



SANON COMES CLEAN

Actor Kriti Sanon reveals the reason she rejected Karan Johar's segment in Netflix's Hindi-language anthology film

LEISURE P2



SHOW OF STRENGTH

Air raid sirens blare in a South Korean island after North Korea fires more than 20 missiles towards it Wednesday

INTERNATIONAL P10



SWIATEK SHINES

World No.1 Iga Swiatek opens her bid for a first WTA Finals title with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Daria Kasatkina

SPORTS P12

No exit poll during Dhamnagar bypoll

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Tight security arrangements have been put in place for the Dhamnagar constituency where bypoll will be conducted Thursday, chief electoral officer (CEO) SK Lohani said Wednesday. He also informed that a ban has been imposed on the broadcast of exit or opinion polls during voting November 3. Over 2.38 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise.

A total of 1,000 police personnel and four companies of central paramilitary forces have been deployed and the entry and exit points of Dhamnagar constituency have been sealed, Lohani informed. Of the total 252 polling booths, 110 have been declared sensitive. Bhadrak DSP Charan Singh visited sensitive booths Wednesday and has reviewed security arrangements personally, added Lohani.

There are five candidates in fray for the bypoll. Among them are BJD's Abanti Das BJP's Suryabanshi Suraj, Congress's Baba Harekrushna Sethi and rebel BJD leader Rajendra Kumar Das who is contesting as an Independent candidate.

Canvassing for votes within a distance of 100 metres from the polling booths has also been prohibited, Lohani said. He added that there will be 15 model booths and five pink booths, which will have women security personnel.



PREZ TO VISIT ODISHA NOVEMBER 10

Bhubaneswar: President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to undertake a two-day visit to Odisha beginning November 10, Raj Bhavan sources said here Wednesday. This will be Murmu's first visit to Odisha after being sworn in July 25 as President. She will stay at the Raj Bhavan upon her arrival, before visiting the Jagannath Temple in Puri the next day. The President's Secretariat has informed the office of the Odisha Governor in this regard, sources said. Murmu is currently on a two-day trip to Nagaland where she will visit the World War II cemetery and visit Kigwema, one of the oldest villages that the Angami tribe resides in.



ED BEGINS PROBE IN ARCHANA CASE

Bhubaneswar: The Enforcement Directorate has registered a case against Archana Nag, her husband Jagabandhu Chand and two others and has started a probe into the allegations of blackmailing and extortion, sources said Wednesday. They added that all those having links and financial transactions with Archana would be served notice and the bank statements of all the accused will be verified. This development comes a day after Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's announcement at a poll rally in Dhamnagar that the Archana case would be probed by central agencies. Commissionerate Police had arrested Archana October 6 and her husband October 22 on charges of honey trapping bigwigs and extorting huge amounts of money from them.



TUSKER TALES: A wild elephant entered Bhubaneswar in the wee hours of Wednesday creating panic among the residents living near Lingaraj Temple (R), before it was tranquilised by Forest department officials. The elephant was later released in Chandaka forest range



Plus II student electrocuted in Kendrapara dist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 2: A Class XI student of Plus-II science stream was electrocuted to death after coming in contact with an 11-kv high-tension wire at a residential coaching centre at Luna Square in Marshaghai locality of Kendrapara district, late Tuesday night. The deceased Debi Prasad Das, 17 was a native of Gopinathpur village under Mahakalpara block. Five other inmates also sustained burn injuries while trying to rescue Das.

The incident occurred when the deceased accidentally came in contact with the live wire which was hanging precariously close to the balcony and died on the spot.

The deceased's family members have lodged an FIR against the authorities of the coaching centre alleging negligence. Marshaghai police arrested Wednesday the manager of the study centre, Chittaranjan Rath.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You are also a legislator but not from opposition. You are free to make hate speeches

Petrol with 20% ethanol in 2023

With the government seeking to end its dependency on imports for meeting its oil needs, the 20:80 mix of ethanol and petrol will start in select outlets all across India within a couple of months

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: The government Wednesday hiked the price of ethanol used for blending in petrol as it looked to raise the doping quantity to cut India's reliance on imported oil. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by PM Narendra Modi, raised the price of ethanol for all the varieties, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told reporters here.

The price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane juice was increased to ₹65.61 per litre, from the current ₹63.45 per litre for the supply year beginning December 2022 while the rate for ethanol from the C-heavy molasses variety has been increased to ₹49.41 per litre from ₹46.66, informed Puri.

At present, 10 per cent ethanol is blended in petrol (10 per cent ethanol, 90 per cent petrol) and the government is looking to double the quantity by 2024-25.

"We have saved about ₹40,000 crore in forex outgo from 10 per cent blending besides benefiting the farmers," Puri said. He added a



pilot to start E-20 (petrol with 20 per cent ethanol) will start from April 2023 at select petrol pumps.

The use of ethanol, extracted from sugarcane as well as broken rice and other agri produce, will help the world's third-largest oil consumer and importing country cut its reliance on overseas shipments. India currently is 85 per cent dependent on imports for meeting its oil needs.

A total of 452 crore litre of ethanol was blended with petrol

is being targetted with an eye to start larger volumes of blending.

It should be stated here that Brazil and the three states of Missouri, Minnesota and Hawaii in the US use gasoline motor fuel blended with ethanol. So if from next year, India starts selling petrol mixed with 20% ethanol, it will be the third country to do so. The US and Brazil are the two largest sugarcane producing countries in the world and it is but natural that they will use ethanol-based motor fuel.

Puri also cited the example of Brazil where flexi-fuel vehicles are available and the consumer can take ethanol or petrol as per choice. He asserted that this will be the ultimate goal of the government.

It had been earlier said that adding ethanol to petrol does not have any effect on vehicles currently being used and produced in India. On the other hand, some experts have pointed out that as ethanol contains oxygen, it helps in more complete combustion of the fuel and reduces emissions and makes ethanol-based petrol a better fuel for the environment.

Continued on P4

Woman gang-raped in City; two arrested

POST NEW NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: A woman from Cuttack was allegedly gang-raped by two persons in Kharvelnagar area here, police said, Wednesday.

According to officials of Kharvelnagar police, the alleged incident took place when the woman, a resident of Mangalabag area in the Silver City, had come here for some work Sunday.

Unable to return home due to odd hours, the woman was sitting at an isolated place near Ram Mandir here when Purna Chandra Mallick, who works as a security guard at a nearby ATM kiosk, approached and offered to help her, said a police official, quoting the victim's complaint.

"Finding the woman alone, Mallick approached her saying that she can take rest near the ATM. Without sensing danger, the lady went with him to a room nearby where he raped her. Later, Mallick called Basanta Kumar Sahu to the room, where the two took turns to force themselves on her," added the official.

The official said that Mallick and

Sahu unsuccessfully tried to settle the matter by offering her money. However, the woman refused to compromise and insisted on filing a complaint.

