

leisure



ELBA TO PRODUCE, NARRATE WW-II DOCUMENTARY

Hollywood actor Idris Elba is set to produce and narrate the National Geographic docuseries *The Color Of Victory: Heroes Of WW2*. The actor wants to highlight the unsung heroes of the war in his series.

KHLOE LOST SENSATION IN HER CHEEK AFTER CANCER SCARE

American model Khloe Kardashian has revealed her cheek doesn't have much feeling after having a tumour removed. She had surgery to remove a precancerous melanoma from her cheek last year.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You need to be very cautious today, says Ganesh. The results of a lot of hard work over a long time may be undone by one impulsive decision. After a stressful morning, you could just wish to spend time with children, playing their childish games.

TAURUS
There is a strong likelihood of some dispute or misunderstanding cropping up between you and your parents. This, Ganesh assures, could easily be resolved through a positive, meaningful dialogue. You will be clear, coherent and persuasive in your communications.

GEMINI
You will keep your emotions aside and concentrate solely on your work today. You will have to waste a lot of time in fulfilling the demands made by those around you. However, the more demands you fulfill, the more their expectations will rise, says Ganesh.

CANCER
New positive turn in life of lovers. It may lead to marriage. You will play role in bonding all members of the joint family and will meet with success. You will respect tradition and custom. Adopt a careful approach, counsels Ganesh.

LEO
Your entire day will be spent at work. Those working in large corporations will have to fulfill heightened expectations from their superiors. Housewives will need to tackle other work, apart from their daily chores. It is an important day for you, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will stay away from partnership ventures. Ganesh says you have the ability to control large-scale projects on your own. You have leadership qualities, and will be able to coordinate team work and direct your colleagues to get the required amount of work from them.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be able to attain a huge benefit because of your nature to take chances. Higher ups in the office will take notice of your skills and ability to work well. Seniors in your office will promote and inspire you to give your best. Ganesh says this is not a good time to get into a direct fight with anyone since it will lead to more problems and issues.

SCORPIO
You are ready to take up the challenges that life has to throw at you. Thanks to the confidence within you, which gives you power to fight it out against all odds. Even if you take up a mammoth task, you are bound to succeed today, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Your business is likely to grow with leaps and bounds, foresees Ganesh. Increase in financial returns will keep you happy for the entire day. Work in progress gives out positive signals. Your expert advice will be valued at work. In short, a day full of activities.

CAPRICORN
Practical and creative, you are able to utilise your talents in the best possible manner. You will smartly solve family issues, without favouring or hurting anybody, says Ganesh. You'll like to play the role of a peace maker, as it gives you satisfaction from within. Also, you will love to help others as much as you can.

AQUARIUS
Be it about solving financial issues or concerns about income, money matters will keep your mind occupied through out the day. You will have a gala time with your friends later on the day, predicts Ganesh. Not that you don't value your friends, but today, you will realise how important you are for one another.

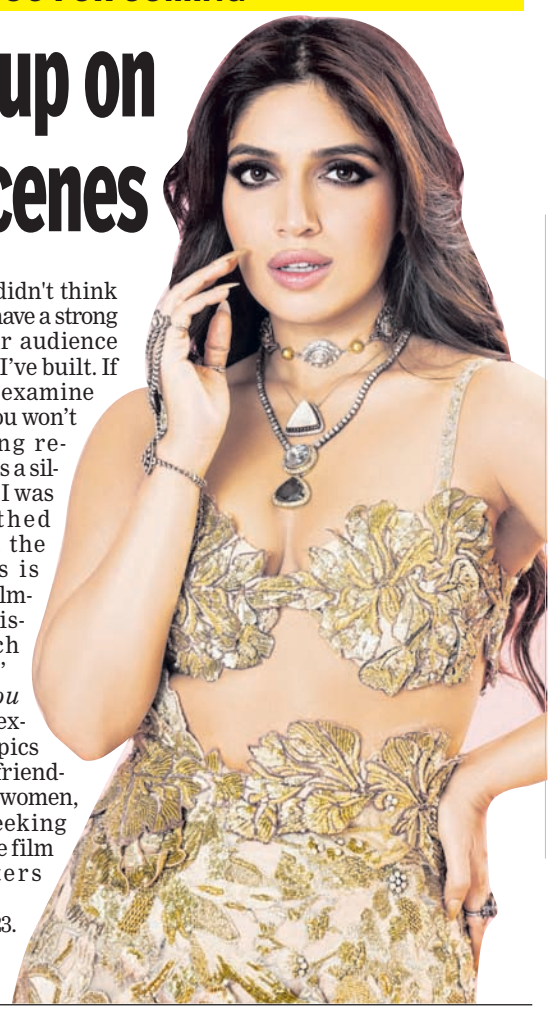
PISCES
You are fond of traveling and are always looking for an excuse to set off. Hence it comes as no surprise if you pack your bags and decide to embark upon a journey on a whim today. It is a much needed break too, from the daily stresses of earning a livelihood.

THANK YOU FOR COMING

Bhumi opens up on filming bold scenes

Mumbai: Released recently, *Thank You For Coming* is seen as bold, and in the climax, Bhumi's character experiences an orgasm for the first time. Recently, the actress opened up on the same.
Speaking about the scene the *Badhaai Do* actress said, "I believe it was filmed in a beautiful way. The director told me that the camera would only capture my facial expressions."
However, she quickly added, "My character wasn't seeking just pleasure, she was searching for love."
When discussing this scene, she mentions that she had no hesitation while filming it, and sharing her thoughts on this,

she said, "I didn't think it through. I have a strong belief in our audience and the fans I've built. If you closely examine that scene, you won't see anything revealing. It was a silhouette, and I was fully clothed throughout the scene. This is where the filmmaker's artistic approach plays a role."
Thank You For Coming explores the topics of women's friendships, single women, love, and seeking pleasure. The film hit theaters worldwide October 6, 2023.



Celina disappointed over SC verdict

Mumbai: Actress and LGBT activist Celina Jaitly expressed her disappointment over the Supreme Court's recent ruling on same-sex marriages, emphasizing that the LGBT community is seeking the same rights as all Indian citizens.
She highlighted the significance of the right to marriage and family as a fundamental human right.
Jaitly hopes that the Parliament will amend the Special Marriages Act to make it gender-neutral, allowing same-sex couples to legally marry. She believes that such a change is essential for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for the LGBTQ+ community.
While disappointed by the court's ruling, Celina Jaitly noted a positive aspect: the court's commitment to examining the rights and benefits that can be extended to queer couples. This commitment signifies progress in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights in India.
The Supreme Court ruled against granting constitutional validity to same-sex marriages, leaving the matter for Parliament to address.
The 3-2 verdict has sparked a debate, with activists advocating for LGBTQ+ rights and others expressing concerns about the potential impact of legalizing same-sex marriage on Indian society.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

SRK-Suhana to share screen in action thriller

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan's daughter Suhana Khan is all set to mark her acting debut with Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies*, but the film is headed straight for an OTT release. While fans are waiting with bated breath to see SRK's little girl on the big screen, looks like it's finally happening, as latest reports suggest that Suhana might mark her theatrical debut in Bollywood next year.
What is even better is that the film will reportedly be produced by SRK himself under his banner, Red Chillies, and he will even have a special cameo in the film.
While no official announcement has been made yet, the buzz is enough for fans

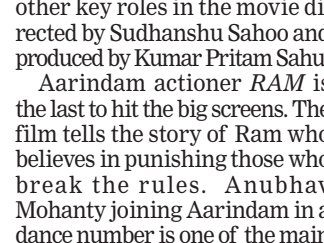
of the father-daughter duo to get excited. According to a report in an entertainment portal, SRK has got Suhana on board his film, which is set to be an action thriller.
Not just that, but the film will reportedly be directed by Sujoy Ghosh, who has hits like *Kahaani*, *Kahaani 2*, and *Badlaa* to his credit.



