women and landless agriculture labourers, paddy procurement at Rs 3,100 per quintal and cooking gas cylinder at Rs 500 to poor families are some of the key highlights of the BJP's poll manifesto for Chhattisgarh released Friday, just four days ahead of the first phase of the Assembly elections



# Apologise unconditionally to Dhankhar: SC to Raghav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The Supreme Court Friday asked suspended AAP lawmaker Raghav Chadha to meet Rajya Sabha chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar and tender an unconditional apology to him over the select committee row, and said the latter may consider it "sympathetically".

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra noted the submissions of lawyer Shadan Farasat, appearing for the Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab, that the first-time and youngest lawmaker from "the house of elders" was willing to apologise to the vice president.

"Lawyer Shadan Farasat says that he (Chadha) is the youngest member in Rajya Sabha. Bearing in mind that he has no intention to affect dignity of the house of which he is a member, Mr Farasat submits that petitioner will seek an appointment with the chairperson (of the Rajya Sabha) so that he may place an unconditional apology which may be considered sympathetically," the bench noted in its order.



Chadha has been under suspension since August 11 after some MPs, a majority from the ruling BJP, accused him of adding their names to a motion without their consent

The motion sought constitution of a select committee to examine the contentious Delhi Services Bill

The bench adjourned the hearing on the plea of Chadha, who has challenged his indefinite suspension from the Rajya Sabha, for hearing after Diwali vacation and asked Attorney General R Venkataramani to apprise it of the developments in the matter then.

During the brief hearing, the bench observed that on the last date of hearing, it had said if Chadha was willing to tender

an apology, then the chairperson, who is a very distinguished person and a senior constitutional functionary, may take an "objective view".

The attorney general and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta agreed to the suggestion. The bench then sought the views of Chadha's counsel. "You have already apologised six times. But would you be willing to seek an appointment with the chairperson and meet the chairperson, tender an apology?" the bench asked.

"He is the youngest member in the house of elders. Of course, he doesn't mind tendering an apology..." the counsel for Chadha said, adding the apology will not be in prejudice to his legal submissions raised in the pending plea.

## Gyanvapi case: SC dismisses mosque committee's plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The Supreme Court Friday dismissed the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's plea challenging the Allahabad High Court chief justice's decision to withdraw the Gyanvapi case from a single-judge bench that was hearing it since 2021.

The single-judge bench was hearing the plea of Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee (AIMC), which mages the affairs of the Gyanvapi mosque, challenging the maintainability of a lawsuit for restoration of a temple at the mosque site in Varanasi.

"Dismissed," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said after hearing the submissions of senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, who represented the mosque committee.

"We should not interfere with the order of the chief justice of the high court...In high courts, it is a very standard practice. This must lie in the realm of the chief justice of the high court," the bench said. The AIMC also challenged the withdrawal of the case from the single judge bench of Justice Prakash Padia. The case has now been assigned to a bench headed by Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker of the high court through an administrative decision.

## Elvish booked at party with snake venom

Elvish Yadav a popular YouTuber and social media influencer, refuted the charges and expressed his willingness to cooperate with police in the investigation, even as BJP MP and environmentalist Maneka Gandhi called for his arrest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Noida, Nov 3:** The Noida police has booked reality television show "Big Boss" winner Elvish Yadav and arrested five people over the alleged use of snake venom at rave parties, officials said Friday.

Yadav, a popular YouTuber and social media influencer, refuted the charges and expressed his willingness to cooperate with police in the investigation, even as BJP MP and environmentalist Maneka Gandhi called for his arrest.

Nine snakes, including cobras, were rescued from the possession of the arrested accused who came to a banquet hall in Sector 51 here on Thursday for a party, which was a trap laid by animal rights group People for Animals (PFA), the officials said.

Police have seized 20 millilitres of snake venom stored in a plastic bottle from the possession of the accused. The seized venom has been sent for testing to ascertain if it is psychotropic in nature to induce a party drug-like effect in the human body.



An FIR has been lodged under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act and for criminal conspiracy following a complaint from Gaurav Gupta of the PFA, which is run by Gandhi, against Yadav and five others for allegedly partying at the banquet hall where snake venom was made available, police said.

Gupta has alleged that Yadav, who won the second season of the OTT version of "Big Boss" this year, along with his associates, illegally organised rave parties and shot videos with snakes and snake venom in Noida and other parts of the National Capital Region (NCR).

"Five people were arrested from the banquet hall and nine snakes were rescued from their possession," a police spokesperson said.

## Will back Cong in polls, says Sharmila



SHARMILA SAID SHE HAS IMMENSE RESPECT FOR CONGRESS LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS AND THAT SHE DOES NOT WANT TO SPLIT THE VOTES OF CONGRESS, WHICH MAY BENEFIT THE RULING BRS

THE YSRTP PRESIDENT SAID IT WAS HER LATE FATHER RAJASEKHARA REDDY WHO BROUGHT CONGRESS TO POWER IN UNDIVIDED ANDHRA PRADESH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, Nov 3:** The YSR Telangana Party will not contest the November 30 assembly polls in the state and would support the opposition Congress, YSRTP president Y S Sharmila said Friday.

Sharmila, daughter of the late chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh Y S Rajasekhara Reddy, announced supporting Congress to end the "corrupt and anti-people rule" of BRS led by Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

She said she would not like to stand as a hurdle by splitting the anti-government votes when there is a possibility of a regime change in the state. Sharmila said she has immense respect for Congress leaders and activists, and that she does not want to split the votes of Congress, which may benefit

the ruling BRS. The YSRTP president, who spoke to reporters here, said it was her late father Rajasekhara Reddy who brought Congress to power in undivided Andhra Pradesh.

"After so many years, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'padayatra' showed results in Karnataka. At the time when it will show its results in Telangana, we have no intention for hurting the Congress." The Congress leaders are not outsiders to her, she said. Congress top leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi showed immense affection for the daughter of Rajasekhara Reddy, she said.

"We have no intention to hurt Congress party or its leaders," she said. She said she has the fear that "history may not forgive her" if she splits the Congress's vote and Chandrasekhar Rao becomes chief minister again. Sharmila had earlier held discussions with Congress high command for merger or for a pre-poll alliance but it did not materialise.



