



GAUZHAR'S REGRET

Gauhar Khan says she would have been a superstar if her debut movie was released in today's times

LEISURE P2



EMERGENCY ALERT TEST RUN

Many mobile users in Odisha received an 'emergency alert' from the Department of Telecommunication (DoT), Wednesday

DOWNTOWN P4



MAXWELL HOGS LIMELIGHT

Glenn Maxwell scores fastest-ever century in World Cup guiding Australia to the biggest victory in tournament history

SPORTS P12

100 chess training centres soon: CM

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: After promoting hockey, football and other games, Odisha government Wednesday said it will also encourage chess and set up 100 training centres.

This was informed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik after meeting Dana Reizniece-Ozola, Woman Grand Master, Deputy Chair of FIDE (International Chess Federation) Management Board and former Minister of Finance & Economics, Republic of Latvia.

Patnaik and Reizniece-Ozola emphasized the need to popularise chess as a mind-sport and its immense potential to empower the youth intellectually and emotionally. "We are committed to providing the best opportunities for our youth, and chess is a powerful avenue for their growth. We have established the state-level chess academy, Pro-Chess-Ta, chess in schools project, while more than 100 chess training centres across the state are planned. We look forward to working closely with FIDE to achieve our goals," Patnaik said.

Reizniece-Ozola expressed her appreciation for the chief minister and Odisha's relentless efforts in fostering the growth of sports among its youth.



THE BURNING TRAIN: Firefighters douse flames after a fire broke out in two coaches of the Patalkot Express spreading to bushes along tracks near Bhadaai railway station in Agra, Wednesday

'Bharat' from schools

NCERT PANEL RECOMMENDS REPLACING 'INDIA' WITH 'BHARAT' IN TEXTBOOKS; NO DECISION YET, SAYS COUNCIL

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 25: In a move ostensibly aimed at familiarising the new generation with a change in the country's nomenclature, a high-level committee for social sciences, formed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to revise the school curriculum, has recommended replacing 'India' with 'Bharat' in the textbooks for all classes.

According to committee chairperson C I Isaac, the panel has suggested replacing the name 'India' with 'Bharat' in the textbooks, introducing 'classical history', instead of 'ancient history', in the curriculum and including the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the syllabus for all subjects.

NCERT Chairman Dinesh Saklani, however, said no decision has been taken yet on the panel's recommendations.

The council later said on X: "NCERT states that since the development of new syllabus and textbooks is in the process and for that purpose various Curricular Area Groups of domain experts are being notified by the NCERT. So, it is too premature to comment."

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Introduction of the Indian Knowledge System in the curriculum of all subjects
- Highlighting 'Hindu victories' in various battles in textbooks
- Introducing 'classical history', instead of 'ancient history' in the curriculum

Opposition slams move | P9

Isaac said the committee has also recommended highlighting "Hindu victories" in various battles in the textbooks.

"Our failures are presently mentioned in the textbooks. But our victories over the Mughals and sultans are not," said Isaac, who is also a member of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

"The British had divided Indian history into three phases - ancient, medieval and modern - showing India in darkness, unaware of scientific knowledge and progress. Therefore, we have suggested that the classical period of Indian history be taught in schools, along with the medieval and modern periods," he added.

The NCERT is revising the curriculum of the school textbooks in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The council recently constituted a 19-member National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC) to finalise the curriculum, textbooks and learning material for these classes.

"The committee has also recommended the introduction of the Indian Knowledge System in the curriculum of all subjects," Isaac said.

Pandian gets cabinet min rank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: VK Pandian, the former aide to Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, has been appointed Chairman 5T (Transformational Initiatives) with the rank of a cabinet minister, an official notification said.

The development comes less than 24 hours after the 2000-batch IAS officer took voluntary retirement from government service.

"Shri VK Pandian is hereby ap-



pointed as Chairman 5T (Transformational Initiatives) and Nabin Odisha in the rank of Cabinet Minister. Pandian shall

work directly under the Chief Minister," the General Administration and Public Grievance Department said.

Pandian joined the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in 2011, and since then, he has been Patnaik's private secretary.

After Patnaik became the chief minister for the fifth time in 2019, Pandian was given additional responsibility of '5T secretary' to implement some transformational initiatives in government departments. P4

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The party found that you're a bigot, dogmatist, zealot, fanatic, chauvinist & sectarian. So, it wants you back

DOUBLE MURDER ROCKS KORAPUT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Pottangi, Oct 25: Tension prevailed at Kunduli Hatapada under this police limits in Koraput district after two youths were murdered, Wednesday, police said.

The deceased, who were in their mid-30s, have been identified as Gobardhan Pandka of Tema village under Hataguda panchayat of Semiliguda block and Raj Kumar Rudhi of Hatapada, police added. Two cases have been registered over separate complaints by the victims' families and investigation has been launched.

According to police, Raj Kumar and his father Jagulu attacked Gobardhan while he had gone to Hatapada market, Wednesday. The father-son duo had a heated altercation with Gobardhan over

some issues when the former attacked Gobardhan with sharp-edged weapons killing him instantly, police said.

Upon learning about the incident, family members and relatives of Gobardhan reached the spot and questioned Jagulu and Rajkumar. The father-son duo and other family members allegedly attacked the family members of deceased Gobardhan.

Gobardhan's family members retaliated, leading to the death of Raj Kumar on the spot. Jagulu also sustained critical injuries in the retaliatory attack and was shifted to Kunduli hospital for treatment.

The bodies of the deceased have been sent for autopsy, Koraput SP Abhinav Sonkar said. "Past enmity is being suspected as the reason for the murders. Precise cause will be known after a probe," the SP added.

Modi invited for Ram temple consecration

New Delhi: The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Wednesday invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, expected to take place January 22. Modi said in a post on X that he is feeling blessed and it is his good fortune that he will be a witness to this historic occasion in his lifetime. "Jai Siyaram! Today is full of emotions for me," the PM said, posting about the invitation to him. He posted a picture of functionaries of the trust, which is presiding over the temple's construction at the place where devotees believe Lord Ram was born, extending him an invitation.

4 Dussehra revellers killed in Nuapada road mishap

Nuapada: Four Dussehra revellers were killed and three others injured when the motorcycles in which they were travelling collided with each other in Nuapada district in the early hours of Wednesday, a police officer said. The deceased were identified as Demanta Majhi, 18, Pinku Majhi, 17 - of Kamlamal village under Boden police limits - and Hemananda Majhi, 15, of Bhimapadar village and Rohit Majhi, 24, of Bhainshadani village under Khariar police limits in the district. The mishap took place on Biju Expressway near Jhirinikhoh under Boden police limits of Nuapada around 1.30-2am.

Man gets job 28 yrs after application

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Twenty-eight years after a man applied for a job in the postal department, the Supreme Court has ordered his appointment noting that there was an error in holding him ineligible for the post.

