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Department of Mission Shakti, Government of Odisha



OSCAR TROPHY AS DOORSTOP: GWYNETH PALTROW CLARIFIES

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who made headlines for saying that she uses her Oscar trophy as a doorstop, has come out with a clarification. Setting the record straight she cleared: "Of course, it's a joke."

JULIA FOX REVEALS ABOUT KANYE'S AWKWARD OFFER

Actress Julia Fox, 30, has claimed rapper Kanye West once made an awkward offer to her. Fox claimed he told her: "I'll get you a boob job if you want." That's humiliating as she was used as a pawn in his plan to get back at his ex-wife Kim Kardashian, added the actress.



Kriti shares recipe for healthier mind Sunny to headline Hanuman trilogy

Mumbai: In a world where the glitz and glamour of showbiz often take centre stage, it's heartening to see celebrities like Kriti Kharbada using their platform to promote mental health awareness. On World Mental Health Day, Kriti took to Instagram to share her personal recipe for a happier and healthier mind, which includes pottery and travel.

The talented actress radiated positivity and enthusiasm as she showcased her latest pottery creation in a heartwarming Instagram post. She captioned the post with, "I enjoyed, so sharing. You people can also try: I promise, you'll enjoy."

She further added, "How do you deal with mental health issues? Share your own, you never know, it may benefit others."

Kriti's pottery endeavor is more than just a creative outlet; it's her way of coping with stress and promoting mental well-being.

Kriti's commitment to mental health doesn't end with pottery. Her love for travel is another essential ingredient in her recipe for happiness. Exploring new places and experiencing different cultures allows her to recharge and find solace in the beauty of the world.



Mumbai: If there ever was a casting coup, it's this one. As per a new report, Sunny Deol is reportedly in talks to play Hanuman in Nitesh Tiwari's adaptation of *Ramayana*. The trilogy already stars Ranbir Kapoor as Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Yash as Ravana. The report states a source close to the development as saying, "Hanuman stands for strength and there's no one better than Sunny Deol in the Indian film industry to justify what Bajrangbali stands for. The actor has shown interest in being a part of Nitesh Tiwari's rendition of *Ramayana* and is also excited to play the part of Lord Hanuman. However, it's still early stages of discussion."

The adaptation of *Ramayana* is being co-produced by Nitesh, Madhu Mantena, Namit Malhotra, and Allu Aravind. The report added that all four co-producers are on board with



the idea of not only casting Sunny as Hanuman in the *Ramayana* trilogy, but also develop a spin-off on his character.

"The *Ramayana* is just a small part of Lord Hanuman's life, and there're many other facets to it. Nitesh wants to explore that with a standalone film on Lord Hanuman," the source added, as per the report. The trilogy is likely to go on floors in February next year.

TIGER 3 Kat pushed her body to 'breaking point'

Mumbai: Katrina Kaif says she has given every bit of her for the third instalment of the *Tiger* franchise.

The actress, who is the first female spy of the YRF Spy Universe, has shown that she can pull off incredible action sequences all by herself.

Her poster as Zoya was unveiled Tuesday. Katrina revealed that in order to pull off the physically challenging action sequences of *Tiger 3*, she pushed her body to 'breaking point'.

The actress said, "Zoya is the first female spy of the YRF Spy Universe and I'm very proud to have a character like her. She is fierce, she is courageous, she is all heart, she is loyal, she is protective, she is nurturing and above all she stands up for humanity, every single time."

Katrina added: "It has been an incredible journey playing Zoya in the YRF Spy Universe and I have put myself to the test in every film. *Tiger 3* is no exception."

"We wanted to take the action sequences to the next level this time and I have pushed my body to breaking point for the film and people will see that. Physically this has been my most challenging film yet," the Boom actress further said.

"I realised how fortunate we are to live in this country and be so protected." Although the Indian Embassy



Nushratt shares her Tel Aviv tales

From the hotel to the airport, Nushratt said, she and others kept praying the whole time, even crying sometimes and held onto each other for courage

Mumbai: Actress Nushratt Bharuccha, who recently flew back to India after being stranded at Tel Aviv in the attack over Israel by Hamas, has detailed her experience of being stuck in the turmoil.

Taking to her Instagram Tuesday, the actress said, "Today, when I woke up in my house safe with no sounds around me, I realise how fortunate we are to live in this country and be so protected."

The *Chhorii* actress was in Israel for the screening of her recent film *Akelli* at Haifa International Film Festival.

"We were woken up to the deafening sounds of bombs going off, a blaring siren, and complete and utter panic as we were all rushed down into a 'shelter' in the basement of our hotel," she shared.

Although the Indian Embassy

was situated barely 2 km from their hotel, it seemed like a distance of a lifetime as there was no mode of transport whatsoever and only the dreadful sounds of explosions at very close range, added the actress.

Nushratt then detailed the helping hands that came her way. "But this was also when help had come in for us from completely unexpected quarters: calls from our Israeli co-actors, guidance from the Indian and Israeli embassies, the kind staff at the hotel and, most miraculously, a taxi driver who selflessly helped us at this most difficult and life-threatening time of our lives! We mustered all the courage we could find and picked ourselves up to somehow get to the airport and take any flight out to any country we could manage to. Our journey out of our Tel Aviv hotel was not easy, to put it mildly... praying the whole time, even crying sometimes, we held onto each other for courage to keep on going, somehow making it to Ben Gurion Airport."

"But with an experience that has made me immensely grateful for the safety and security that we almost take for granted," she concluded.

Nushratt shared a photo of herself in a blue and white outfit, looking thoughtful.

She mentioned how she and others held onto each other for courage to keep on going, somehow making it to Ben Gurion Airport.

She concluded by saying, "But with an experience that has made me immensely grateful for the safety and security that we almost take for granted," she concluded.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Today, you will focus your lens on the one you've taken a fancy to! You are high on energy, but low on commitment to work. It won't be surprising if your bosses are miffed. But still, says Ganesh, it's a day of flowers and love notes.

TAURUS

There ain't no mountain high enough and there ain't no valley deep! Today, you will find yourself on an invincible run. You might be your own worst enemy today, if you waste your effort and energy for unproductive purposes. Overall, it is smooth sailing today and Ganesh advises you to stay focused.

GEMINI

Today, your emotions will cloud your ability to reason. You may try to find a refuge in devotional and spiritual activities. A visit to a couple of religious places may help you restore your peace of mind. A laid-back mindset will work wonders for you today.

CANCER

Today is a fabulous day for your love life. Your happiness may make a few people go green with envy, but they can do you or your relationship no harm, so ignore them. However, it may be important for you to make sure that you safeguard your reputation.

LEO

Even an emperor, when struck with an ailment, is not a pretty sight. Bearing this in mind, today you shall make health your number one priority, says Ganesh. You will do wise to chart out some sort of a workout regime for yourself, and inculcate a sense of discipline in maintaining it, even if it is anything as simple as a thrice-a-week routine.

VIRGO

The day will bring unexpected changes and pleasant surprises. You may hit the road with your loved ones, and the journey will not only be exciting but also calm your nerves. Overall, a bright, happy day to make most of, says Ganesh.

LIBRA

It's time to take what is already good, and turn it into something better. Take this day as a day to bring about improvements in your life and yourself. You may also consider taking up some extra courses in the evening. Maybe it's time for a salsa lesson, or learn how to toss a few Italian delicacies. Small crash courses go a long way in enhancing your efficiency, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO

You might just blow your fuse today, warns Ganesh. Anger will melt all sense and sensibilities. But if logic does prevail eventually, things may just improve as the day passes. Ganesh says it is high time you awakened your softer side.

SAGITTARIUS

A demanding day today, as you find yourself in charge of arranging and attending high-voltage meetings. Those dealing in stock and share will have profitable returns in the afternoon. But don't count your chickens before they hatch, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

As the day begins, you may get a strong urge to leave everything and set off on a backpacking trip. So strong the wanderer in you may be now that it may even momentarily take over the famed Goat caution. Yet alas, this being only a fleeting moment, you may soon don your dapper avatar, and head to work. If nothing else, at least, loosen your tie at the end of the day and head to a dance floor.

AQUARIUS

It's family time, and your near and dear will be mighty pleased. You will pamper and fuss over them, and will even pull funny faces to make them smile. Your love and affection will undoubtedly pay off, and come back to you in more ways than one.

PISCES

You have been neglecting your health of late, a fact which is hammered home by your ill-fitting trousers today! So, while you ignored the adage of prevention being better than cure, you could still make a stitch in time to save nine! Head for the gym, and watch those calories, says Ganesh.