PUJA RELEASES

Sidhant, Babushaan, Aarindam's movies to clash at box office

Bhubaneswar: This Durga Puja filmgoers will be treated to not one but three Odia movies featuring top stars like Sidhant Mohapatra, Babushaan Mohanty, Aarindam Roy and Amlan Das.
Mahagiri starring Babushaan, Amlan, Sivani Sangita and Suryamayee will be released October 19. Directed by Prithvi Raj Pattnaik and produced by Rinku Rinku Jena, the plot unfolds in a fictional Malyagiri forest area and is based on folklore told by women to their grandchildren. While the story revolves around a tiger and a lion, all the stars will be seen in their village looks.
Headlined by Sidhant, *Katak-Sesha Ru Arambha* is the next to release October 20. It showcases Silver City's gang wars and a race between mafia to rule Cuttack.
Devasis Patra, Prasanjeet, Choudhary Bikash Das, Anu Choudhury Poonam Mishra play other key roles in the movie directed by Sudhanshu Sahoo and produced by Kumar Pritam Sahu.
Aarindam actioner *RAM* is the last to hit the big screens. The film tells the story of Ram who believes in punishing those who break the rules. Anubhav Mohanty joining Aarindam in a dance number is one of the main attractions of the movie which also stars Bengali actress Rupsha Mukhopadhyay and Bollywood star Rahul Dev. Ashok Pati has directed the movie produced by Aarindam.

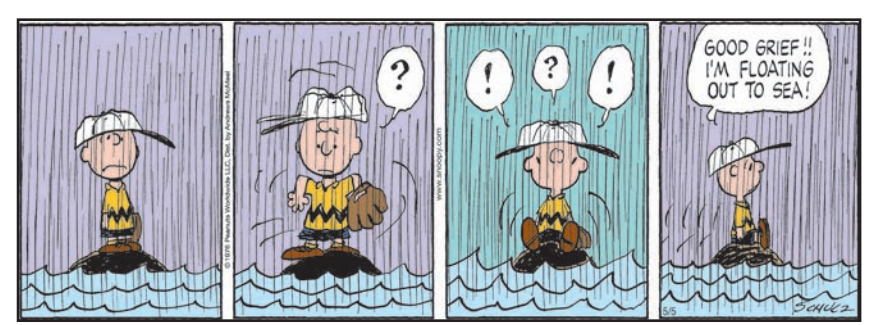


7-DAY DRAMA FEST SAPTARUPAM: DAY-II

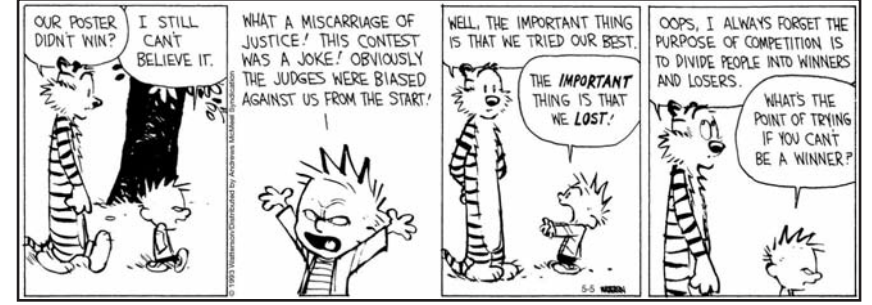


A scene from the Odia play *Bhinna Eka Rajaputra*, presented by Bhubaneswar-based troupe Labanya Theatre, at Bhanjakala Mandap, Wednesday. Written by Narayan Sahoo and directed by Satya Jena, the plot dealt with the issue of an unwed mother in present times. Nabin Parida, Manisha Rath and Debi Prasad Das played central roles in the drama.

PEANUTS



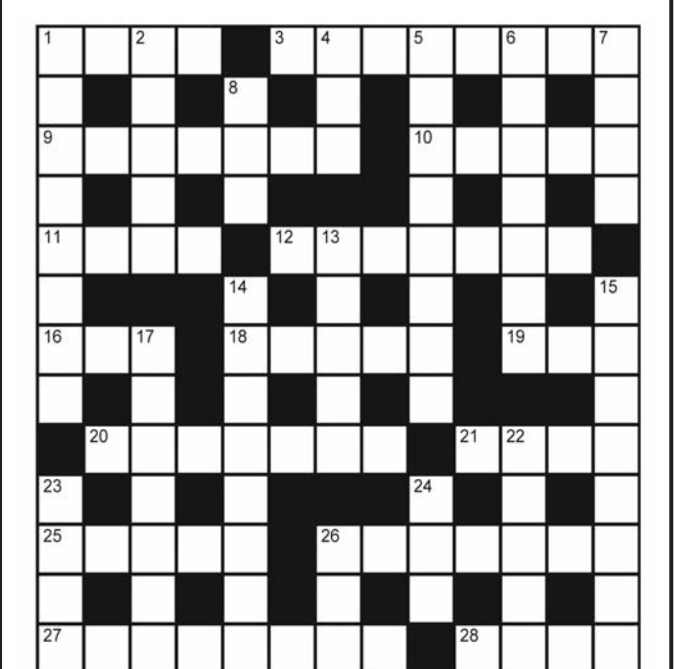
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



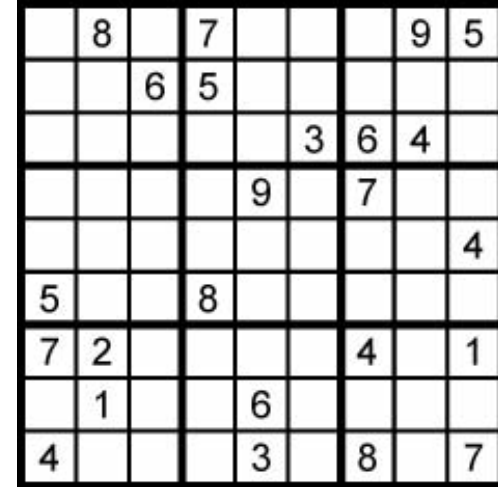
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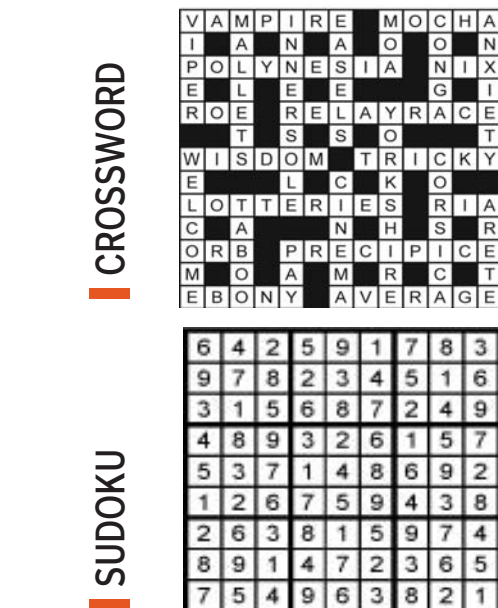
- Across**
- 1 Filly's father
 - 3 Bridge type
 - 9 Simple wind instrument
 - 10 Type of jet
 - 11 London's Square
 - 12 Lettuce type
 - 16 Frequently, in verse
 - 18 True health
 - 19 Sailor's assent
 - 20 At last!
 - 21 Dry African riverbed
 - 25 Bouquet
 - 26 Celebratory blaze
 - 27 Sahara feature (4,4)
 - 28 Vegetable matter used as fuel
 - 4 Egg cells
 - 5 Agra mausoleum (3,5)
 - 6 Colourless gas
 - 7 Horn sound
 - 8 Farm animal
 - 13 Bay window
 - 14 Patched up
 - 15 Alluvial deposit
 - 17 Cocked hat
 - 22 Light-footed
 - 23 Forest growth
 - 24 Small colonist
 - 26 Prohibit
- Down**
- 1 Winter hare
 - 2 Arrive at

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

downtown

FUTURE BUILDERS

A tech exhibition in progress at DRIEMS Polytechnic in Cuttack, Wednesday



Naveen opens ₹55cr OPTCL Tech Tower



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL) Tech Tower, the public enterprise's corporate office, in Saheed Nagar area of the City, Wednesday.

Built at an expenditure of Rs 55 crore, the multi-storey building has ultramodern facilities with special focus on energy efficiency.

Inaugurating the Tech Tower, Patnaik said OPTCL plays a crucial role in state's power transmission infrastructure.

According to OPTCL sources, Odisha, which had around 16

lakh power consumers in 2000, now provides uninterrupted electricity to over 97 lakh consumers.