Ankur Gupta had applied for the post of postal assistant in 1995. After being selected for pre-induction training, he was later excluded from the merit list on the ground that he completed intermediate education from the "vocational stream".

Gupta along with other unsuccessful candidates moved the Central Administrative Tribunal which ruled in their favour in 1999.

The postal department challenged the tribunal's order and approached the Allahabad High Court in 2000.



The high court dismissed the petition in 2017 and upheld the CAT's order. A review was filed in the high court which was also dismissed in 2021, following which the department approached the apex court. In the top court, a bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Dipankar Datta said a candidate cannot claim a vested right to appointment, once he is included in the merit list, he has a limited right of being accorded a fair treatment.

"However, if the candidature is not rejected at the threshold and the can-

didate is allowed to participate in the selection process and ultimately his name figures in the merit list though such candidate has no indefeasible right to claim appointment, he does have a limited right of being accorded fair and non-discriminatory treatment," the bench said.

The bench said if the department had declared Gupta as ineligible based on the appreciation of the educational qualification at the threshold, the situation would have entirely been different.

Invoking its extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 142 of the Constitution, the top court directed that Gupta be offered appointment, initially on probation, on a post of Postal Assistant (for which he was selected) within a month and if no post is vacant, a supernumerary post shall be created for him.

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Last date of entry: 30th October 2023

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leisure



RICHARD ROUNDTREE PASSES AWAY AT 81

America's first action hero Richard Roundtree, best known for his leading role in the iconic 1970s Shaft film franchise and the TV series Roots, has died at the age of 81 at his home with his family by his bedside in Los Angeles from pancreatic cancer, reports People magazine.

BRITNEY FORCED TO 'CLEAN UP GARBAGE LIKE A PRISONER'

Pop star Britney Spears has revealed her parents forced her to 'clean up garbage like a prisoner' as punishment for skipping school to spend time with her boyfriend.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may look around and feel grateful for the wonderful blessings bestowed on you — your family, home, job, friends. This may prompt you to organise a little thanksgiving kind of get-together with your family and friends. Ganesha gives a thumbs up.

TAURUS
As an administrator, you will command with an iron fist today, predicts Ganesha. In the afternoon, you may find change slowly creeping in; you may discover a more harmonious approach to managing people as compared to a dictatorial style. You will come out with flying colours from any adverse situations.

GEMINI
You will desire to go on a short trip to escape the drudgery of your daily routine. You will successfully schedule and execute your plans for a fun-filled and relaxing journey. In the evening you will take up some pending work projects, says Ganesha.

CANCER
As a leader, you may deal with others with an iron hand masked under a velvet glove. You may come across as lenient and considerate on the face of it, but you will not spare anyone who crosses you. This may change as the day passes, but your colleagues and subordinates will be wary of you for the remainder of the day.

LEO
Today is not a very productive day for traders and businessmen, says Ganesha. Some competitors may try to slander your reputation. You need to be a little more sly in your dealings and work your way around these obstacles cleverly. If you ignore these matters now, they may become major headaches later on. A stitch in time, saves nine.

VIRGO
Today, you shall be in a receptive frame of mind, open to all ideas; yet the stubborn will rule when decision-making matters, predicts Ganesha. Organise and sort out things at work today. But in the evening, enjoy a fine meal and then, may be, summon the courage to pop the question, says Ganesha.

LIBRA
Think long and hard about all things past, present and future, says Ganesha, since there are chances that you may be in a pensive mood today. Try your best to step out of your brooding frame of mind. You might have to manage balancing your personal and professional life. But, your business will progress as expected.

SCORPIO
Your entrepreneurship today will reflect a lot of your creativity and artistic sense. Romantic diversions will bring you immense pleasure in the afternoon. Have your close friends over in the evening and spend some quality time, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS
A poignant and disturbing day is in the offing. At work, Lady Luck will be on your team. Don't let your sentiments cloud your logic though, says Ganesha. In relationship matters, don't keep high expectation, as they may put you under tremendous pressure.

CAPRICORN
It takes years of hard work, optimism and unceasing support of loved ones to reach the pinnacle of success. But you will only have to be tactful, says Ganesha. You will take matters more seriously today and will treat your subordinates as equals for achieving your targets. At home, you will spend some quality time with family members and realise that they need you more than anything else.

AQUARIUS
You often live in illusion and lose track of reality. Don't make unrealistic wishes otherwise you will badly get disappointed when you realise how the things are. Be happy with what you have, advises Ganesha. At work, you will have a smooth sailing as your colleagues will be supportive of your efforts.

PISCES
A conflict-ridden day awaits you. Avoid openly confronting people today, for petty issues could blow up into major disasters. Legal disputes may also hassle you. Meditative techniques will bring you peace of mind.

Shruti: World runs like a comment section box

Chennai: Shruti Haasan has been consistently spreading the word on mental health and the benefits of therapy. In a recent conversation, the actress spoke about how therapy saved her life, and how she's on a mission to destigmatise it in our society. Sharing her perspectives on the issue the *Luck* actress recalls, "In 2017, when I was doing well, particularly in Telugu cinema, I left for London and got into therapy. When I came back, I knew I had to talk about therapy, and its benefits because I feel it saved me. In an interview I spoke about choosing a sober life and people tried to shame me for saying I drank. That's when I started to read about how many closeted alcoholics there are in the country because of the social stigma around women drinking. There

were some supportive people who felt I should share my story, but others said I would lose out on movies and come across as crazy, which is precisely why I had to speak about it." Asked if the noise on social media affects her, Shruti says, "What affects me and even people outside the film industry across ages is the comments section on social media. The world runs like a giant comment section box today and that concerns me for everyone."



Speaking about her aim the actress concludes, "Recently, I could not make it to an event because of the flu and people said I was having mental issues. So, my daily goal is to destigmatise mental health." AGENCIES

AFTER 33 YRS Rajini excited teaming up with Big B

Chennai: Thalaivar Rajinikanth, who is currently scheduled for his new project tentatively titled *Thalaivar 170*, is 'thumping with joy', as he is marking his latest collaboration with his 'mentor', Amitabh Bachchan after 33 years. Excited and glad over the opportunity, the Jailer actor took to his X account, and shared a picture of the two acting behemoths standing alongside one another. Captioning the picture, he wrote: "After 33 years, I am working again with my mentor, the phenomenon, Shri Amitabh Bachchan in the upcoming *Lycra's Thalaivar 170* directed by T.J

Gnanavel. My heart is thumping with joy!" In the picture, Rajinikanth can be seen wearing white shirt and a black wig, all the while smiling with great happiness. Amitabh Bachchan on the other hand was equally thrilled to be working once

again with the Tamil megastar. The *Ganpath* actor donned a colourful patterned bandana on his head.