Members of the Kerala Secretariat Action Council protest outside the secretariat against the state government's decision to introduce Contributory Pension Scheme for government employees, in Thiruvananthapuram

## Modi, UAE Prez discuss situation in West Asia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday discussed the situation in West Asia with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and said they shared deep concerns over terrorism, the deteriorating security scenario and the loss of civilian lives in the region.

In a post on X, Modi said they agreed on the need for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation and that

a durable regional peace, security and stability is in everyone's interest.

The telephonic conversation between the two leaders came amid the Israel-Hamas conflict. They also reiterated their commitment to continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse areas within the framework of the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, a PMO statement added.

"Had a good conversation with my brother HH @MohamedBinZayed, President

of UAE, on the West Asia situation. We share deep concerns at the terrorism, deteriorating security situation and loss of civilian lives," Modi said.

"We agree on the need for early resolution of the security and humanitarian situation and that a durable regional peace, security and stability is in everyone's interest," Modi added. Israel is engaged in a major ground offensive in the Gaza Strip against Hamas, which carried out attacks on several Israeli cities on October 7.

# 'Wrong history' of Taj Mahal: HC asks ASI to decide representation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The Delhi High Court Friday asked the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to take a call on a representation seeking removal of allegedly factually wrong information about the construction of the Taj Mahal from history books and ascertaining the age of the monument.

A bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela disposed of the public interest litigation (PIL) which claimed Mughal emperor Shah Jahan did not construct the Taj Mahal and only carried out renovation of the palace of Raja Man Singh.

The high court noted that the petitioner had earlier filed a plea with similar prayers before the Supreme Court, which had allowed him to withdraw it after he proposed to give a representation to the ASI.

The apex court had in December 2022 refused to entertain the plea, saying PILs were not meant for seeking a "fishing enquiry" and courts were not there to reopen history. On Friday, petitioner Surjit Singh Yadav's counsel told the high court that he gave a representation to the ASI in January this year but has not received any response yet.

The high court then asked the ASI to look into his claim and

The Apex court had in December 2022 refused to entertain the plea, saying PILs were not meant for seeking a "fishing enquiry" and courts were not there to reopen history



take a decision on his representation. Yadav, the president

of NGO Hindu Sena, has claimed in his PIL that "wrong historical

facts' are being taught and shown to the public about the construction of the Taj Mahal.

The plea sought direction to the authorities to remove allegedly factually wrong information on the construction of the Taj Mahal by Shah Jahan from history books and textbooks referred to in schools, colleges, universities and other institutions. It also sought direction to the ASI to carry out a probe to ascertain the age of the monument.

The petitioner contended his research showed that a magnificent mansion already existed at the site where the mortal remains of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan and his wife Mumtaz Mahal were placed under a dome-

like structure.

"It is extremely strange why all the court chroniclers of Shah Jahan have not mentioned the name of the architect of this magnificent mausoleum. Therefore, this quite clearly indicates that the mansion of Raja Man Singh was not demolished but only modified and renovated to create the current look of the Taj Mahal. That is why there is no mention of any architect in the accounts of the court chroniclers of Shah Jahan," the plea submitted.

Raja Man Singh was a general of Mughal emperor Akbar, the grandfather of Shah Jahan. The 17th century monument is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

# international

## of the day quote

A report last week by a Russian Telegram channel on the alleged death of the Russian leader was a strategy used by Moscow aimed to help it gain a firmer grip on domestic control.

We've put forward a vision of the world grounded in values we share with these allies and partners and in which there is also a healthy and stable economic relationship between the United States and China

Tunisia doesn't want to be Europe's border guard to slow migration

## SHORT TAKES

**Indo-Nepal Wedding Summit 2023 begins**  
Kathmandu: The Indo-Nepal Wedding Summit 2023 kicked off here Friday with a view to promoting Nepal as a prime wedding destination. Around two dozen wedding bianca (wedding organisers) from India and representatives of hotels and resorts in Nepal are taking part in the two-day summit. The summit is being organised with a view to positioning Nepal as an important wedding destination in South Asia, according to the organisers.

**Iran sentences woman to death for adultery**  
Tehran: An Iranian court has sentenced a woman to death for adultery, state media said. A report by the IRAN newspaper Wednesday said the woman worked as a trainer in a gym for females. It said her husband contacted police in 2022 when he found her with another man at their home. The husband discovered from surveillance cameras that she was having relations with other men, it said. Under Iranian law, she can appeal. Iranian courts sometimes sentence people to death by stoning for adultery, which can be reduced to lighter punishments upon appeal.

**Bomb blast in Pak kills 5**  
Peshawar: A bomb blast near a police convoy killed at least five people and injured 24 others in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Friday in the latest attack on security personnel in the country. The bomb exploded close to the police patrol in Dera Ismail Khan city. District Police Officer Abdur Rauf Qaisrani said five people were killed and 24 others, including two policemen, suffered injuries.

**Storm Ciarán kills 5**  
Milan: Record-breaking rain produced floods in a vast swath of Italy's Tuscany region as Storm Ciarán pushed into the country overnight trapping residents in their homes, inundating hospitals and overturning cars. At least five people were killed, bringing the storm's death toll in western Europe to 12 Friday. Italian Civil Protection authorities said 200 millimetres (nearly 8 inches) of rain fell in a three-hour period, from the city of Livorno on the coast to the inland valley of Mugello, and caused riverbanks to overflow. Video shows at least a dozen cars getting pushed down a flooded road.



**The Jewish nation without American support, will be silenced within days**  
AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER

**IMRAN SEEKS BAIL**  
Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking bail in the cipher case, challenging the rejection of his post-arrest bail pleas in the case by the Islamabad High Court



# Hezbollah taunts Israel, US

The United States urged Israel to ensure more humanitarian aid gets into Gaza and to do more to protect Palestinian civilians, as Israel's Prime Minister said there would be no cease-fire in the nearly month-old war until Hamas releases hostages



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, during his visit to Israel

military offensive until hostages held by the Hamas militant group are released.

Netanyahu spoke Friday shortly after meeting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who pressed Israel for a temporary pause in its offensive in order to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza. Blinken also urged Israel to do more to protect civilians from its attacks. In a statement to reporters Friday, Netanyahu said Israel is continuing with "all of its power" and "refuses a temporary cease-fire that doesn't include a return of our hostages". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Friday that more needs to be done to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza or else there will be "no partners for peace" as he urged Israel to ensure greater humanitarian aid to the besieged territory. Israeli troops tightened their encirclement of Gaza City, the focus of their campaign to crush the enclave's ruling Hamas militants, who launched a brutal attack on Israeli communities that

started the war. But ever since that October 7 assault, there have been concerns the conflict could ignite fighting on other fronts, and Israel and the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah have repeatedly traded fire along the Lebanon border. Tensions escalated further as Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah Friday delivered his first public speech since the conflict began.