"The transmission capacity has increased from 6,125 MVA to 25,800 MVA, while transmission line from 9,400 circuit km to 16,300 circuit km in these years," they said, adding that OPTCL has demonstrated its expertise in the field of power transmission and has created extensive employment opportunities for the youth of the state.

Energy Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, Science and Technology, Public Enterprises and SSEPD Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Bhubaneswar (Central) MLA Ananta Narayan Jena, Bhubaneswar (North) MLA Susant Kumar Rout, Energy department Additional Chief Secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal, OPTCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) Sanjay Kumar Mishra, senior officers and employees of OPTCL were present.



STANDING TALL: A replica of Thailand Buddha Temple being erected by Baramunda Durga Puja Committee in Bhubaneswar is nearing completion

OP PHOTO

Scholarship fraud: EOW nabs 2 from Jharkhand

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police has arrested two more persons in connection with Vastav India Trust's multi-state scholarship and solar equipment fraud case.

The accused, arrested from Ranchi in Jharkhand, were identified as the trust's state field officer Nishant Prakash Jaiswal, and project in-charge Amar Danis. They were booked under Sections 406, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code and Section 6 of the Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, 2011, an official said Wednesday.

The accused were produced before the lower division court of JMFC, Ranchi which granted transit remand to Bhubaneswar.

The president and secretary of



the trust were earlier arrested in the case and are currently in jail, the official added.

According to the official, Vastav India Trust duped people to the tune of over Rs 4 crore on the pretext of selling LED bulbs under their 'solar awareness programme' and giving pre-matric scholarships to students in their 'Chooloo Aasman' scheme. Subsequently, they shut their offices and fled.

The trust was operating in Odisha, Jharkhand, Delhi and Bihar: EOW has alerted police in these states, the official said.

EOW sources said under the solar awareness programme,

Vatav India Trust used to collect Rs 1,650 in cash from each applicant as membership fee with an assurance to supply them with LED bulbs.

The survey application form provided by the trust bore the logo of Union Ministry of MSME, which had been forged to win the trust of the general public.

In their pre-matric scholarship program 'Chooloo Aasman', the trust was offering the scholarship of Rs 1,000 per month up to 24 months on their one-time deposit of Rs 3,000 as membership charge.

EOW sources said the trust collected approximately Rs 4 crore from more than 3,500 persons. After taking one time membership fees, the trust initially sent Rs 1,000 each to some of the students but did never pay any amount thereafter.

The money so collected fraud-

ulently by the trust was misappropriated by the president, secretary, project in-charge and other officials of the trust.

They had appointed block coordinators and other officials in Sundargarh, Bhadrak, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bolangir and Dhenkanal districts.

During investigation, it was found that Rs 10 lakh has been transferred to the account of Nishant Prakash Jaiswal from Vastav India Trust, Rs 11 lakh to the account of his wife, Rs 4.7 lakh to the account of Amar Danish. Many incriminating documents like trust deed of Vastav India Trust, fake money receipts issued to the investors, blank cheques, six ATM cards, visiting card of Vastav India and mobile phones have been seized. Investigation in the case is on, police said.

State gears up to meet drinking water needs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Odisha has come up with SOPs to meet the challenges of drinking water across the state, especially in villages, before the onset of next year's summer.

The plan of action on preparedness, mitigation and maintenance of hand pump tube wells and Rural Piped Water Supply Projects in districts before the approaching summer, 2024 was taken at a state-level Rural Drinking Water Supply and maintenance workshop and review meeting, Wednesday.

At the meeting, which was chaired by the principal secretary Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department Sushil Kumar Lohani, a review was taken of all 35 Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) divisions in the state.

The district authorities were sensitized about conducting



checks on tube wells and PWSs on priority as a part of preventive maintenance.

The routine preventive maintenance shall be done in a mission mode and it should be ensured that the blocks shall procure adequate spare parts, paints, riser pipes by utilizing the Finance Commission grants taking into consideration the incidents of Gram Panchayats on the recommendation of JE/AE, RWSS.

Water supply with focus on provision of Tap water supply to all primary schools / Anganwadi centers / rural haats shall also be ensured.

Regular review and monitoring of the drinking water situ-

ation shall be done by convening weekly review meeting at block-level on each Saturday, it was directed.

According to the IMIS portal, so far 66 percent rural households have been covered with tap water Connection. Around 9,671 villages have been saturated with cent per cent tap connection.

The state has prepared its saturation Plan for total 47,274 villages, so far 66 percent rural households have been covered with functional household tap connection. 31, 854 (65%) of the villages are covered with mega piped water supply, 15, 420 (35%) covered with small and solar. Apart from these, 4,79,664 tube wells have also been made available in all the villages, it was informed.

It is worth mentioning that there are 77 water testing labs in the state. Water samples from 2.28 lakh sources and delivery points are tested in laboratories across the state every year.

Instruments worth ₹60L stolen from Capital Hospital

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Medical instruments worth over Rs 60 lakh have been stolen from the Capital Hospital here Tuesday night, an official said Wednesday.

Some employees and security personnel are suspected to have been involved in it, he said.

Capital Hospital Director LD Sahu said CCTV footage revealed that some people wearing dresses similar to Capital Hospital employees taking the instruments in a sack



Capital Hospital Director LD Sahu said some unused and new instruments kept in the lab were stolen by

some people. An FIR has been filed and police are inquiring into the incident.

The instruments are meant for conducting various pathological tests for malaria and dengue, Sahu said.

Sahu said CCTV footage revealed that some people wearing dresses similar to employees taking the instruments in a sack.

Former CJ Muralidhar to practice law in SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Oct 18: Former chief justice of Orissa High Court Justice Dr S Muralidhar is slated to begin practice law before the Supreme Court as he was designated as senior advocate October 16.

The decision to designate retired Justice Muralidhar as senior advocate in the Supreme Court was taken in a full court meeting of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and other judges.

Justice Dr S Muralidhar retired as the chief justice of Orissa High Court August 7.

The Supreme Court collegium had recommended Justice Muralidhar's appointment as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

However, the recommendation was not notified by the Union government following which the collegium had to withdraw the proposal in April this year.

Justice Muralidhar had also been a judge in Delhi High Court and Punjab and Haryana High Court.

He was transferred from Delhi High Court following his observations regarding the Delhi police's actions during 2020 riots.

Dutee: Same-sex marriage will become reality one day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: India's fastest woman Dutee Chand has expressed optimism that same-sex marriage will become a reality one day.

Chand made the remark while expressing her views on the apex court's judgment on the legality of same-sex marriage.

A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court Tuesday by a majority judgment refused to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriage under the Special Marriage Act, ruling that it is within Parliament's ambit to change the law for validating such union.

"The Supreme Court has not prevented same-sex persons from staying together. As the country has no such legislation for marriage between same-sex persons, the SC did not interfere in it," she said.

"We are optimistic that the central government and Parliament will certainly consider the case and make a proper legislation for marriage between same-sex persons in future," Chand hoped.

Dutee, who had no hesitation in revealing that she was in a relationship with her partner for five years, said they decided to stay together and got married since they loved each other.



She said the marriage between same-sex should not be seen in terms of urban-rural, upper-lower caste, creed or religion. "It is a problem of humanity and all should get proper rights in life," she said.

On her optimism for legal status for same-sex marriage, Dutee said, "Was there any such provision of widow marriage in India? Same-sex marriage will one day be allowed in the country," she argued.

Meera Parida, a transgender activist affiliated to the ruling BJD, said, "The Supreme Court judgment on same-sex marriage should be viewed positively. The court has no objection on transgenders staying together. Though marriage is not a fundamental right, it, according to me, is something more than that. LGBTQs should get rights to marry in the world's biggest democracy like India."

She explained that even after staying together for years, one cannot get insurance and pension benefits. The civil society should consider these issues also, she added.

"What is wrong if two adults stay together as partners for life," she asked. LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, pansexual, two-spirit, asexual and ally persons.

