

Creative Kriti
Actor Kriti Sanon says she wants to be creatively more involved in other departments of filmmaking than just acting

LEISURE | P2

Police-protesters clash
Over 80 police personnel have been injured in clashes with supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan taking part in a march near Islamabad

INTERNATIONAL | P10

What's next for oil?
Oil prices climb this week as tensions in the Middle East escalated with Iran launching missiles at Israel and Israelis threatening retaliation

BUSINESS | P11

Crucial match
India will have to regroup quickly and iron out the imbalances in team combination when they face arch-rivals Pakistan Sunday

SPORTS | P12

Panic over noxious gas leak in Patia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Panic gripped locals in the Infocity area of the City after a poisonous gas was leaked from an abandoned factory, Saturday evening. None of the nearby residents were injured due to the mishap, which was immediately brought under control by three units of Fire and Emergency Services personnel.

Deputy Fire Safety Officer Abani Swain said the leaked gas is identified to be Sodium Hypochlorite, commonly known as bleach, which emanated from Shivam Chemicals, near Sai International School. Following the information, the tender units rushed to the site and shifted the leakage cylinder to an isolated place. This was later neutralised. Swain said limestone mixed water was sprayed by fire tender units after the incident to curb any potential impacts of the harmful gas.

In a bid to prevent any untoward situation, the Infocity police spatially blocked the vehicular movement along the stretch from Patia Chhak to Infocity Chhak. Meanwhile, the sudden mishap left the residents startled in the vicinity, which is one of the key commercial suburbs in the City, with a dozen IT parks in the Patia area.

Gujarat: Teen gang-raped

Vadodara: A teenage girl was allegedly raped by two unidentified persons, whose acquaintance restrained her male friend, on a deserted stretch on the outskirts of this city in Gujarat, police said Saturday. The alleged crime was committed on a Navratri night when revellers came out in large numbers to participate in garba events organised throughout the city. The survivor told the police that she had gone out to meet her childhood male friend at the city's Laxmipura area at around 11 pm, said Rohan Anand, Superintendent of Police - Vadodara (rural).

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Exit polls reveal a grim future for us. The public no longer reveres rapists or murderer

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.5°C	33.6°C
Min Temp	26.6°C	24.8°C
Humidity	82%	92%
Rainfall	Nil	10.4mm

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder



NEW INDOCTION: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi handing over appointment letter to a newly-recruited junior teacher (schematic) during Nijukti Samaroha at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Deputy CM KV Singh Deo are also seen

Israeli airstrike kills Nasrallah successor

AGENCIES

Beirut/Jerusalem, Oct 5: Senior Hezbollah leader Hashem Safieddine — the seeming successor of slain group chief Hassan Nasrallah — is presumed dead after a barrage of Israeli strikes. The development came hours after Tel Aviv targeted the intelligence headquarters of Hezbollah in Beirut in a bid to eliminate Safieddine.

According to a report by Saudi Arabian news outlet Al Hadath, he was killed overnight between Friday and Saturday during an IDF strike in Dahieh. However, a Reuters update quoting Lebanese security sources add that Safieddine has been "unreachable" since Israeli strikes on Friday.

The potential successor to slain Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has been out of contact since Friday, a Lebanese security source said Saturday, after an Israeli airstrike that is reported to have targeted him.

Israel carried out a large strike on Beirut's southern suburbs late Thursday that Axios cited three Israeli officials as saying targeted Hashem Safieddine in an underground bunker.



Exit polls put Cong ahead

Earlier this year when the whole country was abuzz with exit poll figures splashed across television news channels, the result of the general elections dismayed many who were in the business of manufacturing the outcomes. People's mandate went in a different direction and the TV viewers were left disappointed. The reality bit pollsters hard. Even one of the pundits, Pradeep Gupta, MD of Axis My India, broke down on live TV during a discussion following the announcement of the poll results. And again, exit polls today predicting Congress victory in Haryana, and a joint success for Congress and National Conference (NC) alliance in Jammu and Kashmir, may go down as another setback for these 'experts' who miss no opportunity in drum beating their political insight through their 'surveys'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: Several exit polls Saturday predicted a clear majority for the Congress in Haryana and gave an edge to its alliance with the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir with the regional partner emerging as the single largest party.

Dainik Bhaskar predicted the Congress getting 44-54 seats and the BJP 15-29 seats in the 90-member Haryana Assembly. The

HARYANA				
PARTY / AGENCY	Dainik Bhaskar	Republic-Matrize	Red Mike-Datansh	Dhruv Research
Congress	44-54	55-62	50-55	50-64
BJP	15-29	18-24	20-25	22-32

JAMMU AND KASHMIR				
PARTY / AGENCY	C-Voter-India Today	Dainik Bhaskar	Peoples' Pulse	Republic-Gulistan
Congress	40-48	35-40	46-50	31-36
BJP	27-32	20-25	23-27	28-30

Republic-Matrize poll put the Congress tally even higher at 55-62 seats as against the BJP's 18-24.

The Red Mike-Datansh exit poll gave the Congress 50-55 seats in Haryana and the BJP at 20-25, while Dhruv Research pegged the Congress at 50-64 and the BJP 22-32. Peoples' Pulse exit poll gave the Congress 49-60 seats and the BJP 20-32 seats in Haryana.

Most exit polls pegged INLD tally higher than that of the JJP, while others were seen getting up to 10 seats.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the C-Voter-India Today survey put the National Conference-

OVER 60% POLLING IN HARYANA

Chandigarh: Over 60 per cent polling was recorded in the Haryana Assembly elections Saturday in which the ruling BJP is eyeing a third term and the Congress seeking a comeback after a decade.

P8

Over 16K jr teachers appointed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The state government Saturday recruited 16,009 junior teachers in primary and upper primary schools under various schemes.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi handed over some of the appointment letters during a function held at Kalinga Stadium here in the presence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The event was organised by the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department.

The teachers were appointed in all the 30 districts of the state. "Teaching is the most respectable profession and teachers shape the future of society," Majhi said, addressing the gathering.

"In ancient times, gurus (teachers) were compared to Lords like Brahma, Vishnu and Maheswar," he added. The CM also said his government has substantially raised the budgetary allocation for education.

"Fulfilling promises at double speed! Appointment letters to more than 16,000 newly-inducted teachers were handed over today for strengthening the school education landscape. This large-scale recruitment is a massive step towards improving quality of education, ensuring better learning outcomes and securing a bright future for Odisha's children. CM Shri @MohanModisha's government under the guidance of Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi is working 24x7 to realise aspirations, fulfill poll promises and achieve the goal of

DFO SUSPENDED

Bhawanipatna: Debendra Kumar Behera, the divisional forest officer (DFO) of Rayagada Silviculture division was suspended by the department in connection with the suicide of a forester Sanjay Nayak in Junagarh of Kalahandi district. The deceased Sanjay Nayak, posted as a forester at Jaring Silviculture Hi-tech Nursery committed suicide by hanging at his official residence here, September 18. A suicide note was recovered near the body where Nayak alleged to have committed suicide due to stress over his failure to provide cut money (PC) to the DFO.

Viksit Odisha by 2036," Pradhan said in a post on X.

Among others, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, S&ME and ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare department Minister Nityananda Gond, Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj and S&ME department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit were present on the occasion.

The Opposition BJD, however, mocked the BJP for taking credit for teachers' recruitment.

"The previous BJD government had completed the entire recruitment process. The BJP has no role in it, but takes credit just by distributing appointment letters," the regional party said in a release.

EAM rules out bilateral talks with Pakistan at SCO summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: A day after India announced that External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will travel to Islamabad to attend a key meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) mid-October, he said he was going to Pakistan for a 'multilateral event' and not to discuss bilateral ties between India and Pakistan.

He said this in response to a query during an interaction after he delivered the Sardar Patel Lecture on Governance organised by IC Centre for Governance here.

"Yes, I am scheduled to go to Pakistan in the middle of this month, and that is for a meeting of the SCO Heads of Government. Normally, prime ministers go to high-level meetings of heads of state, and one of the ministers goes for the heads of government meeting, so it's in line with the tradition," he said.

"It so happens that the meeting is taking place in Pakistan, because like us they are a relatively recent member," Jaishankar added. Pakistan is hosting the SCO



Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting October 15 and 16.

It will be for the first time in nearly nine years that India's EAM will travel to Pakistan even as the ties between the two neighbours remained frosty over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Jaishankar said his visit is for a "multilateral event, I am not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations, I am going there to be a good member of the SCO."

The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became its permanent members in 2017.

Mutton biryani treat for Bengal prisoners this Dussehra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 5: Correctional home authorities in West Bengal have planned to serve mutton biryani, 'basanti pulao' and several other Bengali cuisines as a change on the menu for inmates during the ensuing Durga Puja to ensure that they do not feel left out of the festivities, an official said Saturday.

The changed menu for inmates — both convicts and undertrials — for lunch and dinner would be effective from Sasthi (October 9) to Dashami (October 12), covering the beginning and end of Durga puja, he said.



The delicacies to reform them," the official added.

A decision was reached that the inmates, who work as cooks, would prepare the delicacies during the Durga Puja festivities. The delicacies to tickle the taste buds of the inmates will consist of a wide range of items — 'Macher matha diye pui shak' (Malabar spinach with fish head), 'macher matha diye dal' (dal with fish head), 'luchi-cholar dal' (puri and Bengali chana dal), 'payesh' (Bengali porridge), chicken curry, 'alu potol chingri' (shrimp with pointed gourd and potato), mutton biryani with 'raita' (mixed curd) and 'basanti pulao' (yellow pulao), he said.

However, to respect the religious sentiment of the inmates, non-vegetarian food will not be served to everyone and the prisoners will be asked to choose

items, the official said. "We want to bring changes in their routine, a break from their daily lives. For many Bengalis or even people of different communities living in the state for years, Durga Puja and other festivals are incomplete without fish and meat items on their platter. Hence we tried to bring variety in their cuisines so that they will relish as Bengalis," he said.

One of the city correctional homes, Presidency Jail, currently houses former state ministers Partha Chatterjee and Jyoti Priya Mallick and RG Kar Medical College and Hospital's ex-principal Sandip Ghosh.

leisure



HATHAWAY SET TO RETURN FOR PRINCESS DIARIES 3

Hollywood star Anne Hathaway is set to return to the coming-of-age comedy franchise film *Princess Diaries* with its third instalment. The development on *Princess Diaries 3* is moving at a brisk pace with Adele Lim signing on to direct, reports Variety.

IT STILL NEVER GETS OLD BEING IN GLAM: MINDY

Hollywood star Mindy Kaling revealed that she enjoys getting dolled up but at the same time she loves her "make-up free moments." The 45-year-old said: "It still never gets old being in glam. It goes all the way back to when I first started wearing makeup when I was 13 or 14."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may simply take a day off to be with your spouse or kids. You may even want to catch up with relatives living in your vicinity. Your loved ones will be mighty happy and pleasantly surprised, and Ganesh approves.

TAURUS
You will not just run the race but will reach the finish line with ease today, predicts Ganesh. Neither pressure nor overload will prevent you from accomplishing your targets this afternoon. However, Ganesh advises that you must learn to be patient to make the most of your success.

GEMINI
You have a knack of giving a creative and artistic twist to all your work. As an entrepreneur, you will be no different. You attach great importance to innovation, and all your projects today validate this fact. Your time with your sweetheart will give you immense pleasure. Later in the day, you will have a gala time with your friends.

CANCER
Your partner will be willing to do anything for you today. You ask for the moon, and they will oblige. Even though they won't be able to pluck the moon and stars from the sky, a special gesture from your partner is bound to send you to cloud nine. On the professional front, your negotiation skills will save your money from being swindled by others.

LEO
You may meet people whom you haven't met in a long time, or will attempt to. New relations and acquaintances may also be formed. You will try to keep yourself busy in one task after the other. You will be able to finish all your work as per deadline, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh predicts that you will achieve the targets that you set out to achieve today. The heavy pressure of work will not affect you in any way. Ganesh says the secret of your success is being patient. You are bang on target.

LIBRA
Remember back when you were a kid? Maybe you don't, not everything at least. But don't worry, today, in all probability, you shall have a new revelation about your childhood. At work, you will demonstrate exactly who you are through your intelligence. In this same honest vein, you will express your sincerest feelings and emotions to your loved ones, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Keep as much distance as possible from partnerships and JVs, advises Ganesh. At work, your experience will be enough to manage huge projects. Today you are set to emerge as a better manager of large pools of people, and guide them on the lines of your imagination and decisiveness.

SAGITTARIUS
Your role in bringing crucial and influential deals will be pivotal, says Ganesh. However, the end results may not turn up as per your expectations. But a pleasant evening with your beloved is likely to cheer you up and lighten your mood.

CAPRICORN
The pace and meticulousness with which you deal with work will leave your colleagues and subordinates in awe, says Ganesh. People will look up to you and respect you for your ability to handle efficiently the cumbersome work that seems degrading to most other people. Your boss will be just as impressed and may reward you for your efforts. Fun and entertainment await you in the evening.

AQUARIUS
Today may give you an all-time high! The day will prove important with regard to your future. Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards, and recognition and rewards at your workplace will make you happy. Ganesh says that you should enjoy it while it lasts.

PISCES
Everyone knows your nature, but today you will feel uncomfortable by someone's progress. Ganesh knows this is unusual but you need to think about this. Anger never gives results so it is better to focus on your good qualities and hard work to achieve your goals.

City gets the flavour of *Purane Chawal*

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Theatre fans and audiences glued to their seats till the end Saturday evening here at Rabindra Mandap, enjoying the tragicomedy *Purane Chawal*.

Headlined by versatile theatre and film actors Kumud Mishra and Shubhrajyoti Barat, the event was the annual fundraising event by City-based charitable organisation, Zain Foundation to support people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The play was adapted to Hindi by Farrukh Seyer and Avinash Gautam from the English play *The Sunshine Boys*. Sumeet Vyas' directorial delves into the world of two retired comedy geniuses



A scene from the play staged at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday
OP PHOTO

Khushaal Mehendi and Vijay Das who are brought together to reprise their iconic act after 12 years for the biggest comedy festival in the country. The only problem is that they can't stand each other now.

The play, set in Alibag in Maharashtra, where Das lives with his daughter and it seemed like retirement has treated him better than Mehendi.

The two meet in Mehendi's tiny flat, as he insists on a rehearsal, and the past grudges come gushing out in a burst of insults that could have been part of their comedy act, if it still existed.

Audience loved the hilarious puns and comedy, the breathtaking chemistry between Kumud Mishra and Shubhrajyoti Barat on stage.

Zain Foundation since 2015 has initiated plenty of advocacy and awareness exercises successfully in both state and nationally, through workshops, rallies, sporting events, and art exhibitions.

Foundation's chief trustee Gargi Bhattacharya said that there is a still lot of denial among people for autism in the country. "People with autism also have the right to live freely. The foundation annually hosts a play to raise funds to support the autistic people."