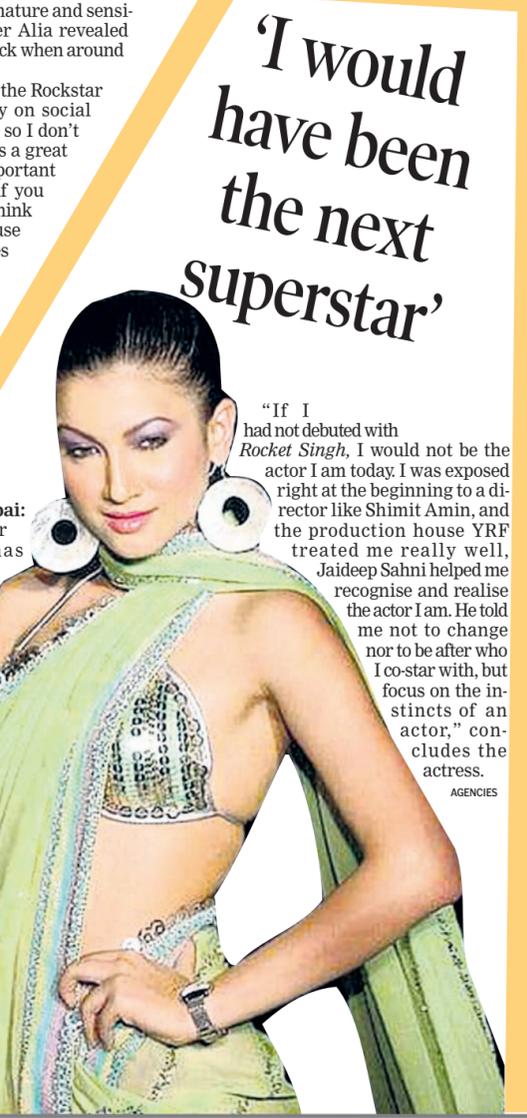
Wearing a grey shirt, the actor was wearing glasses and wore a pink and blue jacket atop his shirt. The jacket was detailed with various animal figures. Prior to the upcoming film *Hum*, directed by Mukul Anand which was released in 1991. Apart from these two legends, the film will also star Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Manju Warrier, Ritika Singh and Dushara Vijayan. With music by Anirudh Ravichander, the film will hit theatres in 2024. IANS



Ranbir breaks silence on being called 'toxic'

Mumbai: Actor Ranbir Kapoor had a mature and sensitive take on being called 'toxic' after Alia revealed how he demands she remove her lipstick when around him. Speaking during a fan interaction, the Rockstar actor talked about facing negativity on social media. "Hey, I'm not on social media so I don't have the need to deal with it which is a great thing. But I feel negativity is very important especially if you are an artist and if you have some work out there I think both need to exist because then that creates a balance. You know sometimes a lot of things are written about you as an actor, a lot of opinions are made which are not necessarily true because this image of mine which has been created by the movies or by media is something that I don't own." Talking about the news pieces written about him, he said, "Recently, I was reading some article about being toxic and something relating to some statement I made and I understand this. And I am on the side of the people who are fighting for the toxic masculinity, if they use me as the face of it, it's fine because their fight is bigger than just me feeling sad about them having an opinion about what I said. I look at a larger picture." On the work front, Ranbir will be seen next in *Animal*. AGENCIES

Mumbai: Gauahar Khan has said that she would have been a superstar if her debut film, *Rocket Singh*, were to release in today's times. In a new interview she also recalled how Rishi Kapoor praised her in the film and called her the 'best thing' about the 2009 movie. The movie came at a time when the industry was not ready for a film like that, Gauahar said. She added that *Rocket Singh* was a simple film that was strong on paper as well as performances and would have bagged all awards. She also recalled having been nominated for two awards and bagging one of those. However, she believes that everything happens for the best.



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"I would have been the next superstar" "If I had not debuted with *Rocket Singh*, I would not be the actor I am today. I was exposed right at the beginning to a director like Shimit Amin, and the production house YRF treated me really well, Jaideep Sahni helped me recognise and realise the actor I am. He told me not to change nor to be after who I co-star with, but focus on the instincts of an actor," concludes the actress. AGENCIES

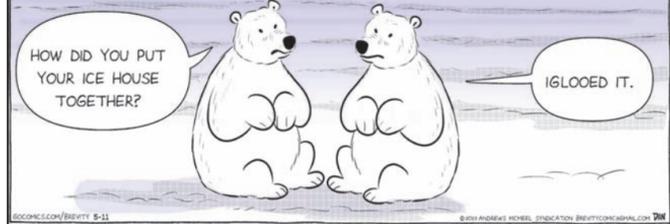
PEANUTS



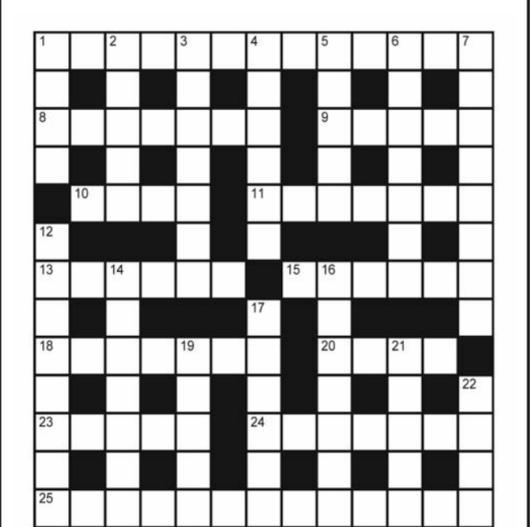
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY

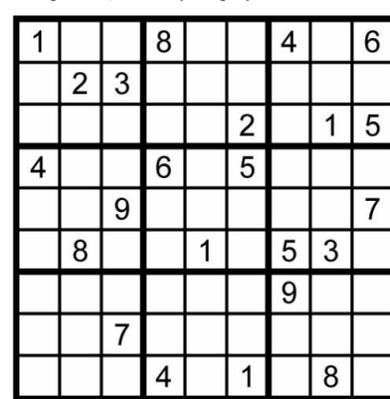


FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Extinct Siberian range rover (6,7)
8 Shortfall
9 Three-toed animal
10 Herr's mate
11 Breakfast dish
13 Bluebottle, e.g.
15 Kind of salad
18 Numbers pool
20 Diamonds, e.g.
23 Grind down
24 *Anna Karenina* author
25 Pirate's find, maybe (8,5)
Down
1 Off-target
2 Proposal
3 Professor's forte
4 Modus operandi
5 Sacred song
6 Crush
7 Research of armorial bearings
12 Wealthy
14 Final result
16 Seraphic
17 Bluepoint
19 Decorative jugs
21 Metric linear unit
22 Vesicle

SUDOKU



SOLUTIONS

- CROSSWORD**
OVERT RUSTIC
WINDUENR
INDUCED CHEAP
LKHILLEY
DRAMACHEESE
CRTRIOF
ARMADABRONZE
TAPPEA
GNOMESASSET
OAEACAH
PETALLETUCE
UEEMOOCR
SWEDENCRUET
- SUDOKU**
4 1 3 7 8 2 6 9 5
6 8 2 9 4 5 1 7 3
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2 5 9 1 7 8 4 3 6
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5 3 7 6 9 1 2 8 4
9 4 6 8 2 3 7 5 1