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<p>20-23 OCT PUPUL BHUYAN OLLYWOOD ACTRESS</p>	<p>23 OCT ANCHOR SHUBHAM CELEBRITY ANCHOR</p>	<p>20 OCT SINGER SONAM MTV BOLLYLAND WINNER</p>	<p>23 OCT YUVA BAND BOLLYWOOD FUSION BAND</p>
<p>23 OCT SINGER PRIYA NATIONAL YOUTH FEST-WINNER</p>	<p>21 OCT DJ RAZZ RESIDENT DJ</p>	<p>23 OCT BOLLY BOYZ ODISHA'S 1ST VDJ BAND</p>	<p>21 OCT ANCHOR PUNYA</p>

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2 held for smuggling snakes

POST NEWS NETWORK

Raibania, Oct 18: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel busted a racket smuggling live snakes and snake venom as it arrested two persons after seizure of four poisonous snakes from their possession at Jaleswar Railway Station in Balasore district, Wednesday.



Station, Wednesday afternoon. Smelling something fishy, he directed an ASI to question and frisk them.

During verification, four poisonous snakes kept in four bamboo baskets were seized from their possession. The seized snakes were handed over to forest ranger Jayshree Murmu of Jaleswar forest range.

Reports said that smuggling of snake venom and poisonous snakes from the state has refused to abate despite crackdown by the police and Forest officials. Racketeers continue to transport snakes and venoms illegally outside the state with impunity due to

lack of stringent action by police and law enforcement agencies.

Two months back, Forest department officials rescued as many as 26 cobras and arrested three persons of an alleged interstate snake venom smuggling racket from Panchupali area in Balasore district, August 16. The trio allegedly supplied snakes to West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Sources said that the members of the racket used to extract venom from snakes that were caught from different locations in the state. The extracted venom was then sold at very high prices.

Two years ago, police in Deogarh district had busted a racket selling snake venom worth around ₹1.5 crore. Sources said cobra venom per gram is sold at ₹5,000 to ₹25,000 depending on its quality. The venom is used to produce anti-venom medicines for snake bites and several other life-threatening diseases. Even it is used to produce illegal drugs, sources said.

Sarada courts controversy

MINISTER DRAWS FLAK AFTER VIRAL VIDEOS SHOW THE ROURKELA MLA SHOWERING MONEY ON SINGER, DRAWING BLOOD FROM DONOR



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela/Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Minister Sarada Prasad Nayak courted controversy by drawing blood from a volunteer at a blood donation camp and also showering money on a singer at a Qawwali programme in Sundargarh district.

Nayak, the Minister of Labour and ESI, was seen in viral videos showering money on a singer and drawing blood from a man in separate incidents.

Though a nurse was standing at the blood donation camp held at the Rourkela Government Hospital October

16, Nayak used a needle and drew blood from the donor.

Questions were raised from various quarters about how the minister, who is the MLA of Rourkela, could draw blood at a camp without any experience.

Nayak, however, defended his action while talking to reporters Wednesday after the videos went viral. "The donor requested me to draw blood and I respected his wishes with the help of a nurse. During the Covid-19 pandemic, when people were afraid to come outside, I worked with the health workers for 24 hours," he said.

In another video, Nayak was seen throwing currency notes during a music programme organised at a hotel in Sundargarh district Tuesday.

"The renowned Qawwali singer was singing the glory of the country and the audience wanted to honour him. They requested me as a public representative to honour the singer. I offered him some cash which is purely from my hard-earned money. It is unfortunate that the matter has been portrayed in a bad light," he said.

The BJD leader was also seen dancing on the stage. On this, Nayak said, "I can put steps in dance numbers since my student days. It was a festive occasion. The people requested me to dance and I just kept one or two steps to the wishes of the people. I am a conscious citizen and I am fully aware of my actions which are not intended to do any harm to society."

Nayak's political opponents, however, are not ready to buy his explanations.

Sundargarh's BJP MLA Kusum Tete said, "It is said that such incident of showering money during Qawwali programmes is common. But if the minister has showered money, it shows that he has no dearth of money. He should offer money to people who are starving."

Stating that people consider money as a form of Goddess Laxmi, Tete wondered what message he is giving to the society.

Local Congress leader Biren Senapati said, "The minister considers that bad publicity is better than no publicity. So, in order to remain in the limelight, Nayak is doing all such acts."

Vig nabs JE over DA

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 18: Vigilance sleuths Wednesday unearthed movable and immovable properties worth crores of rupees from the possession of a junior engineer (JE) in Angul district.

The Vigilance officials have unearthed five buildings including three multi-storied buildings and one flat in Bhubaneswar, 17 plots, deposits over ₹51 lakhs, ₹3.21 lakhs in cash along with other assets during searches on properties linked to Prasanna Kumar Pani.



Pani was working as the junior engineer (technical consultant), Samagra Sikhya Abhijana, in the office of Pallahara BEO in Angul district.

On the allegation of possession of disproportionate assets (DA) by Prasanna Kumar Pani, simultaneous house searches were being conducted by Vigilance officials led by six DSPs, six inspectors and other staff at nine places in Khurda (Bhubaneswar), Angul and Puri districts.

2 arrested for gangrape, murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Patana, Oct 18: Police Wednesday arrested two persons on charge of brutal gangrape and murder of a widow to destroy evidence at Field Sahi in Aharpada village under this police limit in Keonjhar district.



ducted on the accused before producing them in the court, the IIC said.

The incident occurred when the woman, mother of six children, had gone to Field Sahi in Aharpada to

attend the post-death rituals of a relative. The accused gangraped the woman and strangled her to death to destroy the evidence of their crime, the IIC added.

Saltwater croc carcass found in Bhitarkanika

IN ANOTHER INCIDENT WITHIN THE NATIONAL PARK LIMITS, A LIVE CROC WAS RESCUED AND LATER RELEASED IN RIVER

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Oct 18: The carcass of a seven-foot-long female saltwater crocodile was seen floating on Patasala river near Ghadiamala village within Bhitarkanika National Park limits in Kendrapara district Wednesday, forest officials said.

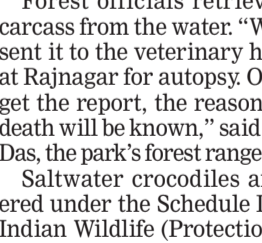
1972, the officer said. In all, 32 crocodiles had died in the park over the last decade, he said. In 1975, the Ministry of Forest and Environment in collaboration with the UNDP had started a crocodile breeding and rearing project in Dangamala within Bhitarkanika. According to the latest reptile census report, the park is now home to 1,793 saltwater crocodiles.

Meanwhile, a 5.3-foot-long female saltwater crocodile was rescued by forest personnel Wednesday from a pond in Bankuala village located near the Bhitarkanika National Park.

Gahirmatha marine sanctuary ranger Manas Kumar Das said the crocodile was rescued from the pond of one Sumitra Rout.

The locals spotted the reptile in the pond and informed the forest personnel of Bhitarkanika National Park.

A forest team led by Jasobanta Behera rushed to the spot, managed to rescue the reptile and later released it in Bhitarkanika river, Das said.



Man gets life term for murder

PNN & AGENCIES

Baripada, Oct 18: A court in Mayurbhanj district sentenced a man to life imprisonment Wednesday for killing his elderly aunt.

the village Chamundadihi in Mayurbhanj district March 16, 2019.

In a separate case, a court in Kalahandi district sentenced an inter-state drug peddler to 20 years rigorous imprisonment in a drugs case. The district and sessions judge, Kalahandi, Dipti Ranjan Kanungo also ordered the drug peddler Mainuddin of Uttar Pradesh to pay a fine of ₹2 lakh, said special public prosecutor Jitendra Mohanty.

On March 23, 2018, Bhawanipatna police intercepted a truck loaded with 3,894 kg of contraband ganja at Madingpadar Chhak of Kalahandi district.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH. e-Procurement Notice No.ONLINE-BGH-07 of 2023-24. Includes details of procurement and bidding information.

The Puri Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Puri Kacheri Road, Puri -1. E-Auction Sale Notice. Includes details of the auction and terms of sale.

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION. Regional Office- Maurya Lok Complex, Block-A, 2nd Floor, Dakbungalow Road, Patna-800001. Includes details of warehouse services.

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION. Regional Office, Maurya Lok Complex, Block-A, 2nd Floor, Dakbungalow Road, Patna-800001. Includes details of e-tendering.