Dharitri and Orissa POST were the print media partners of the event.
PNN



Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy in the gallery
OP PHOTO

Kriti eyes career beyond acting

Mumbai: In a recent event that brought together industry leaders on one platform, actress Kriti Sanon spoke about her experience of stepping into the role of a producer for the first time. The Mimi actress shared insights into the challenges and creative decisions involved in producing her film *Do Patti*.

Kriti said, "I wanted to be creatively more involved in certain stories that I passionately feel for other than

just being an actor, and that freedom comes with being also the producer, because then you really, really go all out and get involved into the whole process of the scripting, to the final draft, to when going, you know, on floors, to music, to the edit, to everything, you find you're like, really a part of it as a goal, and not just you as an actor. And I think I always felt the craving for that."

However being a producer is always a tough job, observed the actress.

"It's a very tough job, and you need, especially when you're doing it for the first time. You need a good producing partner to support you all the time and take the major load of it, especially when you're also acting and you're playing a double role on screen. So I was really happy that Kanika Dhillon was taking a large part of the road, and I could enjoy the creative process," concluded the actress.



AGENCIES

Theatre is my home: Shubhrajyoti

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Acclaimed theatre and film actor Shubhrajyoti Barat of *Mirzapur* series fame was here in Capital city Saturday for his lead performance in *Purane Chawal*, a fundraising event organised by Zain Foundation, to support people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. On the sidelines of the event, the actor took some time off to speak to **Orissa POST**

Excerpts:

Welcome to the Temple City Mr Barat. If you could briefly tell us what motivated you to join the Zain Foundation's noble initiative?

This is my second collaboration with the Zain Foundation after *Dhumrapan* last year. It is a fun experience to work with them. Their initiative for the special cause is praiseworthy.

The theatre scene in Bhubaneswar is evolving with young generation getting involved. Is there any chance for future projects here?

Odisha, as a state is very culturally inclined and understands the significance of art and performance. I have heard that the theatre culture here is very active with both modern as well as folk theatres. A few theatre personalities, such as Robin Das, who hails from the state is an eminent director at National School of Drama. I have worked with him in past and I am sure that if there is a chance to work with young talents from the state, I would love to collaborate.

Tell us something about the play *Purane Chawal*?

Purane Chawal* happened coincidentally. Due to Covid pandemic, last few years we had not done anything new. We were just performing old plays, preparing for the Prithvi Theatre Festival when Akarsh Khurana, director of *Dhumrapan* suggested the English play *The

Sunshine Boys by Neil Simon. *Purane Chawal* is the adaptation of it. Sumeet Vyas has done a marvelous job in making the play more contemporary and setting it up in the present scenario compared to the original one, premiered in 1970s. A two-act play, *Purane Chawal* is a tragicomedy about two old-time friends and comic actors.

What is your experience of working with Kumud Mishra?

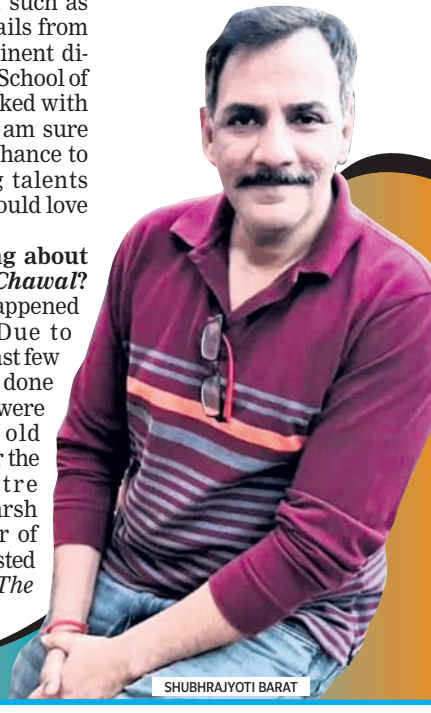
For the past 10 years, I and Kumud have worked together in several plays. Working with Kumud is like working with a master who has the experience of enacting roles in both films and theatres.

How different is acting on stage than in movies?

I started doing theatre from the age of 20 in 1993. For last 30 years, I have been associated with performing on stage in front of live audience. Theatre is my home. I started acting in movies before 7 years, so I am new to the industry.

Recently, you have started acting in many negative roles. Do you think you are being typecast as villain?

I have no issue with that. I actually love to perform negative characters and it creates more drama on screen.



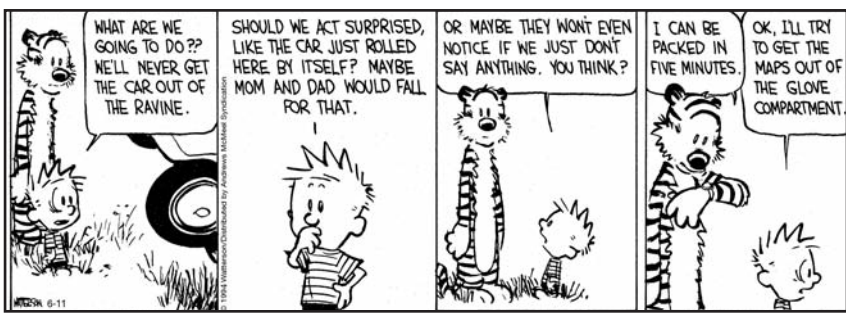
SHUBHRAJYOTI BARAT

FUN post

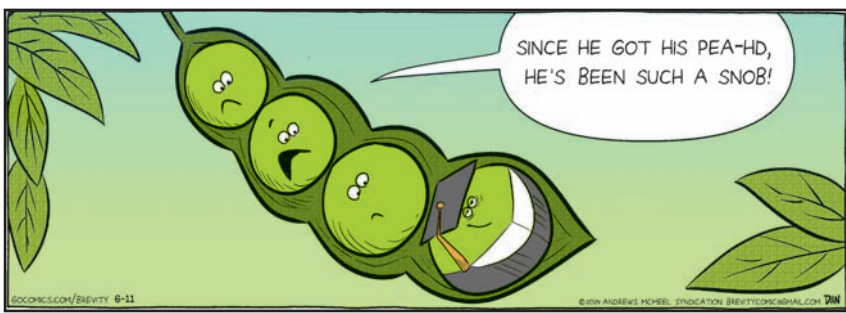
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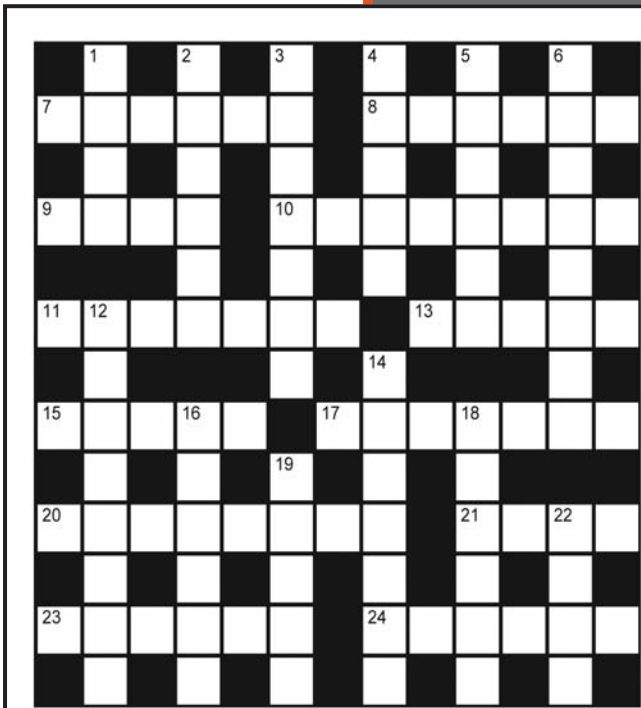
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD

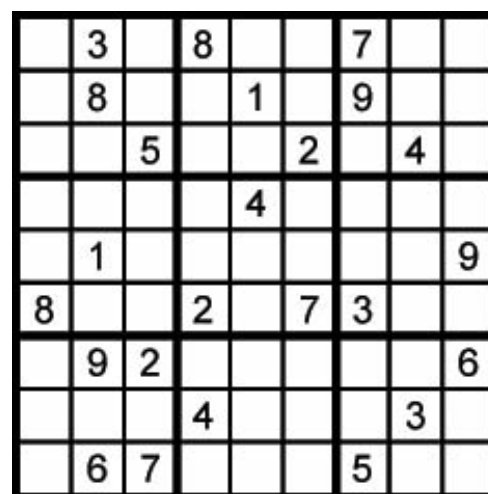


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- Across**
- 7 Fisherman
 - 8 Unruffled
 - 9 Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
 - 10 Destructive white ants
 - 11 Singing voice
 - 13 Glisten
 - 15 Explosion
 - 17 Extreme
 - 20 "Carmen" highlight
 - 21 Monster
 - 23 Military marksman
 - 24 Frozen water spear
 - 6 Emerald Isle, in verse
 - 12 Artist's medium (3,5)
 - 14 Lion marmoset
 - 16 Seafood dish
 - 18 Humorously sarcastic
 - 19 Brightly coloured tropical freshwater fish
 - 22 Wear the crown

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.

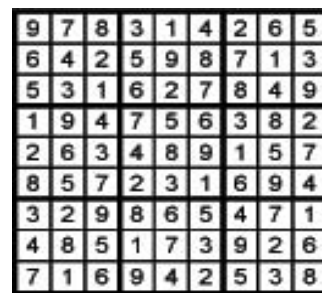


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

SCIENTIFIC TEMPER

Schoolchildren at a science exhibition organised by Vivekananda Shiksha Kendra in Unit IV area of Bhubaneswar, Saturday



OSDMA to focus on risk reduction & resilience

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The state government has decided to restructure the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) to shift focus from preparedness and disaster response to risk reduction and resilience, an official said Saturday.

In view of increased frequency of disasters like cyclone, rainfall and flash floods, the Revenue and Disaster

Management department Friday passed a resolution to shift the focus of OSDMA to risk reduction and resilience instead of preparedness and disaster response, the official said.

"In the light of changing landscapes, it has become crucial to strengthen the organisational structure of OSDMA in line with national frameworks and guidelines and build its own capacity to move from mitigation, preparedness, response and reconstruction to

disaster risk reduction and resilience in a holistic manner," the resolution said.

According to the approved proposal, the OSDMA, which was created after the 1999 Super Cyclone that killed around 10,000 people in the state, will now have four divisions – general, capacity building, project and technology, and finance – with each division headed by an executive director.

The notification said that the

executive director (general) and executive director (capacity building) will be an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) or Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officer.

The executive director (projects and technology) will be from the Engineering department or on deputation from Telecom department, Government of India, it added.

The executive director (finance) will be an Odisha Finance

Service (OFS) officer.

Out of the total 102 present staff positions of OSDMA, 10 posts have been abolished and 37 posts have been created, the resolution said.

Odisha was the first state in the country to set up a disaster management authority after the Super Cyclone.

The OSDMA was set up by the Naveen Patnaik government six years before the establishment of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).



DEFT HANDS: An artisan prepares a decorative silver item at Sheikh Bazaar Durga Puja mandap in Cuttack, Saturday
PIC: RAKISHORE MOHANTY

DGP orders CID probe into death of 'ganja smuggler'

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania Saturday ordered an inquiry by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) sleuths into the mysterious death of a 'ganja smuggler' who was allegedly beaten up by policemen in Kandhamal district.

"Odisha CID Crime Branch took charge of the investigation into the death of the ganja smuggler in Kandhamal," a police statement said, adding that deputy superintendent of police (DSP) Rajat Kumar Ray will lead the probe.

The deceased's family members and villagers alleged that the police were involved in the death of Jyestha Bandaki, a resident of Boudh district.

The body of Bandaki was found near Danganamu Ghat under the Gochapada police limits of the district September 26.

The deceased's younger brother Kanistha claimed that Bandaki and one of his friends were travelling on

SO FAR

SEPT 26: The body of Jyestha Bandaki, a resident of Boudh district, was found near Danganamu Ghat under the Gochapada police limits. Jyestha's younger brother Kanistha claimed that he was killed by Gochapada police officials

OCT 2: Kandhamal SP Suwendu Kumar Patra suspended an ASI and a havildar and disengaged three home guards from duty in connection with the incident. Patra assigned a senior DSP-rank officer to investigate the case

a motorcycle when the incident occurred.

"My brother's friend, who escaped from the spot, told us that a team of police personnel chased the duo. The police vehicle hit the two-wheeler from behind. When my brother fell, the police beat him up and then killed him on the spot. Later, they dumped his body in the ghat," the deceased's younger brother alleged.

Kandhamal SP Suwendu Kumar

Patra had, October 2, suspended two policemen – an ASI and a havildar – and disengaged three home guards from duty in connection with the incident. Patra assigned a senior DSP-rank officer to investigate the case, sources said.

"We have taken action against the police officials for not following the standard operating procedure when the incident happened. Till now criminal involvement of the cops has not been established," Patra had told PTI over the phone.

According to the SP, the police officials were checking motor vehicles near the ghat that day. At that time, Jyestha and another man did not stop their two-wheeler at the spot.

"When the police van chased them, the duo ran away into the forest after leaving the motorcycle in the middle of the road. The police team returned to the police station with the bike," Patra said.

Later, the body of the person was recovered. After a postmortem examination, the body was handed over to his family members, he said.

Govt nod to Sarangi's voluntary retirement

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The state government Saturday allowed Special DG of Police, Training and Director, BPSPA Arun Kumar Sarangi to retire voluntarily from the Indian Police Service (IPS).

The state government had appointed Sarangi as the Chairman of Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) September 27 this year.

To join the new assignment, Sarangi approached the state government for voluntary retirement September 30.

"Now, therefore, Shri Arun Kumar Sarangi, IPS at present Special DG of Police, Training & Director, BPSPA, Odisha is allowed to retire voluntarily from the Indian Police Service under Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 16 of AIS (DCRB) Rules, 1958 w.e.f 07.10.2024 F.N. He will be entitled to all retirement benefits as per rule under AIS (DCRB) Rule, 1958," said a notification issued by the Home department.

40 lakh to get ₹5,000 Subhadra money Oct 9

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: With Dussehra round the corner, around 40 lakh women will receive the first instalment of ₹5,000 under the state government's flagship Subhadra scheme October 9.

According to sources, those who have registered themselves in Subhadra portal by October 7 will receive the amount, if found eligible. With only three days left for the release of the first instalment to the second phase beneficiaries, it has come to the fore that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will launch the disbursement of the second phase first instalment from Baripada October 9.

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida had made an announcement regarding disbursement of the first instalment of Subhadra money for pending beneficiaries in September. Around 40 lakh women, in the age group of 21 to 60, will receive the money in the second phase.

As of now, more than 97 lakh beneficiaries have registered themselves

in Subhadra portal and the number of registrations is rising by the day. Parida had hoped that the number of beneficiaries would cross 1 crore soon.

"The state government is committed to providing Subhadra money to all the eligible beneficiaries and no eligible women will be deprived of the benefit," Parida had said earlier.