PEANUTS



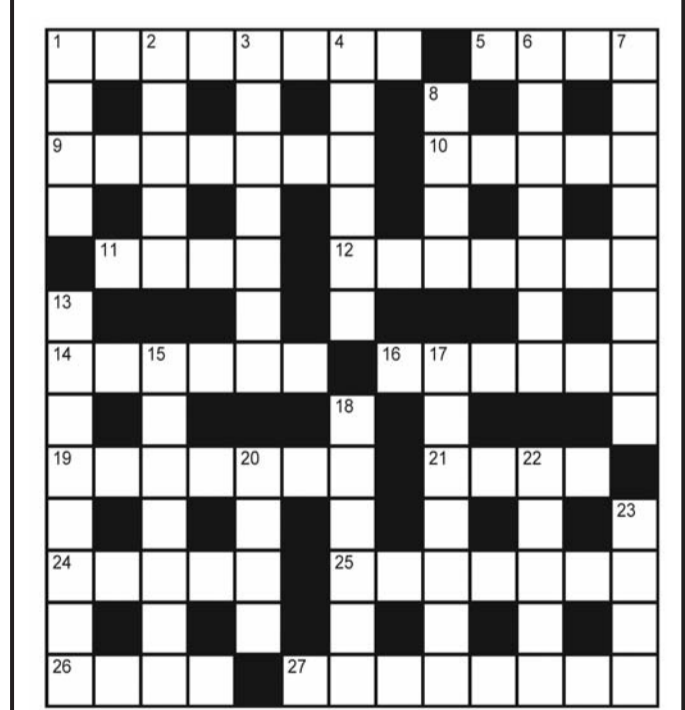
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



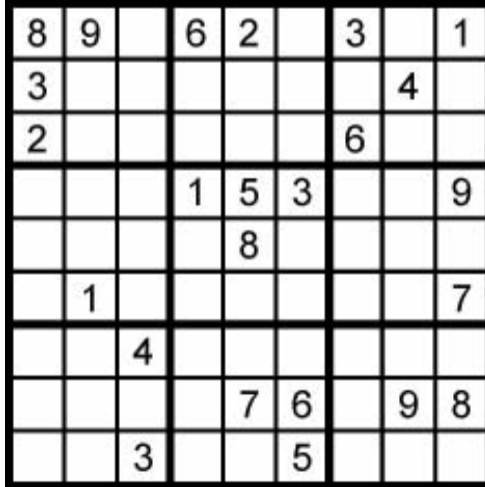
FUN post CROSSWORD



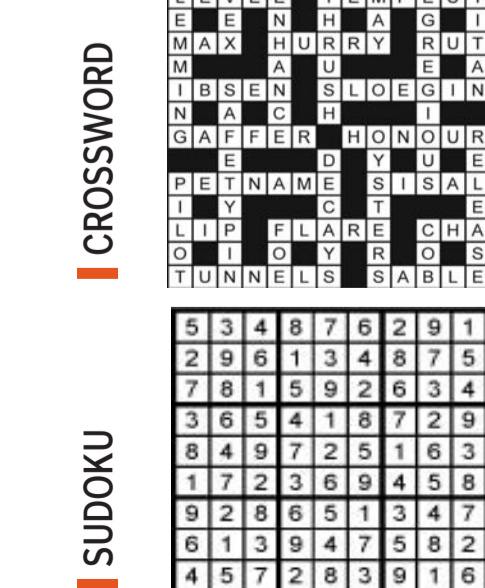
- Across**
- 1 Coach's words, at times (3,5)
 - 5 Desist
 - 9 Two-wheeler
 - 10 Oranjestad's island
 - 11 Colours
 - 12 Slippery
 - 14 Medicinal syrup
 - 16 Rose periwinkle
 - 19 Minor role (3,4)
 - 21 Plate
 - 24 Destiny
 - 25 Provoke
 - 26 Like a crone
 - 27 Heaven, in Norse myth
 - 6 Traveller
 - 7 Protoplasm
 - 8 Coffee, in slang
 - 13 City in Mali
 - 15 Hold spellbound
 - 17 Hebrew and German dialect
 - 18 Canadian capital
 - 20 Trojan War hero
 - 22 Play for time
 - 23 Lyra's brightest star
- Down**
- 1 Bridge call
 - 2 Get out and about?
 - 3 West Indies island
 - 4 Nitty-gritty

SUDOKU

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

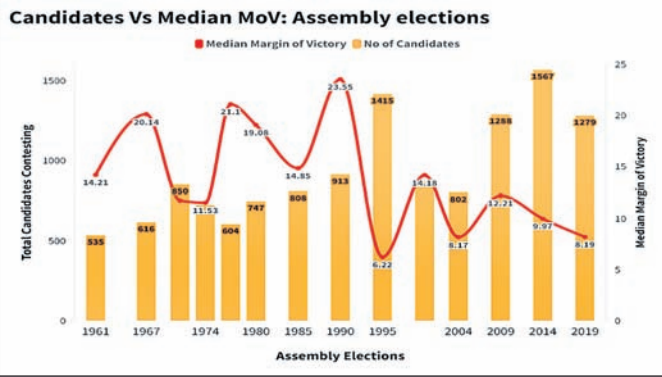


SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

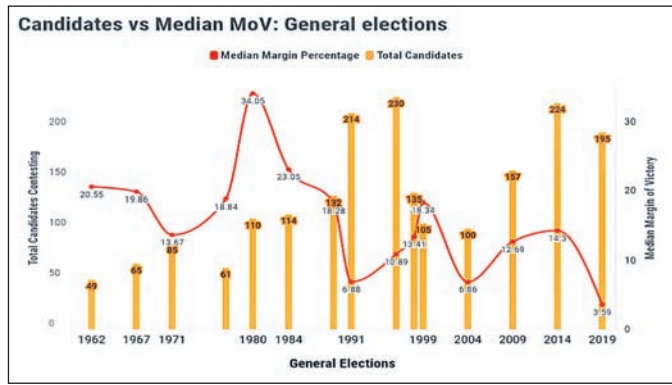
More candidates in fray; victory margin shrinks



Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Though in Odisha Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has been the dominant political force for the last two decades...

Further analysis of election data from Ashoka University's Trivedi Centre for Political Data (TCPD) reveals that the increase in competition is also reflected in increase in the number of contesting candidates and the shrinking margin of victory.

The constituency level now has double the number of competitors than he had in 1974. Elections have become more competitive, agrees Ranjan Kumar Mohanty, state coordinator of Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) Odisha Election Watch.



"Voters are more judicious today as they are better informed about the candidates' assets, education and criminal background. The introduction of NOTA has also given them the opportunity to express their discontent," he says.

refers to the difference of votes between the winning candidate and the runner-up in a constituency. Margin of victory, as a percentage of total valid votes in a constituency gives the margin percentage, interpreted as the winner getting 'x' per cent more votes than the runner up.

petition between top two rivals. However, the rising competition seems to be having little threat to BJD. Political observer and former professor of political science at Utkal University Surya Narayan Misra says it's too early to say anything about elections next year, but he adds.



ANNUAL DAY FETE: Cooperation Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak lighting the lamp to inaugurate Padma Shri Krutartha Acharya Pratibha Samman Utsav as part of the annual day celebrations of Odisha Bunakar Mahasangha at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

BAHANAGA TRAGEDY

PNN & AGENCIES

Cremation of 28 bodies begins

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Four months after the triple train accident that claimed 297 lives in Odisha's Balasore district, authorities at the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) have initiated the process for cremation of 28 unidentified bodies Tuesday.



body for cremation, officials said. The bodies were kept in AIIMS Bhubaneswar since the accident in June.

BMC in the presence of CBI officials for disposal. It is now their duty to cremate," said AIIMS Bhubaneswar superintendent Dillip Parida.

started cremating the bodies. We plan to complete the process in the next one or two days." Out of 162 bodies that AIIMS Bhubaneswar had received, 81 were handed over to family members of the deceased in the first phase.

Mishra: Shah warned of President's Rule

Bhubaneswar: Leader of Opposition in Assembly and BJP leader Jaynarayan Mishra Tuesday claimed that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had warned that President's Rule will be imposed in the state if the Assembly is dissolved early.

MUKTASoft 1.0 soon in 25 ULBs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: In a bid to streamline the implementation of Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA) and facilitation of payments to beneficiaries of the Odisha government's urban wage employment initiative, the state government is all set to roll out MUKTASoft 1.0, a web-based application, in 25 urban local bodies (ULBs), an official said Tuesday.



MGNREGS. "The scheme has undergone many changes based on feedback received from ground. The prime objective of design and development of MUKTASoft has been to automate various processes adopted for implementation of MUKTA," he said.

sequent training to the ULB officials and CBOs involved in MUKTA for smooth implementation of MUKTASoft. "You all (master trainers) selected for the training are the key persons as resource persons who would train others in the process for effective implementation of MUKTASoft 1.0," Mathi Vathanan said.

MANGARAJ, SETHI IN 30-MEMBER OBC PANEL

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Oct 10: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Rajya Sabha MP Manas Mangaraj and Lok Sabha MP Sarmistha Sethi have been appointed as the members of Parliamentary committee on welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for 2023-24.



task is to examine the measures taken by the Union government to secure the representation of the Other Backward Classes,

particularly the Most Backward Classes, in services and posts under its control (including appointments in the public sector

undertakings, statutory and semi government bodies and in the Union Territories) having regard to the provisions of the Constitution. It also considers the reports submitted by the National Commission for Backward Classes and report to both the Houses as to the measures that should be taken by the Union government in respect of matters within the purview of the Centre.

Knee Symposium at Sadguru Hospital



Cuttack: The Sadguru Hospital Tuesday organised a Knee Symposium 2023 in Cuttack which was attended by senior faculty members from across the country and orthopaedic students from the state.

Severe space weather events reduce migratory bird count

Severe space weather events have been linked to a 9-17 per cent lowering in the numbers of migrating birds, in both spring and fall, according to new research. Space weather events such as solar flares and other energetic outbursts cause periodic disruptions to Earth's magnetic field, which migratory birds rely on for long-distance navigation.

major migratory corridor, for analysis. "Our findings highlight how animal decisions are dependent on environmental conditions - including those that we as humans cannot perceive, such as geomagnetic disturbances - and that these behaviours influence population-level patterns of animal movement," said Eric Gulson-Castillo, lead author of the study published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.



study to minimise influences from mountainous topography or oceanic coastlines. The radar images or scans detect groups of hundreds to thousands of migrating birds, using which the migration intensity

can be estimated and direction of flight can be measured, the researchers said in their study. The community of nocturnally migrating birds in this region is primarily composed of a diverse set of perching birds such as thrushes and warblers; shorebirds such as sandpipers and plovers; and waterfowl such as ducks, geese and swans.

from a worldwide network of geomagnetic ground stations. Using statistical models, the team then measured the effects of magnetic disturbances on bird migration. Along with lowering in numbers, the researchers also found that during geomagnetic disturbances in the fall, migrating birds appeared to drift with the wind more frequently, instead of expending great effort to battle crosswinds.