Blinken, in Israel on his second diplomatic mission in the region dealing with the war, reiterated US full support for Israel, saying it had the right to defend itself. He said the US was committed to ensuring that no "second of third front" opens in the conflict, referring to Hezbollah. But he said there had to be a substantial and immediate increase in humanitarian aid to Gaza and, "we need to do more to protect Palestinian civilians" in Gaza. Without that, "there are no partners for peace", he said, adding that it was critical to restore the path toward a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

- Hezbollah leader says further escalation along the Lebanese border between his group and Israel is contingent on the escalation in the Gaza Strip.
- Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says his pro-Iranian group's actions against Israel on the Lebanese border may seem modest but are 'very important'
- The US has been clear that it is determined there should not be a second or third front in the conflict, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken says following meetings with Israeli leaders



Hezbollah, an Iran-backed ally of Hamas, attacked Israeli military positions in northern Israel with drones, mortar fire and suicide drones Thursday. The Israeli military said it retaliated with warplanes and helicopter gunships, and spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said civilians were wounded in the Hezbollah attacks. A war with Hezbollah would be devastating for both Israel and Lebanon. Hezbollah is much stronger than Hamas, with an arsenal of some 150,000 rockets and missiles, some believed to be precision-guided weapons capable of striking deep inside Israel. Israel has promised to unleash vast destruction in Lebanon if all-out war erupts, accusing Hezbollah of hiding its military installation in the midst of residential areas.

# Russia steps up missile attacks on Ukraine

Kyiv (Ukraine), Nov 3: Russia unleashed a wave of nighttime drone and missile attacks across 10 of Ukraine's 24 regions, Ukrainian authorities said Friday as they prepare for another winter of infrastructure bombardment by the Kremlin's forces.

Ukraine's air force said it intercepted 24 of 38 Shahed drones and one Kh-59 cruise missile launched by Russia. The attacks caused fires in homes and public buildings, especially in the southern Kherson region which Moscow has increasingly targeted in recent weeks, emergency services said. Authorities reported that two people were injured.

"We understand that as winter approaches, Russian terrorists will attempt to cause more harm," Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Telegram after the attacks, employing his usual choice of words for the enemy's forces. Andriy Yermak, the president's chief of staff, said Russia had expanded the number of drones it uses in its routine nighttime attacks as winter approaches. "The battle for the sky is what awaits us," he said on Telegram. Laser-guided munitions designed to take out drones are expected to be part of a \$425 million package of new US Military aid to Ukraine, according to US Officials. The coming wet, muddy and cold weather will likely frustrate both sides' efforts to advance on the battlefield, compelling a change in military



- Last winter, Russia took aim at Ukraine's power grid in an effort to deny civilians light and heating and chip away at the country's appetite for war
- Ukrainian officials accused the Kremlin of weaponising winter
- The Russian strikes are inflicting "unimaginable levels of suffering" on Ukrainian civilians, according to Ramesh Rajasingham, coordination director in the UN Humanitarian office

tempo. Russia and Ukraine will be building up ammunition stockpiles for offensives in 2024, analysts say. Ukraine is relying heavily on its Western allies and plans to ramp up its own weapons manufacturing while Russia buys from North Korea, Iran and Belarus. Both armies are struggling to make major progress along the 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) front line in what is largely an artillery war. Ukraine's commander-in-chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said in published remarks this week that artillery, missile and rocket fire account for up to 80 per cent of all military tasks. Ukraine's forces can now wear down Russian logistics and command centres behind the front line using US long-range ballistic missiles, known as ATACMS, and UK long-range Storm Shadow cruise missiles.

# FIRE AT DRUG REHAB CENTRE IN IRAN KILLS 32

Tehran, Nov 3: A fire at a private drug rehabilitation centre in northern Iran killed 32 people Friday, according to Iranian state media, five more than reported earlier. State TV said 16 other people were injured and taken to hospitals in Langroud, a city about 200 kilometres northwest of the capital, Tehran.

The TV report said the centre had capacity for 40 patients. It was not clear how many staff members were working when the early morning fire broke out. The earlier broadcast said 27 people died and 17 were injured. A video showed flames and smoke pouring into a dark sky. The fire was later extinguished, and authorities were investigating how it started, the TV report said. The head of Iran's judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, ordered a full investigation. Fatal fires are not rare in the country, mainly because of the disregarding of safety measures, aging facilities and inadequate emergency services.



Followers of La Santa Muerte (The Saint Death) participate in a procession during Day of the Dead celebrations in Nezahualcoyotl, State of Mexico, Mexico

# Sunak, Musk discuss AI job threats, robotic 'friends'

London: In a much-hyped conversation between Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Tesla CEO Elon Musk at the conclusion of the AI Safety Summit hosted by the UK government, the duo discussed a range of issues from job threats posed by artificial intelligence to how AI-enabled robots could make good "friends" in the future. In a recording of his discussion at Lancaster House in London Thursday evening shared on Musk-owned X, Sunak is seen playing chat show host as he throws questions at the tech billionaire about the risks associated with the fast-developing and "transformative" new technology. Musk, the world's richest man, described AI as "a magic genie" that could grant limitless wishes and agreed with the need for a "referee" to monitor the development of supercomputers of the future.

# "God willing, elections will be held Feb 8": Pak Chief Justice

Islamabad: "God willing, elections will be held February 8," Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa said Friday, a day after the election commission and Pakistan President Arif Alvi reached an agreement on the day of holding polls in the cash-strapped country. Chief Justice Isa made these remarks after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Friday issued a notification to hold general elections February 8 and submitted it to the Supreme Court. Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja met President Alvi at the directives of the Supreme Court Thursday and later the President's Office issued a statement that the general elections would be held February 8. The development came hours after the election commission's lawyer told the apex court that elections would be held February 11.