The scheme will cover all the eligible women in the state by March 8, 2025, she had said. Notably, 25 lakh women have already received the first instalment September 17 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the scheme during his visit to Odisha.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Subhadra scheme is the largest women-centric initiative in the state, aimed at supporting over 1 crore women who will receive ₹50,000 over a period of five years (2024-2029). Beneficiaries will be credited ₹10,000 annually in two equal instalments through Aadhaar-linked, DBT-enabled bank accounts. During the event, PM Modi will initiate the first fund transfer to over 10 lakh women beneficiaries.



Star hotel feel at Konark Eco Retreat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Oct 5: The district administration has called upon various state government departments to step up efforts and finish all arrangements by December 1 for the three-month-long Eco Retreat at Marine Drive in Konark, which begins December 15.

This year, the administration has planned to set up luxury tents that would give visitors the feel of a star hotel. This was revealed during a preparatory meeting held at the resident-cum-office of Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain Saturday.

The Collector, who chaired the meeting, directed all concerned departments to accelerate the measures and get the Marine Drive infra-ready for the upcoming mega tourism event.

Swain advised officials to make this year's Eco Retreat more attractive and captivating than that of the



Puri Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain has directed the officials to ensure that the tourists carry with them good memories from the annual event

previous year. He asked officials to pursue the works dedicatedly and wrap up within the deadline. He also advised them to work in coordination with other departments.

The Eco Retreat at the Marine Drive here will be organised with the collaborative efforts of the Puri

district administration, Tourism department and E Factor.

As per the plans, the organisers will set up luxurious tents that will have the facilities of a star hotel. The tents will also have water sports, beach sports, indoor games and other recreational facilities.

The administration has directed to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, illumination of streets, mobile network, healthcare, fire prevention system, smooth parking and deployment of lifeguards on the beach.

The Collector has also directed the officials to ensure that the tourists carry with them good memories from the annual event.

Tourism department's assistant director Saroj Kanta Pradhan said booking for the big event has already started. "Those wishing to visit the Eco Retreat can book their tickets by visiting bookodisha.com and odishaecoretreats.com," he said.

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No need to be elated or demoralised: Pradhan

UNION EDUCATION MINISTER SAYS WINNING OR LOSING PART OF POLITICS, DEBUNKS BJD'S 'PEDDLING LIES' ALLEGATIONS FOR POWER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Winning or losing is part of politics and there is no need to get too much elated or demoralised about the outcome, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said in response to BJD president and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik's recent allegation that the BJP came to power in Odisha by 'peddling lies'.

Speaking on the sidelines of a function here Saturday Pradhan said, "Some people in Odisha used to call BJP a 'signboard party'. Now the party has the opportunity to serve the people. Whatever responsibility has been entrusted by people, we should do it."

While launching BJD's annual 'Jan Sampark Padayatra' October 2, Patnaik said the saffron party has come to power in Odisha by telling lies and making false promises to peo-



Speaking about ongoing protests of doctors over the RG Kar rape-murder incident, Pradhan said there is no rule of law in West Bengal and people are in a 'revolt mode'

ple. The Union minister also spoke about the ongoing protests of doctors over the RG Kar rape-murder incident, alleging that there was no rule of law in West Bengal and people were in a 'revolt mode'.

The senior BJP leader said, "It is a matter of great concern that there is no law and order in West Bengal. The people are in a revolt mode and the situation is not fine in that state."

Notably West Bengal witnessed massive protests of doctors and common people after the body of a woman doctor, who was al-

legedly raped and murdered, was found in state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata August 9.

Pradhan paid tributes to a statue of Shahid Baji Rout during his birth anniversary celebrations at Jaydev Bhawan, attended a BJP membership drive at Punjab Bhawan, a plantation drive at Buddha Jayanti Park, joined a 'Swachhata Hi Seva' programme at Mangala Basti and also attended a Nijukti Samaroha (teachers' recruitment drive) at Kalinga Stadium here, officials said.



ROLE PLAY: Artistes from Shradhanjali Club perform the play 'Baji Rout' at Kala Vikash Kendra in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

ECoR to meet festive rush with spl trains



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: In order to meet the increased demand during the festive season, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has arranged special trains towards different destinations of the country, which will run up to last week of November 2024, an official said Saturday.

The initiative aims to accommodate more than 5.32 lakh additional passengers across ECoR jurisdiction, ensuring convenient travel options for devotees and festival-goers.

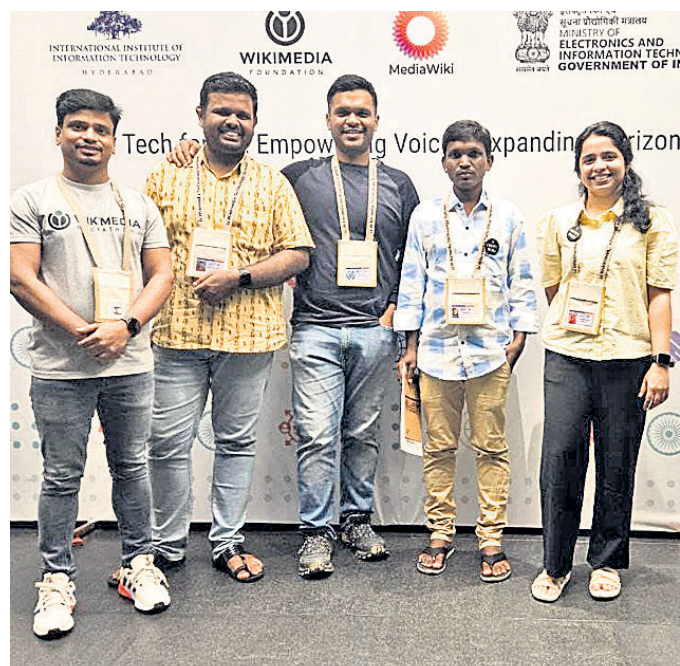
According to ECOR, twenty-seven pairs of special trains are running towards different destinations of the country from East Coast Railway (ECOR) jurisdiction. Additionally, 14 special trains will pass through

- List of special trains**
- Bhubaneswar to Dhanbad and Yesvantpur
 - Puri to Patna, Nizamuddin, Udhna, Gwalior, Kolkata, Santragachhi and Shalimar and Bhanjapur
 - Sambalpur to Erode
 - Visakhapatnam to Secunderabad, Bangalore, Tirupati, Chennai, Kollam, Shalimar and Araku
 - Brahmapur to Nanded, Secunderabad and Surat
 - Srikakulam to Secunderabad and Tirupati
 - Cuttack to Hyderabad

ECOR jurisdiction, enhancing connectivity and easing the burden on regular train services during this high-demand period. In total, 1,134 trips of these Special Trains will be operational over the course of the festive season.

Passengers are encouraged to stay updated on the schedule and availability of these special trains through various platforms like National Train Enquiry System (NTES), East Coast Railway's Social Media Platforms, PRS enquiry counters at railway stations, an ECOR official said. These will provide real-time information to ensure a smooth and hassle-free travel experience, he said.

2-day WTS organised by Wikimedia foundation



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The Wikimedia Technology Summit (WTS) was recently organised by the Wikimedia Foundation, in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad here.

The two-day event brought together experts and contributors from across the Wikimedia community to explore the future of

knowledge sharing through technological innovations.

Representing the Odia Wikimedians User Group (OWUG), key participants included Chinmayee Mishra, Gyanarajan Sahu, and Sangram Keshari Senapati.

As active members of the Indic Wikimedians User Group, they have been instrumental in addressing the technical challenges

faced by the Odia and other language communities.

Chinmayee and Sangram, both prominent contributors to Odia Wikipedia, have developed several tools for the Odia language, freely available to the public. Their involvement extends beyond content creation, as they regularly organise workshops and training programmes to empower other wikimedians in the region.

Abhijit Patra, a Wikimedia Foundation employee from the state, also participated as a trainer, further enhancing the summit's focus on capacity building. Additionally, Durga Soren, a notable contributor to the Santali Wikipedia, attended the event, contributing to discussions on expanding content and professional engagement within the Santali community on Wikipedia.

Discussions at the summit also covered upcoming national workshops to be hosted in the state. "Train the Trainer" workshop, scheduled for October 18 to 20 in the capital City, will feature around 30 wikimedians from various language communities across the country, aimed at equipping participants with the skills necessary to train others in the effective use of Wikimedia platforms.

National seminar on disaster mgmt by UU



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: Utkal University's Post Graduate department of Law organised a national seminar titled "Navigating Legal Frontiers in Disaster Management: Critical Issues and Perspectives," under the guidance of vice-chancellor Sabita Acharya.

The event saw participation from delegates, resource persons, and students from law universities across India, focusing on key legal aspects of disaster management.

The seminar commenced with a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony and an inaugural address by MK Sadual, Head of the PG Department of Law. Justice Anand Chandra Behera, Judge of the Orissa High Court, served as the chief guest. Other notable guest speaker included Navaneeta Rath, Chairperson of the PG council; Nigamananda Das, Coordinator of IDP (WB-OHEPEE); Bhavani Prasad Panda, Former Vice-Chancellor of MNLU Mumbai; and KVS Sharma, vice-chancellor of NLUJA, Assam were present on

the occasion. Justice Behera, in his address, stressed the need for strong legal frameworks to handle disasters, saying, "A structured, institutional mechanism is crucial for fostering a culture of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, and response."

KVS Sharma spoke about disaster management strategies, using case law examples. He said, "Our goal is to create a culture of readiness and response to ensure safer infrastructure for future disasters." Other speakers, including Navaneeta Rath, Nigamananda Das, and Bhavani Prasad Panda, offered insights into improving the Disaster Management Act, the impact of climate change, and Odisha's leadership in disaster management. Kanhu Charan Dhir, the university's Registrar, outlined Odisha's history of natural disasters and the need for preparedness.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Gyanendra Kumar Sahu, Assistant Professor of Law. A souvenir and memento were presented to the speakers to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the PG Department of Law, and a book of abstracts was also released during the seminar.

Bharatpur assault

Judicial panel seeks info from public

Bhubaneswar: Five days after the Judicial Committee chaired its first meeting to probe the alleged assault on an Army officer and sexual assault on his female friend at Bharatpur police station September 16 by five cops, the commission Saturday issued a notification inviting affidavits from all quarters in connection with the case. In a bid to gather more information and evidence, the commission has requested the public, including the complainants and police, to submit their views about the incident. The notification said, "Interested individuals could send their letters, addressed to Special Circuit House in the City. Besides, they can also reach out via text message and phone call, between 11am to 4pm".

Udbhavanam: Innovation landscape in product mgmt

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Sambalpur/ Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: IIM Sambalpur announced the inaugural edition of Udbhavanam, an event dedicated to the future of product management, Saturday.

In response to the rising demand for expertise in product management, the institute initiated the event, which resulted in establishment of centre of excellence, spearheaded by the AlphaBeta - in collaboration with the International Software Product Management Association (ISPMA), with the theme "Future-Ready Products: Mastering Innovation in Product Management."

To foster cultivating the of product management, experts, academicians, and industry leaders engaged in discussions regarding the rapid transforma-

tions occurring in product management, driven by technological advancements and evolving consumer demands.

Institute director Mahadeo Jaiswal said, "India is set to become the epicenter of product management, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship through platform-based models and cutting-edge technologies like AI."

"Through groundbreaking research, comprehensive case studies, and the democratization of business, we aim to nurture responsible leaders with entrepreneurial mindsets, creating a thriving and inclusive society that drives the next wave of global innovation," he added.

Joining the event as chief guest, Global Chair of ISPMA Hans-Bernd Kittlaus spoke on "Platform versus Product - What is different from



a product manager's perspective". He extended his heartfelt thanks to the members of the AlphaBeta-ISPMA University Chapter at IIM Sambalpur for their efforts in organising the event and for creating centers of excellence in collaboration with ISPMA and the Ministry of IT.

Partner director and product manager of Microsoft Sapna Grover spoke on the topic "Product Management in the

Age of AI".

She said, "AI economy is growing at an impressive pace and enhancing productivity across all sectors. Gen AI is not just a buzzword; it's creating real value, with soaring investments in AI startups despite a general decline in funding."

Chairman of ISPMA India Chapter S Sadagopan conducted a workshop titled "SPM Essentials for Startups: From

Vision to Execution".

He stated that IIM Sambalpur has become the first institute in the country to establish a student chapter of the International Software Product Management Association (ISPMA) globally, joining other institutions like the University of California, Berkeley.

The concluding session on Perspective: Taskmaster to Trailblazer examined the evolving role of contemporary chief information officers (CIOs) as they transition from being task-oriented managers to becoming leaders who facilitate technological change and foster innovation in products.

Notably, IIM Sambalpur has become the first institute in the country to establish a university chapter of the International Software Product Management Association (ISPMA).

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FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

MAKING OF A CATASTROPHE



Under the current aggravated circumstances, no state can afford to remain indifferent to the ongoing conflicts. In that context, India's 'strategic neutrality' in the world of multi-polarity would no longer be a dividend

the BRICS group (of which Iran is a recent member), moving as an alternate global order, could be split down the middle, with both South Africa and Brazil having called out Israel for its genocidal acts in Palestine, in the forthcoming BRICS Summit coming up under Russia's watch (Oct 22-23).

The Shia-Sunni divide in the Muslim world of West Asia would impel regional leaders to continue to extend humanitarian and political support for Palestine reiterating the need for a 2-state solution while not showing much concern for the fate of Iran if the Western world forces down an unwarranted situation with the conflagration building to a catastrophe. In true Shiite tradition of shahadat (martyrdom) Iran has already announced that it will strike missiles at oil refineries of oil-rich countries in the region if its own oil resources are destroyed. Under the current aggravated circumstances, no state can afford to remain indifferent to the ongoing conflicts. In that context India's 'strategic neutrality' in the world of multi-polarity would no longer be a dividend. It is clear that it will have dangerous implications for India, if Iran comes under further sanctions (a likely scenario) and forced to openly side with Russia and China, both geopolitically as well as economically. There could a spurt in oil and gas prices to begin with - the Brent crude has already shown an increase of 15% over its constant \$70 per barrel cost since the Iranian attack - letting inflation play havoc with India's vulnerable economy. The world today is indeed at a dangerous flashpoint with global powers and their proxies setting it ablaze. The irrelevance of the UN contrasts with the force of peace and non-violence whose importance was never felt greater.

The writer is a former diplomat and had served as Deputy Head of Mission in the Indian Embassy at Tehran.

The recent 79th UNGA was the site of deliberations and addressees with the themes of war and peace reverberating through the voice of global powers. As PM Modi waxed eloquent on the need for peace - "success of humanity lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield" - two battles in two different theatres were riveting global attention reducing the UN to a mute spectator. While the Russia-Ukraine conflict refused to die down with President Zelenskyy making a fresh plea for long-range missiles from USA to penetrate Russia's air defence systems with Biden administration hesitant to dispatch the much-needed munitions to Kyiv despite a promise of \$8 billion assistance, the Russian President came out with a revised nuclear doctrine of striking any non-nuclear country backed by a nuclear power which would be construed as a joint attack and countered with nuclear force, dangling the spectre of a throwback to the early days of the Cold War.