Ex-DGP Sarat Mishra passes away at 88

Bhubaneswar: Former Odisha Director General of Police (DGP) Sarat Chandra Mishra passed away here Tuesday. He was 88. His brother, also a former Odisha DGP, Bipin Mishra broke the news. A 1959-batch IPS officer, Sarat took numerous initiatives for the welfare of police officials in the state. After retirement, he served as the first chairman of Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC). People from various walks of life condoled Sarat's demise.



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Dengue situation alarming in WB

Kolkata, Oct 10: Dengue has reached alarming proportions in West Bengal, with the total number of affected people crossing the 50,000-mark. As many as 56,707 cases have been recorded till date, with over 10,000 being affected in the last seven days, till Sunday evening, as per statistics available with the West Bengal Health Department. Although the health department has not revealed any figures on dengue-related deaths till now, unofficial estimates put the casualties at 60. However, BJP Legislators, like the Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, have claimed that the toll has crossed the 100-mark considering that in several cases dengue deaths have been reported as "death due to unknown fever." Health department insiders fear that going by the current situation the possibility of the forthcoming Durga Puja festi-



val being held under the shadow of the dengue outbreak cannot be ruled out. As per health department statistics, the worst affected areas are North 24 Parganas, where the total number of cases as on date touched 11,244, state capital Kolkata is in the second position with the figure touching 6,070 and Murshidabad is in the third place with 5,791 cases. The other districts where the impact has been serious include

South 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Howrah and Malda. At the beginning of this month, a Public Interest Litigation, was filed in the Calcutta High Court seeking its intervention in ensuring proper administrative initiatives in arresting further spread of the disease. The PIL has been filed at a time when the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has accused the West Bengal Health Department of suppressing the actual figures relating to the num-

ber of affected people or the deaths. On the other hand, the state government has accused the Union government of denying the necessary financial assistance on this count.

BIHAR WETLANDS REPORT 70,000 BIRDS THIS YEAR

Patna, Oct 10: Around 70,000 birds, including those of threatened and near-threatened species, were counted in the wetlands of Bihar this year, which is 24,600 more than the enumeration of last year, according to a water-bird census. The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) was conducted by the Bihar government in collaboration with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) from January 30 to February 12 this year. A total of 16 teams comprising around 200 people conducted the survey in 76 wetlands in 26 districts. Altogether 69,935 birds of 203 species were counted. The reporting of more birds

is also because more wetlands were covered this year as compared to last year. The census, which was released by state environment minister Tej Pratap Yadav on Sunday, stated: "During AWC 2022, a total of 45,173 birds of 202 species belonging to 61 families of birds were recorded from 68 wetlands. Of those, 39,937 individuals of 81 species were waterbirds, 569 individuals of 23 species were wetland-dependent birds, and 5,630 individuals

of 101 species were land birds." "When compared to AWC 2022, the total number of birds observed during the AWC 2023 was higher. Over 24,600 more birds were reported during the AWC 2023 when compared to 2022. More wetlands were also covered during AWC 2023 than in AWC 2022," the report added. In this year's census, the highest number of birds was reported in Jamui district (18,480), followed by Bhagalpur (9,084) and Buxar (8,126). "Of the 69,935 individuals reported during AWC 2023, 29,795 birds of 73 species (41.58 per cent) were long-distance migrants and the remaining 40,140 birds of 126 species (57.39 per cent) were residents," the report stated.

Inform cops, get rewarded

Patna, Oct 10: Bihar Police will give cash awards to people for providing information on bootlegging, illegal sand mining, hate messages on social media and cyber frauds leading to the arrests of culprits. The latest state home department circular on Tuesday said role of the public, particularly secret informers, is crucial. "Police will reward those who help catch criminals involved in illegal sand-mining, bootleggers, cyber criminals and individuals/organizations who use social media platforms to spread hate and intolerance", says the circular. According to the order, Director General of Police (DGP) can announce a reward of up to Rs 3 lakh. "But if the reward is more than Rs 3 lakh, then the final decision will be taken by the home department based on recommendations of the DGP," the order added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-1248 OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DHENKANAL e-Procurement Notice No. 07 / Building Works/2023-24

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, G.UDAYAGIRI No.2480 Date:09.10.2023 "e" Tender Notice Bid Identification No.GUDGR-NAC-07/2023-24

GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, ANANDAPUR NOTICE INVITING TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

BENGAL'S NEW HEADACHE

Kolkata, Oct 10: With the water levels in the northern sector of West Bengal, especially Jalpaiguri, starting to recede, the accumulation of mortar shells and other explosive boxes on the banks of river Teesta has emerged as a new headache for the district administration. These items were in all probability carried by the flood water from different bases of the Indian Army in Sikkim, which has recently been devastated by flash flood. What has become even more concerning for the Jalpaiguri district administration is that these explosive items have started exploding from time to time, endangering lives of the people going to the riverbeds. In such a situation, the administration is alerting the local people to refrain from venturing the riverbeds and touching the doubtful substances stuck there.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-1244 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, BALASORE e-Procurement Notice for Road Bid Identification No. e-Procurement Notice No. 16/EERW-II/BLS/2023-24

ବାଲୁଗା ବିକ୍ଷେପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବାଲୁଗା, ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା

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Bank of India Gold Auction Notice Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jagdev Bihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.:0674-2362249



Tourists evacuated by the Indian Air Force from flood-affected Lachen arrive at Libing Army Helipad, in Sikkim. A total of 176 tourists were Tuesday airlifted from North Sikkim, which has been ravaged by a flash flood in the Teesta river, Chief Secretary VB Pathak said



President Droupadi Murmu with President of the United Republic of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan at a meeting at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi



French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Brigitte Macron and Chancellor's wife Britta Ernst, from left, stand in front of an Airbus Beluga transport aircraft at the Airbus site in Hamburg-Finkenwerder prior to a joint cabinet meeting of the German and French Government in Hamburg, Germany



BJP Delhi state President Virendra Sachdeva with others shouts slogans during a protest against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, at ITO, in New Delhi,



Workers carry sacks of cultivated paddy at a local grain market, in Amritsar, Punjab



Blooming bushes of Kaash flowers at the flooded adjacent areas of the Hooghly river, in Nadia, West Bengal



Dasara tusker Mahendra, who is groomed to succeed Abhimanyu as the howdah elephant, carries the wooden howdah during rehearsal for Mysore Dasara, in Mysore, Karnataka



Police use water cannons to disperse SAD workers who were protesting outside the residence of CM Bhagwant Mann demanding debate of SYL, in Chandigarh, Punjab. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leaders led by party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal slammed the Mann government for having "failed" to safeguard the rights of Punjab in river waters



national

of the day quote

Those who reside in the hearts of people, they don't go anywhere even after they are gone

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

Fail to understand why local admin continues issuing orders that only hurt interests of people of Jammu and Kashmir

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

We will force the Central government to conduct a caste census, come what may, to know the truth about the condition of OBCs, Dalits and tribals in the country. Our governments in Rajasthan, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh have initiated a process for it

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER



Use of digital technology in mental health is a force multiplier

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

INDIA, ITALY TO EXPAND DEFENCE TIES

India and Italy inked an agreement to expand their defence ties including for co-development and co-production of military platforms following wide-ranging talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Italian counterpart Guido Crosetto in Rome. Singh is in Italy on the first leg of his two-nation tour. From Italy, the minister will be travelling to France



MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED arrests 4 Vivo executives

THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED) CLAIMED IN ITS REMAND PAPERS BEFORE A LOCAL COURT THAT THE ALLEGED ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUR ENABLED VIVO, INDIA TO MAKE WRONGFUL GAINS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: The ED Tuesday arrested four persons including the managing director of Lava International mobile company and a Chinese national in connection with a money-laundering probe against smart phone-maker Vivo, with sources terming their activities detrimental to India's economic sovereignty.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) claimed in its remand papers before a local court that the alleged activities of the four enabled Vivo, India to make wrongful gains.

They four arrested were identified as Hari Om Rai, the MD of Lava International company, Chinese national Guangwen alias Andrew Kuang, and Chartered Accountants Nitin Garg and Rajan Malik. They have been taken into custody under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The agency told the court that Rai, "in collusion" with the three others "enabled Vivo, China to fraudulently establish a complex centrally controlled structure all over the country under the corporate veil of Vivo, India in circumvention of the extant FDI norms and by concealing the true nature of their ownership and control, by using forged identity cards."

Thus, they cheated the government authorities and in the process enabled Vivo, India (controlled by Vivo, China) acquire huge wrongful gains for themselves to the "detriment of economic sovereignty of the country", the ED said.

An e-mail sent to Lava International, a domestic mobile device manufacturing company, for its reaction did not elicit an immediate response. Lava International claims to have 1-2 per cent share in the smartphone market.

A Vivo spokesperson said the company "firmly adheres to its ethical principles and remains dedicated to legal compliance. The recent arrest deeply concerns us. We will exercise all available legal options".

In July last year, the agency had raided Vivo and people linked with the firm, claiming to have busted a major money laundering racket involving Chinese na-



The crackdown on the leading Chinese company came after the federal probe agency found that three Chinese nationals -- all of whom "left" India during 2018-21 --and another person from that country incorporated 23 companies in India in which they were also allegedly helped by CA Nitin Garg

tionals and multiple Indian companies.

The ED had then alleged that a whopping Rs 62,476 crore was "illegally" transferred by Vivo to China in order to avoid payment of taxes in India.

The crackdown on the leading Chinese company came after the federal probe agency found that three Chinese nationals -- all of whom "left" India during 2018-21 --and another person from that country incorporated 23 companies in India in which they were also allegedly helped by CA Nitin Garg.