"The next day, October 31, the woman approached the Kharvelnagar police and narrated her ordeal. On the basis of her complaint, police registered a case (377/2022) under Section 376(D) of the Indian Penal Code and launched a probe," said the official. The police official also added that the woman has been medically examined and her statement has been recorded under Section 161 of CrPC.

Mallick, 48, a resident of Turtiapatada under Airfield police limits and Sahu, 40, a resident of Jharpada under Laxmisagar police limits here have been taken into custody, the official said. He added that police had been probing the matter for the past two days since the filing of the complaint.

Police also said that the two accused have confessed to their crime. They added that medical examinations of the two accused have also been conducted and both were produced in court Wednesday.

DHABALESWAR SERVITORS NOT TO FOLLOW CURBS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 2: The servitors of the Dhableswar temple in Athagarh block of Cuttack district said Wednesday that they will not follow the order of virtual darshan of the deity during Panchuka as issued by the administration.

Earlier in the day officials of the district administration had issued orders for installation of a temporary idol of Lord Dhableswar near the suspension bridge connecting the temple. It was also decided that virtual darshan of the deity will be done on LED screen near the hanging bridge.

"We do not want to perform rituals near a temporary idol instead of the temple. We will carry out the

rituals inside the original temple," some of the servitors said. "Hence we will not cooperate with the administration," they asserted.

It should be stated here that keeping in mind the Morbi bridge disaster a few days back in Gujarat, the Odisha government has asked devotees not to visit the temple till further orders while the safety of the suspension bridge is verified. This year's 'Dhableswar Jatra' has also been cancelled in view of the imposition of prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC at the temple. The restrictions have come ahead of the Bada Osha and Kartika Purnima festivals. The suspension bridge was constructed in 2006 for devotees. Prior to that visitors had to reach the temple on boats.

'Doomsday Vault' awaits doomsday as mercury rises

The seed bank was built to protect future generations against global catastrophes, but now its very existence is threatened due to increase in global warming

AGENCIES

Svalbard (Norway), Nov 2: It is called the 'Doomsday Vault', but very few really know about it, other than scientists and researchers working on climate changes. Even though, 'Doomsday Vault' appears threatening, it is meant to protect the world from global catastrophes like a nuclear war.

The 'Doomsday Vault' houses the 'Svalbard Global Seed Bank, a

storage place for more than 9,00,000 seed samples originating from almost every country in the world, from everyday staples including wheat and rice, to rare species such as the critically endangered Bermuda bean. It has been built in case future generations need to 'overcome the challenges of climate change and population growth'. But according to recent news, one of the very scenarios the vault is intended to safeguard against, could destroy it.

Temperatures in the Norwegian archipelago Svalbard, which is the home of the seed vault, could rise by up to 10°Celsius (50°Fahrenheit) before the end of the century, according to a report published by a section of the Norwegian media. It means that the change in con-



ditions will increase the likelihood of floods, avalanches and landslides in the next few decades of this century which may well affect utility of the vault.

The editor of the report is Inger Hanssen-Bauer, senior researcher at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute. In the report she has said that climate in Svalbard's capital

Longyearbyen is probably warming faster than in any other town on Earth. "The findings are very dramatic," Hanssen-Bauer was quoted as saying by 'Norwegian Broadcasting' (NRK). "We're facing enormously large changes. I'm afraid we'll also get more surprises," she added.

The annual mean temperature in Longyearbyen in 1900 was -7.8°C (18°F) and since then, it has risen by 3.7°C (39°F) - more than three times the global average of about 1°C (33.8°F), Hanssen-Bauer was quoted as saying by the 'CNN'. Scientists have said that in a worst case scenario, Svalbard could become 18 degrees Fahrenheit (10°Celsius) warmer by the year 2100.

Continued on P4

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Today, you want to do something for the environment. Ganesh says plant a tree, clean up your neighbourhood, ask for a paper bag. You wish to lead the world into a better place? Do it by all means, but one step at a time.

TAURUS

Nostalgia will paint your workplace a bright energetic red today, says Ganesh. All the problems that life throws at you will be deflected by your tough exterior and efficient capabilities. Medals and trophies beckon as you taste success and emerge a winner.

GEMINI

You will tend to be religiously inclined today, feels Ganesh. For this purpose, you may spend some time visiting a temple, mosque or church. You are also likely to go shopping, and chances are that this too is for a religious purpose. May God bless you, says Ganesh.

CANCER

Ganesh predicts an excellent and exceptional day for you at work. You are likely to need all your business acumen while negotiating deals. Your leadership skills are likely to come to the fore during the final stage of a deadline, be it about completing an order or launching new products and marketing them, says Ganesh.

LEO

Today may not be the best time to mess with you, considering the aura of invincibility that you possess. Be it a game, a competition, or an argument, you will have the edge over others in every sphere, says Ganesh. Also, you may come across people with whom you will have personal differences, and those who will try to change your fortunes.

VIRGO

Ganesh feels that today may be an important turning point in your life. You will look to secure the money much required for your bright future. Relationship matters will top your priorities during the afternoon today. You may also feel the need for spirituality, so try your hand at meditation and yoga.

LIBRA

Today is an important day for you, and you will learn a lot from your life partner. Even on the work front, business partners will extend their best possible cooperation to you. Your chances of winning in cut-throat competitions are very bright today, predicts Ganesh.

SCORPIO

You are likely to get overboard with your ambitions and be loud-mouthed, says Ganesh. But do not be too forceful or severe lest you end up tarnishing your image. It is best to stay clear of conflicts in the larger scheme of things, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

The wait for some good news may have been too long, but it will surely find its way to you today, says Ganesh. Your focus will remain fixed on work, and you may feel like you are finally starting to like your job. This, in turn, will lead you to take some well-informed decisions about your future. And if the good news comes at the right time, you will probably be saved the effort of finding a new job.

AQUARIUS

You may find your schedules running haywire today! Your workload may be daunting, especially if you're an administrator. However, Ganesh says your diligence and commitment will tide you through. And you are still ready to party in the evening. What energy!

PISCES

Your business associates will marvel at your business acumen, and will respect the insights you provide for them to work with. Meanwhile, you will be busy spending quality time with your family and showing them how much they mean to you today, says Ganesh.



SHAKIRA HELPING ILL DAD WITH PHYSIOTHERAPY IN HOSPITAL

Pop singer Shakira, 45, posted a video of herself assisting her father William Mebarak Chadid with physiotherapy after she announced last week the 91-year-old had been admitted to the Teknon-Quiron clinic in Barcelona. Details about his health condition are confidential, so the family asks for respect at this time.

GLEE ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOR JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

American writer Ryan Murphy has revealed the character of Mr. Schue, which was played by Matthew Morrison, on *Glee* was originally written with Justin Timberlake in mind. He and co-creator Ian Brennan had a much darker depiction in mind for Timberlake, Murphy said.