In the West Asian theatre, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) entered Hezbollah-constructed tunnels in Lebanon's southern border preparing for a ground invasion, the first after the 2006 war which had led to Israel's withdrawal from the Beqaa valley. This, following a fortnight of strident assaults, killing dozens of Hezbollah commanders, degrading the largest para-military's fighting force and communications networks with pagers and walkie-talkies exploding culminating in the killing of the prize target, Secretary General of Hezbollah Hassan Nasrallah, on 27 Sept along with his daughter and senior Commander Ali Karaki in an underground bunker with US-supplied 2000-pound cluster bombs. More Hezbollah leaders were to be targeted in the days that followed leading the Israeli PM to continue with his "battle against terrorism" fomented by the Iran-sponsored "axis of resistance" as stubbornly proclaimed from the

rostrum of the UNGA (both USA and Israel have declared Hezbollah a terrorist organization while India does not, as Hezbollah is also a political party besides running scores of cultural and charitable organizations, and part of the ruling coalition gov't). His speech on the same morning coincided with his orders to hit Israel's biggest enemy. The joint call of USA and France (along with 10 other countries) for a 21-day cease-fire was defiantly snubbed by the Israeli PM who addressed the world body holding two maps with both hands, "the Curse" and "the Blessing".

Back to the wall and in retaliation for the killings of Hamas leader Haniyeh in Tehran, Nasrallah in Beirut and top Commander of Quds Force Abbas Nilforoushan, and invoking the right to self-defence under UN Charter; the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps launched a barrage of 181 ballistic missiles, several of them hypersonic, at Israel on the night of 1-2 Oct targeting three airbases, Nevatim, Hatzerim and Tel Nof. Most of the missiles were intercepted by the Israeli air defence systems Arrow 2 and 3 along with US and UK air forces. Result, the physical damages caused to Israeli civilian and infrastructure were minimal ex-

cept for the death of a Palestinian in West Bank and a few Israelis caught in a terrorist ambush in Tel Aviv. IRGC issued a statement that in case of an Israeli counter-attack on Iran, it will face "crushing attacks" while Netanyahu remarked that the Iranian regime had made a fatal error and would "face consequences."

The orders for the IRGC attack came directly from Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who had been moved to a safe location following Nasrallah's death, which could seriously imperil the balance of power in the region with Israel very likely to strike back, hitting Iranian oil installations and possibly nuclear infrastructure (President Biden has categorically refused to support the latter action while upholding Israel's right to self-defence as agreed to unanimously by the G7). With an all-out war looming large, major powers like Russia, China and India have called for maximum restraint and de-escalation, not that the extreme-right Netanyahu government cares much for its own backers while continuing with its assaults on both Hamas and Hezbollah.

While the proxy war between the West and Russia goes on,



Malay Mishra

THE WORLD TODAY IS INDEED AT A DANGEROUS FLASHPOINT WITH GLOBAL POWERS AND THEIR PROXIES SETTING IT ABLAZE



Aakar Patel

To govern effectively, to legislate successfully, Modi must reach out to the Opposition. He has to include it in decision-making as Prime Ministers before him have done

Scrutiny Must

Fans of the Prime Minister, and there are many, sense a drift and a lack of purpose in this third term. In the new building of Parliament in February, Narendra Modi said that the BJP's third term would be one of very important decisions that would affect the next 1000 years. In an interview to a news channel during the campaign, he said that the results would show in the first 125 days after 4 June. The first 100 days' agenda had already been finalised, he said, and he would use the next 25 for its youth.

None of this has come to be. Monday, 7 October, marks 125 days since the results and the "nothing is happening" feeling is endemic. The main reason for this is that with a minority, the BJP can no longer do in Parliament what it could do between 2014 and 2024.

We have seen this with the Waqf Bill, which was sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. For the past decade, with a weak Opposition, the government had not allowed scrutiny of the bills by agreeing to send them to a committee. This passing of laws without any real understanding of what they contained through any rigorous process had accelerated through the first decade of the Modi era. In the 14th Lok Sabha (2004-09), 60 per cent of the bills were referred to committees for scrutiny. In the next Lok Sabha (2009-14), this number was 71 per cent. In the first Modi government, this fell to 25 per cent.

It wilfully undid the parliamentary convention of referring bills to department-related parliamentary standing committees for scrutiny and examination right after the first victory in 2014. The number of laws that were scrutinised before being passed collapsed after Modi's second victory. The Opposition noticed, and 17 MPs from the Congress, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Telugu Desam Party and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) wrote to the government expressing their concern at the "hurried passing" of bills without scrutiny. They wrote that public consultation—in which groups and individuals engaged with particular subjects are invited by legislators to put forward their views on prospective legislations—had also stopped. "Public consultation is a long established practice where parliamentary committees scrutinise bills, deliberate, engage and work towards improving the content and quality of the legislation," they wrote.

This had no effect on Modi, and in 2020, not a single bill was sent to a committee for scrutiny. Between March and August that year, the government promulgated 11 ordinances, including one that amended the Income Tax Act and allowed 100 per cent tax exemption to donations made to the PM CARES fund. Ordinances are meant to be passed only when Parliament is not in session and the government is required to take immediate action. No ordinance is allowed to be in force for more than six months without parliamentary approval. Here was legislation by ordinance that was voted into law without any scrutiny.

Even where there had been committees, the government prevented them from working. Government MPs were "using the rule book to stonewall scrutiny on issues that may raise uncomfortable questions for the government." The committee on home affairs met to discuss the decision on Kashmir after the state had already been bifurcated. After the pandemic, standing committees were disallowed from meeting even virtually, with the excuse that this might violate confidentiality.

While the Opposition MPs complained, the BJP took up and dispatched contentious laws on triple talaq and the RTI (both passed after a walkout from the Opposition), and the amendment to UAPA which allows the government to designate individuals as "terrorists." Similarly, the farm bills, the bill that skewered Kashmir's special status and the one amending citizenship were not referred to any of the committees of Parliament for in depth deliberation on a non-partisan basis. All would produce trouble later. PRS Legislative Research's Chakshu Roy wrote why the abandonment of legislative scrutiny was a problem:

"In a nutshell, all laws do not receive the same amount of parliamentary attention. A few undergo rigorous scrutiny by Parliamentary Committees. Others are passed with just a simple debate on the floor of the House. When the treasury and Opposition agree, even the most far-reaching laws are passed by Parliament with alacrity. When there is disagreement on politically contentious Bills such as the two Bills related to agriculture, then the swift passage results in unruly scenes in Parliament. The outweighing factor is the government's urgency in enacting a particular legislation. When the government is in a hurry, even Bills amending the Constitution can be passed in two to three days."

There was another problem with this and that was that "when Parliamentary Committees do not scrutinise Bills, it increases the chances of the country being saddled with half-baked laws." So consultation is not only important but necessary.

Modi reversed a tradition of consultation that even the British had followed as India's masters. When a law on forcible indigo cultivation began to be framed in 1917, and the Champaran Agrarian Bill was introduced in the Bihar-Orissa Legislative Assembly, many members demanded that it be referred to the select committee of the House for scrutiny and examination. The British government conceded and Gandhi was requested to examine the bill.

With a strong Opposition in place now, the phase of absolute BJP dominance has come to an end. To govern effectively, to legislate successfully, Modi must reach out to the Opposition. He has to include it in decision-making as Prime Ministers before him have done. As long as he does not, and he is showing no signs that he accepts the reality, this drift his fans are anguishing over will remain. The ball, as the cliché goes, is in his court.

WISDOM CORNER

- Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility. SIGMUND FREUD
- Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present. JIM ROHN
- I have discovered that all human evil comes from this, man's being unable to sit still in a room. BLAISE PASCAL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1927:** The Jazz Singer, starring Al Jolson, premiered in New York City, introducing the sound era of motion pictures.
- 1973:** Yom Kippur War. On this day in 1973, on the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur, Egypt and Syria attacked Israel, which suffered heavy casualties, but Israeli forces successfully fought back, and the war eventually ended inconclusively.
- 1976:** In China the Gang of Four, having lost their influence with the death of Mao Zedong, were arrested.
- 1981:** Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was assassinated by members of the radical fringe of the Muslim opposition.

SPECTRUM MULTILATERALISM

How to reform the UNSC

As world leaders convened in New York for the United Nations General Assembly, the prospect of reforming the Security Council emerged as a major topic of discussion. A key question is whether the Council should add more permanent members. Proponents of expansion argue that adding countries like India, Brazil, or Japan would make the Security Council more representative of the UN's membership. Critics, however, warn that adding more permanent members with veto power could cripple the Council, making it even less effective than it is now. Moreover, there are 22 countries with larger populations than France, the smallest of the Security Council's current five permanent members. If new permanent members are added, calls for further expansion are likely to follow.



Shang-Jin Wei

MAKING THE SECURITY COUNCIL MORE REPRESENTATIVE AND ENHANCING ITS EFFECTIVENESS ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE

While both arguments are compelling, reform does not need to be an either/or proposition. By overhauling the Security Council's structure and veto system, it is possible to make it both more representative and more effective. Amid today's ongoing wars and conflicts, reform is urgently needed. The veto power wielded by the Security Council's per-

manent members severely hampers the UN's ability to act during major international crises, even when there is overwhelming global support for intervention.

The war in Ukraine is a case in point. Following its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia's Security Council veto has ruled out UN sanctions, which is one reason why the European Union and the United States imposed unilateral sanctions that often fail to account for other countries' interests. While some countries comply under pressure, the effectiveness of the sanction measures is significantly diminished without the UN's imprimatur.

The veto system can be traced back to the realpolitik of the post-war era. When the UN was founded, the Soviet Union insisted on the right to veto Security Council decisions, fearing it would be outvoted by the US and its allies. Then-US President Harry Truman demanded the same privilege, warning that without it, the Senate would not approve America's membership in the UN, just as it rejected Woodrow Wilson's effort to establish the League of Nations after World War I.

Between 1946 and 1969, the Soviet Union exercised 93% of all

veto, often to block the admission of new UN members. While the USSR routinely rejected US-backed candidates, the US vetoed Vietnam's admission six times. Since 1970, however, the US has wielded its veto power more than any other permanent member, often to shield Israel from critical resolutions.

Nowadays, many Security Council vetoes stand in stark contrast to the views held by the overwhelming majority of the international community. This disconnect has fueled widespread frustration, and the veto system is increasingly viewed as unfair, unethical, and outdated.

Given that the Security Council's current governance structure already undermines its ability to fulfill its mandate and maintain global peace, adding more permanent members might seem counterproductive. To balance greater representation and effectiveness, any expansion of the Council must be accompanied by meaningful reforms to the veto system.

One way to do this is to expand the Council to 20 members, including ten permanent seats, while allowing a supermajority, say 16 votes, to override a veto by

any permanent member. This change would preserve the veto power without necessarily creating more impasses. To prevent newly added permanent members from abusing the system, they could be granted membership without veto rights.

To be sure, curtailing the veto privileges of the world's major powers would be challenging. But given that even a qualified veto would still enable them to wield disproportionate influence, they can learn to adapt. Moreover, allowing vetoes to be overridden by a supermajority would boost the UN's legitimacy, ultimately benefiting the Security Council's permanent members. And since these countries can already resist many UN actions, they should be open to this reform.

Making the Security Council more representative and enhancing its effectiveness are not mutually exclusive. The world will be a better place if both reforms - expanding its membership and limiting the veto - are implemented simultaneously.

The writer is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School.

Habitat for hyenas

Sir, Hyenas, including the striped ones, are animals that are consistently scoffed at. These endangered creatures have literally no dedicated sanctuaries in India. They thrive on grasslands; meticulous planning to house them cannot be stressed more. In a new development, the Karnataka government has planned a hyena sanctuary near Belagavi district's Gokak. It can be recalled that it was the Karnataka government that started an exclusive sanctuary for wolves. Hyenas are carnivorous apex predators that fine balance the ecosystem. Known to feed on leftovers, birds and lizards as well, they can hood-wink their prey base with ease. However, habitat fragmentation, non available carcasses and speeding vehicles on highways have threatened the hyenas besides poaching and competition for shelter. Also, decrease in deciduous forests and grasslands are a cause for worry.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Restrain Tel Aviv

Sir, This refers to "Iran-Israel going all out," Orissa Post, Oct 5. With Iran's missile attack on Israel, there's little doubt Tel Aviv will retaliate. While the US has ruled out Israel striking Iran's nuclear facilities, there's now talk of a hit on Iranian oil producing infra. That would be disastrous in a different way and lead to a huge escalation. Washington must do everything in its power to restrain Tel Aviv from targeting Iranian oil. In retaliation, Iran may choose to target oil shipments from the Persian Gulf. That itself could drag countries like UAE and Saudi Arabia into the conflict. Iran, despite sanctions, pumps out about 2mn barrels of crude a day, or 2% of global supply. A hit on this production will see crude prices jump, given that oil trade is driven by global market dynamics. In fact, Brent crude has already crossed \$78 a barrel from \$71 a barrel before Iran's missile attack. Countries like India that rely on oil and gas imports from the Gulf will suffer if Iran disrupts this route. Also, oil is traded on forward contracts. These will go for a toss in case of wider war. The knock-on effects for these economies will be considerable. The least US President Joe Biden can do is not let Netanyahu cause anymore major damage.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON

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

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national

of the day quote

We will ensure the passage of law on caste census in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and no power can stop it

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

We want to work in all areas in the coming five years. Today is the day of change, today is the day to awaken new hope. I appeal to the people of Haryana to come out of their homes and recognise their power

VINESH PHOGAT | OLYMPIC WRESTLER

Narendra Modi is not the prime minister of the country, but only of a section of the BJP. Many of his cabinet colleagues and party leaders may not consider him the prime minister

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Man held for trying to derail train

Banda (UP): Police Saturday arrested a man for allegedly trying to derail a train by placing iron rods on the railway track in Jakhoura police station area of Lalitpur district in Uttar Pradesh Thursday night, a police official said. On Thursday (October 3) night in Delwara railway station area, sparks started coming out of the engine of train number 12624 (Patel Express) as an iron rod was stuck in it.

3 dead as car falls into gorge

Kotdwār: Three people died and 10 others were injured after a car carrying a marriage party fell into a deep gorge in Pauri district, officials said Saturday. The incident happened Friday evening near Naugaon on Sisaldi-Anskghet motor road in Lansdowne area, they said. The car was going to Guniyalgaon from Basra village. In a hurry to reach the destination, the driver took a shorter route instead of the main road, the disaster management office here said.