These 23 companies are found to have transferred huge amounts of funds to Vivo India. Further, out of the total sale proceeds of Rs 1,25,185 crore, Vivo India re-

mitted Rs 62,476 crore or almost 50 per cent of the turnover out of India, mainly to China, the ED had alleged.

These remittances, it added, were made in order to "disclose huge losses in Indian incorporated companies to avoid payment of taxes in India."

The action is seen as part of the Union government's effort to tighten checks on Chinese entities that are allegedly indulging in serious financial crimes like money laundering and tax evasion while operating here. It is also being seen as continued crackdown on such firms and their linked Indian operatives.

These developments also come even as the military stand-off between the two countries along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh has been ongoing for more than three years now.

Vivo, post the ED searches of July 5, 2022, had said it was "a responsible corporate and was committed to be fully compliant with laws."

The agency said it followed "all due procedures as per law" during the raids conducted under the criminal sections of the PMLA, but the "employees of Vivo India, including some Chinese nationals, did not cooperate with the search proceedings and tried to abscond, remove and hide digital devices which were retrieved by the search teams."

The ED also said that after the raids, it seized funds worth Rs 465 crore kept in 119 bank accounts by various entities involved in the case, Rs 73 lakh in cash and 2 kg gold bars.

India stands firmly with Israel: PM Modi



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu called up Modi to update him on the ongoing situation as Israel carries out retaliatory strikes against Hamas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi told his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu Tuesday that people of India stand firmly with his country in this difficult hour, expressing strong and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Netanyahu called up Modi to update him on the ongoing situation as Israel carries out retaliatory strikes against Hamas after its militants killed hundreds of Israelis in a surprise weekend attack across its southern border.

The Indian leader expressed his deep condolences and sympathy for those killed and wounded, his office said in a statement, and highlighted the issue of safety and security of Indian citizens in Israel.

Netanyahu assured him of full cooperation and support. "I thank Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his phone call and providing an update on the ongoing situation. People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour. India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he said on X.

Israeli Ambassador Naor Gilon thanked PM Modi for the support his country has received from Indians. "Thank you again PM Narendra Modi Ji. Since we get SO MUCH support from our Indian brothers and sisters, I'm unfortunately unable to thank each and every one of you personally. Please accept this as my gratitude to all our friends," Gilon said on X.

Israeli warplanes have pounded the Gaza Strip after its Hamas militant rulers launched an unprecedented attack on Israel.

So far, the Gaza toll stands at about 700 dead and thousands wounded, according to Gaza health officials, a punishing response to the militant group's attack that has killed more than 900 Israelis. More than 150 Israeli civilians and soldiers have been taken captive.

SHORT TAKES

ED raids AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided the premises of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in Delhi Tuesday as part of a money-laundering investigation against him and some others, official sources said. The 49-year-old legislator represents the Okhla constituency in the Delhi Assembly. The ED searches were undertaken under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and three-four premises were covered.

Bidhuri skips LS meeting

New Delhi: BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who was scheduled to appear before a parliamentary panel Tuesday in connection with his controversial remarks against the BSP's Danish Ali, excused himself from the appearance citing prior engagements, sources said. The Lok Sabha's Privileges Committee, headed by BJP member Sunil Kumar Singh, took up other issues on the agenda as Bidhuri, who was campaigning for the party in poll-bound Rajasthan, kept away.

Over 400 evacuated after fire at hospital

Chandigarh: More than 400 patients were evacuated to safety after a major fire broke out in PGIMER-Chandigarh's Nehru Hospital block late last night, officials said Tuesday. No injuries were reported in the incident. An official of the fire and emergency services department said that 11 fire tenders including one each from Panchkula and Mohali were pressed into service to quickly control the blaze. "There is no casualty or injury to anyone in the incident," the official said.

NEWSCLICK ROW

Purkayastha, Chakravarty sent to 10-day judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: A Delhi court Tuesday sent to 10-day judicial custody NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and human resources department head Amit Chakravarty, arrested in a case lodged under anti-terror law UAPA over allegations that the news portal received money to spread pro-China propaganda.

The two were produced before Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur around 2.50 PM. The prosecution sought 10 days judicial custody for the duo, which was firmly opposed by Purkayastha's counsel, who asserted "prima facie" no case was made out against his client.

"What terrorist act have I committed? How can I as a journalist commit such an act? What is the allegation in the FIR? That we have done critical reporting of (government's) Covid policy and farmers protest. Is that terrorism?" the lawyer said.

The counsel said if there was even an iota of doubt about their guilt, sending them to judicial custody will be a "trav-

esty of justice".

The counsel for Chakravarty argued he was not a journalist nor had he received any payment. "There is no such allegation that there is a map of India, published by newsClick, that shows India without Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

Countering the arguments, the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Atul Shrivastava said the case was at a stage when evidence was still being collected, and the prosecution has sought judicial custody for the accused in all "fairness".

The Special Cell of Delhi Police had arrested Purkayastha and Chakravarty October 3. Police also sealed NewsClick's office in Delhi.

According to the FIR, a large amount of funds to the news portal came from China to "disrupt the sovereignty of India" and cause disaffection against the country.

It also alleged Purkayastha conspired with a group -- People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) -- to sabotage the electoral process during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.



CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat addresses a Left parties protest against recent arrest of journalists by the government agencies, in New Delhi

Amartya Sen's daughter denies news of father's death

Kolkata: Nobel prize winner Amartya Sen's family on Tuesday denied news circulated on social media that the economist has died. Earlier, several posts on X claiming that Sen had died went viral. "It is fake news. I have just spent a week with him in our family home in Cambridge. He is absolutely fine, teaching two courses a week, as healthy as always," the economist's daughter Nandana Dev Sen told PFI. She also posted the denial on the micro-blogging site. The fake news about the death of the philosopher-economist who will turn 90 this November, began spreading after it was posted on a fake account of Claudia Goldin, another Nobel prize winner in economics. Several prominent people offered their condolences and re-tweeted the fake news, giving it currency.



Construction in glacial areas causing disasters: Experts

AGENCIES

Lucknow, Oct 10: Scientists at the ongoing 'Earth Science Week' at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) in Lucknow, have said that construction in glacial areas is causing disasters in Himalayan regions.

Dr Navin Juyal a former scientist at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, said, "The tragedy in Sikkim was not only due to flash floods, it was due to the Teesta hydro power project as it was not designed to accommodate or handle the extra water of the glacial lake."

"In 2013, Lhonak lake in Sikkim's Lhonak glacier was predicted to be unstable. But we never took cognisance of it. The hydro projects are being made only for carrying water and elec-



tricity but are not flood-friendly," he said.

He expressed these views at a special lecture titled 'Significance of geoscience and its societal implications in the Himalayan

region' at the BSIP's centre for promotion of geoheritage and geotourism (CPGG) Monday.

On the challenges being faced in the hilly regions in Sikkim and Uttarakhand's Joshimath, Dr Juyal said that global warming was knocking on the door of the Himalayan region.

"We do not know how the Himalayan region is going to respond. We must be prepared for this. One of the important and sensitive areas there is the periglacial zone. "Periglacial zone are those

sensitive zones that used to be glacial. They are sensitive as they contain high amount of sediments which were brought by the glaciers and which are waiting for the extreme weather to mobilise and then destroy the development structures and habitats in the lower altitude regions," said Dr Juyal.

He is also a member of the expert panel constituted by the Supreme Court to examine the Char Dham roads projects.

"We have been requesting the government to stop construction at these Periglacial zones that can stop the flow of these sediments or rivers from those regions," he said.

SC seeks report from CAQM

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday sought a report from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on the steps being taken for controlling air pollution in and around Delhi. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia took note of the submissions of senior advocate Aparajita Singh, who is assisting the apex court as an amicus curiae in the pollution matter, regarding problem of air pollution during winters and also about crop residue burning. The bench noted the amicus has flagged the "serious problem" of air pollution with the winters approaching as well as crop residue burning and she has submitted that these issues are before the CAQM.



Court extends ED custody of Sanjay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 1: A special court here Tuesday extended till October 13 the ED custody of AAP leader Sanjay Singh, arrested in a money laundering case related to alleged irregularities in the scrapped Delhi excise policy.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) now has three more days to interrogate Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP, in custody. Special Judge for ED cases M K Nagpal passed the order on an application moved by the anti-money laundering agency.

The facts stated in the application filed by the ED and the case file produced before the court by the investigating officer reveal discovery of some fresh facts and recovery of some fresh digital evidence in a recent search conducted during the course of ongoing investigation, the judge noted.

international

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



REUTERS PHOTOS

Indian in Gaza seeks evacuation

Jerusalem: Fearing for their life amid continuous bombardments by Israel, an Indian woman living in Gaza with her family Tuesday sought an immediate evacuation from the war-torn Hamas-ruled enclave. "We are facing a brutal war here and everything is being destroyed in a matter of seconds. We are paying the price of this conflict as civilians are being targeted," Lubna Nazir Shaboo, an Indian from Jammu & Kashmir living in Gaza, said.

Sunak extends support to Israel

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke to the leaders of the US, France, Germany and Italy to discuss the conflict in Israel soon after he joined prayers at a north London synagogue and reassured the country's Jewish community he would ensure their safety. In his joint statement with US President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Sunak expressed "steadfast and united" support to the state of Israel and the "unequivocal condemnation" of Hamas for its appalling acts of terrorism.



New York, Oct 10: Humanitarian groups are scrambling to assist civilians caught in the war between Israel and Hamas and determine what aid operations are still safe to continue — efforts that are being complicated by an intensified blockade of Gaza and ongoing fighting.