Odia film *Adieu Godard* bags top honour at UK film fest

The award at CIFF only reassures that the language of cinema can survive even if it is stripped off its ornamental glamour, says director Amartya Bhattacharyya



A screengrab from the movie

Bhubaneswar: Yet another prestigious award for Odia film *Adieu Godard*. The Amartya Bhattacharyya directorial was adjudged as the Best Feature Film, the seventh international honour, at the recently concluded Cardiff International Film Festival (CIFF)-2022. Nearly 100 films from across the globe were part of the festival lineup. Made under Swastik Art House banner, the movie, which is now a part of ongoing 10th Asian Film Festival of Barcelona, has been traveling to several festivals across the world since its world premiere at the 43rd Moscow International Film Festival last year.

Earlier, the film, an Indo-French production, had its theatrical run across Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Kolkata, New Delhi, and Bangalore followed by special shows held in Jaipur and Mumbai. Reacting to the news, Amartya said, "When a film as grounded as this competes with the best of the world and wins big at an international festival like CIFF, it only reassures that cinema is not just about glitter and gloss. The language of cinema can survive even if it is stripped off its ornamental glamour. In today's world, since there is a heavy imposition of technological grandeur, it is even more important that films like

these get the due attention". Actor and producer Swastik Choudhury, who plays the much-talked-about character of Jatin in the film, says - "Over the years Cardiff has become an important international film festival. The top honour for *Adieu Godard* puts Odia cinema right on the global stage and is something everyone back home will be proud of". The film has Choudhury Bikas Das, Dipanwit Dashmohapatra, Sudharsri Madhusmita, Swastik Choudhury, Choudhury Jayaprakash Das, Shankar Basu Mallick, and Abhishek Giri playing key roles.



Kriti reveals reason behind rejecting KJo's *Lust Stories*

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon is undoubtedly one of the most sought-after talents of contemporary Hindi cinema. The actress, who hails from a Delhi-based Punjabi family, made it big in the Hindi film industry with sheer passion and hard work. In a recently aired *Koffee With Karan 7* episode, the *Mimi* actress revealed about the reason she rejected Karan Johar's segment in Netflix's *Lust Stories*. She opted out of the project as her mother asked her to do so, Kriti said. Recently Kriti's mom Geeta Sanon was trolled on social media for liking the *Thumkeshwari* song from the upcoming

film *Bhediya*. The recent chartbuster features Kriti, along with Varun Dhawan and Shraddha Kapoor. The trolls pointed out how Geeta approved of her daughter performing for such sensuous songs, while she was not happy about Kriti doing *Lust Stories*, because of its explicit scenes. Geeta earlier revealed, "I thought we would not be comfortable seeing her doing such a scene at the beginning of her career. It's about orgasm, only". Defending her mom, Kriti said, "I think her problem was more that it was a short film and not a full-fledged film, so my mother said it was a 20-minute thing about only a female orgasm. If you are doing a 20-minute thing in a full-fledged film, that would make sense. I don't think there's anything wrong. Maybe as Karan said, if he had talked to my mother, it would have been all right."

SRK's 57th b'day celebrated with screening of *DDLJ* in 28 cinemas

New Delhi: As Shah Rukh Khan turned 57 Wednesday, cinema chain PVR screened his iconic film *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jaayenge (DDLJ)* to celebrate the moment. The movie was screened across 28 cinemas in 18 cities namely Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chandigarh among others. Shah Rukh says: "*DDLJ* has been an extremely special film for me. I am grateful for all the love I have been receiving over the years for the film. Bringing it back on my birthday just makes it more special. Thank you!" Released October 20, 1995, the film shares a legacy with PVR as its legacy property. PVR Priya in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi screened the movie for the first time in 1995. Sanjeev Kumar Bijli, Joint Managing Director, PVR Ltd, said, "Shah Rukh Khan is one of the very few names in the Hindi film industry, who has become synonymous with the genre of romance." Rohan Malhotra, Vice President - Distribution, Yash Raj Films said, "*DDLJ* is the longest running film in the history of Indian cinema which has shaped pop culture as we know today. It is our biggest IP and it is symbolic to the deep bond that Shah Rukh Khan and Aditya Chopra's YRF share."

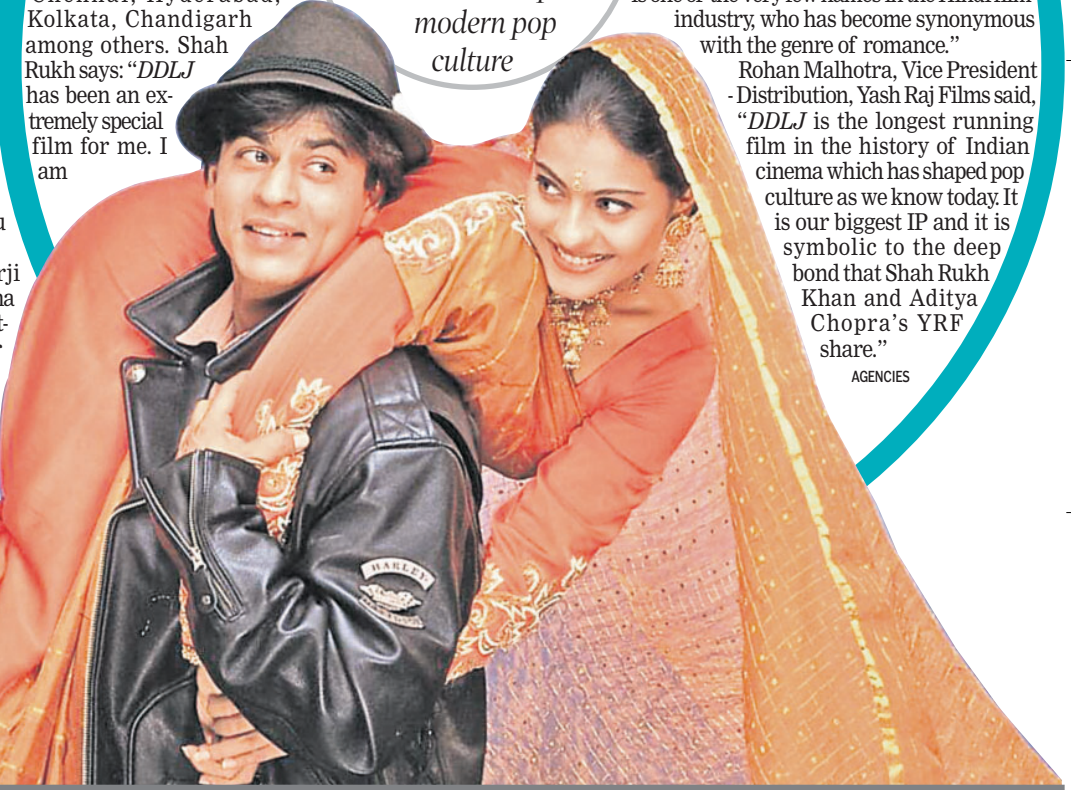
'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jaayenge' is the longest running film in the history of Indian cinema which has shaped modern pop culture