NEET case: CBI files third chargesheet

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation has filed a third chargesheet in connection with the alleged leak of the NEET-UG exam paper, officials said Saturday. In the chargesheet submitted to a special CBI court in Patna, the CBI has named 21 individuals as accused. The agency has alleged that trunks containing NEET-UG 2024 question papers were delivered to the Oasis School in Hazaribagh and stored in a control room on the morning of May 5.

2020 Delhi riots: Court acquits 11

New Delhi: A court here has acquitted 11 men accused of rioting, theft and setting house ablaze during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots that broke out following violence between supporters of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and those against the legislation. Additional Sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala said police failed to prove beyond all reasonable doubt the charges in the case lodged based on a complaint by Gokalpuri resident Naushad.

India to host Malabar exercise

New Delhi: The next edition of high-voltage Malabar exercise featuring the navies of India, the US, Australia and Japan will begin Tuesday with an aim to boost their overall interoperability amid evolving regional security situation. India is hosting the 11-day mega wargame.



Due to these fertilisers, the number of patients suffering from incurable diseases like cancer is increasing continuously and to avoid all this, farmers should adopt natural farming

HARIBHAU BAGDE | RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR

WILL SIT ON INDEFINITE FAST: LADAKH LEADERS

Spearheading an agitation for Ladakh's Sixth Schedule status, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and Kargil Democratic Alliance member Sajjad Hussain Kargili Saturday said they will sit on an indefinite fast here but are yet to find a venue. Another leader from Ladakh said a few others will also be joining Wangchuk and Kargili



Violent protest erupts after girl's body found in WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 5: The body of a 10-year-old girl, allegedly raped and murdered, was found in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district Saturday after which locals torched a police outpost and vandalised vehicles parked there, a senior officer said.

Villagers said the minor had been missing since Friday evening and the police "did not act on their complaint immediately". As the body of the girl was recovered by locals from marshy land in Jaynagar area early this morning, a mob torched the Mahismari police outpost and pelted the policemen with stones.

They also vandalised several vehicles parked outside the outpost and the policemen were forced to leave the premises, a senior officer said. A huge police force was sent to the area and tear gas shells were fired to quell the mob which tried to confine the SDPO and other senior personnel at the spot. The police, however, said the action was taken immediately after the complaint was received

and an accused was arrested in connection with the alleged rape and murder of the girl.

"After lodging of FIR at 9 pm Friday, the police swung into action and arrested an accused this morning after an initial probe. Investigation is on and we are with the family of the deceased. Those involved in the arson at the police outpost and destroying of all important documents will be identified and action will be taken against them," the official added.

Kultali TMC MLA Ganesh Mondal was chased away by the villagers when he went to the spot to pacify the locals who accused him of trying to support the "police inaction".

Mondal later told reporters that he understood the grievances and anger of the people of the area but they should not take the law in their hands. TMC MP from Jaynagar Pratima Mondal was greeted with a 'go back' slogan by a section of people when she went to Padmerhat Rural Hospital where the body of the girl was taken for autopsy.

"The family members of the girl lodged an FIR at the Mahismari outpost in the area but the police did not act on the complaint immediately," a local claimed

The police responded in the "same manner" as they did after the body of a woman doctor was found at R G Kar hospital in August, another villager said



RG KAR HORROR

Junior docs begin fast unto death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 5: The junior doctors, protesting over the rape and murder of their colleague at the RG Kar hospital, went on fast unto death Saturday evening, claiming that their demands were not fulfilled by the West Bengal government.

With three days left before the Durga Puja festivities start, the doctors had Friday begun a sit-in demonstration at the Dorina Crossing in Dharmatala in the heart of Kolkata, setting a 24-hour deadline for the state government to fulfil their demands.

"The state government has failed the deadline and hence we are starting the fast unto death, which will continue till our demands are fulfilled. To main-



tain transparency, we have installed CCTV cameras at the dais where our colleagues are holding the fast," a junior doctor said. "We joined duty last night but will not eat anything," he said, adding that at present six junior doctors were sitting on fast.

The six doctors who were sitting on the fast were identified as Snigdha Hazra, Tanaya Panja and Anustup Mukhopadhyay of Kolkata Medical College and Hospital, SSKM's Arnab

Mukhopadhyay, Pulastha Acharya of NRS Medical College and Hospital, and Sayantani Ghosh Hazra of KPC Medical College.

The state would be held responsible if any doctor fell ill during the fast, the junior doctor said. "We have the support of the people, and that is the reason we are not scared of any sort of hindrances by the administration. We will continue our hunger strike until our demands are met," he added.

A large number of common people and a few celebrities were present at the protest site in the evening. The junior doctors had Friday night called off their 'total cease work', which had crippled healthcare services at state-run medical colleges and hospitals.

DOLPHINS 'SMILE' DURING PLAY: RESEARCH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: An open-mouthed expression that dolphins use for each other while playing and being reciprocated about a third of the time, could be a "smile", researchers have found.

The smile was almost always used when a dolphin was in their playmate's field of view, the team, including researchers from the University of Pisa in Italy, found after analysing 80 hours of video footage of dolphins engaging in social play amongst themselves as well as with human trainers.

They recorded a total of 1,288 open-mouthed smiles, 92 per cent of which occurred while the mammals were playing with each other.



The marine creatures' play can include acrobatics, surfing, playing with objects, chasing, and playfighting

The researchers said dolphins' "anatomical smile", along with their eyes, round heads, and tendency to play make them popular with humans

Further, a dolphin was more likely to smile when their face was in the field of view of their playmate, the researchers said. About 89 per cent of the smiles were found to occur

in this manner. The team also found that the chances of a playmate reciprocating the smile within a second was found to be 13 times more when they see it, compared to when they do

not see it. This back-and-forth exchange of smile-like facial expressions "strikingly" matches with that seen in social primates and carnivores, they said.

"We've uncovered the presence of a distinct facial display, the open mouth, in bottlenose dolphins, and we showed that dolphins are also able to mirror others' facial expression," Elisabetta Palagi, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Pisa and senior author of the study published in Cell Press journal, said.

"Open-mouth signals and rapid mimicry appear repeatedly across the mammal family tree, which suggests that visual communication has played a crucial role in shaping complex social interactions, not only in dolphins but in many species

over time," Palagi said.

While mammals are known to use facial expressions to convey playfulness, the researchers said that marine mammals such as dolphins engaging in smiling and reciprocating had not been previously explored.

"The open mouth gesture likely evolved from the biting action, breaking down the biting sequence to leave only the 'intention to bite' without contact. The relaxed open mouth, seen in social carnivores, monkeys' play faces, and even human laughter, is a universal sign of playfulness, helping animals -- and us -- signal fun and avoid conflict," Palagi said.

However, the dolphins did not appear to use the smile when playing with humans or by themselves, the authors found.



Locals rescue a man trapped under debris after collapse of a house at Danapur village, in Koppal district, Karnataka

PTI PHOTO

Over 60% turnout in Haryana polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 5: Over 60 per cent polling was recorded in the Haryana Assembly elections Saturday in which the ruling BJP is eyeing a third term and the Congress seeking a comeback after a decade.

Officials said polling, which closed at 6 pm, went on smoothly barring a clash in Nuh between supporters of two candidates which left three persons injured.

According to the data available at 5 pm, 61 per cent polling has been registered and it will further increase once all information comes in. The BJP, Congress, the INLD-BSP and the JJP-Azad Samaj Party alliances and the Aam Aadmi Party are the key parties contesting the polls.

A total of 1,031 candidates are in the fray, including 101 women and 464 Independent nominees. Counting will be taken up October 8. Among the top names in the fray are Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, BJP's Anil Vij



and O P Dhankar, Congress's Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Vinesh Phogat, INLD's Abhay Singh Chautala and JJP's Dushyant Chautala. Among the districts, according to the Election Commission data available at 5 pm, Yamunanagar had recorded a poll percentage of 67.93, Sirsa 65.37, Rohtak 60.56, Nuh 68.28, Palwal 67.69, Mahendragarh 65.76, Kurukshetra 65.55 and Jind 66.02.

However, by 5 pm, districts like Gurgaon recorded 49.92 poll percentage, Faridabad recorded 51.28 while Panchkula registered

54.71 percent.

Haryana Jan Sevak Party nominee from Meham constituency Balraj Kundu accused former MLA Anand Singh Dangi of assaulting him and his assistant at a polling booth. In Nuh district, there was a clash among supporters of the Congress' sitting MLA from Punhana and Independent candidate Rahish Khan in a village in the constituency which left three injured. On Panipat's Nohra village, police said they had received information of a fight at polling booth resulting in serious in-

jury to one person, who had to be hospitalised.

There were reports of a minor scuffle between supporters of rival candidates in Hisar district's Narnaund. Saini, who is contesting from Ladwa in Kurukshetra, cast his vote in his native village Mirza in Ambala district's Naraingarh.

Among the first voters to cast vote was Union Minister and former Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who his vote in Karnal.

Double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker (22) exercised her franchise for the first time. She was accompanied by her parents when they went to cast their votes in Jhajjar district's Gorla village. Bhaker also appealed to the people, especially the younger ones, to come out and cast their votes. Congress stalwarts Hooda, Kumari Selja and Randeep Singh Surjewala, who also exercised their right to vote, said their party would form the next government.

Hindu seer's remarks against Prophet sparks fresh controversy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ghaziabad/Amravati, Oct 5: Controversial priest Yati Narsinghanand has been booked in another hate speech case after he allegedly made objectionable remarks against Prophet Muhammad that sparked protests in the Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh and other states.

A large crowd had gathered outside the Dasna Devi temple, where he presides, protesting against him Friday night after videos of his inflammatory remarks appeared online, following which security was stepped up around the premises.

Police complaints were filed in several states including in Telangana where AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi Saturday submitted a representation to Hyderabad police commissioner C V Anand

demanding that a criminal case be registered against Narsinghanand. An FIR was registered against the priest in Maharashtra's Amravati city, which saw violent protests against his remarks outside the Nagpuri Gate police station in which 21 police personnel were injured and 10 police vans were damaged during stone pelting by a mob Friday night, according to officials. A case under BNS sections 299 (liberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 302 (intentionally uttering words to deliberately wound the religious sentiments of another person), 197 (actions that harm national integration) and others was registered against Yati Narsinghanand at Nagpuri Gate police station over his alleged objectionable remarks, the police said.

MCD House adjourned over Oppn's ruckus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: The MCD House was adjourned Saturday amid a ruckus over the delay in appointing a Dalit Mayor of the city.

The BJP councillors raised slogans and stormed into the well of the House, carrying posters and banners, and demanded that mayoral elections be held.

Amid the commotion, several proposals were passed by Mayor Shelly Oberoi. She then adjourned the House until the next meeting. Objecting to the passing of proposals by Oberoi without the majority of the AAP councillors in the House, Leader of Opposition Raja Iqbal said the passed resolutions will be considered invalid.

There were 81 AAP councillors present, while the BJP had a majority with 94 councillors in attendance, along with six Congress councillors. The AAP councillors, upset with the obstruction of the standing committee election, did not attend the session, the BJP claimed.

The BJP councillors demanded a vote on the resolutions, but the mayor ignored the request, Iqbal said.

When the proceedings began, Oberoi criticised the quick manner in which standing committee elections were held on September 26 despite her objections.

"In the previous House, the MCD standing committee elections were not able to be held. The House was adjourned until October 5 and the elections were to be held in this meeting. But in an unconstitutional manner, the elections were held hastily September 27," Oberoi said.

"After the matter was brought to the notice of the Supreme Court, it took cognizance of the issue and ordered that elections will not be held until the next hearing," she added.



Jharkhand has an abundance of mineral reserve but the people are poor
HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

MUSLIM YOUTH BEATEN UP FOR 'TRYING TO ENTER' NAVRATRI EVENT

A Muslim youth was allegedly beaten up by members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal here at a Navratri-related event, police said Saturday. The incident happened Friday at Lajpat Bhavan in Swaroop Nagar when private guards and volunteer staff were checking the visitors' identities to prevent any non-Hindus from entering the venue, they said



of the day quote

Fadnavis should answer when he read the book. Nehru had revised his first edition and written to historians in 1936 to send him inputs to make necessary revisions
PAWAN KHERRA | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

For us, Durga Puja is more than just a festival, it's the heartbeat of our identity, our art and our heritage... The pandals reflect the spirit of community that brings people from all walks of life together to celebrate the divine and embrace the joy of togetherness
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

We are forming the government with a comfortable majority
BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | FORMER HARYANA CM

X POST OF THE DAY

Chemistry class of Chinese Schools. Last 15 years CHINA has invested massive in Schools & Education. Meanwhile let me know only one such school built by Narendra Modi in Gujarat in last 30yrs of rule. Today's time, Apart from Education, Nothing can make India prosperous.

SHORT TAKES

J&K: Two terrorists killed in encounter

Srinagar: Two terrorists were killed as security forces foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, the Indian Army said Saturday. "Two terrorists have been eliminated by the security forces in the ongoing operation," the army's Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said. The Corps had earlier in a post on X said that a gun battle ensued when troops spotted suspicious activity in Kupwara's Gugaldhar.

Flood situation grim

Patna: The flood situation in Bihar remained grim Saturday as many rivers were still flowing above the danger mark, officials said. In its bulletin, the Water Resources Department (WRD) said Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, Budhi Gandak, and Ganga were flowing above the danger mark. It said that personnel were on alert and flood protection works were being carried out at vulnerable sites.

Cop suspended

Jaipur: A Rajasthan Police circle officer was suspended Saturday in connection with the alleged suicide of a rape accused man inside a police station, officials said, a day after the entire staff of the station was line attached. A judicial inquiry has also been initiated into the matter to ascertain lapses on part of the personnel at Phalodi district's Dechu police station where Fool Singh allegedly hanged himself to death Thursday night. Singh was accused of raping a hearing and speech impaired minor girl. In the latest action in the matter, Lohawat Circle Officer Shankar Lal Chhaba, an officer of the Rajasthan Police Service, was suspended and attached with the Police Headquarters, Jaipur.

Mosque row: Court orders demolition of three floors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 5: The Shimla Municipal Commissioner's court Saturday ordered demolition of the top three "unauthorised" storeys of the disputed Sanjauli mosque here and gave two months' time to the Waqf Board and the mosque committee to execute its orders.

The court also ordered the Waqf Board and the committee to bear all the expenses of the demolition and scheduled the next hearing December 21 regarding the two remaining floors (ground and first floor).

Hindu organisations have been protesting against the unauthorised construction in the mosque and demanding demolition of the illegal storeys. 10 people September 11 were injured during a protest. A day later, the Muslim welfare committee had given a representation to the municipal corporation commissioner asking to seal an unauthorised portion of the mosque and said they will themselves demolish this unauthorised portion.

The court Saturday cited the committee's willingness to demolish the unauthorised portion and ordered demolition of the top three floors of the five-storey mosque. Counsel for Waqf Board B S Thakur said the court has accepted the representation of the committee to demolish the "unauthorised" portion of the mosque and declined the plea of local citizens to become a third party in the case. We do not have the detailed order yet, he added. Talking to reporters, advocate



Hindu organisations have been protesting against the unauthorised construction in the mosque and demanding demolition of the illegal storeys. 10 people were injured September 11 during a protest. A day later, the Muslim welfare committee had given a representation to the municipal corporation commissioner asking to seal an unauthorised portion of the mosque and said they will themselves demolish this unauthorised portion.