DBS. Annexure A. The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (DBS Bank India Ltd) DBS Bank Centre, First Floor No. 4, Sardar Patel Road Guindy, Chennai - 600 032. Includes details of public notice.

Bank of India. POSSESSION NOTICE. Includes details of the bank and the specific notice regarding property possession.

DBS. PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to bring to the notice of general public that The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited has ceased to function as a Participant of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) as its Participation has been surrendered.

AIADMK to widely campaign on snapping of ties with BJP

The BJP, which was expecting a few seats by riding on the back of the AIADMK in the murky politics of Tamil Nadu, was in for a major shock after the AIADMK unilaterally snapped ties with the saffron party



Chennai, Oct 18: Even as the BJP national leadership is frantically trying for a rapprochement with the AIADMK leadership in Tamil Nadu, the latter has unequivocally informed its cadres and district-level leaders that the alliance with the BJP is broken forever and that the party will not have any truck with the saffron outfit.

In a recent meeting with the district in-charges of the AIADMK at Chennai during the party's foundation day celebrations, former chief minister and AIADMK general secretary, Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) informed the party leaders that the first agenda should be to communicate at the grass-roots level that the alliance with the BJP is gone forever.

According to sources in the AIADMK, he categorically informed the districts' in-charges that there was no looking back and that the party was in the process of forging new political alliances and combinations in Tamil Nadu.

EPS also told the party's district in-charges to communicate with him directly if the district office-bearers were creating any hindrance.

Sources in the AIADMK told IANS that EPS called upon the district in-charges to make sure that the party wins all the 39 Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu and the lone seat in Puducherry.

It may be noted that the five-year political alliance between the AIADMK and the BJP was snapped recently after the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit president and

former IPS officer, K Annamalai made scathing personal attacks against Dravidian icon and late chief minister, CN Annadurai and also against the late AIADMK leader and former chief minister Jayalalithaa.

The BJP, which was expecting a few seats by riding on the back of the AIADMK in the murky politics of Tamil Nadu, was in for a major shock after the AIADMK unilaterally snapped ties with the saffron party.

The BJP national leadership had used the good office of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma to negotiate with the AIADMK leadership for a truce. However sources in the AIADMK told IANS that the Dravidian party is keen to sever all ties with the BJP.

After Shah, Nadda to visit Bengal for Durga puja fete

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 18: After Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda will visit Kolkata Saturday on the occasion of Maha Saptami.

State BJP sources said that Nadda is slated to arrive in Kolkata Saturday morning, will visit some community puja pandals and interact with the organisers as well as the visitors there.

As per the initial schedule, said a BJP state committee member, the party's national president is scheduled to visit the pandals of three community puja committees on that day. "He is unlikely to give any political message during that visit. In all

probability he will fly back to New Delhi on the same evening," the state committee member of the party said.

According to him, the Durga puja festival this year is being viewed very seriously by the central leadership of the party and an important medium for the party leaders to interact with the common people on the occasion. "In fact, the central leadership has directed the state leaders of the party to get associated with as many Durga pujas as possible," he said.

On October 16, the Union Home Minister made a quick visit to Kolkata to inaugurate the community puja of Santosh Mitra Square at Lebutala Park in central Kolkata, whose prin-

cipal organiser is the BJP councillor in Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Sajal Ghosh.

On that occasion he sought the blessing of Goddess Durga to free West Bengal of the "violence" and "corruption" in the coming days. "This is not the occasion for making political statements. So, I will not do that now. But I will be frequenting the state more, making political statements and ensuring that there is change in the state," Shah said on the occasion.

The very next day Governor CV Ananda Bose gave a call to the people of West Bengal to take oath in the name of Maa Durga to continue the fight against "corruption" and "violence" in the state.

Fishers stir over arrests by Lanka

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Oct 18: Hundreds of fishermen participated in a protest staged outside the General Post Office in Rameswaram seeking the Union government's intervention to bring back the 27 arrested fishermen and their boats, impounded by the Sri Lankan Navy a few days ago.

Leaders of fishermen unions called upon the Union government to bring back the jailed fishermen and their five mechanised boats that were impounded by the Lankan Navy October 14. The fishermen from Rameswaram were arrested on charges of crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

The fishermen participating in the agitation told media persons that venturing into Palk Bay these days has become a matter of life and death.

TN to develop single window tourism app

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Oct 18: Tamil Nadu Tourism department, in association with the state IT department, is developing a tourism app that will cater to all the needs of both domestic and international tourists wishing to explore the state.

Sources in the state tourism department told IANS that the new tourism app will be a one-stop solution to all the tourism needs for a traveller.

The source said that the work on the app is under progress with inputs and suggestions from tourism professionals in the state.

Through the app, the tourism department will showcase the cultural and rich heritage spots which would help the tourist reach the desired spot with ease.

According to tourism department officials, the app will be providing all the guidance and support to the travellers who reach the state of Tamil Nadu.

The adventure, culture and

heritage of the state will be showcased for the tourists and the app, according to tourism department officials, will project the specialty and legacy of each of these tourism spots.

The app will contain all the required information for an international traveller. The tourism department officials also said that the registration process for the tourism app is simple and that the impending traveller will be able to choose a variety of accommodations on the basis of his budget.



PRAYER FOR PEACE: Members of Rail Pukur United Club inaugurate 'Durga Puja' by releasing white pigeons as a protest against the killings of women and children during the ongoing Israel-Hamas War, in Kolkata, Wednesday

Bengal moves to avert sexual harassment in primary schools

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Oct 18: In an attempt to bring the state-run primary schools in West Bengal under the standard operating procedures to prevent sexual harassment in workplaces, the state education department has taken some steps.

The department has sent specific instructions to all district primary education councils to take steps to form internal complaints committees (ICC) in all the state-run primary schools under their jurisdictions.

"Our aim is to ensure that any probable complaint by anyone associated with any state-run primary school, their grievances are addressed on an emergency and urgent basis," a state education department official said.

He said that the steps are being taken



for the state-run primary schools as per the Vishaka Guidelines, which is a compilation of the nationally practiced set of procedural guidelines to prevent events of sexual harassment at workplaces. The district primary education coun-

cils have also been advised to regularly update the state education department about the progress made on this count in the different state-run primary schools under their jurisdictions.

"The officials of the district councils should be in regular touch with the headmasters or headmistresses of the primary schools concerned to have a clear idea on whether the specified norms in the matter are followed true to their spirits," the state education department official said.

As per norms, the Vishaka Guidelines have to be implemented in any organisation with ten or more employees. The creation of internal complaints committees (ICCs) is mandatory in such organisations. It will cover all women employees, permanent, temporary or contractual, in such organisations.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: BALANGIR
No.4414/BMDt.13.10.23

e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER-BLGR_MPTY/08(1-53)/2023-24
No.C-1654: Bid Documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

- Name of the Work : Civil Construction work as mentioned in DTCN
- No. of Works : 53 (Fifty Three) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.2.44 Lakhs to 45.32 Lakhs
- Period of Completion: 2 (Two) Calendar Months
- Date and Time of : From 11.00 AM of 16.10.2023 to 5.00 PM of 27.10.2023
- Online Bids shall be : 30.10.2023 on 11.00 A.M. Open on
- Name & Address of : Executive Officer, Balangir Municipality the Officer Inviting Bid
- Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
- Further any addendum/corrigendum/clarification issued in connection with the tenders shall be uploaded in the above website and no newspaper advertisement shall be given. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for obtaining all such details.

Sd./- Executive Officer, Balangir Municipality
OIPR-13169/11/0014/2324

Howrah Bridge comes alive with 'alpana' art

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 18: The iconic 80-year-old Howrah Bridge has received a colourful makeover ahead of Durga Puja, with a group of artists painting the cantilever thoroughfare with Bengal's famous 'alpana' motifs.

The bridge has also been brightly illuminated with static and interactive LED lighting that comes into effect post sunset, officials said.

Popular artist Sanjay Paul and his team of about 40 students from different art colleges used folk motifs, which are traditionally used in 'alpana' art to decorate floors and walls in rural Bengal, to paint a section of the 2,313-foot-long bridge between the twin cities of Kolkata and Howrah.

Croma, a Tata Enterprise, recently unveiled the 'alpana' painting on the bridge, officially known as Rabindra Setu, in association with Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Trust.