# UN retreat from Mali in disarray as violence surges

Dakar: Before United Nations peacekeepers hurriedly abandoned their base in Kidal in northern Mali Tuesday, they made a costly call: with insurgents stationed nearby, they destroyed sensitive equipment to avoid it falling into the wrong hands, the UN said. Shortly after the last UN convoy rolled out, the ethnic Tuareg rebels announced they had taken over the base. Photos posted on social media on Wednesday appeared to show locals loading trucks with looted goods, including tyres, cables and chairs. Mali's ruling military junta in June ordered the decade-old UN mission, known as MINUSMA, to leave as its relations soured with former international allies. MINUSMA has accelerated its departure in recent weeks as northern Mali has been engulfed in fighting between the rebels and government forces vying for control over areas it vacates.

# India and Italy sign Mobility & Migration Partnership Agreement

Rome, Nov 3: India and Italy have signed the Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to enable seamless movement of workers, students and professionals after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a comprehensive and productive meeting with his counterpart Antonio Tajani.

Jaishankar is here on the last leg of his four-day visit to Portugal and Italy. "A comprehensive and productive meeting this evening with DPM & FM @Antonio\_Tajani," Jaishankar posted on X after the meeting. "Conversed about deepening our strategic partnership. Agreed that potential in agro-tech, innovation, space, defence and the digital domain should be explored," he wrote. "Signed the Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement and the Cultural Exchange Programme at the end of our talks," Jaishankar said. "We believe that this is something which will definitely help to create a legal basis for the mobility of professionals and skills and talent in demand in either society between us," he said later, while addressing the Joint Session of the Senate's External Affairs and Defence Commission here.

Termining the bilateral relationship as a "very substantial economic relationship", Jaishankar said the atmosphere and environment were "very good" between the two countries to increase business. "We have 750 Italian companies present in India; we welcome them. We would like to see them deepen their presence and do more in India," Jaishankar said at the joint press briefing. Talking about the large Indian community in Italy, Jaishankar said there were "180,000 Indians who contribute to the Italian economy".



## SNIPPETS



**Despite uncertain global economic environment owing to conflicts and high inflation in developed economies, India's domestic economy continues to exhibit resilience**  
**SHSHIR BAJAL** | CHAIRMAN AND MD, KNIGHT FRANK INDIA

## SAUDI ARABIA EYES A PIECE IN IPL

Saudi Arabia has expressed interest in buying a multibillion-dollar stake in the Indian Premier League (IPL), the world's richest cricket league, Bloomberg News reported Friday. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's advisers have spoken to Indian government officials about moving the IPL into a holding company valued at as much as \$30 billion



## of the day quote

The improvement in cargo volumes is testimony to the success of three-prong business strategy which encompasses the focus on higher operational efficiencies, integrated business model with an end-to-end service to our customers

**KARAN ADANI** | CEO AND WHOLE TIME DIRECTOR, APSEZ

We have set an ambitious goal of achieving apparel exports of \$40 billion by the year 2030. This target, aptly named '40 by 30' reflects our commitment to reaching new heights and pushing our limits in the ongoing decade

**NAREN GOENKA** | CHAIRMAN, AEP

The steel sector is in a bullish phase, and steel majors expect India to add at least another 120 million tonne of capacity over the next seven years

**PARMOD SAGAR** | MD & CEO, RHI MAGNESITA

## Q2 RESULTS

### IndiGo sees profit

**New Delhi:** InterGlobe Aviation, the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo, Friday reported a profit after tax of ₹188.9 crore for the September quarter, helped by increased air traffic and capacity. The airline had posted a loss of ₹1,583.3 crore in the year-ago period, according to a release. In the second quarter of the current fiscal, IndiGo's total income jumped 20.6 per cent to ₹15,502.9 crore. In the same period a year ago, the total income stood at ₹12,852.3 crore.

### Zomato PAT rises

**New Delhi:** Online food delivery platform Zomato Friday reported a consolidated profit after tax of ₹36 crore for the second quarter ended September 2023, driven by strong revenue growth. The company had reported a loss of ₹251 crore for the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year. Revenue from operations was ₹2,848 crore in the quarter. In the year-ago period, it was ₹1,661 crore.

### UCO net declines

**New Delhi:** State-owned UCO Bank Friday reported a 20 per cent decline in its net profit to ₹402 crore for the quarter ended September 2023. The bank had reported a net profit of ₹505 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago. Total income of the Kolkata-headquartered lender during the July-September period rose to ₹5,866 crore from ₹4,965 crore in the year-ago period, UCO Bank said in a regulatory filing.

### MRF net up 4.5X

**New Delhi:** Tyre maker MRF Ltd Friday reported a four-and-half fold rise in consolidated profit from continuing operations at ₹586.66 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, driven by higher revenue and fall in raw material costs. The company had posted a consolidated profit from continuing operations of ₹129.86 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, MRF Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

### Titan profit surges

**New Delhi:** Jewellery and watchmaker Titan Company Ltd Friday reported an increase of 9.7 per cent in its consolidated net profit to ₹916 crore in the second quarter ended on September 2023. The company posted a net profit of ₹835 crore in the July-September period a year ago.

# FTX scam: Biggest financial fraud

Once the darling of the crypto world, Bankman-Fried - who was known for his mop of unkempt curly hair and for wearing shorts and T-shirts rather than business attire - joins the likes of admitted Ponzi schemer Bernie Madoff and "Wolf of Wall Street" fraudster Jordan Belfort as people convicted of major US financial crimes



**Sam Bankman-Fried perpetrated one of the biggest financial frauds in American history - a multibillion-dollar scheme designed to make him the king of crypto. This case has always been about lying, cheating and stealing, and we have no patience for it** DAMIAN WILLIAMS | US ATTORNEY

REUTERS

**New York, Nov 3:** FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried was found guilty Thursday of stealing from customers of his now-bankrupt cryptocurrency exchange in one of the biggest financial frauds on record, a verdict that cemented the 31-year-old former billionaire's fall from grace.

A 12-member jury in Manhattan federal court convicted Bankman-Fried on all seven counts he faced after a month-long trial in which prosecutors made the case that he looted \$8 billion from the exchange's users out of sheer greed. The verdict came just shy of one year after FTX filed for bankruptcy in a swift corporate meltdown that shocked financial markets and erased his estimated \$26 billion personal fortune.

The jury reached the verdict after just over four hours of deliberations. Bankman-Fried, who had pleaded not guilty to two counts of fraud and five counts

of conspiracy, stood facing the jury with his hands clasped in front of him as the verdict was read.

The conviction was a victory for the US Justice Department and Damian Williams, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, who made rooting out corruption in financial markets one of his top priorities.