Jagat Pal, who was representing the locals, gave a detailed account of status of the dispute since 2010 when a notice was given by the municipal commission for demolition of the construction of single storey of the mosque under construction and claimed that the orders were not implemented.

During spot inspection by a junior engineer of the commission in 2018, it was found that five storeys were constructed, he added.

Pal said the land belonged to the government and the Waqf Board had permitted the Muslims to construct the mosque but not on government land or

land owned by some other party. However, the Waqf Board had claimed they have all the papers of the land where the mosque was built.

"We had already offered to demolish the unauthorised floors of the mosque September 12 and we have no objection with the order. We are ready to demolish the unauthorised floors" said Muhammad Latif, president of the mosque committee after the commission's direction.

There have been similar demands in several other places and protests for scrapping of the Waqf Board and identification and verification of migrants coming to work in the state.



Soldiers of India and Kazakhstan during ongoing joint military exercise 'Kajind' at Auli in Chamoli, Uttarakhand

Apex court trashes review plea against electoral bonds verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: The Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of pleas seeking review of its February 15 verdict, which had scrapped the Modi government's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said there is no error apparent on the face of the record.

The top court also rejected the prayer for listing the review petitions in an open court. "Having perused the review petitions, there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review under Order XLVII Rule 1 of the Supreme Court Rules 2013. The review petitions are, therefore, dismissed," the bench said in its order dated September 25 that was uploaded today. The review pleas filed by advocate Mathews J Nedumpara and others contended that the matter related to the scheme falls in the exclusive domain of legislative and executive policy. "The court failed to notice that even assuming the issue is justiciable, the petitioners therein having not claimed any specific legal injury exclusive to them, their petition could not have been decided as if a private litigation for the enforcement of rights which are specific and exclusive to them," Nedumpara had

submitted in his plea.

He had said the court failed to notice that the public opinion could be sharply divided and the majority of the people of this country could probably be in support of the scheme, brought into existence by their elected representatives, and that they too have a right to be heard as much as the petitioners.

"The court failed to notice that, if at all it is venturing into the forbidden domain of adjudicating upon a matter of legislative policy, they have a duty to hear the public at large and that the proceedings ought to be converted into representative proceedings," the plea had said. Holding that the 2018 electoral bond scheme was "violative" of the constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression and right to information, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Chandrachud had scrapped the scheme.

The top court had also directed the State Bank of India (SBI), the authorised financial institution under the scheme, to submit the details of electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019, to the Election Commission, which was asked to publish the information on its official website.

The top court also rejected the prayer for listing the review petitions in an open court

NIA arrests alleged terror operative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: In a massive pan-India crackdown against terrorists' outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), the NIA Saturday conducted searches at 26 locations in five states and arrested one person and questioned several suspects involved in motivating youth into committing violent terror attacks across the country, according to an official statement.

Sheikh Sultan Salah Uddin Ayubi alias Ayubi was taken into custody after searches at 26 locations in Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, it said. The accused was arrested on account of his incriminatory role in the conspiracy case, said the statement issued by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

He will be produced before the NIA special court, Patiala House, New Delhi, it added. In addition, "several other suspects" have also been rounded up for questioning, the NIA said.



The suspects were engaged in radicalising individuals associated with Pakistan-based JeM and were engaged in disseminating terrorist related propaganda, and "radicalising and recruiting youth into the Jamaat outfit" inspired by it, it said. These suspects were involved in motivating the youth into committing violent terror attacks across India, the NIA investigations have revealed, according to the statement.

The premises searched by the NIA were located in Gopalpara (Assam), Aurangabad, Jalna and Malegaon in Maharashtra, Meerut and Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Baramulla, Pulwama and Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the searches, the NIA teams seized several incriminating documents, electronic devices, pamphlets and magazines. These are being examined for further leads and evidence against the suspects whose premises were searched Saturday, the anti-terror agency said, adding the investigations in the case are continuing.

SNIPPETS

IndiGo faces system outage

Mumbai: Thousands of IndiGo passengers faced a tough time Saturday as the airline faced system outage for more than seven hours leading to long queues, longer waiting time for check-ins and baggage drop process at airports. Passengers shared pictures of crowds at airports and handwritten boarding passes. At a little past 1800 hours, the airline said while airport systems are up and running, it may take a little time to achieve full normalcy. The systems of the country's largest airline, which operates more than 2,000 flights daily, started facing slowdown in the morning.

India successfully flight tests VSHORADS missile

New Delhi: India conducted three successful flight tests of a very short-range air defence missile system at Rajasthan's Pokhran firing ranges. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Saturday congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army for the flight tests of the fourth-generation VSHORADS (Very Short-Range Air Defence System) missiles. "The @DRDO India has successfully conducted three flight tests of the 4th Generation, technically advanced miniaturized weapon system VSHORADS, from Pokhran," Singh's office said on X. Singh said this new missile, equipped with modern technologies, will give further technological boost to the armed forces against aerial threats, it said.

BJP state chief Surendran discharged by Kerala court

Kasaragod (Kerala): A Kerala court Saturday discharged BJP state president K Surendran and five others from the Manjeshwaram election bribery case. Surendran and the others were discharged by Kasaragod Sessions Judge Sanu S Panicker. The judge, allowing the discharge plea of the accused, said that the first accused -- Surendran -- was discharged of the offences under various provisions of the IPC and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (prevention of atrocities) Act 1989. "Since the first accused is discharged of the alleged offences, I do not find any ground to proceed against the other accused also. Hence, they are also discharged of all the alleged offences," the judge said. The detailed order giving reasons is not yet available.

Man accused of wiping out Amethi family shot in leg

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amethi (UP), Oct 5: The man accused of gunning down an entire Dalit family in Amethi allegedly over an affair with the deceased teacher's wife was shot at by the police in his leg Saturday when he tried to snatch gun from an officer.

Sunil Kumar (35), a government school teacher, his 32-year-old wife Poonam and their two daughters, Drishti and Suni, aged six and one respectively, were shot dead in the Achorwa Bhawani area of Amethi Thursday.

The accused, Chandan Verma (27) was arrested near a toll plaza in Noida Friday night while fleeing to Delhi. The police shot Verma in his leg early Saturday while they were recovering, at his instance, the pistol used in the killing.

According to police, the incident happened when Sub-Inspector Madan Kumar Singh of Shivratanganj police station was taking possession of the pistol found near a canal track. Just when Singh was inspecting the pistol and its magazine, Verma snatched his gun from his holster and fired at him, intending to kill him, the police in a statement said.

Lost our patience: SC on delay in ration card

THE APEX COURT HAD EARLIER ASKED THE CENTRE TO FILE AN AFFIDAVIT GIVING DETAILS ABOUT COMPLIANCE OF ITS 2021 JUDGEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT DIRECTIONS ON PROVIDING RATION CARDS AND OTHER WELFARE MEASURES TO THE MIGRANT WORKERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 5: We have lost our patience, the Supreme Court has said while expressing concern over delay by the states and Union Territories in providing ration card to the migrant workers.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Ahsanuddin Amanullah granted a final opportunity to the Centre, states and Union Territories (UTs) to take necessary steps in this regard by November 19.

"We have lost our patience, we are making it very clear that there will be no more indulgence." "We are giving you one last window to comply with our



order or your secretary will remain present," the bench said. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, informed that only one ration card is issued per priority household under the

asked the Centre to file an affidavit giving details about compliance of its 2021 judgement and subsequent directions on providing ration cards and other welfare measures to the migrant workers.

The top court, in June 29, 2021 judgement and subsequent orders, had passed a slew of directions to the authorities asking them to undertake welfare measures, including giving ration cards to all migrant workers, who were distressed during the COVID-19 pandemic, registered with the 'e-Shram' portal.

The 'e-Shram' is a comprehensive National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) launched by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment with

a primary aim to facilitate delivery of welfare benefits and social security measures to unorganised sector workers across the country. The top court, in the 2021 judgement, had termed as "unpardonable" the Centre's "apathy and lackadaisical attitude" towards creating National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) and ordered its commencement by July 31, 2021 so that all migrant workers are registered and welfare measures extended to them during COVID distress.

It had ordered the states and UTs to frame schemes for providing free dry ration to them till the pandemic lasts, while the Centre will have to allocate additional foodgrains.

international



I do not believe there is going to be an all-out war. I think we can avoid it. But there is a lot to do yet. A lot to do yet
JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

WORST DROUGHT IN 122 YEARS

The river port in the Amazon rainforest's largest city of Manaus hit its lowest level since 1902, as a drought drains waterways and snarls transport of grain exports and essential supplies that are the region's lifeline



of the day quote

We will present the victory plan, clear, specific steps for a just end to the war
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

India and Singapore will celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations next year focusing on people-to-people relations
SHILPAK AMBULE | INDIAN ENVOY TO SINGAPORE

PTI will invite Jaishankar, Indian External Affairs Minister, to come and join PTI's protest and speak to our people and see that Pakistan is a strong democracy where everyone has a right to protest
MUHAMMAD ALI SAIF | ADVISOR TO KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA CM ON INFORMATION, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Mauritius PM thanks Modi

Port Louis: Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth Friday thanked his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for "completing our decolonisation" a day after the UK government announced to hand over sovereignty of the remote Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean to the country. Jugnauth took to X to thank Modi as he wrote, "Mauritius thanks the African Union @AfricanUnion, the Government of India @narendramodi and all friendly countries which have supported us in our fight for completing our decolonisation." The UK Thursday announced a "historic" agreement that will see Britain hand over sovereignty of the remote Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean to Mauritius while it retains the joint UK-US military base on Diego Garcia. The British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) status of the disputed archipelago, made up of around 60 islands, has been in contention for many years and negotiations over its future began under the previous Conservative Party government in 2022.

Debt-restructuring agreement by SL

Colombo: Sri Lanka has reached a debt restructuring agreement with its sovereign bondholders, the government has said, marking a crucial step towards the cash-strapped island nation's economic recovery and strengthening. In a statement Friday, the Ministry of Finance said following the Agreement in Principle (AIP) reached with representatives of its international and local holders of International Sovereign Bonds (ISB) September 19, the Sri Lankan authorities have "now completed their consultations" with the country's "Official Creditor Committee (OCC) and the IMF (International Monetary Fund)".

US targets Houthis

Washington: The US military struck more than a dozen Houthi targets in Yemen Friday, going after weapons systems, bases and other equipment belonging to the Iranian-backed rebels, US officials confirmed. Military aircraft and warships bombed Houthi strongholds at roughly five locations, according to the officials. Houthi media said seven strikes hit the airport in Hodeida, a major port city, and the Kathieb area, which has a Houthi-controlled military base. The strikes come just days after the Houthis threatened "escalating military operations" targeting Israel after they apparently shot down a US military drone flying over Yemen.

CONFLICT ESCALATES

Israeli raids level Beirut suburbs

Israel has sharply expanded its strikes on Lebanon in recent weeks after nearly a year of exchanging fire with Lebanon's Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah



Beirut, Oct 5: An Israeli strike hit Lebanon's northern city of Tripoli for the first time early Saturday, a Lebanese security source said, after more bombardment hit Beirut's suburbs and Israeli troops sought to make new ground incursions into southern Lebanon.

The source told Reuters a Hamas official, his wife and two children were killed in the strike on a Palestinian refugee camp in Tripoli. Hamas-affiliated media said the strike killed a leader of the group's armed wing. Fighting had been mostly limited to the Israel-Lebanon border area, taking place in parallel to Israel's year-old war in Gaza against Hamas. Israel has been carrying out nightly bombardment of Beirut's once densely populated southern suburbs, a stronghold of Hezbollah. Overnight, a military spokesman issued three alerts for residents there to evacuate, and Reuters witnesses then heard at least one blast. On Friday, Israel said it had targeted Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the southern

suburbs and was assessing the damage after a series of strikes on senior figures in the group.

Israel has eliminated much of Hezbollah's senior military leadership, including Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in an air attack September 27. Lebanon's government says more than 2,000 people have been killed there in the past year, most in the past two weeks. Strikes on medical teams and facilities, including the Lebanese Red Cross, Lebanese public hospitals and rescue workers affiliated to Hezbollah, have also increased.

Lebanon's government says more than 1.2 million Lebanese have been forced from their homes, and the United Nations says most displacement shelters in the country are full. Many

Over 2K people have been killed there in the past year, most in the past two weeks

More than 1.2 million Lebanese have been forced from their homes amid conflict

The strikes continued unabated in other parts of Lebanon. The toll on civilians from this campaign is totally unacceptable

STEPHANE DUJARRIC | SPOKESPERSON, UN

had gone north to Tripoli or to neighbouring Syria, but an Israeli strike Friday closed the main border crossing between Lebanon and Syria.

IRAN DEFIANT, ISRAEL WEIGHS OPTIONS

Israel has been weighing options in its response to Iran's ballistic missile attack Tuesday. Oil prices have risen on the possibility of an attack on Iran's oil facilities as Israel pursues its goals of pushing back Hezbollah

militants in Lebanon and eliminating their Hamas allies, also backed by Tehran, in Gaza.

US President Joe Biden Friday urged Israel to consider alternatives to striking Iranian oil fields, adding that he thinks Israel has not yet concluded how to respond to Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi landed in Syria Saturday for talks after a visit to Lebanon, in which he reiterated support for Lebanon and Hezbollah.

CRIME WAVE

Haitian gang slaughters 70 as thousands flee

REUTERS

Port-Au-Prince, Oct 5: Gang members brandishing automatic rifles stormed through a town in Haiti's main breadbasket region, killing at least 70 and forcing over 6,000 to flee, causing widespread shock even in a country grown accustomed to outbreaks of violence.



Some 6,270 people had fled their homes due to the attacks, the UN migration agency said. Most of these are being sheltered by families living in nearby Saint-Marc and other towns, while others are staying in makeshift camps.

The gang members set fire to dozens of homes and vehicles, local authorities said, in one of the deadliest attacks in recent years in the Caribbean nation that has seen many massacres and little justice for their victims.

The UN estimated at the end of September that 3,661 people had been killed in the gang violence since January. It believes the gangs are armed largely by guns trafficked from the United States.

"This odious crime against defenseless women, men and children is not only an attack against victims but against the entire Haitian nation," Prime Minister Garry Conille said on X.

Police clash with Khan's supporters

REUTERS

Islamabad, Oct 5: Over 80 police personnel have been injured in clashes with supporters of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan taking part in a march near Islamabad, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Saturday.



- Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan turns 72 in jail
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM 'arrested' in Islamabad

The march, which is being led by the head of the northwestern province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, where Khan's party remains in power, aims

to gather in the capital, defying a ban on congregations, to press for Khan's release and agitate against the ruling coalition.