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Focus Sectors

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Automobile and Auto components | Pharmaceuticals | Agriculture and allied | Tourism and Hospitality |
| IT/ ITeS | Electronics | Education | Film Shooting |
| Renewable Energy | AYUSH and Wellness | Bio Technology | Horticulture and Floriculture |
| Herbs & Aromatics | Food Processing | Natural Fibers | |



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Key Policies

- Service Sector Policy 2023 • Solar Energy Policy 2023
- MSME Policy 2023 • Start-Up Policy 2023 • Customized Package
- Logistics Policy 2023 • Film Policy 2015 (as amended in 2019)
- Private Industrial Park Policy 2023 • Mega Industrial Policy 2015
- Export Policy 2021 • Tourism Policy 2023-30 • Drone Policy 2023
- IT Policy 2019 • Wellness & Ayush Policy • Excise Policy 2021-23
- Biotechnology Policy 2018-23 • Food Processing Policy
- Pump Storage Projects Policy 2023

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VK PANDIAN: THE JOURNEY SO FAR

With VK Pandian appointed as Chairman 5T (and Nabin Odisha), having the rank of a cabinet minister, following his voluntary retirement from service, **Orissa POST** takes a sneak peek into the illustrious journey of the 2000-batch IAS officer

The 2000-batch IAS officer, who is also christened as the 'man with a mission' in the transformation and development of Odisha, has been with 'every success' in the state under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Be it transforming the cities of cultural heritage or making the state a sports hub for international tournaments, Pandian has made his mark in all developmental works of Odisha. While he is known for his commitment to working for the state, another aspect of his social life is also interesting - his love for children especially the needy and special ones.

Sraddha Sanjeevani, a special home for the HIV infected orphans, in Gopalpur is an example of his compassion towards the children in need. It was set up in 2007, by the Ganjam district administration when Pandian was the Collector of the district. It lends vulnerable children a new lease of life. He was also instrumental in arranging a marriage of two of the inmates of Sraddha Sanjeevani who were blessed by CM Naveen Patnaik.

His tryst with Odisha began in 2000 when he became an Odisha-cadre civil servant and started his career in the development of the state. In 2002, he became the Sub-Collector of Dharmagarh where he left his mark by continuously improving the revenue sources for the government. His tough stance with the millers ensured full payment of MSP to the farmers and profits to cooperative societies. People still remember his action.

This had an impact on the revenues and helped the government to get highest-ever revenue collection during that time. This initiative got him the appreciation and felicitation from the CM. As ADM in Rourkela, he had a blazing tenure of seven months. He was instrumental in the eviction of Chhend Market and letting people getting back their hard earned money after 15 years.

Pandian was one of the youngest Collectors of the country when he took charge of Odisha's largest district - Mayurbhanj. His daily visits to the remote villages of the district helped accelerate the development process on the rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). He set in place a mechanism whereby PwDs

could be identified and rehabilitated at the village and block levels.

This was later adopted as a state policy by the Odisha government. For his contribution to the upliftment of PwDs, Pandian was awarded with the prestigious Hellen Keller Award - a rare distinction in the state.

Pandian's pioneering and out of box interventions continued when he became the Collector of Ganjam. The district got the National Award for being the best district in the country in MGNREGS implementation. He was instrumental in bringing in groundbreaking innovations by undertaking payment of wages through bank accounts - well before it was adopted by the state or at the national level.

A record ₹100-crore was transferred in this manner into the bank accounts of thousands of labourers. His successful approach resulted in Ganjam getting the Presidents' Award twice for leading changes. The people-friendly approach helped maximise the mandays under NREGA and minimise the incidents of labour migration to other states.

The innovations implemented in Ganjam such as transfer of wages to bank accounts and putting up of Citizen Information Boards were



Pandian receiving grievances from citizens in Sambalpur

later adopted nationally. These steps showed a deep sensitivity and understanding of people and an intent to root out corruption in government functioning.

Pandian took the mantle as Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's Private Secretary in the year 2011 and has been assisting the Chief Minister till date in all the developmental activities. Because of his sheer commitment to his duty, he became Naveen's choice for the post.

With his impeccable track record and successfully doing his duties, Naveen handed over to his an important task of transforming the governance by making him the Secretary of 5T Initiatives. This assignment was entrusted to him for his qualities as a team player. Those who have worked with him swear by his fierce loyalty and unimaginable support.

With Pandian at the helm of Naveen's trans-



VK Pandian and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewing the Srimandir Heritage Corridor project in Puri

formation agenda, a number of reforms have been undertaken in the state. Odisha is witnessing a visible change in all parameters of development propelled by the 5T initiatives.

The most ambitious Heritage Corridor Project for Puri is one of the brightest examples of transformation being carried out in the state. The project aims at developing the Holy City of Puri into a world heritage city with all world-class amenities.

The work on the ground has started and people have already experienced the change on ground. Today's Puri is being hailed as a true example of transformation.

Not only Puri, all the major religious institutions and shrines like Lingaraj Temple, Samalei Temple, Ghatagan Tarini Temple, Taratarini Temple in Ganjam, Nrusinghanath in Bargarh, Harishankar in Bolangir, St Paul Protestant Church in Kalahandi, Mount House Church in Cuttack, Dargah-e-Huzoor Mujahid-e-Millat in Bhadrak, Jama Masjid in Bhubaneswar and Guru Singh Saheb Gurudwara in Sundargarh among others have been undergoing transformation.

Under the aegis 5T Initiatives, the healthcare scenario in the state has undergone a significant change. The biggest initiative to transform the healthcare infrastructure includes developing the premier SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack into a world-class facility in the AIIMS-Plus category. This will prove immensely helpful for the people of Odisha. The government has earmarked to spend ₹3,500 crore to transform the SCBMCH under the 5T programme. It will be developed into a 5,000-bed hospital with state-of-the-art facilities for patients and doctors in next three years.

The healthcare transformation is not only limited to the SCBMCH. All the medical college and hospitals of the state and district headquarters hospitals are being transformed to provide free healthcare to the needy. The initiation of the transformation program under

5T Initiatives in the healthcare sector has come as a blessing in disguise for the state during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pandian, then 5T Secretary, himself went to various districts to undertake on ground review of the developmental works. The preparedness by the hospitals helped tremendously in preparing and facing the pandemic. Odisha could minimise the mortality rate to a great extent due to its preparedness in advance.

The role of VK Pandian in preparing the state for Covid-19 management in the state cannot be ignored. His transformation agenda worked wonders and a big infrastructure was in place in state well before the virus entered Odisha. His visits to various Covid hospitals to review the progress resulted in swift action. With his sheer commitment to his duty, Pandian is being hailed as the best administrator.