Mouni shares her experience of a lifetime

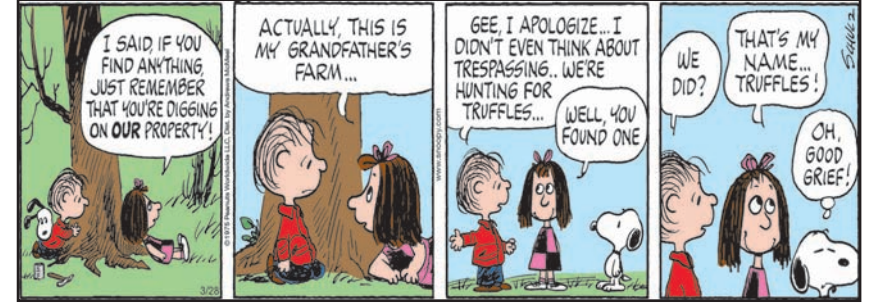
Mumbai: Actress Mouni Roy, who is currently awaiting digital premiere of her mythological adventure movie, *Brahmastra*, has shared that the film is very special to her for many reasons. Most importantly, it gave her the chance to collaborate and work with the frontrunners of Hindi cinema. Elaborating on the same, she said: "Brahmastra will always be very special. Because of its ambition and then of course, because it gave me the opportunity to work with such an incredible

cast and these legends - which has made it an experience I will treasure for a lifetime." She further mentioned that the film proved to be a learning curve for her: "It was a privilege to share that screen time with them - and apart from the discipline and passion that they still work with everyday, I learnt many things from each of them." The Indian spectacle is headlined by actors such as Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Telugu megastar Nagarjuna Akkineni. The film, directed by Ayan Mukerji and produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, is dropping on OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar November 4.

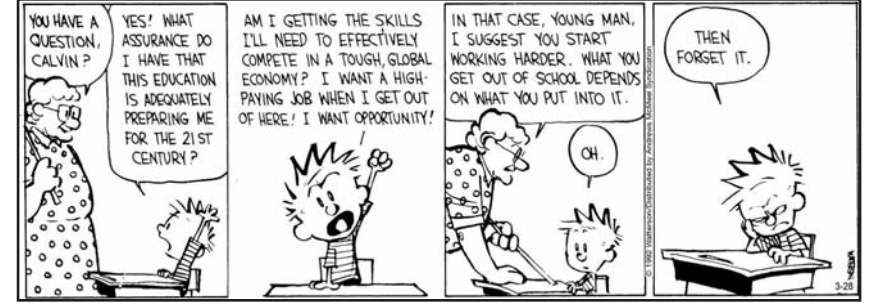


FUN post

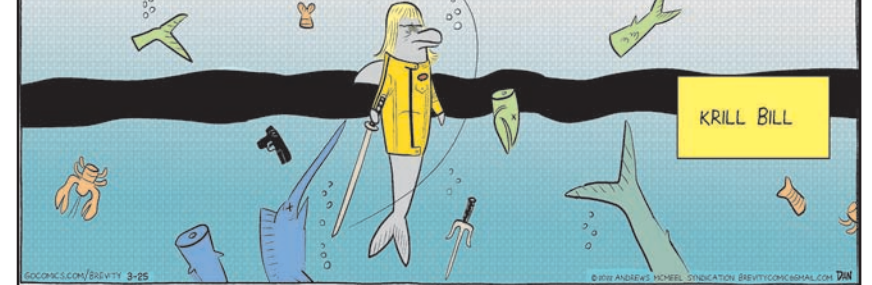
PEANUTS



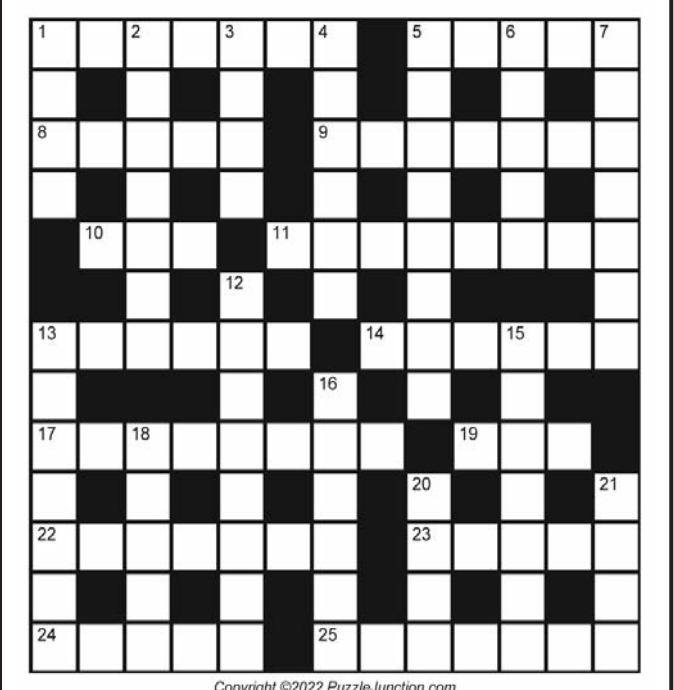
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY

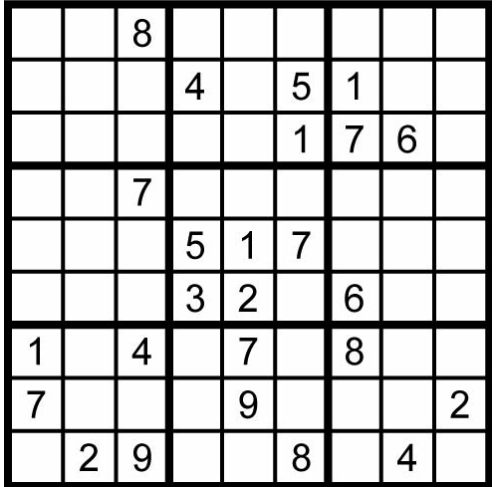


CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Improve, medically
 - 5 Bleakness
 - 8 Private road
 - 9 Elsa of 'Born Free'
 - 10 Small cask or barrel
 - 11 Insanity
 - 13 Do a slow burn
 - 14 Prophet
 - 17 Type of jacket
 - 19 Favorite
 - 22 Opening
 - 23 Fable finale
 - 24 Opus
 - 25 Altar boy
- Down**
- 1 Ill-mannered
 - 2 Type of restaurant or checkers
 - 3 Perspective
 - 4 Curler
 - 5 Pure mathematics
 - 6 For all to see
 - 7 E-mail, e.g.
 - 12 Crumbly cheese
 - 13 Part of a heartbeat
 - 15 Distinctly
 - 16 Movie house
 - 18 Gallic goodbye
 - 20 Bullets, briefly
 - 21 The colour of blood, maybe?