"The convoy, led by the chief minister, fired on the police and continuously used teargas against law-enforcers," Naqvi told journalists.

He said more than 80 police officers had been treated for injuries since Friday, when clashes broke out just outside the city during an anti-government rally.

Authorities have sealed off Islamabad and blocked cell phone services to prevent the gathering.

Islamabad is on high alert ahead of a series of top-level diplomatic events scheduled over the next two weeks, including a visit by India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar.

Naqvi said while the convoy was heavily armed, the police had been instructed not to carry weapons to prevent the situation from escalating. The government has deployed the army to enhance security in Islamabad.



Members of the Indonesian Army Special Forces Commandos march during a parade marking the 79th anniversary of the Indonesian Armed Forces in Jakarta

US classrooms reshaped by record migrant arrivals

Teachers face language barriers, student trauma as record migration reaches classrooms

REUTERS

Pennsylvania, Oct 5: Dana Smith had been teaching first grade at the public school in the small Pennsylvania town of Charleroi for more than 16 years when she found herself confronting a new challenge last year: A sharp rise in students from Haiti who did not speak English.

She started using a phone app to translate lessons, but the constant pauses for translation frustrated her. She wondered if she was hindering the learning of American students who knew some of the basics she was reviewing, a complaint raised by a vocal segment of parents in the district.

"It was very stressful," she said. "We never know when we're going to get new ones coming



in, where their levels are, how adjusted they are to this culture. The unexpected."

More than half a million school-age migrant children have arrived in the US since 2022, according to immigration court records collected by Syracuse University, exacerbating overcrowding in some classrooms; compounding teacher and budget shortfalls; forcing teachers to grapple with language barriers and inflaming social tensions

in places unaccustomed to educating immigrant students.

To gauge the impact of immigration on public schools across the US, Reuters sent a survey to more than 10,000 school districts. Of the 75 school districts that responded, serving a total of 2.3 million children or about 5% of the public school population, a third said the increase in immigrant children had had a "significant" impact on their school district.

More than half a million school-age migrant children have arrived in the US since 2022

Parole programme: Some 530,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela have entered US since Oct 2022

The responses spanned school districts across 23 states, from Texas to Alaska, and include the largest urban district of New York City as well as the tiny and rural Hot Springs Elementary School District in southern California, with just 16 pupils.

Forty-two districts said they had hired more English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers and consultants. Fifteen districts described difficulties communicating with parents or a lack of interpreter services.

Republican candidate Donald Trump has made immigration a top talking point in the November 5 presidential election, blaming his Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, for record numbers of migrants illegally cross-

Migrants' legal status: Biden takes U-turn

The Biden administration will not renew a temporary humanitarian entry programme for hundreds of thousands of migrants with US sponsors who arrived in recent years, the US Department of Homeland Security said Friday. Some 5.3 million migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela have entered the US by air since October 2022 and received two-year grants under the "parole" programme that will begin to expire in coming weeks. However, many of those migrants could remain in the country under other programs. The parole program allows migrants with existing US sponsors to enter the country for humanitarian reasons or if their entry is deemed a significant public benefit. It will continue to accept new applications from those abroad. US President Joe Biden's administration launched the parole program as a way to provide migrants avenues to enter legally and decrease illegal crossings at the US-Mexico border. Record numbers of migrants were caught crossing illegally during Biden's presidency but crossings have plummeted in recent months as Biden rolled out new border restrictions.



ing the US-Mexico border during President Joe Biden's administration. Trump also faults Harris for a Biden program

launched in late 2022 that allowed legal entry to 5,300,000 Haitians and others with US sponsors.

of the day quote

It is our endeavour to bring down the credit to deposit ratio to pre-merger levels and our focus would be to maintain adequate liquidity buffers, repayment of HDFC borrowings as and when they mature, including weighing any prepayment opportunities that may arise, and pursuing profitable sources of lending

SASHIDHAR JAGDISHAN
HDFC BANK MD AND CEO

Bolt is the next evolution in our mission to provide unmatched convenience. Ten years ago, Swiggy revolutionised food delivery by cutting average wait times to 30 minutes. Now, we're reducing that wait even further for frequently ordered items like coffee, burgers, ice cream, and biryani, partnering with trusted restaurants to deliver the best food in just 10 minutes

ROHIT KAPOOR
CEO OF SWIGGY'S FOOD MARKETPLACE

Golden Farms represents a tremendous opportunity for us to scale the business and serve a market that has historically been fragmented and underserved

SK CHAUDHARY
SAFEX CHEMICALS FOUNDER-DIRECTOR

Golden Farms represents a tremendous opportunity for us to scale the business and serve a market that has historically been fragmented and underserved

SK CHAUDHARY
SAFEX CHEMICALS FOUNDER-DIRECTOR

SHORT TAKES

1-yr extension for RBI Dy Guv

New Delhi: The government has extended the term of RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao for a period of one year, according to sources. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of Rao for a period of one year with effect from October 9, 2024 or until further orders, sources said quoting a government order dated October 4. The ACC is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Rao was appointed as RBI Deputy Governor in October 2020 for a period of three years. Rao was elevated as RBI executive director in November 2016. An economics graduate and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Cochin, Rao joined the central bank in 1984.

REC disburses ₹90,955cr loan

New Delhi: State-owned REC has disbursed loans worth ₹90,955 crore during April-September FY25, up 20.10 per cent from the year-ago period. Of the total amount, ₹11,297 crore was green loan, 92.68 per cent higher year-on-year, the company said in a statement. In the September quarter of FY25, REC said it disbursed ₹47,303 crore loans, 13.71 per cent higher than the ₹41,598 crore disbursed a year earlier. Of this, renewable energy loans aggregated to ₹5,946 crore, up 37.35 per cent YoY.

IPO-bound Swiggy launches 'XL' fleet

New Delhi: IPO-bound food tech platform Swiggy Saturday formally launched its bulk order 'XL' fleet to serve large orders in one go. The launch comes hours after Swiggy announced it has started a 10-minute meals and beverages delivery service 'Bolt', currently operational in select cities. The large order fleet, on a pilot run for the past few weeks, was formally launched on Saturday in Gurugram, on the day of Haryana Assembly elections. "To commemorate its official launch, the Swiggy XL EV fleet delivered 3,500 meals to electoral officials at more than 580 polling booths in Gurugram and Badshapur constituencies. This service was provided free of cost to the District Administration," Swiggy stated.



“We plan to bring the electric SUV by end of 2026. We think that demand for electric cars will start to grow by that time”
FRANK TORRES | NISSAN INDIA OPERATIONS PRESIDENT

OPS AT COPPER MINE RESUME
The government Saturday said operations at Surda copper mine in Jharkhand have resumed while Kendadih and Rakha copper mines in the state are likely to reopen this year. Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) -- the public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the mines ministry -- owns the mine.



What's next for oil & gas prices?

Any major escalation of tensions in the Middle East conjures up memories of the oil embargo that followed the start of the Yom Kippur war in 1973, which quadrupled oil prices

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 5: Oil prices climbed this week as tensions in the Middle East escalated. Iran launched missiles at Israel and the Israelis threatened retaliation, raising the possibility of a disruption to the flow of oil from the region. A jump in oil prices automatically spurs fear of a spike in gas prices, but experts see reasons that may not happen. Here's a look at the current situation and the outlook for oil and gas prices.

Oil prices rose than USD 6 per barrel this week and prices at the pump moved higher as well. The average price for a gallon of gas rose 5 cents from last week. Any major escalation of tensions in the Middle East conjures up memories of the oil embargo that followed the start of the Yom Kippur war in 1973, which quadrupled oil prices.

However, the global supply of oil has been altered radically since the 1970s, with the US becoming the world's largest oil producer. Months of war between Israel and Hamas and Hezbollah, two Iranian proxies, did little to boost prices for OPEC and its 12 oil-producing nations. Only the possibility of a direct confrontation between Israel and Iran moved the needle.

US gas prices typically rise along with crude because the price of oil makes up half the cost of a gallon of gasoline. The national average for gas has risen to about USD 3.18 per gallon, according to AAA. But that's still 13 cents less than a month ago and 60 cents less than a year



ago. The record national average high of USD 5 per gallon was reached in June 2022. "Despite the threat of war and a hurricane season that is still percolating, domestic gasoline prices are edging lower," AAA spokesperson Andrew Gross said in a statement Thursday. "There are now 18 states east of the Rockies with domestic gasoline prices are edging lower." AAA estimates that approximately 1.2 million of its members live in households with one or more electric vehicles. The organisation believes that the tepid gas demand and low oil costs will likely keep prices at gas pumps sliding.

The long-term expectation is for oil prices to move lower, not higher. That's because the balance between supply and demand has tilted toward supply, a dynamic that typically weighs on oil prices. In its most recent update on the energy markets, the International

Energy Agency said demand for oil in the first half of this year rose by the smallest amount since 2020. Meanwhile, supplies have continued to increase and the OPEC+ alliance, made up of members of the producers cartel and allied countries including Russia, has said it plans to release more oil into the market starting in December.

"Geopolitical tensions have soared of late and yet fundamentals seem to be moving in the opposite direction with Iranian oil exports trending close to the highest level in years," Barclays analyst Amarpreet Singh said in a note to clients. "The jury is out on the primary driver of the geopolitical drift, but it warrants caution against taking a strong view on a sustained disruption."

The country produces 3.99 million barrels per day, which is 4 per cent of the world total. By

comparison, Saudi Arabia produces about 9 million barrels a day. Despite sanctions imposed by the West that have hampered production and export levels, Iran continues to find ways to maintain its oil sector, sometimes using creative methods like blending and re-labelling oil for sale to markets like China. As of the middle of this year, Iran was exporting about 2 million barrels of oil a day, up from 500,000 in 2020 but below the 2.5 million barrels it exported each day in 2018.

Export terminals like Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf could be a target for an Israeli strike. They play a key role in shipping crude oil abroad, primarily to Asian countries, including China. Oil prices rose Thursday after President Joe Biden said US and Israeli officials were discussing a possible Israeli strike on Iranian oil facilities.

Banks shouldn't use group entities to circumvent rules: RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 5: The Reserve Bank of India Friday proposed that banks should be barred from using group entities to circumvent regulations applicable to them.

The central bank has made the suggestion in a draft circular on 'forms of business and prudential regulations for investments' released Friday.

"A group entity shall not be used to circumvent regulations/guidelines applicable to the parent bank or other group entity to carry on any business activity, which is not permitted otherwise," the draft said.

It also said entities should avoid an overlap in the lending activities undertaken by the bank and its group entities.

Banks will have to approach the RBI's Department of Regulation to undertake any new activity through a group entity, other than those already permitted, the draft suggested.

In the case of Non-Operative Financial Holding Companies, it shall be ensured that only a single entity within the NOFHC undertakes a particular activity/form of business.

The draft also proposes measures on banks' investments, including in other allied businesses and caps the maximum stake to be held in any company at 30 per cent.

No bank shall make any investment in a Category III Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), and any investment by a bank's subsidiary in a Category



III AIF shall also be restricted to the regulatory minima prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, it said.

When it comes to asset reconstruction companies, banks are proposed to limit the number of entities they sponsor to just one at any point in time and limit the shareholding of the group in an ARC to 20 per cent.

Banks should approach the Department of Regulation to invest 20 per cent or more in the equity capital of any financial services company or Category I or II AIF either individually or collectively by the bank group, non-financial services company either individually or collectively by the bank group, including bank-controlled mutual funds.

It also proposed that all the overseas branches of the Indian banks should not do any activity prohibited for the Indian lender. It is also suggested that risk-sharing activities that require ring-fencing shall not be carried out departmentally, but only through a group entity subject to the conditions stipulated for the respective activities.

Bank credit grows by 15 pc in August



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 5: Bank credit grew by 15 per cent in August in India, maintaining steady levels compared to the same month last year (14.9 per cent) as agriculture and industry picked up, a report showed Saturday.

The non-food credit demand has also grown by 15 per cent in August with broadly similar growth last year, according to the report by Bank of Baroda (BoB). According to Jahnvi Prabhakar, economist, Bank of Baroda, the credit to agriculture sector rose at a steady pace of 17.7 per cent from 18.1 per cent in July and higher than 16.5 per cent growth in August last year. The credit to the industry sector saw a moderate increase of 9.8 per cent YoY in August, compared to 5.3 per cent same month last year.

Notably, medium-sized firms saw robust growth in demand, rising 19.2 per cent YoY, while large industries witnessed a 7.7 per cent credit growth.

According to the report, the food credit demand has seen some moderation as it registered a growth of 25.9 per cent after de-

clining by 30.3 per cent last year. Credit to services sector inched up by 15.6 per cent (three-month high) as of August, from 15.4 per cent last month. "Within services, barring higher growth in commercial real estate sector and computer software, all the other sectors have registered much lower growth this year," Prabhakar said. Credit growth in the personal loan segment has witnessed deceleration down to 16.9 per cent from 18.3 per cent last year.

On the other hand, the report mentioned, credit growth for loans against gold jewellery has gathered momentum, registering a growth of 40.9 per cent (20.4 per cent last year).

"The recent surge in global gold prices will keep the demand buoyant in the coming months. Moreover, the credit growth in the housing sector picked up pace registering a growth of 18.8 per cent in August compared with a growth of 13.4 per cent last year," the report mentioned.

Credit card growth has softened in the last few months down to 19.9 per cent in August from 31.4 per cent in the same month last year.

BIZ BUZZ

Khimji Jewellers unveils 'Raunak Hai Tumse' campaign

Bhubaneswar: Khimji Jewellers proudly presents its festive campaign 'Raunak Hai Tumse,' starring National Award-winning artist Prakruti Mishra. Known for her talent as an actor, singer, and dancer, Mishra represents the many roles women play in life. Like natural diamonds, women have multiple facets, each shining with its own brilliance, and Khimji Jewellers is dedicated to celebrating their radiance this festive season with affordable diamond jewellery that symbolises their inner strength and beauty. Whether as professionals, homemakers, artists, or caretakers, women excel in every aspect of life. Natural diamonds, with their timeless elegance and multiple facets, perfectly represent the versatility and inner glow that women bring into the world. "Our campaign is an ode to women—their strength, resilience, and sparkle," said Mitesh Khimji, Director of Khimji Jewellers. "We aim to highlight the brilliance that women bring to our lives, natural diamonds are the perfect way to honour their grace and individuality, and this collection offers surprisingly affordable jewellery for every woman to shine brightly this festive season."



Canara Bank's noble initiative

Bhubaneswar: This Navratri Festival, Canara Bank Bhubaneswar Circle has taken a noble initiative to promote the health and hygiene among the female students and staff of educational institution in entire Odisha by installing sanitary napkin vending machines and sanitary napkin disposal machines. To kick start this noble initiative, Canara Bank General Manager & State Head Jagdish Chander handed over sanitary napkin vending machine and sanitary napkin disposal machine Saturday to KMBB Junior Science College, Naranpur, Cuttack. Principle of the College along with other Bank executives and College staff were present on the occasion. Canara Bank is installing 20 machines at various educational institutions covering multiple cities viz, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Bhadrak, Berhampur and Sambalpur. Canara Bank will ensure these machines are refilled timely for at least next six months. This initiative of the Bank is being appreciated by all.