In addition to the development agenda under the 5T initiative, a blueprint is being drawn for an inclusive Odisha by 2036. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's ambitious vision for 2036 is being crafted by none other than Pandian.

With the active interest of VK Pandian since he was himself an athlete, Odisha can boast itself as the sports capital of the country. In the last few years, Odisha has transformed itself as an attractive destination for major international and national tournaments. The state has successfully positioned itself in the sports map of the country by hosting major international sporting events.

At a time when other states found it difficult to host a number of prestigious events for the country, Odisha stood ahead and took the challenge and hosted some of the big ticket events like Hockey World Cup and the Asian Athletics Championships. Winning the franchise for Kalinga Lancers in the Hockey India League (HIL), hosting the prestigious Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament, managing the Asian Athletics Championships, Hockey World League of 2017 and the 2018 edition of the

Hockey World Cup, have all demonstrated Odisha's determination towards development of sports and games in the state. All this is again attributed to the hard work of Pandian.

His love for sports is reflected in his works for developing the sports infrastructure. This transformative journey of Odisha Sports started way back in 2010-11 when Pandian joined the Chief Minister's Office and the two sports lovers - Naveen being a great lover of hockey and himself a golie in hockey and VK Pandian who came from a sports hostel, drew the road map to put Odisha into the global map so far as promotion of sports is concerned.

Due to his hard work, Kalinga Stadium Sports Complex in Bhubaneswar has become a global destination for hockey events. His love for sports and sportspersons can be judged from the fact that he frequents sports hostels whenever he goes on a visit outside and also interacts with sportspersons on their problems and needs.

Last year, on the occasion of Diwali, Pandian was seen at Kalinga Stadium sports hostel where he spent his time with the inmates and sharing thoughts ranging from development of sports to solving the problems.

During his surprise visits to districts as part of the Mo Sarkar initiative, Pandian also reviewed the development of sports infrastructure there. Pandian himself is a middle distance runner and studied from a sports hostel.

Adding another feather to his achievements, recently the International Hockey Federation or the FIH bestowed the President's Award on VK Pandian for his outstanding contribution to promote hockey in the state.

Another major achievement of Pandian is the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), Odisha government's health assurance programme, providing upto ₹5 lakh health assurance for men and ₹10 lakh per annum for women. It is treating more than a lakh people per annum at a cost of over ₹200 crore per month.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Biswajit Saint, S/o Hrudananda Saint, resident of Jagannath Colony, Budhabihar, Apartbindha, Bhadrak, Odisha, 756100 declare by this affidavit, No. 4868 (25.9.2023), that my mother's name previously recorded as Banaja Saint, shall henceforth be known as Banajalata Saint for all future purposes.

By the virtue of an affidavit by Debadatta Khatei vide No.1567, dttd.12.9.2023 before the Notary, Banapur, Khurda. My father Sushanta Kumar Khatei and Susant Kumar Khatei, S/o- Late Duryodhan Khatei, At- Arada, Po- Panchiraya, PS-Odagaon, Dist- Nayagarh is one and same person in our Locality. From today my father is known as Sushanta Kumar Khatei, S/o- Late Duryodhan Khatei for all purposes.

₹385cr boost for skill development

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The state government has formulated a scheme with a ₹385-crore budget for three years from the current fiscal to empower youths with the requisite skills for new-age technologies and emerging trade.

A notification issued by Skill Development and Technical Education department said the 'Nutana Unnata Abhilasha' (NUA) programme will cover all 30 districts of the state and prioritise aspirational, tribal and remote areas.

It will be implemented by the directorates of employment, technical education & training and the World Skill Centre. The scheme will leverage existing and new skilling institutions and partnerships with industries to deliver training, the notification said.

Skill Development and Technical Education department principal secretary Usha Padhee said in the notification that the programme will work

towards "addressing the scarcity of skilled human resources in emerging trades by offering high-quality training, fostering industry linkage and enhancing employability skills".

It will also help bridge the skill gap in the utilisation of new-age technologies in traditional sectors like handicrafts, handloom, agriculture and others, she said.

The scheme has been designed to cater to a wide range of beneficiaries ranging from school dropouts and engineering graduates to postgraduates through various offerings, including "fresh skilling for youths, employability skills for students in various institutions", the official said.

Training offerings range from skilling courses for youths to digital and e-courses for higher education students, another official said, adding that the scheme includes establishing advanced labs, incentivising training providers, curriculum development and training of trainers.

EMERGENCY ALERT TEST RUN IN ODISHA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: Many mobile users in the state received an 'emergency alert' from the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) Wednesday.

The DoT, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), sent the 'emergency alert' messages through Cell Broadcasting System as part of a test to enhance emergency communication during disasters.

"This is a SAMPLE TESTING MESSAGE sent through Cell Broadcasting System by the Department of Telecommunication, Government of India. Please ignore this message as no action is required from your end. This message has been sent to Test Pan-India Emergency Alert System being implemented by National Disaster Management Authority. It aims to enhance public safety and provide timely alerts during emergencies," read the message sent by DoT.

The messages were sent in both English and Odia languages.

The test run was conducted by all four telecom operators - BSNL, Jio, Airtel and Voda-Idea - throughout Odisha.

Idols immersed in temporary ponds

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: The immersion ceremony of Goddess Durga, locally known as 'Bhasani Utsav', began Wednesday after Vijaydashami came to an end Tuesday, marking the conclusion of Dussehra festivities.

In order to prevent water pollution, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has constructed four temporary ponds - two each in Kuakhai and Daya rivers - for immersion of idols in City.

Such kinds of ponds have also been constructed at designated places in Cuttack. Most of the idols in Cuttack were immersed at three ponds built near Devigada Ghat.

Organisers of all major Puja pandals along with police are leaving no stones unturned to ensure a smooth immersion ceremony. Residents of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are equally excited to have a glimpse of the clay idols of the Goddess one last time until next year.

Meanwhile, Commissionerate Police has announced elaborate route plans to avoid traffic congestion.

Three Bhasani Committees have been formed in Capital city



- Bhubaneswar Utsav Committee at Saheed Nagar, Rajdhani Mandir Surakshya Bhasani Samiti at Nayapalli and Uttar Bhubaneswar Bhasani Committee at Chandrasekharpur - to ensure smooth immersion.

Arrangements have been made for immersion procession of Rajdhani Mandir Surakshya Bhasani Samiti, Nayapalli as per which the traffic intending to proceed towards Cuttack from CRP Square side was being diverted from CRP Square towards Jaydev Vihar via Ekamra Park and Biju Patnaik College. This traffic regulation was put into effect from 3pm and continued till 1am or till of the procession passes CRP Square, whichever is earlier. The vehicular traffic

on Stewart School Road, Unit-8 Road and OUAT Square-New Airport Road shall be diverted towards the adjacent roads, said sources. For Uttar Bhubaneswar Bhasani Committee, Chandrasekharpur, the traffic intending to proceed towards Nalco Square from KIIT side was being diverted to other adjacent roads from Kanan Vihar Road.