"What better a structure than the Howrah Bridge to display our rich cultural heritage, and that too, just ahead of Bengal's biggest festival - the Durga Puja. My team and me completed the illustration in five days, working tirelessly from 12 am to 5 am," Paul told PTI.

The motifs have been created along the length of the bridge on both sides adjacent to the footpath, he said.

Two large circular designs measuring 36 feet each have also been painted at the entry and exit



points of the bridge, Paul said.

"We used about 200 litres of paint and four colours for the 'alpana'," he said.

Anwesak Dawn, who was entrusted with carrying out the fieldwork, said select meritorious students from the Government Art College and the Garia Art College were brought on board for the project.

"The 'alpana' is beautifully crafted on motifs based on electronic gadgets, portraying the importance of electronics play in people's lives. This artwork marks the onset of the auspicious Durga Puja festival in the city, bringing together tradition and innovation in a captivating display of artistry," Croma said in a statement.

The Durga Puja festivities begin in the state from Friday.

unprecedented security cover in City of Joy

Kolkata will be under an unprecedented security cover on the occasion of Durga Puja, which will begin Friday, in an effort to prevent any untoward law and order situation.

People have already started crowding the streets of Kolkata to witness glimpses of the pandals as well as the community Pujas whose inaugurations have already been completed.

City police sources said that as many as 4,000 personnel were deployed across the state capital Wednesday.

The number will be doubled to 8,000 in the next five days from Thursday to October 23, out of which 6,000 cops will be exclusively deployed for the purpose of traffic control in the city.

The entire process will be monitored by 16 officers in the rank of deputy commissioner, 82 assistant commissioners and 200 inspectors. There will also be 16 quick response teams and 30 ambulances to address any emergency situation at the earliest.

Monitoring will be done from 51 watch towers in the entire city during the festival days.

In addition, there will be 40 police control room (PCR) vans, nine mobile police assistance vans accompanied by city watch bikes, 13 heavy radio flying squads and 30 disaster management teams will be on the streets of the city during the festive days, the city police official informed.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DEO CANAL DIVISION, KARANJIA
AT/PO-KARANJIA, DIST-MAYURBHANJ-757037
Tel: 06796-220124, e-mail: eedc2016@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.:03/SEDCD of 2023-24
No.A-679: Name of Work : As per Detailed Tender Call Notice. Total No. of Packages: 01 (One) No. of individual work. Estimated Cost of Package: 13.15 Lakh. Period of Completion: 03 (Three) Months. Class of Contractor: "C & D". Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding
Superintending Engineer, Deo Canal Division, Karanjia	03/SEDCD of 2023-24 (on-line)	From 20.10.2023 at 10.00 A.M. To 04.11.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
OIPR-32380/11/0005/2324 **Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Deo Canal Division, Karanjia**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-1310:
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PATNAGARH
E-mail: eerw_ptng@yahoo.in, Phone No - 06658-222121

e-Procurement Notice
IFB IDENTIFICATION NO.EEPTNG-Online-08/2023-24

Name of Work	Total No. of Work	Time for Completion	Approximate estimated cost	Mode of Submission of tender
Special Repair of Road & Construction of Buildings Works	13 (Thirteen) Nos.Road & 02 (Two) Nos. Building Works	01 (One) to 06 (Six) Calendar Months	5.04 Lakh to 39.00 Lakh	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
Executive Engineer, R.W. Divn., Patnagarh	EEPTNG-Online-08/2023-24	From 27.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M. To 09.11.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	08.11.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	10.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

• Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
• Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.
OIPR-25154/11/0011/2324 **Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W.Division, Patnagarh**



Foreign tourists pose for photos during their visit at the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh



School students gather at Golden Temple to offer prayers along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann as part of the Hope initiative to fight against the menace of drug abuse, in Amritsar, Punjab



People hold placards showing the portraits of people missing after the Hamas attack, during a support rally outside of the Jewish central synagogue in the coastal town of Larnaca, Cyprus



Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel during a rescue and relief operation from flood-affected areas of Sikkim



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra walk during Vijayabheri Yatra, in Mulugu district. The Congress leaders launched a bus yatra and kickstarted the party's campaign for the November 30 assembly polls in Telangana



Trains halt at the Sahibabad RAPIDIX station ahead of the inauguration of a priority section of the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RTTS), in Ghaziabad. The priority section of RTTS between Duhai and Sahibabad, covering 17 kms, is scheduled to be inaugurated October 20 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi



An eight-member team from Headquarters Sea Training (HQST), Indian Navy (IN) undertakes Operational Sea Training and Safety Audit of SAS Mendi in collaboration with South African Navy (SAN) Operational Sea Training Team (OST) Team, at Simon's Town, South Africa

national

of the day quote

The BJP is not being able to mobilise funds like before as it is almost certain about their defeat in the upcoming five state elections as well as in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

We have information on everything... Not now, when Assembly (session) happens, we will make those (legislators) who have been contacted, to speak out

Be it Har Ghar Tiranga, Simanta Gram Kranti Veero Ka Naam or Meri Maati, Mere Desh, all the programmes are a hit among people of our state

SHORT TAKES

Mizoram polls: BJP to contest 23 seats

Aizawl: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Wednesday released the names of 23 candidates, including the Speaker of the outgoing House and several others who joined the party from the ruling MNF recently, for the November 7 Mizoram assembly elections. Majority of the nominees are new faces, while four of these contestants are women. The last date for filing nominations is October 20. Predicting that the voters would deliver a fractured mandate, BJP state president Vanlalhmuaika said that the party is not hesitant to forge a post-poll alliance with any other outfit barring the Congress.

AP govt to begin caste census

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh government will begin Backward Classes caste census around November 15, aimed at better serving the 139 communities which fall under this category, Minister C Srinivasa Venugopala Krishna said Wednesday. The Backward Classes Welfare Minister noted the government will extensively deploy the village secretariat system for the caste census, along with the volunteer system.

Mother elephant kills two after calf dies

Jhargram (WB): Two elderly men were killed in an attack by a female elephant in West Bengal's Jhargram district Wednesday, following the death of the pachyderm's calf, a forest official said. The animal also ransacked a bus and a motorcycle besides damaging several houses near the popular Rameshwar temple in the Chandabila forest range in Nayagram.

FESTIVE RUSH Northern rly introduces 34 special trains

These special trains will make 377 trips -- 351 towards the eastern part of the country and 26 towards the northern region -- between October 18 and December 11

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Northern Railway has introduced 34 special trains starting Wednesday to clear the festive rush of passengers planning to travel to their home destinations. These special trains will make 377 trips -- 351 towards the eastern part of the country and 26 towards the northern region -- between October 18 and December 11.

MP, RAJ POLLS Cong discusses candidates' names

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Congress leadership discussed the names of the probable candidates for the upcoming Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls Wednesday, with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge expressing confidence that the party would emerge victorious in both the states. The top Congress leadership held separate meetings for Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. While former party chief Rahul Gandhi participated in the Central Election Committee (CEC) meeting for Rajasthan, he skipped the Madhya Pradesh meeting as he had to leave for Telangana, where he is scheduled to take part in a road show. Sources said the party discussed around 100 seats for Rajasthan and 86 for Madhya Pradesh. The Congress has so far declared 144 candidates for the Madhya Pradesh polls. The sources added that another CEC meet for Rajasthan would be held in Delhi October 21. Kharge said the Congress would retain power in Rajasthan, riding on the good governance of

the Ashok Gehlot government in the state in the last five years. The party's CEC, chaired by Kharge, held a meeting to deliberate on the names of the candidates for the November 25 polls in the desert state. Kharge, former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Rajasthan Chief Minister Gehlot, AICC in-charge of the state Sukhjinder Randhawa, state Congress chief Govind Dotasra, general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and the party's Rajasthan screening committee chief Gaurav Gogoi attended the meeting, among others. The CEC meet for Madhya Pradesh, which was held in two parts in the afternoon and the evening, was attended by state party chief Kamal Nath and AICC in-charge Randeep Surjewala. All India Congress Committee's (AICC) screening panel head for Madhya Pradesh, Jitendra Singh, was also present. "Savings, relief, growth, protection and upliftment - this is how Rajasthan changed due to the good governance of the Congress!" Kharge said in a post in Hindi on X.