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS



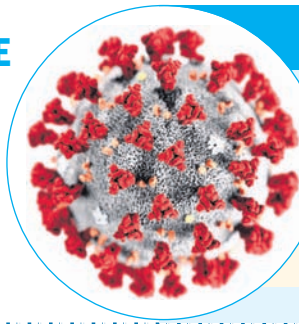
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



CAPTIVATING AUDIENCE

Members of Uttarayani Club of Jatni presented Odia play *Mankada Hatare Shalagram* at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday on the 2nd day of Natyadhara



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	63,61,44,512	61,56,13,660	65,96,100
India	4,46,55,828	4,41,09,133	5,30,452
Odisha	13,36,195	13,26,728	9,203



CROP LOSS FEAR: Standing paddy crops in around 2,000 ha farmlands in Begunia block of Khurda district may wilt as irrigation facilities have gone haywire. Though government reports claim that around 20 per cent farmlands in the block are irrigated, an unofficial estimate claims it to be a meagre 7 per cent

DRDO conducts flight-test of BMD interceptor

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Wednesday successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile, with large kill altitude bracket, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

The flight-test was carried out with participation of all BMD weapon system elements located at different geographical locations. The AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.

It is propelled by a two-stage solid motor and equipped with indigenously-developed advanced control system, navigation and guidance algorithm to guide the vehicle.

During the flight-test, all the sub-systems performed as per expectations and were validated by the data captured by a number of range sensors including Radar, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking stations deployed to capture the flight data, said Ministry of Defence.

Termed it as a unique type of interceptor with advanced technologies available with a very few nations in the world, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and other teams associated with flight trial of AD-1.

5-year plan for infra revamp in suburbs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Wednesday directed the department officials concerned to prepare a comprehensive five-year perspective plan for development of basic infrastructure in peri-urban areas surrounding all major urban local bodies (ULBs).

Presiding over a high-level meeting here, Mahapatra asked the officials to improve the road communication and basic service infrastructure in the suburban areas.

The officials of Works, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Water Resources, and Housing & Urban Development departments have been asked to prepare an action plan for development of such basic infrastructure.

The departments were asked to make a detailed survey of the roads connecting major ULBs and growth centres and prioritise those on the basis of traffic load.

He also directed to identify the

The depts were asked to make a detailed survey of the roads connecting major ULBs and growth centres, and prioritise those on the basis of traffic load

missing intra-connecting links for creating a road network in these areas. The departments were asked to work out the plan in about a month.

Highlighting the need for seamless communication between fast moving urban centres with peri-urban areas, Mahapatra said, "Rapidly growing urban centres provide employment and livelihood opportunities to the people from cross sections of society. People from the surrounding areas mostly commute to the urban centres on a daily basis for attending offices, availing different services

like education, clinical care, land registration, court work among others."

This apart, many people also commute to cities for vending, trade and commerce, he added.

Development of good road communication in suburban areas would help ease the traffic flow of inbound and outbound vehicles. Provisions of quality water supply, power supply, market place and basic services would help better quality of life in these areas. Similarly, decreasing the burden of housing in ULBs would add to ease of living and enhance the satisfaction level of the people, the Chief Secretary maintained.

Issues related to road cutting for laying of water pipes, sewer lines, underground cablings in important urban centres, and timely shifting of utilities from the roads taken up for widening were also discussed and resolved in the meeting.

Moreover, issues like shifting of utility poles and substations for development of major junctions namely Rasulgah Square, Kalpana Square, Ravi Talkies Square, Beharasi Chhak and others under Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) were discussed in details and resolved.

Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena directed that road cutting for laying cables and pipes would be the responsibility of the road owning authorities concerned. The agency or the department executing the work should restore the road immediately after the work in one portion of the road is over, Jena added.

Subhrakant new FICCI prez-elect



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Wednesday announced Subhrakant Panda as its president-elect.

Panda is currently the Senior Vice President of FICCI. He shall succeed Sanjiv Mehta as President of the apex chamber at the conclusion of the 95th Annual General Meeting to be held from December 16 to 17, 2022. "It's a privilege to get the opportunity to helm this great institution at a crucial juncture. I will do my best to strengthen FICCI and contribute to the growth story of India," he said. Panda is the managing director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys (Imfa) Ltd.

302 cybercrime complaints in Oct

Bhubaneswar: The Cybercrime Help Desk of the Commissionerate Police has received 302 complaints in October, an official said, Wednesday. Of the 302 complaints, 272 were from the Capital city while remaining 30 were from other parts of the state, said the official.

SC to hear plea on lawyers' stir Nov 14

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Supreme Court Wednesday agreed to hear an application filed by Registrar of Orissa High Court on the issue of abstention of work by members Bar Associations in several districts of the state.

Counsel for Orissa High Court, advocate Sibho Sankar Mishra mentioned the matter before the bench of Chief Justice UU Lalit and sought early listing of the case. The Chief Justice directed the apex court registry to list the matter November 14.

The Registrar of Orissa HC stated that members of the Bar Associations not only of the Western Odisha but also the members of Bar Associations of other districts of the state have not participated in regular court proceedings on different occasions. It was stated that the reasons for abstention of work are establishment of permanent bench of Orissa HC in western Odisha and establishment of courts among others.

"It may be appropriate to mention here that the members of Bar Association of the districts of

Sambalpur have attended only urgent work September 26, 27 and 30, observed September 28 as protest day. The members of Ganjam Bar Associations are observing

"Satyagrah/Dharna" during the last four days of the every month, the members of the District Bar Association, Jeypore in Koraput district are not participating in the last two working days of every month and the members of Bhubaneswar Bar Association are observing one day cease work on the last Friday of every month," the petition reads.

The Registrar submitted that such abstention by the members of the Bar Associations has seriously hampered the judicial work in all the subordinate courts of the state. "To be precise, the statistics for the period from January 1 to September 30 show that during this period the loss of cumulative judicial working hours in subordinate courts is 2, 14, 176 hours. Loss of such working hours in subordinate courts despite the order of the Supreme Court amounts to clear breach of the order," the petition reads.



The HC Registrar submitted that abstention by members of Bar Associations has seriously hampered the judicial work in the subordinate courts

Study bins morning exercise idea for blood sugar control

Neither the amount of sedentary time nor the number of breaks in sedentary behaviour was found to have any favourable association with liver fat content or insulin resistance

Morning physical activity offers no advantages in reducing insulin resistance while afternoon or evening physical activity has now been associated with better blood sugar control to avoid diabetes risk in people, according to a significant research.

It has long been argued that the timing of physical activity throughout the day may be a factor in metabolic health. However, the timing of physical activity is a relatively unexplored field in human biology and the mechanisms underlying the potential benefits of timing of physical activity remain unclear.

A new study published in Diabetologia has now discovered that afternoon or evening physical activity is associated with better blood sugar control.

The study was led by Dr Jeroen van der Velde and colleagues at Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, the Netherlands.

"The results suggest that timing of physical activity throughout the day is relevant for the beneficial effects of physical activity on insulin sensitivity. Further studies should assess whether timing of physical ac-



tivity is indeed important for the occurrence of type 2 diabetes," they mentioned. For the study, the researchers used data from the Netherlands Epidemiology of Obesity (NEO) study.

Participants underwent a physical examination during which blood samples were taken to measure fasting

and after-meal blood glucose and insulin levels, while demographic, lifestyle and clinical information were obtained via questionnaire.