KISNA opens first City showroom

Bhubaneswar: KISNA Diamond and Gold Jewellery has launched its first exclusive showroom in Bhubaneswar, marking the brand's 41st nationwide. The grand opening was attended by Ghanishyam Dholakia, Founder & MD, Hari Krishna Gop, and Parag Shah, Director, KISNA Diamond & Gold Jewellery. KISNA is offering up to 100% off on diamond jewellery making charges and has introduced a lucky draw campaign, #Abki_Baar_Aapke_Liye_Shop_and_Win_a_Car, with over 100 cars to be won by customers purchasing jewellery worth ₹20,000 or more. Shah said, "This showroom marks a significant milestone in making KISNA a household name with a promise of craftsmanship and affordability." Ghanishyam added, "Launching during the festive season aligns with our vision of 'Har Ghar KISNA,' aiming to make diamond jewellery accessible to all." The event also included a tree plantation drive and a food distribution for the underprivileged highlighting KISNA's commitment to community welfare.



Wonderla Bhubaneswar launches Puja offers

Bhubaneswar: Wonderla Bhubaneswar has introduced a special offer "Puja Upahar" providing park access tickets at a discounted rate of ₹679. The offer includes unlimited access to over 21+ land and water rides and is available until October 31. To enhance the festive experience, Wonderla Bhubaneswar has organised several cultural and entertainment events, including a festive thali, Dhol performances, Dandia nights, an energetic dance show, and a thrilling DJ set. The park will also extend its operating hours until 7:30 pm throughout the Puja season to accommodate the celebrations. Arun K. Chittilappilly, Managing Director of Wonderla Holidays, said, "Puja is a time of joy, unity, and celebration, and we are excited to offer our guests a magical experience at Wonderla Bhubaneswar." Visitors are encouraged to book their tickets in advance through the official online portal or contact Wonderla Bhubaneswar at 0674-6640300 for more information.



Real estate next employment generation hub: Industry

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Oct 5: The real estate sector in India is the second-largest employer after the agriculture sector and the phenomenal growth with an 18.7 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) makes the sector ripe to become the largest employment generating sector and a hub for young talent, industry leaders said Saturday. The Indian real estate industry

is witnessing a boom in terms of value and volume with a well-established value chain of developers in residential and commercial real estate, contractors, consultants such as architects and engineers, investors and so on. "Further, this 'mother industry' is boosting other ancillary sectors and also, new-age PropTech startups are also booming with over ₹40,000 crore invested in them, the real estate sector is poised to create multiple



career opportunities," said Vikas Jain, President-Elect, NAREDCO Maharashtra Next-Gen. Speaking at a seminar here,

Rajesh Doshi, Secretary, NAREDCO Maharashtra, said this sector is not limited to engineers or architects anymore.

"Real estate is for smart, driven individuals who can turn possibilities into opportunities. With the integration of tech, big data, and 3D modelling, there is a rising demand for skilled professionals like data scientists to forecast industry trends and dynamics," Doshi added. A recent report said that future outlook for the real estate market remains in the optimistic territory in India. The Knight Frank-NAREDCO

report cited that the 'Current Sentiment Index Score' has moderated to 65 from its all-time high in Q1 2024, indicating a measured outlook among stakeholders. Future sentiment score for this period also recorded a recalibration in Q2 2024 and was recorded at 65. The 'Future Sentiment Index' has adjusted from 73 in Q1 2024 to 65 in Q2 2024, reflecting a positive yet more conservative outlook for the near term.

SHORT TAKES

Nihal Sarin shines

London: Indian prodigy Nihal Sarin helped PBG Alaskan Knights emerge as the sole leaders in the Global Chess League (GCL) after day two that was full of drama with world Number one Magnus Carlsen suffering a shock defeat on time against Alireza Firouzja. The Alaskan Knights won all three of their matches and secured nine match points to take the pole position, while the Ganges Grandmasters languished in last place without any point in the season two of the meet. With two impressive victories Friday -- dominating the American Gambits 14-2, followed by a narrow 8-5 win over the Mumba Masters -- the Alaskan Knights secured their position at the top of the standings.

Golfers disappoint

St Andrews: The first two rounds offered big disappointment for the Indians, as Shubhankar Sharma and Om Prakash Chouhan were placed tied 139 and 154 respectively in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship. Sharma shot even par rounds at Carnoustie and Kingsbarns but that saw him way down in tied 139th, while Chouhan was even further down with 71-75 and was at tied 154th. Sharma still has his round to go, while Chouhan will play his third round at Carnoustie. Meanwhile, Nicolas Colsaerts relied on local knowledge as he shot a stunning 65 to share the lead with Cameron Johnston after the second round.

Gauff reaches final

Beijing: Coco Gauff rallied from a set down for the third consecutive match as she beat Paula Badosa 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 Saturday to advance to the final of the China Open. The sixth-ranked Gauff will play either Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen or Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic in Sunday's final seeking her second WTA-1000 level title. Gauff has a 7-1 record in four finals. The 20-year-old American has made a habit of slow starts in Beijing this week and the script played out again as the No. 19-ranked Badosa took a tight opening set in 59 minutes, saving 10 of 11 break points.

Pogba's ban reduced

London: Paul Pogba has had his four-year ban for doping reduced to 18 months after appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The ruling means the France World Cup winner will be free to resume his career in March 2025. CAS confirmed earlier reports that the ban was reduced when approached by The Associated Press Friday. CAS did not elaborate on the decision. "Finally the nightmare is over," Pogba said in a statement. "Following the decision by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, I can look forward to the day when I can follow my dreams again." The Juventus midfielder tested positive for testosterone in August last year and was handed the maximum punishment by Italy's anti-doping court.

PCB's big decision

Karachi: The PCB in all likelihood will prune the list of centrally contracted from 27 last year as per directive from two foreign coaches Gary Kirsten (white ball) and Jason Gillespie (red ball) with skipper Shan Masood being party to the decision. It is believed that PCB will announce the list for the 2024/25 season before the national squad leaves for its tours of Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa October 29.

India face arch-rivals Pak

Harmanpreet & Co look to iron out combination flaws, regain fight in crucial T20 WC game against Pak



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Oct 5: India will have to regroup quickly and iron out the imbalances in team combination when they face arch-rivals Pakistan in a crucial second group A match of the Women's T20 World Cup here Sunday.

An early 58-run defeat to New Zealand Friday has not just dented India's chances of entering the semifinals of the ICC showpiece, but it certainly has pushed them to a tight corner.

India's run-rate currently stands at a poor 2.99 and it makes big victories mandatory for them in the remaining three matches against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side was wretched in all three departments of the game against the Kiwis in its World Cup opener, and India now need a reversal within 24 hours.

It's tough but that is the path they have to tread against Pakistan, high on confidence

after beating a strong Sri Lanka in the first match Thursday.

As a first step, India will have to sort out their combinations ahead of the Pakistan game.

They went a batter light against New Zealand to accommodate an extra pacer in Arundhati Reddy and it meant a wholesale rejigging of the line-up.

It forced the promotion of Harmanpreet to No. 3, Jemimah Rodrigues to No. 4 and Richa Ghosh to No. 5, not the usual

slots for these batters.

For instance, Harmanpreet, who is a solid presence at No. 4, has never made a fifty in her previous 19 gigs at No. 3 and to make her play precisely at that position in a World Cup was quixotic.

But India made a hash of their three-pronged pace attack move, giving just one over to Pooja Vastrakar; the third-best bowler in T20Is this year with 20 wickets from 16 matches.

An early 58-run defeat to New Zealand Friday has not just dented India's chances of entering the semifinals of the ICC showpiece, but it certainly has pushed them to a tight corner

Also, the decision to go with the pace troika cost India the presence of left-arm spinner Radha Yadav, their second most successful T20I bowler with 22 wickets from 13 matches.

So, head coach Amol Muzumdar will need to take a long look at the combination as another defeat will seriously hamper India's chances of progressing to the last-four stage from Group A.

Though India have a head-to-head edge over Pakistan in T20Is, winning 12 out of 15 matches so far, they have the ammunition to stun any opposition.

Their bowling is especially formidable with the likes of experienced Nida Dhar, captain Fatima Sana and Sadia Iqbal leading the pack.

However, Pakistan will keep a close eye on the fitness lead pacer Diana Baig after she suffered a calf strain in the match against Sri Lanka, limping out after bowling just one ball.

Australia thrash Lanka

Sharjah: Defending champions Australia overcame a mighty scare to eventually beat Sri Lanka by six wickets after pacer Megan Schutt's probing spell set them up for a small winning target in their women's T20 World Cup campaign opener here Saturday. Set a paltry target of 94, Australia were 35/3 at the end of power play, losing captain Alyssa Healy (4), Georgia Wareham (3) and Ellyse Perry (17) early in their run chase. But, a 43-run partnership between Beth Mooney (43 not out) and Ashleigh Gardner (12) helped Australia go past the target with 34 balls to spare, as they made 94/4 in 14.2 overs.



AFTER 27 YEARS

Mumbai seal 15th Irani Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Oct 5: Tanush Kotian's gritty unbeaten hundred laced Mumbai's 15th Irani Cup victory which was sealed by virtue of their first innings lead over Rest Of India on the fifth and final day here Saturday.

Mumbai's last Irani Cup victory came 27 years ago during the 1997-98 season and since then the domestic powerhouse appeared in eight more finals without success and the last of which was in the 2015-16 season.

Mumbai, who started the final day from overnight 153 for six, declared their second innings at 329 for eight for an overall lead of 450 runs.

Kotian, who scored 64 in the first innings and resumed his innings on 20, remained not out on 114 off 150 balls, hitting 10 fours and a six.

Knowing the futility of chasing 451 in little over a session, the Rest of India skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad shook hands with his opposite number Ajinkya Rahane, signalling the draw and victory for Mumbai, the defending Ranji Trophy champions, at the same time.

Kotian, who showed remarkable maturity to steer Mumbai innings after the early depar-



The Ranji Trophy and Irani Cup belong to everyone - from the maiden cricketers to everyone playing cricket in Mumbai

AJINKYA RAHANE | SKIPPER, MUMBAI

ture of Sarfaraz Khan (17) and Shardul Thakur (2), received good support from No 10 Mohit Avasthi. Mumbai were 171 for seven at that stage.

Avasthi remained unbeaten on 51 off 93 balls, striking four fours and a six, and helped Kotian to add valuable 158 runs for the ninth wicket.

Off-spinner Saransh Jain took six wickets (6/121) but his efforts

Chance for fringe players to shine



Indian men's cricket team will play three T20 matches against Bangladesh starting today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gwalior, Oct 5: Pace sensation Mayank Yadav is expected to unleash his raw speed while the absence of India's T20 regulars will provide another opportunity to the fringe players in the three-match series against Bangladesh, beginning here Sunday.

Having consistently generated speed in excess of 150 kmph in his maiden IPL earlier this year, Mayank had drawn the attention of the cricketing world before a side strain ruled him out of the tournament.

Usually, one has to prove fitness in domestic cricket to be considered for national selection but the 22-year-old has been fast-tracked into the side considering his special talent.

The series against Bangladesh will be a test of his fitness and temperament. It remains to be seen if he can display the same accuracy and control that he exhibited in the IPL.

Besides Mayank, fellow Delhi pacer Harshit Rana and all-rounder Nitish Kumar could also make their India debut over the course of the series.

Nitish was picked for the

Zimbabwe tour post the T20 World Cup but got injured while Harshit did not get to play in the five-match series in Harare.

With Tests against New Zealand given preference, Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mohammed Siraj and Axar Patel have been rested from the T20s against Bangladesh.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya are the two big names in the squad while the other two who were part of the triumphant World Cup unit here are Shivam Dube and Arshdeep Singh.

The break to the regulars will give opportunity to the likes of Abhishek Sharma to build his credentials following a hundred in Zimbabwe at the top of the order. Sanju Samson could get to open alongside the southpaw in the series-opener.

Riyan Parag has got six T20s since July but he could not replicate the sizzling form he showed in IPL 2024. The Bangladesh games give him another chance to make a strong impact.

The series will mark the comeback of mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy, whose international career came to an abrupt halt following the disastrous 2021 T20 World Cup in the UAE. The other specialist spinner in the squad is Ravi Bishnoi.

Meanwhile Mumbai and Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Shivam Dube has been ruled out owing to a back injury that has recently resurfaced. Mumbai Indians left-hander Tilak Varma has been recalled to the squad.

INDIA'S SQUAD

Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Tilak Varma, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakaravathy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav.

OFC women gear up for AFC dare

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 5: The girls will kick off their AFC Women's Champions League group stage campaign Sunday, facing Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies. The match will be held at Thong Nhat Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, with kickoff scheduled at 13:30 IST.

Urawa come into this fixture with three wins from their last five outings in their national league (WE League), boasting a potent attacking lineup led by the likes of Shimada, Fujisaki, Shiokoshi, Tsunoda, and Seike. They present a formidable challenge, especially in the final third.



However, Odisha FC is confident about recent victories, having secured a spot in the group stage with a 4-1 win over Singapore's Lion City Sailors and a 2-1 triumph against Jordan's Etihad Club. Despite an injury in the second game, Lynda Kom's consecutive goals were a highlight, along with Shreya's stellar performance between the sticks. Grace will miss the game due to a five-match ban from the red card.

IPL AUCTION 2025

Franchises file complaint against RTM

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 5: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has already announced the retention rules for the franchises. The final date for the sides to submit their picks is October 31.

Each franchise could retain a maximum of six players with the Right-To-Match (RTM) option included in it. However, there has been a change in the traditional RTM process about which the franchises have reportedly made an official complaint to the BCCI.

The franchises claimed that the RTM rule change would fail to



serve the purpose for which it was initially introduced.

As per the old method of RTM, an original team of a player could retain him using RTM card by matching the last bid put on the player at the auction. This used to help the original team retain the player at auction that too at his right market value. However the new changes give the team with last bid a chance to increase the amount to an arbitrary value, in case the original team wants to use RTM option.

If team 1 holds the RTM for player X and team 2 has placed the highest bid of Rs 6 crore, then team 1 will be first asked if

they will exercise RTM, if team 1 agrees, then team 2 will have the chance to increase their bid. If team 2 raises their bid to Rs 9 crore, then team 1 can use the RTM and acquire player X for Rs 9 crore. If team 2 chooses not to raise the bid and keeps it at Rs 6 crore, team 1 can use the RTM and get player X for Rs 6 crore.

"The franchises argue that the essence of the RTM is to establish a player's market value, and this purpose is not served when a franchise is required to match an arbitrarily raised bid. As clarified by the BCCI, the increase can be any amount, which diminishes the value of the incremental bid at that stage," said reports.

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