The diversion shall continue till 1am or dispersion of the Medhas whichever is earlier, the sources added.

Heavy vehicles coming from Khurda side towards Bhubaneswar were diverted at Fire Station overbridge towards the flyover. No vehicle was allowed to ply on service road.

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2 bikers killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkikote, Oct 25: Two bikers were killed after an unknown iron ore laden truck ran over their vehicle near Pipilia Ghatimangala on National Highway-20 under Dhenkikote police beat house limits in Keonjhar district Tuesday night, police said Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Chandra Mohan Nayak, 45, and Sadhu Charan Kashmalia, 48, of Jharbeda police limits under Pandapada police limits in Keonjhar district.

The mishap occurred when Chandra Mohan accompanied by Sadhu Charan was on his way to buy medicines from Pipilia, at 9pm Tuesday. They were on the Ghatimangala bridge when an iron ore laden truck hit them from rear and ran over their vehicle. Profusely bleeding, the two died on the spot.

The mishap triggered tension in the area as locals staged a road blockade. Ghatagaon police IIC Anjan Kumar Patra, Dhenkikote OIC reached the spot and tried to placate the villagers from withdrawing the blockade. The bodies were handed over to their family members after a post-mortem, Wednesday. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations were on, sub-inspector Tapan Kumar Jena said.

Illegal cracker biz mushrooms in Nayagarh

Nayagarh town, Godipada, Itamati, Jamusahi of Bhapur block and Korada village under Nuagaon block have turned into hubs of illegal cracker production and sale

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Oct 25: With the festival of lights around the corner, illegal firecracker manufacturing units have mushroomed under various police station limits in Nayagarh district. Consequently, threat of cracker explosion looms large in the concerned areas, a report said Wednesday.

What is worrisome is that most of these cracker manufacturing units have been set up within human habitats sans valid license and these operate in a clandestine manner to avoid getting caught by others and police.

These units, mostly operating from residential houses, not only manufacture crackers illegally but also store them for sale at a later date. No government norm is followed during manu-

facturing and sale of crackers. This is likely to endanger people's lives in case a mishap occurs in any of these units. Despite the threat involved to the life and property of the denizens, police are yet to take action against the cracker manufacturers.

Everything is happening under their nose, but police have been sitting pretty on the issue despite death of as many as 14 persons in cracker explosions during the last 11 years.

Similarly, illegal firecracker shops have also come up in this district headquarters town as well as various rural areas with Diwali drawing near. Locals have questioned who will be held responsible in case a major explosion takes place due to illegal manufacturing and reckless storage of crackers.

While the threat of cracker blast looms large, police have started conducting raids on cracker manufacturing units in their respective areas during the Dussehra festival.

Locals termed the raids being undertaken to be just eyewash by police officials. Except for arresting one or two persons, they never take any stringent action to stop mushrooming of illegal cracker manufacturing units.

Residents of the area alleged



that the arrests have failed to deter the cracker manufacturers as they carry on their business with impunity even after the raids.

Reports said four persons died in cracker blast at Gobindpur village under Itamati police limits in 2012 while eight died in a similar blast at Tantisahi in Itamati in 2016. One person was killed at Godipada village in 2019 while another died at Tendabadi under Sarankul police limits in 2015.

All these blasts occurred at cracker manufacturing units based within and close to human habitats. The police action against cracker manufacturing units from 2012 to 2019 has not been satisfactory, locals alleged. It seems police have meekly surrendered before the illegal

facturers who are into the business with a valid license.

A cracker trader requesting anonymity said that police are fully aware about the illegal cracker manufacturing units set up in human settlements. These illegal businesses have thrived as the police and manufacturers are hand in gloves to run the units. The manufacturers run their business by greasing the palms of police and other government officials. Police feign ignorance about these units whenever any mishap occurs in the area under its jurisdiction.

When contacted, Nayagarh Sadar police station IIC Anita Sahu, her Itamati counterpart Dillip Swain and Sarankul counterpart Pushpalata Behera said they are keeping a close watch on these illegal activities and such units are being raided in frequent intervals.

Fategarh IIC Sujit Kumar Das said raids are being carried out for Durga Puja festival on the direction of the SP. Recently, they seized illegal firecrackers worth Rs 80,000 and arrested a person Bhagaban Nayak in this connection. Nuagaon police IIC Narayan Chandra Lenka also said that they recently arrested a person for his involvement in illegal cracker manufacturing and sale from Korada village.

Man bites off neighbour's nose

Kantipala: In a bizarre incident, a man bit off his neighbour's nose at Mathianendi village under Taratarapanchayat under Anandapur police limits in Keonjhar district Wednesday. The injured man was shifted to a hospital at Cuttack in a critical condition. The accused was identified as Kanhu Naik of this village and the injured was identified as his neighbor Gatikrushna Naik. As per reports, Kanhu scolded Gatikrushna's sister-in-law Wednesday over some reason. However, the situation turned ugly when Gatikrushna abusing him and Kanhu also started abusing Gatikrushna. The matter escalated to a scuffle between the duo and Kanhu bit the nose of Gatikrushna off his face in a fit of rage.

Youth found hanging, murder suspected

Chandbali: Mystery shrouds the death of a youth whose body was found hanging from a tree at Banpur village under Bhatapada panchayat of this block in Bhadrak district, Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Prakash Mahalik, son of Akshaya Mahalik of the village. The matter came to the fore after villagers spotted the body hanging from a tree in the rural forest and informed the family members and police. Chandbali police sent the body for post-mortem and launched an investigation after registration of a case. Family members cried foul over the death as the feet of the deceased were touching the ground while blood stains and other injury marks were found on his body.



UNIQUE TRADITION: Devotees carry the idol of Devi Durga on decorated boats for immersion in Hansua river under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district, Wednesday. The idols take seven rounds in the river before their immersion

RBT pugmarks seen in Mayurbhanj forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bisoi, Oct 25: At a time when tiger census is underway at Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary in Mayurbhanj district, a team of forest officials from Sargada Wednesday spotted pugmarks of a Royal Bengal Tiger (RBT) at Sarali reserve forest under Bisoi forest section and Rairangpur forest division in Mayurbhanj district.

The forest officials led by Bisoi forest section head Khirod Chandra Singh and Rairangpur DFO (in-



charge) Sai Kiran DN were conducting a survey for tiger enumeration when they spotted the pugmarks of a Royal Bengal Tiger within

1,600 metre of the transact line at Sarali reserve forest under Sargada forest beat-1.

Sargada forester Jeevan Ballav Patra, para staffers Jitu Majhi, Bulu Munda, Guru Charan Bindhani and Manglu Munda are participating in the survey which started from October 18 and will continue till October 28.

The pugmark measured 18 cm in length and 13 cm in width, forest officials said.

A detailed probe report on the pugmarks has been sent to the forest head office in Keonjhar, forester Patra said.