Left parties condemn attack on Gaza hospital



New Delhi, Oct 18: The Left parties Wednesday condemned the attack on a hospital in Gaza that killed hundreds of people, with the Communist Party of India (Marxist) calling it a "war crime" and "genocide". "The bombing of a Gaza hospital late last night that has killed at least 500 Palestinians needs to be called out for what it is - a war crime. Stop this genocide," the CPI(M) said in a post on X. The party's general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the world must wake up to declare this a criminal war crime and take appropriate action. The All India Kisan Sabha, the farmers' wing of the CPI(M), called the bombing a "crime against humanity". "In the last week four hospitals have been bombed by Israel in which more than 500 people are reported to

have been killed. AIKS demands immediate halt to the attack on Gaza, withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from all Palestinian territories, adherence to international humanitarian law as well as resumption of electricity, water, medicine supplies and food to over 23 lakh besieged people of Gaza," the AIKS said in a statement.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A MASSIVE EXPLOSION AT A HOSPITAL IN GAZA CITY KILLED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE TUESDAY, HAMAS SAID, AFTER INTENSIFYING BOMBARDMENTS NEAR TOWNS IN SOUTHERN GAZA RATTLED CIVILIANS WHERE ISRAEL HAD ORDERED THEM TO TAKE REFUGE. HAMAS ATTRIBUTED THE BLAST TO AN ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE, BUT THE ISRAELI MILITARY SAID IT WAS NOT INVOLVED AND THE EXPLOSION WAS CAUSED BY A MISFIRED PALESTINIAN ROCKET



Why is the Prime Minister silent on the issue...I am only helping the prime minister and asking him to come clean by starting an investigation and defend his credibility RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

BLANKET OF MIST ENVELOPS MUMBAI

A blanket of mist enveloped Mumbai Wednesday, pushing the city's air to the 'moderate' category on the Air Quality Index (AQI). The phenomenon has been there for the last three to four days, said officials



Firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire that broke out at a multi-storey commercial building, in Bangalore, Karnataka. A man jumped from the terrace to escape from the blaze. He and one more person sustained grievous injuries. Both are being treated in a private hospital. The fire apparently broke out at around noon in a 'hookah bar and cafe' located on the top floor of the four-storey building, where several LPG cylinders had been stored. People in the vicinity heard blast-like sounds

I-T seizes ₹32cr cash, bullion worth ₹28cr after raids in TN, Pondy

New Delhi, Oct 18: The Income Tax department has seized unaccounted cash of Rs 32 crore and gold bullion worth Rs 28 crore after its recent searches against two business groups, including one linked to DMK MP S Jagathrakshakan, in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The CBDT said in a statement Wednesday that the raids were initiated October 5 at about 100 premises of the two groups -- one of them running educational institutions that offer professional courses and the other is involved in distillery, pharmaceuticals, hospitals and hotels, etc. The same day the tax sleuths had raided the house of DMK MP S Jagathrakshakan and some of those linked to him. The MP from Arakkonam has interests in a variety of business sectors. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin had reacted that day and said on X: "The Union BJP Government's vindictive politics knows no bounds! Arresting AAP MP Sanjay Singh and raiding DMK MP Jagathrakshakan's home are clear examples of their misuse of independent investigating agencies for political ends against INDIA bloc leaders...." In its statement, the CBDT said that so far the searches against the two groups "have resulted in seizure of unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 32 crore and gold bullion of Rs 28 crore, thereby aggregating to Rs 60 crore." The statement did not identify the accused groups or their promoters. Sources said one of the groups involved was linked to Jagathrakshakan.

FAKE BIRTH CERTIFICATE CASE Azam Khan, wife & son convicted, get 7-year prison term

Rampur, Oct 18: A court in Uttar Pradesh's Rampur Wednesday pronounced a seven-year prison sentence to Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan, his wife Tanzeem Fatima and their son Abdullah Azam Khan after finding them guilty in the fake birth certificate case. The three were taken into custody after the verdict. The matter pertains to the issuance of Abdullah Azam Khan's birth certificate twice. Abdullah Azam Khan is accused of obtaining a passport and foreign tours based on a first birth certificate and using a second certificate for government-related purposes. Both the certificates were issued through fraudulent means and as part of a pre-planned conspiracy. A first birth certificate, issued June 28, 2012, by Rampur Nagar Palika, showed Rampur as Abdullah Azam Khan's birthplace. In January 2015, a second birth certificate issued showed Lucknow as his birthplace. BJP MLA Akash Saxena had filed a case against Abdullah Azam in 2019 for having two birth certificates. Azam Khan and his wife Tanzeem Fatima were also named as accused. The development comes as a fresh setback to Abdullah Azam, who was disqualified as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly earlier this year after being convicted and sentenced to two-year imprisonment in a 15-year-old case. The Supreme Court, last week, refused to give an interim stay on Abdullah's conviction in the case. A case was lodged against Abdullah Azam Khan and his parents under sections 420, 467, 468 and 471. Wednesday's judgment is yet another case where Azam Khan and his son have been convicted. Both were convicted in a 2019 hate speech case by a court in Rampur. Earlier, Azam Khan and Abdullah had represented the Suar Assembly constituency in Rampur district before being disqualified due to a number of cases against them. Azam Khan is a 10-term MLA and was also elected to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

LADAKH-KAITHAL POWER TRANSMISSION LINE Centre approves ₹20,774Cr

New Delhi, Oct 18: The government Wednesday approved setting up of a Rs 20,773.70 crore transmission line for evacuation of solar power from a 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh to Kaithal in Haryana. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Independence Day Speech, had announced setting up of a 7.5 GW solar park in Ladakh. After extensive field survey, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) prepared a plan to set up 13 GW renewable energy generation capacity along with 12 GWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Pang, Ladakh, an official release said.

For evacuating the huge quantum of power, it will be necessary to create an inter-state transmission infrastructure. Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the project on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II - Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) for the 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh. The project is targeted

to be set up by financial year 2029-30 with a total estimated cost of Rs 20,773.70 crore and 40 per cent central financial assistance estimated at Rs 8,309.48 crore. The project is expected to be awarded by March 2025, sources said. The transmission line for evacuating the power will pass through Himachal Pradesh and Punjab up to Kaithal in Haryana where it will be integrated with the national grid. An interconnection is also planned from the project in Leh to existing Ladakh grid so as to ensure reliable power supply to the Ladakh. It will also be connected to Leh-Alusteng-Srinagar line to provide power to Jammu & Kashmir.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



"Besides these 34 trains, additional coaches will be added to existing 69 trains and, in all, the Northern Railway will create 5.5 lakh additional berths and seats considering the increase in passenger movement during the festive season," Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager, Northern Railway, told reporters. These special trains will connect major destinations across the country such as Delhi/New Delhi/Anand Vihar, Patna, Chhapra, Jogwani, Saharsa, Jaynagar, Katihar, Guwahati,

Darbhanga, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Barauni, Raxaul, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Lucknow, Kolkata, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Amritsar, Saharanpur and Ambala. The Northern Railway has advised prospective passengers to get details of the special trains from its social media handle and the enquiry offices. According to Chaudhuri, the additional arrangements have been made in view of increased demand during this period. "I believe the additional arrangements will take care of the enhanced demand. However, we will be monitoring the situation and if we feel that there is a need to rope in more special trains, we will definitely consider that too. As of now, I think it is sufficient," Chaudhuri said. "Besides running special

trains, we have decided to open special ticket windows and operationalise all existing windows to avoid long queues at booking counters," he said. On the concern regarding the punctuality of these special trains, Chaudhuri said they will maintain the scheduled times of arrival and departure as much as possible and will not end up losing punctuality due to other important trains. 895 kids rescued in Sept The Railways Wednesday said that in September the Railway Protection Force (RPF) rescued 895 children, including 573 boys and 322 girls under Operation 'Nanhe Faristey'. In a statement, the railway ministry said that the RPF plays an important role in reuniting the children lost or separated due to several reasons from their family.

international

IRAN CALLS ON ISLAMIC NATIONS TO SANCTION ISRAEL

Members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should impose an oil embargo and other sanctions on Israel and expel all Israeli ambassadors, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said Wednesday. An urgent meeting of the OIC is taking place in the Saudi city of Jeddah to discuss the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict, after a blast at a Gaza hospital late Tuesday killed large numbers of Palestinians

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

Carnage

Gazans combed through the debris of the devastated hospital, collecting the bodies of the dead in the battered enclave Wednesday, hours after a strike killed hundreds sheltering at the facility.