"The crypto industry might be new, the players like Sam Bankman-Fried may be new, but this kind of fraud is as old as time and we have no patience for it," Williams told reporters outside the courthouse.

His defense lawyer Mark Cohen said in a statement that he was "disappointed" but respected the jury's decision. "Mr Bankman-Fried maintains his innocence and will continue to vigorously fight the charges against him," he said.

Bankman-Fried is set to go on trial next March on a second set of charges brought by prosecutors earlier this year, including for alleged foreign

bribery and bank fraud conspiracies.

**BANKMAN-FRIED TESTIFIED IN OWN DEFENSE**

Bankman-Fried's was the first of several blockbuster cases Williams brought against former high-flying cryptocurrency executives to go to trial. Several crypto companies went bankrupt last year after the prices of bitcoin and other digital assets collapsed following a years-long boom. Prosecutors argued during

the trial that Bankman-Fried siphoned money from FTX to his crypto-focused hedge fund, Alameda Research, despite proclaiming on social media and in television advertisements that the exchange prioritized the safety of customer funds.

Alameda used the money to pay its lenders and to make loans to Bankman-Fried and other executives - who in turn made speculative venture investments

and donated upwards of \$100 million to US political campaigns in a bid to promote cryptocurrency legislation the defendant viewed as favorable to his business, according to prosecutors.

Bankman-Fried took the calculated risk of testifying in his own defense over three days near the close of trial after three former members of his inner circle testified against him. He faced aggressive cross-examination by the prosecution, often avoiding direct answers to the most probing questions.

## Forex kitty rises to \$586.11 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 3:** India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$2.579 billion to \$586.11 billion in the week ended October 27, the Reserve Bank of India said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by \$2.363 billion to \$583.532 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the foreign currency reserve to defend rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

For the week ended October 27, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$2.303 billion to \$514.504 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by \$499 million to \$45.923 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by \$15 million to \$17.91 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$208 million to \$4.773 billion in the reporting week, the central bank data showed.

## 7-MONTH LOW

# Services hit as demand wanes

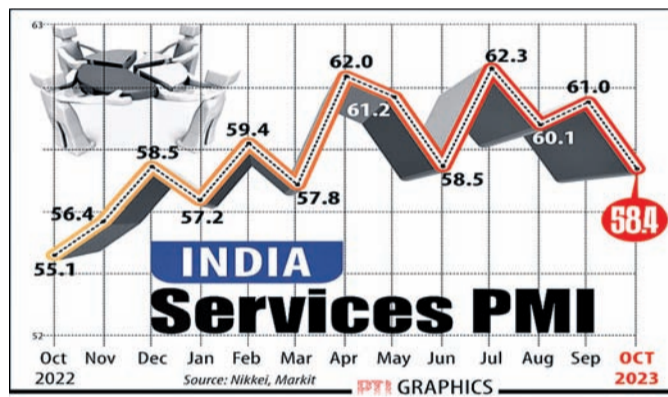
Biz activity fell from a 13-year high in Sept on softer increase in output, signalling the slowest rate of expansion since March

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** The services sector growth in India fell to a seven-month low in October on softer increase in output and new business, amid competitive conditions and price pressures, a monthly survey said Friday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell to 58.4 in October, from a 13-year high of 61 in September, signalling the slowest rate of expansion since March.

In Purchasing Managers'



Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

The survey is compiled from responses to questionnaires sent to a panel of around 400 service sector companies.

The October data highlighted

the second-fastest upturn in international orders placed with Indian services companies since the series started in September 2014. Survey members noted gains from clients in Asia, Europe and the US.

On the price front, services companies in India reported an

increase in their expenses in October, which they attributed to higher food, fuel and staff costs. Going ahead, the Future Activity Index fell by more than five points in October, signalling some loss of confidence surrounding the outlook for services output, amid rising inflation expectations.

Meanwhile, the S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index fell from 61 in September to 58.4 in October, indicating the weakest rate of expansion since March.

Several companies managed to secure new contracts, but some mentioned subdued demand for their services and competitive conditions

increase in their expenses in October, which they attributed to higher food, fuel and staff costs. Going ahead, the Future Activity Index fell by more than five points in October, signalling some loss of confidence surrounding the outlook for services output, amid rising inflation expectations.

## Lalchnd brings Diwali, Dhanteras offers

**Bhubaneswar:** Lalchnd Jewellers is all set to make this festive season more joyful for customers as Sunjoy Hans, Founder Chairman of the Lalchnd Group, unveiled an exclusive collection of new jewellery designs and offers. The brand is thrilled to light up the Diwali and Dhanteras celebrations with a dazzling array of discounts. Customers can avail a flat ₹625/gram on making charges (MC) for all HUID-certified gold jewellery and flat ₹20,000 off per carat on diamond's value. For silver lovers, the brand has declared flat 50% off on MC. It has announced flat 20% off on select international branded watches and a flat 15% off on MRP of all branded items. As an extra treat, purchases of jewellery worth ₹25,000 and above come with an assured gift. In exchange of BIS-Hallmarked old gold, the brand guarantees to give 100% value in return. Meanwhile the grand "Indian Jewellery Shopping Festival 2023" is in full swing at all Lalchnd stores.



Shoppers can look forward to a special treat with an assured coupon and a limited-edition silver coin accompanying purchases of jewellery worth ₹25,000. As an added bonus, periodical draws offer a chance to win 25-gram gold coins for every set of 5,000 coupons. The prizes up for grabs are nothing short of breathtaking, including five prizes of 1 kg gold each, five prizes of Jadau jewellery worth ₹10 lakh each, 10 prizes of diamond - and precious stone-studded jewellery worth ₹5 lakh each, and 10 prizes of gold jewellery worth ₹2.5 lakh each. For those seeking a touch of luxury, there are 100 prizes of diamond-studded gold coins from "Divine Solitaires." These offers and prizes are available until November 22, 2023. In addition to these deals, Lalchnd is pleased to partner with HDFC Bank, offering a 5% instant discount on HDFC Debit & Credit Cards. This offer is valid only until November 14, 2023.

# RBI's debt sale plan, dull ₹ worry lenders

Rupee stayed in a narrow 83.04-83.28 band against the US dollar in Oct, the narrowest range since 2004

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Nov 3:** Indian lenders have told the central bank that its plan to sell government bonds and its intervention in the foreign exchange market has hurt trading volumes, four bankers said Friday.