Two days after Hamas militants went on a rampage that took the world by surprise, Israel increased airstrikes on Gaza and blocked off food, fuel and other supplies from going into the territory, a move that raised concerns at the United Nations and among aid groups operating in the area home to 2.3 million people. Hamas, in turn, pledged to kill Israelis it abducted if the country's military bombs civilian targets in Gaza without warning. Hundreds of people have been killed and thousands wounded on both sides, and aid groups operating in the region say there are needs both in Gaza and Israel. More than 2 tons of medical supplies from the Egyptian Red Crescent have been sent to Gaza and efforts are underway to organise food and other deliveries, according to an Egyptian military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to the press.

But the United Nations and other aid groups are pleading for more access to help

Tehran not behind Hamas attack on Israel: Khamenei

Dubai: Tehran was not involved in the militant Hamas group's weekend attack on Israel, Iran's top authority Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Tuesday, but hailed what he called Israel's "irreparable" military and intelligence defeat. "We kiss the hands of those who planned the attack on the Zionist regime," said Khamenei, who was wearing a Palestinian scarf, in his first televised speech since the attack. "This destructive earthquake (Hamas' attack) has destroyed some critical structures (in Israel) which will not be repaired easily... The Zionist regime's own actions are to blame for this disaster," said Khamenei. Israel has long accused Iran's clerical rulers



of stoking violence by supplying arms to Hamas. Tehran, which does not recognize Israel, says it gives moral and financial support to the group, which controls the Gaza Strip. Backing the Palestinian cause has been a pillar of the Islamic Republic since the 1979 revolution and a way the Shi'ite-dominated country has fashioned itself as a leader of the Muslim world. The United States said Monday Iran was complicit in Hamas' assault on Israel, but added it had no intelligence or evidence supporting this assertion. The top US general Monday warned Iran not to get involved in the crisis, saying he did not want the conflict to broaden.

Palestinians who find themselves in the middle of intense fighting. The UN and other aid agencies were talking with Egypt to send humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza through a crossing point between the strip and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, an Egyptian official and aid worker said Tuesday. Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation said Tuesday med-

ical supplies it has in seven hospitals in Gaza had already been used up and it was reprogramming funds to purchase more from local markets. Doctors Without Borders, which is still operating in Gaza, has to rely on supplies it already has inside the territory because it can't bring any more in, said Emmanuel Massart, a deputy desk coordinator with the or-

'FAUDA' STAR JOINS ISRAEL'S FIGHT

Israeli star Lior Raz, known for starring in and co-creating web series 'Fauda', says he has joined the 'Brothers in Arms' volunteers to extract two families from the bombarded town of Sderot in Israel in the wake of the Israel-Hamas conflict



Day 4 highlights

The latest Israel-Palestinian war reverberated around the world Tuesday, as foreign governments tried to determine how many of their citizens were dead, missing or in need of medical help or flights home. Numerous countries also offered to play a role in mediating an end to the fighting, which already has killed at least 1,600 people. The death toll was expected to grow as Israel pummeled the Gaza Strip with airstrikes and sent Palestinians fleeing into UN shelters

- ▶ Russia's Ambassador to Israel said that two Russian citizens have been killed in the latest Israel-Palestinian war. Ambassador Anatoly Viktorov didn't name the victims, saying in remarks broadcast by Russia's state Channel 1 that the embassy isn't aware of the circumstances of their deaths and hasn't contacted their families yet
- ▶ The influential Iraqi Shiite cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr in a speech Tuesday from the city of Najaf urged "all Arabs, especially Egyptians, to open their borders and break the inhumane siege imposed on Gaza, allowing water and food to reach the civilians" and said Iraq stands ready to send supplies to the besieged coastal enclave, although it was unclear how it would do so
- ▶ The Rafah Crossing administration on the Egyptian side informed the Rafah Crossing crews on the Palestinian side to evacuate the crossing immediately due to threats to bomb the crossing, spokesperson for the Hamas Ministry of Interior and National Security Iyad Al-Bazm said Tuesday
- ▶ Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that Moscow has been talking to both Israel and the Palestinians to help search for a settlement. Asked about a claim by the Palestinian Ambassador to Moscow that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas will visit Moscow soon, Peskov said that the visit had been planned before the war
- ▶ The United Nations health agency says the medical supplies that it had pre-positioned in seven hospitals in Gaza have already been used up, as needs balloon in the wake of Israel's military strike against the militant group Hamas
- ▶ The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, says the building housing its headquarters in Gaza City suffered significant damage because of an airstrike nearby. No casualties among staff were recorded. UNRWA said Tuesday that all UN international staff present in Gaza are taking shelter in another building within the same compound
- ▶ France's Foreign Ministry has confirmed the deaths of another two French citizens killed by Hamas militant attacks in Israel, bringing the total number of French victims to four
- ▶ Cyprus' Foreign Ministry says the east Mediterranean island nation is now ready to act as a waystation for foreign nationals fleeing Israel
- ▶ The Government Media Office in Gaza announced Tuesday that seven journalists have been killed since the beginning of the Israeli airstrikes in Gaza
- ▶ The Austrian government is preparing to evacuate Austrian citizens who want to leave Israel. Chancellor Karl Nehammer said during a visit to Ankara, Turkey, that an Austrian air force transport plane will be sent to Cyprus Wednesday and then to pick up Austrians who want to leave Israel, the Austria Press Agency reported
- ▶ The Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant group announced Tuesday that two of its members were killed by Israeli fire after crossing from Lebanon into Israel on Monday as part of the Hamas-led attack that started over the weekend. Funerals were set to be held in Ein el-Hilweh on Tuesday



AGENCIES

Strike on Myanmar camp kills 30

Myanmar's National Unity Government, the main nationwide opposition group that considers itself the country's legitimate administrative body, said a kindergarten, school, church and many civilian houses were destroyed at the camp



Representational image

where the headquarters of the rebel KIA is based.

A spokesperson for Kachin Human Rights Watch gave slightly different figures, saying 19 adults and 13 children were killed in the attack, which occurred shortly before midnight. Laiza is about 324 kilometers (200 miles) northeast of Mandalay, Myanmar's second-biggest city. Myanmar's National Unity Government, the main nationwide opposition group that considers itself the country's legitimate administrative body, said a kindergarten, school, church and many civilian houses were destroyed at the camp. "This deliberate and targeted attack by the terrorist military council on

civilians fleeing conflict constitutes a blatant crime against humanity and war crime," it said.

Myanmar's military government "has taken advantage of the moment of the international community's attention on the recent developments of the Israel-Hamas conflict to commit yet another crime against humanity and war crime," it added.

Naw Bu said it was unclear how the attack was carried out because people did not hear a jet fighter on a bombing run. The absence of such a sound, familiar in many parts of the countryside, could indicate that the camp was hit by air-to-ground missiles fired from a distance or by an armed drone.

Man shot dead after crashing car into Chinese consulate

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco, Oct 10: A car rammed into the Chinese consulate in San Francisco Monday, coming to a stop in the lobby and creating a chaotic scene that ended with police shooting the driver, who later died at the hospital, officials said.

Police descended on the consulate building after 3 pm on a report of a vehicle crashing into the building and urged people to avoid the area. Officers entered the lobby of the consulate's visa office, made contact with the suspect and there was a shooting involving an officer and the driver, police Sgt. Kathryn Winters said during a short news conference. Despite "life-saving efforts," the suspect was pronounced dead at the hospital, police said.

Television cameras showed a Honda sedan crashed into the visa office and the doors in front of the building were cordoned off. Winters said they didn't know why the vehicle crashed into the building or how many people were inside at the time but said they had no reports of other injuries.

Joe Biden interviewed over handling of classified files

The interview was conducted at the White House Sunday and Monday, Ian Sams, the spokesperson of the White House Counsel's Office said Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Oct 10: US President Joe Biden has been interviewed over two days by a Special Counsel as part of a probe into his handling of classified documents, the White House has said.

The interview was conducted at the White House Sunday and Monday, Ian Sams, the spokesperson of the White House Counsel's Office said Monday.

"The President has been interviewed as part of the investigation being led by Special Counsel Robert Hur. The voluntary interview was conducted at the White House over two



days, Sunday and Monday, and concluded Monday," Sams said. The White House said in January that documents with classified markings were found at Biden's Delaware home and at a Washington office he used after he was vice president. "As we have said from the beginning, the President and the White House are cooperating with this investigation, and as it has been appropriate, we have provided relevant updates publicly, being as transparent as we can consistent with protecting and preserving the integrity of the investigation," Sams said. He refrained from providing

any other further details of the probe against 80-year-old Biden. The interview, scheduled weeks ago, marks the first significant development in the case known to the public in months, a report by CNN said.

Attorney General Merrick announced the investigation and laid out a timeline of the case, which began after the president's attorneys found documents at Biden's former Washington DC office and his Delaware residence in November 2022, the report said.

The interview raises the possibility that the special counsel's investigation may be nearing its end, NBC News reported. The documents were found "among personal and political papers," according to a statement from Biden's legal team. The National Archives informed a Department of Justice prosecutor on November 4 that the White House had made the Archives aware of documents with classified markings found at Biden's think tank, which was not authorised to store classified materials, Garland said.

business

of the **day** quote

Almost every single product that we ship in Siemens has some software inside and most likely this software has been touched by Indian software engineers...So we can proudly say the Indian spirit is running through all the offerings that we have at Siemens

PETER KOERTE
SIEMENS CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

This was unthinkable a few years back, and today, because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, Bharat has emerged as a major telecom design, manufacturing and export hub

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

The 10 per cent ethanol blending has led to considerable savings on the import bill and it will increase with 20 per cent blending

HARDEEP PURI | PETROLEUM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

CCI probing Google, Apple: Chairperson

New Delhi: Competition Commission of India (CCI) is probing Google and Apple for alleged unfair business practices, the regulator's Chairperson Ravneet Kaur said Tuesday. The watchdog had ordered detailed investigations against Google with respect to its alleged abuse of dominance in the smart television segment and in the news content space. Speaking to reporters here, Kaur said the matter related to Google and smart television is under the commission's inquiry. Currently, the investigation is on in the matter of the news publishers' complaint against Google, she said. To another query, Kaur said that Apple is also under investigation. "Once we receive the report from the DG, (and) CCI, we will take action," she added.