Alongside rows of charred vehicles, volunteers recovered corpses and human limbs that were placed in body bags, while the remains of others were covered in white shrouds and blankets.

"This is a massacre," Ahmed Tafesh, who assisted in the recovery effort, told AFP, saying he had collected the eyes, arms, legs and heads of the dead. "I have never seen anything like this in my life."

Health authorities in Hamas-ruled Gaza said the explosion killed at least 500 people at the Ahli Arab Hospital and was caused by an Israeli air strike in retaliation for the Islamist group's October 7 attack on communities near the enclave.

At the nearby Shifa hospital in Gaza City, residents gathered to identify the dead at the hospital's mortuary and take other bodies for burial.

Outside the Ahli hospital, others who survived the attack who spoke to AFP recounted the terrifying moment when the strike occurred.

"We felt there was fire and things were falling on us. We started looking for each other. The electricity cut suddenly, and we couldn't see," said Fatima Saed through tears. "I don't know how we came out of it."

The hospital explosion which killed at least 500 people was by far the deadliest of any single incident in Gaza during the current violence

Gaza resident Adnan al-Naqa told AFP that around 2,000 people were taking refuge at the hospital on Tuesday night at the time of the strike.

"As I entered the hospital, I heard the explosion. I saw a massive fire," said Naqa. "The entire square was on fire, there were bodies everywhere, children,



8 French airports hit by security alerts

REUTERS

Paris, Oct 18: Eight French airports faced security alerts Wednesday and several were evacuated for checks, the DGAC aviation authority said, and the Palace of Versailles closed again due to its third security scare in five days.

The airports affected were Toulouse, Biarritz and Pau in the southwest, Nice in the southeast, Lyon in the east, Lille in the north, and Rennes and Nantes in western France, according to a DGAC spokesperson and the interior ministry.

France is on its highest state of alert after the Oct 13 murder of a schoolteacher in a suspected Islamist attack. The Palace of Versailles, one of France's main tourist attractions, said it was again evacuating visitors for security reasons.

On Saturday, a day after the fatal stabbing of the teacher, bomb alerts that proved false forced the evacuation of the Louvre museum, the palace and Paris' Gare de Lyon train station.

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE SEEKING SHELTER FROM THE FIERCEST FIGHTING IN DECADES BETWEEN THE ISRAELI ARMY AND THE PALESTINIAN MILITANT GROUP HAMAS WALKED INTO THE HOSPITAL TO THEIR DEATHS

GRIM FIGURES

Israeli strikes on Gaza killed at least 2,778 people and wounded 9,700. Nearly two-thirds of those killed were children

Another 1,200 people across Gaza are believed to be buried under the rubble, alive or dead

Hamas' attack in southern Israel killed more than 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and resulted in some 200 being taken captive into Gaza

running low, the United Nations estimates that around one million of Gaza's 2.4 million residents are currently displaced, with thousands sheltering in hospitals dotted throughout the densely populated enclave.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which has been under lockdown since a bloody Oct 7 rampage by Hamas militants ignited the war, protesters clashed with Palestinian security forces and called for the overthrow of Abbas.

Doctors recount horror

The head of orthopaedic surgery at Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in Gaza, Fadel Naim, had just finished a procedure when he heard a huge explosion and his department filled with people screaming for help.

"People came running into the surgery department screaming help us, help us, there are people killed and wounded inside the hospital," he said. He found the hospital full of dismembered bodies and wounded people.

"We tried to save whoever could be saved but the number was too great for the hospital team," he said. Blood stained the walls and the ground in what was normally a peaceful place that helped patients recover.

"This place created a safe haven for women and children, those who escaped the Israeli bombing into this hospital, those who saw this place as a safe haven," said Naim. "Without warning this hospital was targeted. We don't know what the shell is called but we saw the results of it when it targeted children and ripped their bodies into pieces."



BLAME GAME



The Israeli military held a briefing Wednesday morning laying out its case for why it was not responsible for the explosion at the al-Ahli Hospital.

It was not firing in the area, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said.

Instead, Hagari said, Israeli radar confirmed a rocket bar-

rage fired by the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad from a nearby cemetery at that time of the blast, around 6.59 pm.

Independent video showed one of the rockets in the barrage falling out of the sky, he said.

The misfired rocket hit the parking lot outside the hospital. Were it an airstrike, there

would have been a crater there; instead, the fiery blast came from the misfired rocket's warhead and its unspent propellant, he said.

The Israeli military also released a recording they said was between two Hamas militants discussing the blast, during which the speakers say it was believed to be an Islamic Jihad misfire and that the shrapnel appeared to be from IJ weapons, not Israel's.

Hamas called Tuesday's hospital blast "a horrific massacre," saying it was caused by an Israeli strike.

Islamic Jihad dismissed Israel's claims, accusing Israel of "trying hard to evade responsibility for the brutal massacre it committed."

The group pointed to Israel's order that al-Ahli be evacuated and reports of a previous strike at the hospital as proof that the hospital was an Israeli target.

It also said the scale of the explosion, the angle of the bomb's fall and the extent of the destruction all pointed to Israel.



REACTIONS

WHO strongly condemns the attack on Al Ahli Arab Hospital in the north of the Gaza Strip. The hospital was operational, with patients, health and care givers, and internally displaced people sheltering there. Early reports indicate hundreds of fatalities and injuries

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Hospitals are sacrosanct, and they must be protected at all cost. Words fail me. Once again the most vulnerable. This is totally unacceptable

VOLKER TURK | HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF, UN

I call on all humanity to take action to stop this unprecedented brutality in Gaza

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

This war, which has entered a dangerous phase, will plunge the region into an unspeakable disaster

ABDULLAH II | KING, JORDAN

PUTIN PRAISES 'DEAR FRIEND' XI

PUTIN HEAPS PRAISE ON BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AND SAYS NORTHERN SEA ROUTE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

REUTERS

Beijing, Oct 18: President Vladimir Putin Wednesday praised Chinese President Xi Jinping for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and invited global investment in the Northern Sea route which he said could deepen trade between east and west.

Speaking on his second known trip outside the former Soviet Union since the Ukraine war, Putin thanked the Chinese leader for his invitation and said Russia could play a key role in China's modern day revival of the ancient Silk Road.

Putin called Xi his "dear friend" and heaped praise on the Belt and Road Initiative for

bringing the world together. Shortly before Putin starting speaking, a handful of European delegates, including former French Prime Minister Jean-

Pierre Raffarin, walked out of the room, a Reuters witness said. "Russia and China, like most countries of the world, share the desire for equal, mutually

beneficial cooperation in order to achieve universal sustainable and long-term economic progress and social well-being, while respecting the diversity of civilization and the right of each State to its own development model," Putin said.

Putin said the BRI fitted with Russia which he said was developing a host of transport infrastructure to criss-cross the world's biggest country, notably from the Northern Sea Route which runs from Murmansk near Russia's border with Norway eastwards to the Bering Strait near Alaska

Putin, who has attended previous BRI summits, brought a senior delegation from Moscow.



Pakistan holds successful flight test of Ababeel Weapon System

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Oct 18: Pakistan Wednesday successfully conducted the flight test of Ababeel Weapon System to further strengthen its deterrence, the army said.

The latest test of the ballistic missile system was aimed at "re-validating various design, technical parameters, and performance evaluation of different subsystems," said a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of army.

"The missile system is aimed at strengthening deterrence and enhancing strategic stability in the region through the operationalisation of Full Spectrum Deterrence in the overall con-

struct of Credible Minimum Deterrence," it stated.

No details about the missile system have been provided by the army. The launch was witnessed by General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC), and senior officers, scientists and engineers of strategic organisations.

Mirza appreciated the technical prowess, dedication and commitment of all those who contributed towards the successful test.

President Arif Alvi, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and the services chiefs congratulated all members of the strategic forces on the achievement.