They were also screened for suitability for an MRI scan, and roughly 35 per cent of those able to undergo the procedure were randomly selected to have their liver fat content measured using this technique.

"There was no significant difference in insulin resistance between morning activity and activity spread evenly over the day," the results showed.

Neither the amount of sedentary time nor the number of breaks in sedentary behaviour was found to have any favourable association with liver fat content or insulin resistance.

"It could be that in our study, the intensity of the activity during the breaks was too light to cause metabolic responses. Most daily activities are of light intensity and because we did not observe an association between LPA and insulin resistance, this may also explain the lack of an association between breaks and insulin resistance," the researchers noted.

"Further studies should assess whether timing of physical activity is indeed important for the occurrence of type 2 diabetes," they added.

Chief Electoral Officer, Odisha

BYE ELECTION, 2022

Important information for voters of 46-Dhamnagar (SC) Assembly constituency

Date of Poll : 3rd November, 2022 (Thursday)
Time of Poll : 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Please wear mask while coming to Polling Station

Please bring Voter Identity Card or any one of the following identification documents mentioned below to exercise your franchise.

- Aadhaar Card
- MNREGA Job Card
- Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office
- Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour
- Driving License
- PAN Card

- Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR
- Indian Passport
- Pension document with Photograph
- Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies
- Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs
- Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, M/o Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

— Please stand in the three respective queues of male, female and PwD/Senior citizen voters according to your own category

— Maintain Social Distance in Booth

— Enter the Polling Station one by one

— Don't gather in front of the polling official

Download Voter Helpline App or Log onto www.nvsp.in to know about your details in Voter List or call Toll Free No. 1950

Your one VOTE matters, Pl. do VOTE & Strengthen Democracy

HANGING BRIDGE OVER NAGAVALI RIVER

Disaster lurks as visitors throw curbs to the winds



as 25 persons have lost their lives in mishaps near or over the bridge while taking selfies or due to lack of precaution in the last five years.

In August, a six-year-old boy from Andhra Pradesh who had visited the site along with his family was swept away by the river. Thereafter, the district administration has completely closed the way to the hanging bridge.

However, people and visitors have thrown the restrictions to the winds and are often seen roaming on the bridge. The iron fencing has been uprooted while the iron pillars and fencing are gathering rust.

The district administration had decided to close the bridge for the public in September for its renovation. Later, the administration revoked its decision to close the bridge and imposed some curbs as it connects more than 30 villages in the district.

In view of the recent collapse of the hanging bridge on the Machhu river in Gujarat's Morbi which took as many as 135 lives, locals have flagged concerns over the overloading on the bridge which is crying for repair and renovation. They have demanded strict en-

forcement of the restrictions in place to avoid any untoward situation in the days to come.

It was alleged that repair of the bridge is not being taken up and surprisingly, there is no clarity as to who is looking after its maintenance.

Rayagada Municipality authorities said that ITDA should look after the maintenance of the bridge as it has built the bridge.

When ITDA authorities are asked about its maintenance, they shift the responsibility onto the municipality and the block authorities.

Locals have alleged that despite restrictions, visitors still roam on the bridge. They have drawn the attention of the local tehsildar towards the breach of restrictions. The tehsildar said that walls will be raised on both sides along with deployment of police. However, no such measure has been taken so far, it was alleged.

Contacted, Rayagada Collector Swadhadav Singh said that a joint technical team has been assigned to assess the condition of the bridge and renovation work will be undertaken following the report.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 2: State's second hanging bridge, after the one at Cuttack's Dhableswar shrine, is over the Nagavali river near Chekaguda in Rayagada district.

It was built in 2011 at a cost of ₹1.20 crore. The 151-meter-long bridge connecting the Chekaguda area of Rayagada town with Mariguda village is suspended at a height of over 33 metres above Nagavali through cantilever technology. It was opened for the public in 2012. However, the bridge has been mishap-prone for lack of proper protective, security and crowd management measures for the bridge. It was learnt that as many

PERMANENT HC BENCH IN WESTERN ODISHA

Lawyers call for Sambalpur bandh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Nov 2: Lawyers have resumed their agitation over their demand for the establishment of a permanent bench of the Orissa High Court in Western Odisha. The District Lawyers' Association Wednesday observed a Sambalpur bandh over the long standing demand.

All government offices and courts remained closed during the bandh aimed at pressuring the government and concerned authorities to yield to their demand.

The judge of Sambalpur court could not enter the court premises and had to return home after the lawyers closed the court for the day. The association members held picketing at Kacheri Chhakh and stayed away from the court work. They were backed by

a number of social organisations and associations. However, all offices of the Central government, banks and insurance companies, schools and colleges were open. Moreover, all shops and business establishments as well as vehicular movement remained unaffected despite the bandh.

Locals and lawyers have long been demanding a permanent bench of Orissa High Court at Sambalpur in Western Odisha.

The lawyers alleged that the Centre had sought a complete proposal for the establishment of the permanent HC bench, but the Odisha government is not taking any step in this regard. Sureswar Mishra, president of District Lawyers' Association said, "The state government has reneged on its promise. No action has been taken till date. Hence, we are bound to sit in the protest."



Elephant dies after falling into well in Mayurbhanj



POST NEWS NETWORK

Biso/Baripada, Nov 2: An elephant died Wednesday after falling into a deep well in Mayurbhanj. The incident came to the

fore after animal's carcass was found inside a well near Daleidih village in Baripada. Sources said that some people of Daleidih area spotted an elephant's body in the well near their village. They informed the officials of the Biso Forest range about it. The forest officials rushed to the spot and pulled out the elephant's carcass from the well using the lifting logistics.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. ETCECONIIBBS 2022/13 Dtd: 28.10.2022

Name of work: TALCHER-BIMALAGARH NEW B.G. RAIL LINK PROJECT: FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND FIXING OF H-BEAM SLEEPERS INCLUDING FIXING OF GUARD RAILS ON BRIDGE NO. 55 (12x4M PLATE GIRDER AT CHAINAGE 24485M), ON BRIDGE NO.59 (1x30.5M +2x45.7M+1x30.5M STEEL THROUGH GIRDER AT CHAINAGE 26731 M) AND FABRICATION, SUPPLY AND FIXING OF STEEL CHANNEL SLEEPERS INCLUDING FIXING OF GUARD RAILS PARTLY ON BRIDGE NO. 57 (1x18.3M+ 15x45.7M+1x18.3M STEEL THROUGH GIRDER AT CHAINAGE 25350M) AND INCLUDING OTHER ALLIED WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH TALCHER-BIMALAGARH NEW B.G. RAIL LINK PROJECT.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 274.82 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2.8740% Completion period of the work: 03 Months.

Tender closing date & time: at 1200 hrs. of 21.11.2022.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in. The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ PR-138/CF/22-23 Bhubaneswar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that, Prabhat Kumar Ghadai, S/o- Purnachandra Ghadai, Resident of Titlagarh(Block Pada), P.O./P.S./ Titlagarh, Dist. - Balangir has sworn an affidavit on dt. 10.10.2022 and has reported to OIC, Titlagarh on 10.10.2022 regarding loss of original link Regd. Sale Deed No. 385/96 dt. 14.02.1996 of Registering Officer, Titlagarh.