Lecturer dies 8 months after student's assault

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: A lecturer, who was allegedly beaten up by one of his students in February this year, succumbed to his injuries after an eight-month-long battle at a hospital, his family members said Wednesday.

The deceased, Amit Barik, was serving as a lecturer of PKSS Degree College in the Katapali area in Jharsuguda district while the accused is a degree student of the same college.

The accused student used to regularly come late to the class. On February 22, when he had come late to the class, Amit Barik had asked the student to meet the principal before

An enraged student had hit the lecturer with bare hands in front of the whole class during an argument over his absenteeism

entering the class. This led to an argument between them, during which the enraged student hit the teacher with bare hands in front of the whole class, said Anirush Barik, a family member of the deceased lecturer.

In that incident, Amit Barik sustained serious injuries in his head. He was first admitted to the Jharsuguda district headquarters hospital and

then shifted to VIMSAR, Burla, where he succumbed to his injuries Tuesday night, he said, adding the lecturer's marriage had been fixed before the incident took place.

After getting information, the local police had arrested the accused student on the same day of the incident and produced him before the court. He is currently on bail, Jharsuguda Sub-divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Nirmal Mohapatra said.

"We got information Wednesday that the lecturer died while under treatment. Now, we will approach the court to turn the case from 307 (attempt to murder) to 302 (murder) of IPC. As per the direction of the court, further action will be taken," he added.

Famous Panchubarahi shrine remains closed on Dussehra

AS PER THE CENTURY-OLD TRADITION, THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF THE SHRINE REMAINS CLOSED EVERY TUESDAY

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapada, Oct 25: While in most of the Shakti Pithas Dussehra was performed with religious fervor, the famous Panchubarahi shrine in Kendrapara district remained closed Dussehra day as it fell on Tuesday this year.

As per the centuries old tradition, the sanctum sanctorum of Panchubarahi shrine remains closed every Tuesday.

Keeping the tradition alive, the Panchubarahi shrine remained closed yesterday though it was Dussehra.

As per the legend, Maa Panchubarahi (the five sisters) observe 'Mangala brata' every Tuesday



to save the people of Satabhaya from the sea.

As Maa Panchubarahi is on fast, the temple of Panchubarahi remains closed Tuesday.

"Our predecessors used to skip the rites and rituals of the presiding deity Maa Panchubarahi Tuesday. Respecting the age old tradition, we close the sanctum sanctorum every Tuesday even if major Hindu festival falls on that day," says Banalata Dalei, one of the priests.

At Panchubarahi shrine, the Asthami puja, Tarini puja, Sandhi

puja, Navami puja and Maha Dashami puja are held on Durga Asthami day but not on three different days, said Sangram Keshari Sahani, the president of Maa Panchubarahi Puja Committee.

Another unique feature of the shrine is that women from Sabar community perform the rituals of the deities and males are debarred to enter into the sanctum sanctorum.

A temple priest said as per the legend, a priest turned stone after the deities cursed him as he made a sin while performing the bathing rituals of the deities.

The deities later directed the king in his dream to engage women from Sabar community to do the rituals.

From that day onwards, women from tribal community have been performing the daily rites of the Goddess.

The centuries old Panchubarahi temple, built during the dynasty of Bhaumakar, was shifted to Bagapatia Rehabilitation colony from Satabhaya in 2018 following the threat of sea erosion.

AN OCEAN OF OPPORTUNITIES AWAITS THE AMBITIOUS

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FOCUS NATION

HOW TO FIGHT HUNGER



Hunger is not a subject for scoring points; it cannot go away miraculously with the launch of an app or even the pouring of money

Such an approach goes hand-in-hand with opening a dialogue with the global development agencies and report writers, GHI included, to show how and why every effort is being made to improve the 'poshan tracker' data, and not use it as a weapon to say India is right and the world is wrong. Hunger is not a subject for scoring points; it cannot go away miraculously with the launch of an app or even the pouring of money. Change is a slow process after all. GHI numbers should be a trigger for faster change. They ought to stir the moral conscience of all citizens and lead us to ask questions on our idea of development, and how and why our children go to sleep without enough food while we celebrate high GDP growth.

Consider that one of the greatest achievements in health has been the eradication of smallpox. Dr. Edward Jenner discovered the vaccine in 1796 but smallpox was eradicated globally only as late as 1980. Why this long gap? Technology or medical prowess was only one end of the solution; its implementation in a complex environment, in the midst of the cold war and amid resistance to the very idea of vaccination required a leader like Dr. Donald A. Henderson, noted epidemiologist and educator who headed a ten-year long international drive against smallpox. It required hard work, diplomacy, working with difficult partners and a willingness to change based on real data from the ground. It required listening, patience and diplomacy to walk a path that eventually eradicated a dangerous disease and created history. That was the success of modern medicine but no less the success of an attitude and an approach that reached out across difficult frontiers to learn and understand – lessons that remain relevant for the India of today.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal. ©THE BILLION PRESS

The findings of the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 in respect of India should not be allowed to be side-tracked by the remarks of the Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani that have been heavily and rightly criticised by the Opposition as arrogant and making a mockery of an important issue like hunger. The Index has placed India at the bottom of the heap of nations, at rank 111 out of the 125 countries with sufficient data available to calculate 2023 GHI scores. The GHI report 2023 gives India a composite score of 28.7, indicating a level of hunger that the report has called "serious" (scores between 20 and 34.9). Scores 35 and above are categorised as alarming and above 50 as extremely alarming. The term "hunger" refers to the Index based on the four component indicators used to calculate the scores – under-nourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality. Taken together, according to the GHI, the component indicators reflect deficiencies in calories as well as in micronutrients. The GHI sources data from internationally accepted sources, and has named the following in its appendix on sources: WHO, UNICEF, UN, FAO, and USAID's Demographic & Health Surveys.

The report notes that India has the highest child wasting rate in the world, at 18.7%, reflecting acute undernutrition. It places India way below a neighbour like Bangladesh, which has a score of 19, a rank of 81. But the minister was drawn to another comparison: Pakistan, she noted, was reported ahead of India (rank 102, score 26.6) in the GHI 2023 report, as if that by itself proves that the report is not to be believed.

This is not the first year the government has officially come out to disregard the report and challenge its findings and question its sources. A similar dismissal came on last year's GHI data as well. In a statement issued earlier this month, the Ministry of Women and Child Development said child wasting

as tracked by its 'Poshan Tracker' app "has been consistently below 7.2%, month-on-month, as compared to the value of 18.7% used for child wasting in the GHI 2023." Yet, there are many reports that point out that the app isn't necessarily delivering as planned with reports of phones that would not work or have yet to arrive, issues related to training and a host of hurdles that are only to be expected when a mega change project is implemented. More significantly, data collected via the app isn't freely available in public domain. Moreover, India's extensive NFHS-5 reported that 36% of children under age five are stunted, only marginally changed from 38% seen in NFHS-4, signifying chronic undernutrition. Similarly, 19% of children under age five years are wasted, only slightly down from 21% seen in NFHS-4 – a sign of acute undernutrition. And 32% of children are underweight, down from 36% during NFHS-4.