Officials of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) met select lenders Thursday, where these issues, among others, were discussed, according to bankers aware of the development.

"Since the RBI has announced its intention to conduct open market bond sales, trading volumes have gone down sharply and yields are stuck in a very narrow range," one of the bankers said. "There is hardly any in-

terest to go for big positions on either side."

All the bankers requested anonymity as they are not authorised to speak to the media. The RBI did not reply to a Reuters' email seeking comment.

The central bank October 6 said that it plans to sell bonds via auctions to manage banking system liquidity. The unexpected announce-

ment pushed bond yields higher.

Since October 9, the 10-year benchmark yield has been stuck in a narrow 11-basis-point range, due to uncertainty about the timing and tenor of the bond sales, which has hurt volumes.

Meanwhile, a lack of volatility in the currency market over the last few weeks has also hit banks' trading activity. "The rupee market is literally dead due to heavy central bank interventions," a trader with a private bank said. "Such

low volatility has significantly impacted the activity on the prop (proprietary) book."

The rupee stayed in a narrow 83.04-83.28 band against the US dollar in October, the narrowest range since 2004.

The intraday volatility in the pair has halved this fiscal year from the last fiscal, according to Kotak Securities.

At the meeting Thursday, the central bank queried banks on the skewed liquidity distribution in the banking system and also discussed an upcoming sale of green bonds to get a sense of the demand, the bankers said.

Last month, the central bank had nudged banks to lend surplus funds to their peers in the interbank call money market.

## POSITIVE GLOBAL TRENDS

# Equities stay on upward course

Markets continue to rally for second day as Fed is unlikely to hike rates in the future and modest drop in oil prices are adding to the optimism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 3:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty sustained their upward movement for the 2nd straight day and ended with gains Friday in line with positive trends in global markets.

Extending its previous day's rally, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 282.88 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 64,363.78. During the day, it jumped 454.29 points or 0.70 per cent to 64,535.19. The Nifty went up by 97.35 points or 0.51 per cent to close at 19,230.60.

Among the Sensex firms, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, and Sun Pharma were the major gainers.

Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, Nestle, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finance Bank were the major laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.94 per cent while the midcap index climbed 0.71 per cent.

All the indices ended in the green, with realty rallying 2.64 per cent, services jumped 1.60 per cent, consumer durables (1.44 per cent), consumer discretionary

## NON-COMPLIANCE

# RBI fines PNB, Federal Bank, 2 other entities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 3:** The Reserve Bank Friday said it has imposed a ₹72 lakh penalty on state-owned Punjab National Bank and a ₹30 lakh penalty on private sector Federal Bank for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms.

It has also imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on Mercedes-Benz Financial Services India Private Ltd (formerly known as Daimler Financial Services India Private Ltd) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016.



The penalty on Punjab National Bank has been imposed for non-compliance with certain provisions related to 'interest rate on advances' and 'customer service in banks', Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a release.

Federal Bank has been penalised for contravention of certain provisions of KYC norms, the central bank said in another release.

The RBI also said a monetary penalty of ₹13.38 lakh has been imposed on Kosamattam Finance Ltd, Kottayam, for non-compliance with certain provisions of the 'Non-Banking Financial Company - Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016'.

In all cases, the central bank said penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.



(1.15 per cent), oil & gas (0.94 per cent), bankex (0.68 per cent) and energy (0.73 per cent). Overall during the week, the BSE benchmark jumped 580.98 points or 0.91 per cent while the Nifty climbed 183.35 points or 0.96 per cent.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled with gains. European markets were trading in the positive territory. The US markets ended with significant gains Thursday.

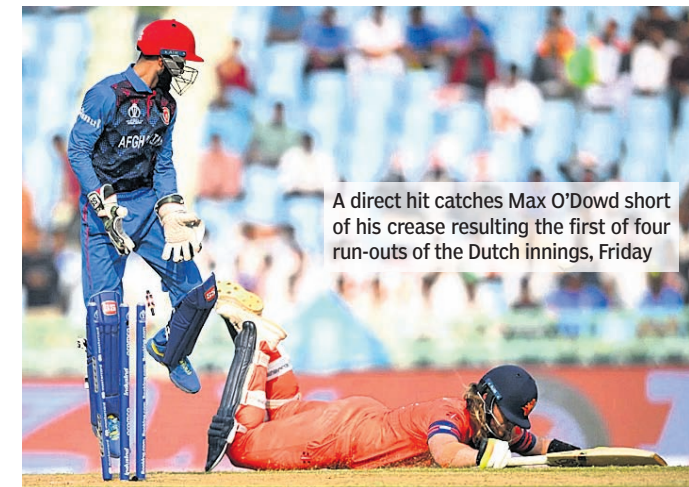
Global oil benchmark Brent crude rose 0.01 per cent to \$86.86 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued to be net sellers in the capital markets and sold equities worth ₹12.43 crore Friday.

On Thursday, the BSE benchmark jumped 489.57 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at 64,080.90. The Nifty climbed 144.10 points or 0.76 per cent to 19,133.25.

# Afghans still in last-4 race Kiwis eye turnaround against Pak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



A direct hit catches Max O'Dowd short of his crease resulting the first of four run-outs of the Dutch innings, Friday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Nov 3:** Captain Hashmatullah Shahidi (56 n o, 64b, 6x4) and Rahmat Shah (52, 54b, 8x4) made well-compiled fifties and veteran Mohammad Nabi (3/28) produced a stifling spell as Afghanistan continued their dream run in the World Cup, registering a smooth seven-wicket victory over Netherlands to keep their semifinals hopes alive here Friday.

In the battle between two giant-killers of this showpiece, Afghanistan rode on their spinners and brilliant fielding to restrict the Dutch to 179 and then chased down the target in 31.3 overs.

The win, their fourth in seven games, swelled Afghanistan's tally to eight points and also lifted them to the fifth spot ahead of Pakistan. The Afghans, who defeated defending champions England, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in this tournament.

However, they have two tough matches left against Australia and South Africa and their fate relies on the results of them. Netherlands, who surprised the world with wins over South Africa and Bangladesh, are all but out of the tournament with two games left. They have four points.

The chase was a cakewalk for Afghanistan despite losing both their openers - Rahmanullah Gurbaz (10) and Ibrahim Zadran (20) - inside the 11th over for 55.