Munot new AMFI chief

New Delhi: Navneet Munot, MD and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, has been elected as the chairman of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), the industry body said Tuesday. In addition, the board of AMFI has elected Anthony Heredia, MD and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund as its vice-chairman. They were elected at the recent board meeting of AMFI post the 28th AGM (annual general meeting) held in September, according to a statement issued by the industry body. The new chairman and vice chairman will take charge from October 16. Munot is a Chartered Accountant and has over three decades of experience in financial services. AMFI was incorporated in August 1995 as a non-profit organisation. As of now, all the 44 asset management companies that are registered with Sebi, are its members.

Web portal for chemical sector

New Delhi: The government Tuesday launched a web portal providing statistical data related to the chemical sector for the benefit of all stakeholders. The portal www.Charak.Chemicals.Gov.In will facilitate the collection of statistics related to various aspects of the chemical sector, such as production, installed capacity, export, import, purchases and sales, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers said in a statement. The web portal developed by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals along with the National Informatics was launched at a workshop hosted by industry body FICCI here.



Given the growing rift between Western nations and China, India is in a sweet spot, globally

KAUSHIK BASU | EMINENT ECONOMIST

CRUDE STEEL OUTPUT GROWS TO 70 MT

India's crude steel production rose 14.7 per cent to 69.65 million tonne (MT) during April-September period of 2023-24 fiscal year, according to SteelMint India. The steel output in the year-ago period was 61.06 MT, the market research firm said. The increase in production was mainly on account of improved capacity utilisation rates coupled with the ramping up of capacities by key Indian steel players, it said.



IMF outlook worsens for 'limping' world economy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Oct 10: The world economy has lost momentum from the impact of higher interest rates, the invasion of Ukraine and widening geopolitical rifts, and it now faces new uncertainty from the war between Israel and Hamas militants, International Monetary Fund warned Tuesday. The IMF said it expects global economic growth to slow to 2.9 per cent in 2024 from an expected 3 per cent this year. The forecast for next year is down a notch from the 3 per cent it predicted back in July.

The deceleration comes at a time when the world has yet to fully mend from a devastating but short-lived COVID-19 recession in 2020 and now could see fallout from the Middle East conflict—particularly to oil prices. A series of previous shocks, including the pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine, has slashed worldwide economic output by about USD 3.7 trillion over the past three years compared with pre-COVID trends.

"The global economy is limping along, not sprinting," IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said at a news conference during the organisation's annual meeting in Marrakech, Morocco. The IMF expectation of 3 per cent growth this year is down from 3.5 per cent in 2022 but unchanged from its July projections.

It's "too early" to assess the impact on global economic growth from the days-old war between Israel and the militant Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza, Gourinchas said. He said the IMF was "monitoring the situation closely" and noted that oil prices have risen by about 4 per cent in the past several days. "We've seen that in previous crises and previous conflicts. And of course, this reflects the potential risk that there could be disruption either in production or transport of oil in the region," he said. If sustained, a 10 per cent increase in oil prices would reduce global economic growth by 0.15 per cent and increase global inflation by 0.4 per cent, Gourinchas said. "But again, I emphasise that it's really too early to jump to any conclusion here," he added.

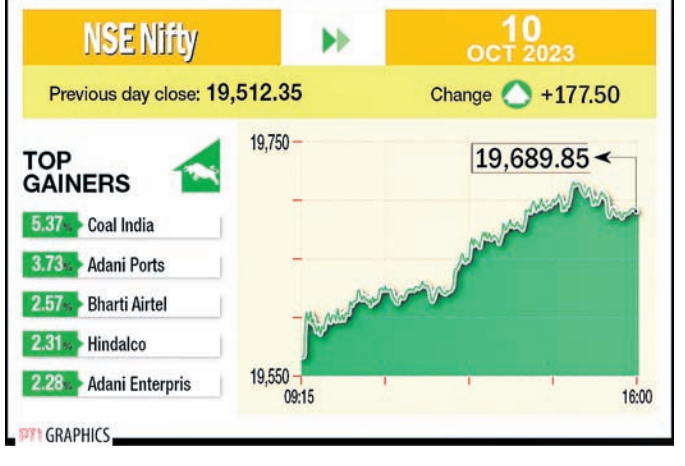


pact on global economic growth from the days-old war between Israel and the militant Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza, Gourinchas said. He said the IMF was "monitoring the situation closely" and noted that oil prices have risen by about 4 per cent in the past several days.

INDIA TO GROW AT 6.3%

New Delhi: International Monetary Fund (IMF) Tuesday raised India's GDP projection marginally by 0.2 per cent to 6.3 per cent even as it slashed the global growth forecast to 3 per cent. IMF in July had estimated India's GDP forecast at 6.1 per cent for 2023-24. However, this is lower than the RBI's latest estimate of 6.5 per cent for the current financial year. However, India's growth is projected to be higher than China's, the second-largest economy in the world. IMF's 'World Economic Outlook' revised China's growth forecast downward by 0.2 percentage points for 2023 and by 0.3 percentage points for 2024 to 5 per cent and 4.2 per cent, respectively. With the property market crisis in that country, lower investment is the main contributor to the revision, it said. "Growth in India is projected to remain strong, at 6.3 per cent in both 2023 and 2024, with an upward revision of 0.2 percentage point for 2023, reflecting stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June," the 'World Economic Outlook' said. Monetary policy projections are consistent with achieving the Reserve Bank of India's inflation target over the medium term, it noted. The government has mandated the RBI to keep CPI inflation at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. Observing that the food security concerns prompted recent export restrictions in the world's largest rice exporter India, it said, risks to prices are tilted to the upside, stemming mostly from the ramifications of the end of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and uncertain effects of El Nino, possibly exacerbated by the proliferation of food export restrictions. On the oil import, it said about 35 to 40 per cent of India's crude oil imports came from Russia during April-June 2023, a stark rise from less than 5 per cent before the war in Ukraine.

Shares rebound up to 1%



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 10: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied nearly 1 per cent Tuesday following gains in financials, auto and IT shares after recent sharp losses and positive global trends. The 30-share Sensex spurted by 566.97 points or 0.87 per cent to close at 66,079.36 as 26 of its constituents ended in the green and four declined. The index opened sharply higher by 400 points and surged further to touch the day's high of 66,180.17.

The broader Nifty of the National Stock Exchange jumped 177.50 points or 0.91 per cent to settle at 19,689.85, driven by gains in Coal India, Adani Ports and Bharti Airtel. According to analysts, moderation in US bond yields on expectations that interest rates are likely to remain stable in the short term revived demand for rate-sensitive shares even as the Israel-Hamas conflict escalated. Stock markets had dropped sharply Monday with benchmark indices tanking up to 1 per cent as the attack by Hamas on Israel raised fears of a broader

conflict. Among Sensex gainers, Bharti Airtel rose the most by 2.9 per cent. Kotak Bank jumped 2.15 per cent, Tata Motors by 2.14 per cent and JSW Steel by 2.09 per cent. ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Infosys, M&M, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, SBI and Maruti were also among the gainers. On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, TCS, Titan and Asian Paints declined. Beating the benchmark index, BSE Midcap jumped 1.4 per cent while BSE SmallCap rose by 1.14 per cent. All the sectoral indices closed in the green. BSE Realty jumped 4.08 per cent, BSE Metal by 2.59 per cent, BSE Telecom by 2.24 per cent, BSE Services by 1.96 per cent, BSE Commodities by 1.52 per cent, Bankex and Financial Services by 1.24 per cent each, and Energy by 1.29 per cent.

In Asian trading, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 2.4 per cent, the Hang Seng in Hong Kong rose 0.8 per cent, and the S&P/ASX 200 in Australia advanced 1 per cent. In Europe, Germany's DAX jumped 1.6 per cent, the CAC 40 in Paris by 1.4 per cent and Britain's FTSE 100 gained 1.5 per cent. The usual status means that the employment (status of a person) is determined based on the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of the survey. "In rural areas, UR decreased from 5.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 2.4 per cent in 2022-23 while for urban areas it decreased from 7.7 per cent to 5.4 per cent. The UR for male in India decreased from 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 to 3.3 per cent in 2022-23 and corresponding decrease in UR for females was from 5.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent," it stated.

'Khamree Mo Sikkim' Festive season unlikely to jumpstart rural auto demand

THE SITUATION IN RURAL INDIA IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THAT OF URBAN AREAS WHERE EVERYTHING FROM PREMIUM BIKES TO PRICED SUVs ARE FLYING OFF SHOWROOM FLOORS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 10: Indian Navy has teamed up with Maruti Suzuki India to spread awareness among the young people in the northeast about career opportunities through the 'Khamree Mo Sikkim' outreach programme. The adventure started 24 September, a 6,500 km journey that kicked off from the Indian Navy base in Lonavala. A team of 45 Navy officials is embarking on this journey in five vehicles, including three rugged Maruti Suzuki Jimny off-road vehicles and two flagship Grand Vitara ALL GRIP SUVs. They will be on the road for the next few weeks, covering a wide range of destinations, from Mhow to Hyderabad, with stops in Lucknow, Varanasi, Gangtok, Bhubaneswar and more. Commodore Mohit Goel, Commanding Officer of INS Shivaji, highlighted the collab-

orative effort to contribute to northeast India's progress and well-being. A welcome programme was organised in Bhubaneswar by Game Start and Tushi Motors and where officials of Indian Navy, Preeti Pallavi Patnaik (MD, Tushi Motors), Anshuman Patnaik (Director Tushi Motors), Tamanna Dehury (Game Start), Jeet Singh (MD, Amrita builders), Ramesh Mahapatra, (Secretary, Kalinga Motor Sports Club) were present. The primary goal was to enlighten and inspire the youth about the numerous opportunities within the Navy while building stronger connections within local communities. This expedition unfolds in three parts, each with a unique focus. The first stretch goes from INS Shivaji to Bagdogra, the second covers Sikkim extensively, and the third stretches from Gangtok, Sikkim, to INS Shivaji, focusing on empowering youth in rural areas along the eastern coastal region.