Prakash Chandra Ghadai and Prabhat Kumar Ghadai both Sons of Purnachandra Ghadai have applied to the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD., Sambalpur to avail loan on the above property by mortgaging the said property documents.

All concerned therefore, having any claim over the property purchased under the said document Regd. Sale Deed No. 385/96 dt. 14.02.1996 of Registering Officer, Titlagarh is required to file their claim with the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice failing which it will be presumed that, the property having link with the said document/s is/are free from encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against the application as a mortgagor and the company as the mortgagee shall be void and ineffective after the lapse of 15(Fifteen)days of publication of this notice.

Sd/- A.K. Debta, Advocate, Sambalpur, LIC Housing Finance Ltd. A/P.O. - Modipara, Dt. 12.10.2022 Sambalpur, Odisha, Mobile No. 9437158519.

Bank of India POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Baramunda Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrowers in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Baramunda Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Table with columns: Name & Address of Borrowers, Liabilities due as per Notice, Date of Demand Notice/Date of Possession, Description of the Immovable Property. Includes details for Mr. Sarbeswar Sahoo and Mr. Hrushikesh Sahoo.

Tender-fixing alleged in computer purchase

POST NEWS NETWORK

SMART SCHOOLS

Jajpur, Nov 2: Fixing of tenders for procuring computers for 'Smart Schools' in Jajpur district has become very evident. The district administration floated tenders for computer supply to Smart schools through e-marketing (GEM). Sources added that some BDOs struck a deal with dealers to supply sub-standard computers to schools in their respective blocks at a 'fixed' rate. Some of the officials were accused of making ₹10,000 - ₹20,000 per computer. Each Smart school in district

has got four computers. Sources pointed out that despite allegations of supply of sub-standard materials, neither the district information officer, e-governance manager nor any official of OCAC verified the standard of the computers before buying them. Meanwhile, the unsuccessful bidders have written to the district collector, Panchyatriraj department and the ST Secretary. However, their pleas have not been addressed. The matter came to the fore after complaints

were filed before Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore about purchase of sub-standard computers by Dharmasala and Binjharpur BDOs. Rathore then held a review meeting and directed all BDOs to purchase computers within the price range of ₹35,000 to ₹40,000 each. Barchana and Rasulpur BDOs defied the order and bought computers at exorbitant rates. The BDOs are allegedly backed by a 'very influential' person. Barchana BDO was keen to purchase computers from the same dealer who had allegedly supplied computers Smart

schools in Binjharpur block. Similarly, the Rasulpur BDO asked three dealers, who had supplied sub-standard material in Dharmasala block, to supply computers for schools under his jurisdiction.

After the transfer order of Barchana BDO was issued, he directed a dealer in Cuttack to supply computers to the Smart schools with back-dated bills so that he could continue obtaining his 'cut money'.

Contacted, Rathore ruled out tender fixing and said that he is yet to receive any official complaint from any dealer.

Union Bank of India advertisement for a regional office in Balasore. Includes details for an e-auction sale of immovable assets, with property descriptions, prices, and contact information for the auctioneer.

of the day quote

Karnataka has the power of double engine, with the same party (BJP) in the government at both State and Centre. That is one of the reasons why the State is growing at a fast pace in several areas and is holding top ranking in ease of doing business and FDI inflow

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Farmers have to wait for payment for paddy, bajra, and cotton. Despite claims by the government, it is unable to pay the farmers on time. The farmers have not received compensation for the crops damaged due to the weather in every season for the last three years

BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA | HARYANA'S LEADER OF OPPN

I am shocked by the incident. I expressed my condolences to the family members of those who have lost their lives. I think there should be a judicial commission under the Supreme Court to look into the Gujarat bridge collapse

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SHORT TAKES

Bus hits several vehicles; 5 killed

Aligarh (UP): Five people were killed and over half a dozen were injured when a private bus hit several vehicles on a highway here, police said Wednesday. The incident took place Tuesday night in an area between Jattari and Tappal township, they said. The private bus from Punjab suddenly lost control and hit a dozen vehicles including cars, tempos, and two-wheelers, they said. While three people died on the spot, two succumbed in the hospital, they said. The police and district officials rushed to the spot and initiated rescue operations, they said.

Ela Bhatt, founder of SEWA, passes away

Ahmedabad: Renowned women's rights activist Ela Bhatt, the founder of SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), died here Wednesday due to age-related issues, her associates said. Bhatt, 89, a Padma Bhushan recipient, was a pioneer in the field of women empowerment and had received international recognition due to her work. "It is with profound grief that we announce the passing away of our beloved and respected founder, Smt. Elaben Bhatt, a pioneer in advocating for women workers' rights, we strive to carry her legacy forward," SEWA Bharat tweeted. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also condoled her death.

Delhi air quality remains 'poor'

New Delhi: The air quality of Delhi Wednesday entered in the "very poor" category, according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), and will remain the same Thursday also. However, the SAFAR also stated that the air quality in Noida may dip into the "severe" category with PM 2.5 levels expected to reach 415.

Bus catches fire

Nashik: In the second such incident in two days, a Shivshahi bus of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) caught fire on the Nashik-Pune highway Wednesday morning, police said. Nobody was injured in the incident which took place around 8 am near Malwadi Shivar in Sinner tehsil of Nashik district, said an official. Shivshahi is a luxury AC bus service of the state-run MSRTC.



The BJP is blaming farmers for burning stubble because of their protests. They now want FIRs to be filed against them. They should stop abusing farmers, stop seeking revenge from them

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

HEAVY RAIN LASHES TN AREAS

With the northeast monsoon in full fury and rain lashing the state, the Tamil Nadu government has declared an Orange alert for seven districts and holiday for schools and colleges. The orange alert has been issued for Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Ranipet, Villupuram and Vellore districts



Fierce battle in 7 seats across 6 states today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna/Lucknow/Hyderabad, Nov 2: Voting will be held Thursday in bypolls to seven assembly seats in six states - a contest symbolic of the fierce turf war between the BJP and regional parties.

While in Haryana former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal's family is trying to hold on to its bastion of five decades, Bihar will see the first electoral test for the Nitish Kumar-led Mahagathbandhan government, formed less than three months ago after the JD(U) parted ways with the BJP.

The BJP and the ruling TRS had been campaigning aggressively in Manugoda in Telangana, where the Congress MLA had resigned and is fighting on the saffron party's ticket. The Election Commission has made elaborate arrangements for polling, including the deployment of 3,366 state police and 15 companies of central security personnel in Manugoda. Webcasting would be done from all the polling stations, officials said.