Rahmat's sparkling form continued as he hit his third consecutive fifty and with skipper Shahidi shared 74 runs for the third wicket to set the base for Afghanistan's comfortable win.

Rahmat finally departed when the team was on 129, handing a simple return catch to Saqib Zulfiqar while trying to go over his head. Shahidi, who is also in red hot form, made yet another half-century to lead his side from the front.

Along with Azmatullah Omarzai (31 n o), Shahidi stitched 52 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket stand to ensure a comfortable win for his side. Zulfiqar (1/25), Roelof van der Merwe (1/27) and Logan van Beek (1/30) picked up a wicket each for the Dutch.

Earlier, Sybrand Engelbrecht struck a gritty half century (58, 86b, 6x4) but failed to push the Netherlands to a competitive total. Engelbrecht anchored Netherlands' innings after they suffered a mid-innings collapse. This was after Max O'Dowd (42) and Colin Ackermann (29) shared an attacking 70-run alliance off



Hashmatullah Shahidi and Rahmat Shah run between wickets during their partnership against the Netherlands

64 balls for the second wicket after they elected to bat.

Netherlands lost Wesley Barresi, who replaced Vikramjit Singh, in the fifth ball of the innings, with Mujeeb Ur Rahman trapping him plumb in front of the wicket. O'Dowd and Ackermann then steadied the Dutch ship before they suffered a dramatic middle-order collapse.

Three run outs joined Netherlands' surge as from 73 for 1 they slumped to 92/5 inside 20 overs. Poor judgement while running between the wickets and some brilliant fielding from Afghans derailed the Dutchmen.

A set O'Dowd fell victim to an unnecessary run out, caught inches short of the crease by Omarzai's direct hit from the deep while searching for a double. O'Dowd struck nine boundaries.

A few overs later, Ackermann too got run out at the keeper's end

while going for a non-existent single. Netherlands' slide continued as wickets fell like ninepins with wicket-keeper Ikram Alikhil involved in four dismissals.

De Leede edged one to Alikhil off off-spinner Nabi and a few overs later the Afghan pounced on another nick off Noor Ahmad to send Zulfiqar back into the dressing room. Alikhil then effected a stumping off Nabi to dismiss Logan van Beek. A wearing Lucknow pitch too favoured the Afghan spinners - Nabi, Noor Ahmad (2/31) and Mujeeb (1/40).

**BRIEF SCORES:** The Netherlands 179 (Sybrand Engelbrecht 58, Max O'Dowd 42; Mohammad Nabi 3/28, Noor Ahmad 2/31) lost to Afghanistan 181/3 (Hashmatullah Shahidi 56 n o, Rahmat Shah 52, Azmatullah Omarzai 31 n o; Saqib Zulfiqar 1/25) by 7 wickets.

**Bangalore, Nov 3:** An injury-tormented New Zealand, further weakened by the exit of Matt Henry, seek resurgence while Pakistan need a continuation of their recent resurrection, and that subtext of desperation could turn their crucial World Cup match into a classic here Saturday.

The fortunes of New Zealand and Pakistan went through sharp curves after a bright beginning, leaving them in a tight spot in the race to the semifinals of the quadrennial big bash.

The Kiwis started the tournament with four wins on the bounce, and it looked a matter of time before they sealed a berth in the semifinals. Since that point, they have fallen to three defeats in a row against India, Australia and South Africa, and are now stranded at eight points from seven matches.

On the other side, Pakistan are in an even dingier space with six points from seven matches, and they need to win mandatorily against New Zealand and England.

Apart from the dwindling on-field returns, the Kiwis will also have to deal with a tall obstacle ahead of their clash with Pakistan - a growing injury list that has five names in it already.

Henry, who had taken 11 wickets from seven matches, hurt his right hamstring against South Africa and the pacer has now been ruled out of the match against Pakistan, forcing the Kiwis to replace him with strapping fast bowler Kyle Jamieson.

James Neesham had suffered a hit on his wrist in the match against the Proteas and the Kiwis will keep a close eye on his recovery. Other than the duo, Kane Williamson (thumb) and Mark Chapman (calf) are also in various stages of their recuperation process.

However, both Williamson and



Kyle Jamieson

Neesham participated actively in the nets on this day here, giving a small indication of their readiness to take the field if it comes to that.

They will also have a crumb of comfort in the knowledge that pacer Lockie Ferguson has recovered sufficiently from his right Achilles niggle to play against Pakistan.

But that is just a part of the consolation as the New Zealand bowlers will have to regain their sense of target against Pakistan, something they terribly missed against Australia and South Africa while conceding 388 and 357 respectively.

It will not be easy for them though at the M Chinnaswamy stadium, an unforgiving cauldron to the bowlers with its true pitch and short, quick outfield.

So, the current standing of things might be tempting to place Pakistan as favourites even if by a slight margin. Babar Azam's form has been an elephant in the room as the captain is still searching for that daddy hun-



Kane Williamson

dred despite making three fifties. Till that actually happens, Pakistan have to pin their hopes on Mohammad Rizwan and opener Abdullah Shafique to have a productive outing against the Black Caps. That said, their middle-order batters Saud Shakeel and Iftikhar Ahmed are yet to find consistency barring the odd flashes.

Left-arm fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi is showing signs of closing in on his best while the three-wicket haul of seamer Mohammad Wasim against Bangladesh might have eased Pakistan's worry over the extra option in the pace department.



## Asia Cup decimation 'could be' behind SL's huge defeat



Sri Lanka skipper Kusal Mendis looks disappointed as he walks back to pavilion after getting out against India, Thursday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 3:** Sri Lanka's decimation by India in the Asia Cup final in September could potentially have dented the confidence of the players, which led to another crushing defeat in their World Cup match against Rohit Sharma's side here Thursday, conceded their batting coach Naveed Nawaz.

Sri Lanka could only make 50 runs in the Asia Cup final in Colombo and India overhauled the target in just the seventh over, inflicting a crushing 10-wicket defeat on the hosts.

In the World Cup match here Thursday, India thrashed the Islanders by 202 runs after notching 357/8 and then bundling out Kusal Mendis's side for 55 runs, Sri Lanka's lowest-ever total in the tournament.

"I thought we (had) flushed (the Asia Cup loss out of our minds) and ended it. We talked about it with those guys as a playgroup, we completely removed it from their heads. We emphasised to them the importance of approaching the upcoming matches without dwelling on it (Asia Cup loss)," Nawaz said following the loss on Thursday.