REUTERS

Bangalore, Oct 10: A festive season bump would do little to spur a "complete demand turnaround" for tractors and two-wheelers in rural India, as high prices and the driest monsoon in five years have kept festival spending sentiment muted, analysts and experts noted. India has a line-up of festivals and auspicious periods between August and November, pushing up vehicle sales. Rural India, which forms nearly two-thirds of the country's population, accounts for 55 per cent of the total two-wheeler sales and a bulk of its tractor purchases. However, experts have pointed to high borrowing rates and inflationary pressures dampening appetite for vehicle purchases in a region where analysts say investments are heavily 'sentiment-driven'. "The mindset of a rural buyer has changed after the pandemic. They want to save more for rainy days, which can further slow down (demand) recovery," said Amit Hiranandani, automobile sector lead analyst at brokerage SMIFS. BUMP IN THE ROAD The Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA),



which provides monthly retail sales data, pointed to retail sales of two-wheelers crossing pre-pandemic levels in September as "potentially marking the beginning of a turnaround in rural markets." However, with most of the monsoon recovery having taken place only in September, FADA President Manish Raj Singhania told Reuters that a "complete turnaround" -- where demand for entry-level vehicles matches that of more premium ones -- is "not in sight for at least two years." Demand for mopeds, an entry-level vehicle that is a common sight in India's rural areas, was down over 1% year to date, as per

industry data, compared to last year's 5% rise. Sales of small-to-mid-sized offerings from India's largest motorcycle maker Hero MotoCorp, which include the Splendor and HF models, have also dropped, compared to a double-digit growth during the same period last financial year. Automakers are offering higher discounts from a year before, especially for entry-level offerings, but analysts say it will do little to aid rural recovery. "There may be some enthusiasm during the festivals, but there is a big question mark if it will sustain beyond," said SMIFS' Hiranandani. Tractor purchases, meanwhile,

fell 10% in September, as per FADA data, and have been mostly flat or lower since the start of fiscal 2024. They were being purchased for commercial purposes such as construction activity to ferrying passengers and water tankers, according to FADA's Singhania and a tractor vendor Reuters spoke to. "Monsoons have been bad, rates are down and there is no market for us. Affording this (tractor) is a big question mark now," said Munindra N, a 37-year-old farmer, pointing to a shiny, new Massey Ferguson tractor at a showroom in Hoskote, a suburban Bangalore town. The situation in rural India is in stark contrast to that of urban areas, which forms roughly 35% of the population, and where everything from premium bikes to pricey sport utility vehicles (SUVs) are flying off showroom floors. Analysts and economists pointed to a 'K-shaped' recovery, where demand from a 'premium' - aspiring urban population - resilient to rising prices - is outpacing rural demand. "While India (urban) is showing revival signs, Bharat (rural) is yet to perform," Hiranandani said.

Coal industry faces 1mn job losses from energy transition

Hundreds of labour-intensive mines are expected to close in the coming decades as they reach the end of their lifespans and countries replace coal with cleaner low-carbon energy sources

REUTERS

Singapore, Oct 10: The global coal industry may have to shed nearly 1 million jobs by 2050, even without any further pledges to phase out fossil fuels, with China and India facing the biggest losses, research showed Tuesday. Hundreds of labour-intensive mines are expected to close in the coming decades as they reach the end of their lifespans and countries replace coal with

cleaner low-carbon energy sources. But most of the mines likely to shut down "have no planning underway to extend the life of those operations or to manage a transition to a post-coal economy," US-based think tank Global Energy Monitor (GEM) warned. Dorothy Mei, project manager for GEM's Global Coal Mine Tracker, said governments needed to make plans to ensure workers do not suffer from the energy transition.



"Coal mine closures are inevitable, but economic hardship and social strife for workers are

not," she said. GEM looked at 4,300 active and proposed coal mine projects around the world covering a total workforce of nearly 2.7 million. It found that more than 400,000 workers are employed in mines set to cease operations before 2035. If plans were implemented to phase down coal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), only 250,000 miners - less than 10% of the current workforce - would be required worldwide, GEM estimated. China's coal industry, the world's biggest, currently employs more than 1.5 million people, GEM estimated. Of the 1 million job global job losses expected by 2050, more than 240,000 will be in the province of Shanxi alone.

China's coal sector has already undergone several waves of restructuring in recent decades, with many mining districts in the north and northeast struggling to find alternative sources of growth and employment following pit closures. "The coal industry, on the whole, has a notoriously bad reputation for its treatment of workers," said Ryan Driskell Tate, GEM's program director for coal. "What we need is proactive planning for workers and coal communities ... so industry and governments will remain accountable to those workers who have borne the brunt for so long."

Afghan test awaits India

Gill discharged from hospital but likely to miss Pakistan match

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 10: Recovering from a bout of dengue fever, Shubman Gill has been discharged from a hospital in Chennai but the India opener will most likely miss the marquee World Cup clash against Pakistan Saturday in Ahmedabad.

Gill had to be admitted to a hospital on Sunday night after his platelet count dropped below one lakh. It has been learnt that Gill was admitted to well-known multi-care speciality hospital 'Kauvery' and the Indian team's doctor Rizwan monitored his progress.

He had tested positive for the viral infection upon his arrival in Chennai last week and ended up missing Indian team's World Cup opener against Australia October 8.

Gill is also set to miss Wednesday's game against Afghanistan in Delhi. He is required to rest for at least one more week and that effectively rules him out of match against Pakistan. He might miss the match against Bangladesh in Pune October 19.

"Shubman Gill was on drip at the Chennai team hotel for the last couple of days. His platelet count dropped to 70,000 and he was admitted to a medical facility as a precautionary measure. He was admitted for all mandatory tests Sunday night when India played Australia but by Monday evening he was discharged," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

A bout of dengue weakens the body considerably and even elite athletes take time to recover completely. For a normal per-



son, the range of platelet count needs to be between 150,000 to 450,000.

Skipper Rohit Sharma had said that his first priority for him is to see that Gill is no longer sick. "I feel for him. But in terms of, you know, me being the human being first, I want him to get well, not the captain thinking, oh, I want Gill to play tomorrow. No, I want him to get well he you know he's a young guy he's got fit body so he'll recover he'll recover quick," Rohit has said before the game against Australia.

There is a possibility that selectors might call up a cover for Gill. The first option will be Rituraj Gaikwad, who was selected as an opener during the Australia series and also scored a half century in Mohali. As per the succession line created, Gaikwad is next but left-handed sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has been in fantastic form, will also be in mix.



Rahul Dravid and Rohit Sharma inspect the pitch Tuesday ahead of their match against Afghanistan, Wednesday

New Delhi, Oct 10: Navigating their way through some extreme pressure moments in their tournament opener, India will be eyeing a perfect game against a sprightly Afghanistan in the ODI World Cup here Wednesday.

As pointed out by skipper Rohit Sharma, India's biggest challenge over the course of the league stage will be to quickly adapt to the conditions in nine different venues.

After a slow and spinning track at Chepauk, a belt of a surface is expected at the Feroz Shah Kotla, where more than 700 runs were plundered in a high-scoring affair between South Africa and Sri Lanka last week.

With Shubman Gill ruled out of the game due to dengue, Ishan Kishan will get another opportunity at the top of the order alongside Rohit.

Kishan and Shreyas Iyer's questionable shot selection against Australia contributed to India's disastrous start and they both would be wiser going into the Afghanistan game.

If Gill is not able to regain full fitness by the Pakistan game three days later, runs Wednesday will do Kishan a lot of good in his debut ODI World Cup campaign. Comparatively, facing the Afghan attack upfront would be easier than negotiating the likes of Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc.

The smaller dimensions of the ground, where 31 sixes were hammered in the previous game, would also aid strokeplay. The main square was relayed ahead of the World Cup and that has clearly changed the nature of the surface.

The game will also be a homecoming for chase master Virat Kohli who reinforced his credentials batting alongside KL

Rahul in Chennai Sunday night. Batting in front of pavilion named after him, Kohli will be expected to give his fans another night to remember.

Rahul has been the story of India's batting since Asia Cup last month. Despite criticism, the team management showed unwavering faith in him and he has repaid that and how. He made a fine hundred against Pakistan in his comeback and Sunday, emerged unscathed in another high pressure situation.

In the bowling department, India could be forced to make a change considering the condi-

tions. India ticked all boxes on the bowling front against Australia and got as many as six wickets in the middle overs.

If India don't go in with three spinners, then Mohammad Shami can make way for R Ashwin who had a decent outing in Chennai. That could be the only change in the playing eleven.

Coming from a heavy loss against Bangladesh, Afghanistan will be aiming to turn things around in Delhi. With a sizeable number of Afghans residing in Delhi's Lajpat Nagar, one can expect good support for Hashmatullah Shahidi and his men.

Bowling, mainly spinners, has been Afghanistan's strong suit over the years and if they are to make an impact in this World Cup, their batters too must step.

Opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz seems to be the only one in top form. An effort of 156 all out against Bangladesh was not acceptable and the batters will be looking for immediate course correction. Spinner Mujeeb Zadran usually opens the bowling alongside a pacer while trump card Rashid Khan comes into the attack after the powerplay.