In Adampur, Haryana, the by-election was necessitated after Bhajan Lal's younger son Kuldeep Bishnoi resigned as MLA from the seat and switched from the Congress to the BJP in August. Bishnoi's



The stage is all set for a tough battle in six states - Maharashtra, Telangana, Bihar, Haryana, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh - for the high-stakes bypolls in seven assembly constituencies November 3

The saffron party is seeking to retain Gola Gorakhnath seat in Uttar Pradesh and Dhamnagar in BJD-ruled Odisha, banking on sympathy votes as it has fielded the sons of sitting MLAs whose death necessitated the bypolls

by-election was necessitated due to the death of Rutuja Latke's husband and Shiv Sena MLA Ramesh Latke in May this year.

son Bhavya is now contesting as the BJP candidate.

The Adampur seat has been held by the Bhajan Lal family since 1968, with the late ex-chief minister representing it on nine occasions, his wife Jasma Devi once and Kuldeep on four occasions. The Congress, Indian National Lok Dal and Aam Aadmi Party are among the key parties contesting the bypolls.

Bypolls are being held in Mokama and Gopalganj seats in Bihar, earlier held by the RJD and the BJP respectively.

Mokama is the stronghold of Anant Singh since 2005. He won the seat twice on JD(U) tickets and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has appealed to voters to support him.

Shiv Sena's Rutuja Latke is expected to comfortably win Andheri East Assembly constituency in Mumbai after the BJP withdrew from the contest which is the first after the recent split in the Shiv Sena following a rebellion by Eknath Shinde, who replaced Thackeray as the Maharashtra Chief Minister.

The NCP and Congress have supported her candidature. The

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED SUMMONS HEMANT SOREN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren for questioning November 3 in a money laundering case linked to alleged illegal mining in the state, officials said Wednesday.

Soren, 47, has been asked to appear before the federal probe agency at its regional office in the Hinoo area of state capital Ranchi at 11 am Thursday. The agency wants to question and record the statement of the chief minister under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

"We have also been called on the request of our Opposition. An attempt has been made to show how powerful the ED is... The people will give them the answer for every two signed cheques, all pertaining to A/c... In the name of Shri Hemant Soren held with Bank of India, Sahibganj".

political aide Pankaj Mishra and two others -- local muscleman Bachhu Yadav and Prem Prakash -- in this case.

The agency has claimed it has "identified" proceeds of crime relating to illegal mining in the state to the tune of more than ₹1,000 crore till now. The ED probe began after the agency raided Mishra and his alleged associates on July 8, covering 19 locations in Sahibganj, Barhait, Rajmahal, Mirza Chauki and Barharwa in Jharkhand in the case linked to alleged instances of illegal mining and extortion.

"The PMLA investigation revealed that Mishra, who enjoys political clout, being the representative of the chief minister, MLA from Barhait, Sahibganj, Jharkhand controls the illegal mining businesses as well as inland ferry services in Sahibganj and its adjoining areas through his accomplices.

"He exercises considerable control over the mining of stone chips and boulders as well as installation and operations of several crushers, set up across various mining sites in Sahibganj," the ED had alleged after filing a charge sheet in the case before a special court in Ranchi. In the charge sheet, the ED stated that it recovered "a sealed envelope containing a passbook and two cheque books containing two signed cheques, all pertaining to A/c... In the name of Shri Hemant Soren held with Bank of India, Sahibganj".



WARM WELCOME

A first-year student being welcomed by a senior on the first day of the academic session, at Delhi University's Ramjas College. Many colleges, Wednesday held orientation programmes to apprise the new batch of students about the syllabi, the societies and the committees

Kejriwal announces ₹5K aid to workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday directed Labour Minister Manish Sisodia to provide ₹5,000 each as financial aid to 10 lakh registered workers due to pollution-related ban on construction activities in Delhi.

With pollution levels worsening, the Centre's air quality panel had on Saturday directed authorities to impose a ban on construction and demolition activities in Delhi-NCR, except on essential projects, and other curbs under stage three of the Graded Response Action Plan.

GRAP is set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

"Construction activities have been stopped across Delhi in view of pollution. I have directed Labour Minister, Sh Manish Sisodia, to give ₹5,000 pm as financial support to each construction worker during this period when construction activities are not permitted," Kejriwal tweeted.

The Delhi government will deposit ₹5,000 in the accounts of over 10 lakh construction workers of Delhi. A sum of approximately ₹500 crores is to be spent on the scheme, said a Delhi government statement.

The assistance amount will be deposited by the government directly in the accounts of the registered construction workers soon, it said.

The Delhi government had spent ₹350 crores to support 7 lakh construction workers last year too due to pollution-induced ban on construction activities.

Twitter rival Koo surpasses 50mn downloads

KOO IS AVAILABLE IN 10 LANGUAGES INCLUDING HINDI, MARATHI, GUJARATI, PUNJABI, KANNADA, TAMIL, TELUGU, ASSAMESE, BENGALI AND ENGLISH

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 2: Homegrown micro-blogging platform Koo Wednesday said it has clocked 50 million downloads with a significant uptake in users, time spent and engagement since January this year.

Koo is available in 10 languages including Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Assamese, Bengali and English.

According to the platform, there are more than 7,500 high-profile people, millions of students, teachers, entrepreneurs, poets, leaders, writers, artists, actors, etc. actively posting in their native languages.

"This validates the demand for a multi-lingual social network built with an India-first product mindset of seamlessly including language speaking Indians in daily thoughts sharing," said Aprameya Radhakrishna, CEO and Co-founder, Koo app.

"Our rapid growth and adoption is a testimony to the fact that we are solving a problem faced by a billion Indians," he added. Koo was launched in March 2020 as a multi-lingual micro-blogging platform.

Radhakrishna said that the company will continue to invest in technology and continue to build the platform with a user-first mindset. Koo is backed by Tiger Global



IMAGE SOURCE : KOO

and early stage investors like Acel, Kalaari Capital, Blume Ventures and Dream incubator. In February this year, Koo raised \$10 million through Indian family offices. The

investors included Capsier Venture Partner; Ravi Modi Family Trust, Ashner Grover, FBC Venture Partners, Adventz Finance etc, according to regulatory filings.

The company claims there are over 7500 eminent voices on the platform besides millions of students, teachers, entrepreneurs, poets, leaders, writers, artists and actors. 60% of the users are communicating in Hindi on the platform while 25% of users are from other Indian languages and 15% users communicate in English.

Being an inclusive platform that is built around a language-first approach, Koo's mission is to connect like-minded users in the language of their choice. In the near future, the platform aims to further announce product features as part of its continuous effort to enhance the user experience.

Minor gangraped, murdered in K'taka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 2: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped and murdered in Karnataka's Kalaburagi district. Kalaburagi SP Isha Panth Wednesday said a special team has been formed to probe the case and nab the accused.

According to police, the victim had gone out of the house to attend nature's call Tuesday afternoon.

When the girl did not return home, her family members started searching her everywhere, after which her body was found in a farm. After reaching the spot, Isha Panth assured that the accused will be arrested soon.

The girl was studying in Class 9 and staying at her relative's place, the police said. Aland police have taken up the investigation.