"However, I think that such an incident (Asia Cup loss) could potentially affect their confidence. Otherwise, in this tournament, we haven't witnessed the ball being attacked in such

a manner before. This is the first time I've seen this in this World Cup competition.

"Indeed, there is certainly a skill gap, which is why we had to participate in the World Cup qualifier matches before entering the main World Cup competition. This gap became particularly evident when we faced the top teams. Additionally, I believe there are a few shortcomings in our batting lineup," he added.

Nawaz said the Sri Lanka cricketers would benefit from a full-time psychologist. "About two or three months ago, before we began the qualifier matches, we did bring in a psychologist to address these issues. But, unfortunately, it didn't continue. We have limited experienced individuals in this subject in Sri Lanka, even though there is one person working on it through the ministry of sports."

He indicated that as coaches they could not perform all the tasks, and that specific people were required for specific jobs. "As coaches, we do face certain limitations. We can get involved in some things and we can't interfere in everything. We must respect that not all players may openly discuss their issues," he said.

The coach also added that Sri Lankan cricket is not in decline, but in a rebuilding phase and many new players are "still learning the trade".

## Pegula beats Sakkari at WTA Finals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cancun (Mexico), Nov 3:** Jessica Pegula finished round-robin singles play at the WTA Finals with a 3-0 record a year after going 0-3 at the season-ending championship, heading to the semifinals with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Maria Sakkari.

The fifth-seeded Pegula extended her overall winning streak to eight matches, including a title at the Korean Open last month.

The 29-year-old American has won all six sets she's played in Cancun so far and will play in the semifinals Saturday. Sakkari, who is ranked No.9 but got into the eight-player field when No.8 Karolina Muchova withdrew with an injured right wrist, went 0-3 and dropped every set.

Pegula had fewer winners



than Sakkari, 12-7, but also made roughly half as many unforced errors, 35-18, on a windy evening

with some brief rain. The other semifinalist from their group was to be determined

## Impressive Odisha FC pip NEUFC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 3:** Quick learners make for bona fide champions as Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera's call for greater defensive discipline resulted in his team edging past NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) by 1-0 at the Kalinga Stadium here in the Indian Super League (ISL), Friday.

"We need to try to find the balance between attack and defence. We are scoring a lot of goals, but we are also conced-

ing a lot of goals. I like to play attacking football, but we need to find balance when we lose the ball, because we are conceding goals," Lobera had said in the press conference prior to this game, thus refusing to take solace with his side's 3-2 comeback victory against Bengaluru FC.

That call seemed to resonate with his team as the Juggernauts rounded off only their second clean sheet of the season, which is uncharacteristic with Lobera's teams who have conceded only 1.23 goals per game on an aver-

age in the 85 games that he has coached in the ISL.

Spearheaded by the centre back duo of Narender Gahlot and Carlos Delgado, Odisha restricted NorthEast into taking only three shots on target in the game. The home team's midfield duo of Ahmed Jahouh and Lalpathanga Khawlhing guarded the backline to perfection, with the former controlling the tempo of the proceedings with his diligent defensive efforts and passing range moving forward.

As Odisha held their defence together, Brazilian striker Diego Mauricio kept pressing higher up on the field to build pressure on NorthEast United FC. Mirshad Michu denied Mauricio and the latter didn't give up. He, in fact, compelled Michu into misplacing a pass that the forward conveniently collected and shot it past the goalkeeper to hand Odisha the lead in the 37th minute.

NorthEast United FC star Parthib Gogoi produced a remarkable effort that nearly drew scores level in the 57th minute. One of his shots was blocked inside the box, but he withdrew a little bit and shot strongly on target only to be warded off by a full stretched Amrinder Singh. Amrinder thus inched closer to his counterpart Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who has the most clean sheets for a goalkeeper in the ISL (40), just one more than the Odisha FC custodian (39).



Diego Mauricio (L) and Amey Ranawade celebrate the former's goal against NorthEast United at Kalinga Stadium, Friday

PIG: BIKASH NAYAK

## Odisha gymnasts shine at 37th National Games

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 2:** Gymnasts of Odisha AM/NS India Gymnastics High Performance Centre (GHPC) here have achieved remarkable success at the 37th National Games in Goa. Out of 15 gymnasts of the GHPC who had participated in various categories, 11 of them won 20 medals in various competitions while representing their respective teams.

Representing Odisha, in the Women Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) category, Pranati Nayak emerged as a star, through her gold winning performances in all-around (45.60), vaults (12.68), uneven bars (11.333) and balance beam (11.733). She also claimed silver medal in floors (11.400).

In the Men Artistic Gymnastics (MAG) category, Tapan Mohanty from team Odisha bagged silver medals in parallel bars (13.100) and still rings (12.900) while Md. Anas bagged a silver medal in vault (13.033). With a total of eight medals, Odisha ranked second in the medals tally in artistic gymnastics.

Among the other gymnasts of the GHPC, representing Haryana, Yogeshwar Singh in the MAG category, bagged three gold medals in all-around, floors, horizontal bars, along with a bronze in parallel bars. In the MAG

## Sachin's statue a talking point on social media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 3:** It was an effort to immortalise the great Sachin Tendulkar but the unveiling of his statue at the Wankhede stadium became a talking point on social media due to its striking resemblance with Australia batter Steve Smith.

The statue, which depicts Tendulkar hitting a lofted straight drive, was installed near the stand named after him Thursday. "It is the Smith era and his impact. That's why it looks like Smith's sculpture. Maybe they made Steve instead of Sachin but it is the power of Smith," a fan wrote on "X". Another wrote: "To compensate this, Cricket Australia will install Sachin's statue at the SCG after Smith's retirement."

Team Championship, Yogeshwar Singh won a bronze medal with a team score of 240.35. Representing SSCB, in the MAG category, Saif Tamboli secured gold in parallel bars and silver in horizontal bars, Rakesh Patra claimed bronze in still rings, while Gaurav Kumar and Abhijeet Kumar secured bronze in all rounds and the pommel horse, respectively. In the MAG Team Championship category, gymnasts Rakesh, Abhijeet, Gaurav, Saif and Tapeswaranath Das claimed gold (249.35).

Representing Uttar Pradesh in the WAG Team Championships, gymnasts Karishma and Tannu clinched bronze medal with a team score of 142.30.



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