While the teams are forced to take chances against Rashid in

the shortest format, batters have time to play him without risk in ODIs. That was evident in the game in Dharamsala where Bangladesh batters collected 48 runs from his nine overs and did not concede a wicket.



England thrash Bangla for 1st win in 2023 WC



Dawid Malan & Reece Topley (inset)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dharamsala, Oct 10: Defending champions England flexed their muscles to crush Bangladesh by 137 runs and record their first win in the World Cup with Dawid Malan smashing a 107-ball 140 (16x4, 5x6) here, Tuesday.

After posting a formidable 364/9, Reece Topley (4/43) ran through Bangladesh's top order as they could muster only 227 in 48.1 overs, with Litton Das (76, 66b, 7x4, 2x6) and Mushfiqur Rahim (51, 64b, 4x4) standing out in a largely disappointing batting show.

England's batting stars Malan, Jonny Bairstow (52, 59b, 8x4) and Joe Root (82, 68b, 8x4, 1x6) contributing significantly in the first half of the contest to take their team to a mammoth total.

It was a game of contrasting halves, where England's mighty batting power served a reminder to their rivals in the first half, while in the second, Bangladesh

wilted after taking some early blows and could muster a mere 67 runs in the last 18.1 overs, losing five wickets.

Bangladesh could never recover after Topley struck thrice at the start of their chase, which derailed the Asian side and forced them into a damage-control mode. For the remainder of the innings, Bangladesh's approach was conservative, lacking any signs of a fight-back or taking the attack to the opposition even as the run-rate surged.

Earlier, Malan continued his dream run in ODIs with a disdainful hundred against a hapless Bangladesh, propelling England to a commanding 364/9.

After a subdued batting show against New Zealand in the opening match, Malan's knock became the cornerstone of England's sizeable total after Bangladesh elected to bowl. Bangladesh bowlers could not repeat their impressive showing against Afghanistan in the previous game.

Malan added 115 for the opening wicket with Jonny Bairstow and another 151 in just 19.3 overs with Joe Root to set up the big total. Bangladesh bowlers did make some sort of a comeback during the back-end of the innings as England, in a mini-slump, lost seven wickets for 68 runs, which prevented them from touching the 400-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES
England 364/9 (Dawid Malan 140, Joe Root 82, Jonny Bairstow 52; Mahedi Hasan 4/71, Shoriful Islam 3/75) beat Bangladesh 227 (Litton Das 76, Mushfiqur Rahim 51; Reece Topley 4/43, Chris Woakes 2/49) by 137 runs.

Rizwan, Shafique tons seal Pakistan win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Oct 10: Mohammad Rizwan battled severe cramps to smash an unbeaten century, while young Abdullah Shafique hit a maiden ton as Pakistan scripted a world-record chase to edge out Sri Lanka by six wickets in a high-scoring ODI to continue their winning run in the World Cup here Tuesday.

Rizwan (131 n.o, 121b, 8x4, 3x6) paced his innings superbly as he shared a match-winning 176-run stand for the third wicket with the 23-year-old Shafique (113, 103b, 10x4, 3x6) to first resurrect their chase of a stiff 345 and then added another 95 runs with Saud Shakeel (31) as Pakistan romped home in 48.2 overs. Pakistan extended their winning streak against Sri Lanka in World Cups to an overwhelming 8-0.

Opting to bat, Sri Lanka dished out a dominating batting performance to post a challenging 344 for nine, built around the superlative hundreds by Kusal Mendis (122, 77b, 14x4, 6x6) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (108, 89b, 11x4, 2x6).

Sri Lanka then left Pakistan reeling at 37/2 in 7.2 overs with Dilshan Madushanka claiming both the wickets – Imam-ul-Haq and skipper Babar Azam. However, Shafique, playing only his fifth ODI, showed great maturity as he and Rizwan steadied the ship.

Shafique, who replaced Fakhar Zaman, and Rizwan looked for damage control initially but slowly picked up pace. Soon, the 100-run stand between the two was up as Pakistan reached 138/2

at the halfway mark. Shafique picked up his maiden ODI ton in the 32nd over. A sensational diving catch by substitute Dushan Hemantha ended Shafique's stay but Sri Lanka couldn't make use of the opening.

Needing 132 runs off 102 balls, Rizwan hit two fours and a six before he fell down writhing in

pain due to cramps. Despite the discomfort, the 31-year-old kept going and reached his third hundred in the 42nd over.

Rizwan and Shakeel brought the equation down to 62 off 48 balls with Sri Lanka too missing a few catches as 300 was up in the 44th over. Maheesh Theekshana dismissed Shakeel but it was

too late by then.

Earlier, Mendis' knock was the fastest hundred by a Sri Lankan in World Cup history, while Samarawickrama picked up his maiden ODI ton as the islanders posted their highest World Cup total against a Full Member.

The 28-year-old Mendis batted with absolute authority. He starred in two 100-plus partnerships with Pathum Nissanka (51, 61b, 7x4, 1x6) and Samarawickrama to take Sri Lanka across the 200-mark in the 28th over.

Once Mendis was dismissed, Samarawickrama took the onus and paced his innings superbly, using his cuts and drives as Sri Lanka kept accumulating runs with ease.

However, Pakistan pulled things back a bit at the back-end as Hasan Ali removed Charith Asalanka (3), Mohammad Nawaz removed Dhananjaya de Silva (25) and Shaheen Shah Afridi got rid of Dasun Shanaka (12). Samarawickrama held the innings together to keep Sri Lanka on track.

For Pakistan, Hasan Ali (4/71) claimed four wickets and Haris Rauf (2/64) snapped two but overall it was a poor outing for the bowling unit, especially Shaheen Afridi (1/66 in 9 overs) and Shadab Khan (1/55 in 8 overs).

BRIEF SCORES: Sri Lanka 344/9 (Kusal Mendis 122, Sadeera Samarawickrama 108, Pathum Nissanka 51; Hasan Ali 4/71) lost to Pakistan 345/4 (Mohammad Rizwan 131 n.o, Abdullah Shafique 113; Dilshan Madushanka 2/60) by 6 wickets.



Mohammad Rizwan (R) & Abdullah Shafique

This was the highest successful run-chase in the history of the World Cup. Ireland had previously held the record when they successfully chased down 329 against England during the 2011 edition in India

India game 'can serve as a distraction' for Afghan people



GAUTAM GAMBHIR

Almost every time Afghanistan steps out to play on a sporting field there is a context of a gloomy socio-political background. Add to that our neighbour is now jostling with the aftermaths of one of the deadliest earthquakes.

News agency 'Reuters' had quoted the Taliban administration that so far 2,445 people were killed and 9,240 injured. Some of the photos of the calamity are extremely depressing. I really wonder how the Afghanistan cricket team are able to concentrate on the job at hand in this ongoing ICC World Cup.

I remember when 26/11 terror attacks happened in 2008, I was part of the Indian team. We were playing England in Cuttack that day. The team was stunned seeing pictures on news channels. Cricket had paled off deep in the background.

What happened in Mumbai was a man-made massacre while Afghanistan is facing a natural disaster. It really takes nerves

of steel and more to still come out and play. And I am sorry but I don't believe in cricket or cinema or any other form of entertainment being a real healer. At most sports or in this case, the match against India can serve as a 7-hour distraction for those affected.

Rashid Khan donated his entire World Cup match fees for earthquake victims. I would have loved to see a bit more compassion from the cricketing fraternity. A financial aid would have definitely helped but I have heard nothing on that front so far.

Even more disappointing is the fact that there hasn't been a customary minute's silence or teams wearing black armbands as a mark of respect for earthquake victims.



I remember during WTC finals earlier this year Indian and Australian teams observed a minute's silence and played wearing black arm bands to pay homage to the 260 dead in Odisha train accident. I hope we haven't reached a stage where administrators are deciding which deaths to mourn and which ones to not.

India started off well in Chennai. A lot of you might disagree but I loved the nature of the Chennai pitch. It tested the patience and the skills of a batsman. Seeing the crowd at Chidambaram Stadium it seemed

they loved the low-scoring contest.

That is exactly what I keep stressing on. We don't need gimmicks to keep alive the 50-over format, all we need is good, balanced pitches where there is a proper contest between bat and ball.

KL Rahul and Virat Kohli batted really well. I was most impressed by Rahul who was decisive in his footwork and played the ball late. He was near flawless against Australia. It was once again good to see Kohli absorb all the pressure.

That is why I love this game. It tested Rahul and Kohli on different parameters Sunday and it will be asking different questions to the Afghanistan team, Wednesday.

Gameplan
Dinesh Chopra Media

Eden Hazard bids adieu to football

BRUSSELS: Eden Hazard is putting an end to a 16-year injury-hit career marked by great success at club level and unfulfilled promise with the Belgium national team's "Golden Generation." The 32-year-old Hazard announced his retirement from all football Tuesday after more than 700 matches and two Premier League titles during his time with Chelsea. Before injuries slowed him down, Hazard was often unstoppable on the field with his quick pace, creativity and super dribbling skills. "You must listen to yourself and say stop at the right time," said Hazard, who had been without a club since his contract with Real Madrid expired in June. "I was able to realize my dream. I have played and had fun on many pitches around the world."



Yamal out of Spain squad after injury

MADRID: Teenage sensation Lamine Yamal has been removed from Spain's squad for upcoming European Championship qualifying games, the Spanish football federation said Tuesday. The federation said tests have determined that the 16-year-old Yamal won't be able to play in Spain's matches against Scotland on Thursday and Norway on Sunday. It did not give details. Yamal was replaced in the second half of Barcelona's 2-2 draw at Granada in the Spanish league Sunday. The Catalan club said he had a hip flexor injury.