A low-tech solution to track and record work and collect nutrition-related data on a real time basis and link payments to the Anganwadi workers isn't particularly revolutionary; its implementation and successful adoption by millions across the country is where the real worth of the work lies. This is hard and challenging work that requires nurturing, support, humility and the willingness to accept failure where it is seen.

Gung-ho statements of the kind that tend to appear from official accounts is precisely the way such a project cannot succeed or surmount the hurdles of being accepted enough to be embraced internally for data collection and externally as a credible source for data.

These and other issues it reported form a host of constructive suggestions that are an indicator of the challenge before the nation and the ministry in particular. This is best solved by working with teams to look for problems, to focus on the difficult, to allow the frustration to vent and to use the free airing of complaints and the free flow of data to get to the right picture and the do the work to change the ground reality.



Jagdish Rattanani

THE GHI REPORT NOTES THAT INDIA HAS THE HIGHEST CHILD WASTING RATE IN THE WORLD, AT 18.7%, REFLECTING ACUTE UNDERNUTRITION



Jacek Rostowski

If we want to protect our democracies from the menace of authoritarianism, we need to make our electoral systems as proportional as possible, even if that leads to greater political fragmentation

We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves.

THE MOTHER



Fall of Populists

Poland's populist-authoritarian ruling party, Law and Justice (PiS), was trounced in last Sunday's parliamentary elections, receiving just 35.4% of the vote compared to 53.5% for pro-democracy opposition parties. This marks the second important defeat for authoritarian politicians in the West since Joe Biden's victory over Donald Trump. The question now is what lessons it might offer for Poland, Europe, and other democracies.

As in the 2020 US presidential election, Poland's election generated record-breaking turnout of 74%, up from 62% in 2019 – the highest since the fall of communism in 1989. Not only did PiS fail to increase its total vote count from the previous election (something Trump managed to do), but the three democratic opposition parties (like Biden) increased their votes by more than three million.

Although the election was technically free (meaning the votes were properly counted), it definitely was not fair. The deck was stacked so much in PiS' favour that it would have made Hungary's authoritarian prime minister, Viktor Orbán, proud. Throughout the campaign, the state-controlled TV channel – which commands a viewership of around 3.5 million, accounting for around 40% of the national news audience (of whom several million have no access to other TV channels) – pumped out PiS propaganda around the clock. Meanwhile, state-owned companies, including key utilities, spent as much on pro-PiS campaign ads as PiS itself did.

But, unlike in Hungary, Poland's large cable-news channel, TVN24 (which is owned by the US company Discovery), remained resolutely independent, and another mid-size channel (owned by a Polish billionaire) offered more diverse coverage despite its pro-government bias. At the same time, most internet and print media remained free, though the state oil monopoly did buy up most of the local press to advocate for PiS.

So, what are the lessons? First, the longer that authoritarian rule lasts, the harder it is to end it, because those in power will gradually eliminate independent institutions and centers of influence such as independent media. The chances for a similar reversal in Hungary or Turkey, where autocratic rule has persisted for more than a decade, are much smaller than in Poland. Had PiS prevailed in this election, it could have consolidated its hold on power for many more terms.

Second, electoral systems based on proportional representation (as in Poland) are harder for authoritarian parties to dominate than are "first-past-the-post" winner-take-all systems (as in Hungary and Turkey). Proportional means proportional, after all, whereas first-past-the-post systems are more susceptible to gerrymandering. While there is still some scope for such manipulation in Poland – that is why PiS won 42% of the Sejm (lower parliament) with only 35% of the votes – it was not enough to guarantee victory. In Hungary, by contrast, Orbán has locked in a super-majority, large enough to amend the constitution, with only around half the popular vote.

Moreover, first-past-the-post electoral systems tend to polarise voters and raise the stakes of elections, which increasingly come to seem existential to one or both sides. The implication is that if authoritarians gain control of a major party in such a system, they can pose a threat to the broader constitutional order for many decades, as now seems to be happening in the United States.

One key reason for PiS' defeat was that Third Way, a party catering to democratically inclined moderate conservatives (the Polish equivalent of never-Trump Republicans), won 65 Sejm seats. Just imagine how different US politics would be if a party led, for example, by Liz Cheney, the staunchly conservative former congresswoman from Wyoming who was ousted for her opposition to Trump, controlled 60 seats in the House of Representatives.

If we want to protect our democracies from the menace of authoritarianism, we need to make our electoral systems as proportional as possible, even if that leads to greater political fragmentation. When PiS won a majority of parliamentary seats in 2015 with only 38% of the vote, it was because threshold requirements had excluded parties that together had garnered some 16% of the vote.

In Weimar Germany at the height of the Great Depression, when unemployment was at 30%, the Nazis were stymied from winning a majority by the country's proportional-representation system. Only by staging a coup after the Reichstag fire were they able to consolidate absolute power. Looking ahead, pro-democratic forces in the US should advocate two-round voting systems (of the kind that Georgia has for US races) as a substitute for party primaries. Likewise, in Poland, thresholds for entering parliament should be radically reduced to 1%.

A third lesson is that pro-democracy forces not only must offer diversity to voters; they also must increase turnout. That is what former Polish Prime Minister and European Council President Donald Tusk did this year with a relentless eight-month campaign that involved holding 3-4 public meetings every week across PiS' rural strongholds. While Third Way offered a somewhat softer face to the disenchanting, Tusk offered red meat to all those Poles who favour democracy.

Finally, we must not forget that the populist-authoritarian threat pervades the West. That means the democratic response to it must be equally wide ranging. In Europe, the new Polish government needs to do away with the protective umbrella that PiS has been holding over Orbán by effectively vetoing key EU enforcement actions against rule-of-law violations in Hungary. Proceedings against Orbán under Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union should be revived without delay, and Hungary should be stripped of its EU voting rights until it reestablishes a properly functioning democratic order. Elections – even in other countries – must be seen to have consequences.

The writer is a former deputy prime minister of Poland. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1918: Prussian General Erich Ludendorff was forced to resign by Emperor William II on Prince Maximilian's advice, in an effort to establish an armistice agreement.
- 1970: Following an absence of more than three years, American boxer Muhammad Ali returned to the ring, defeating Jerry Quarry; Ali had been barred from fighting after he refused to be inducted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.
- 1979: South Korean President Park Chung Hee was assassinated by his lifelong friend Kim Jae Kyu, head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, who was sentenced to death for his actions.

IN JEST THIS

Don't get carried away with self-checkout



Melvin Durai

TECHNOLOGY HAS PROMOTED OUR OBSESSION WITH SELF-CHECKOUT

Everyone, by now, is familiar with self-checkout. Self-checkout is what happens when you go to a large store that carries various items, including clothing, furniture and mirrors, and you check yourself out in one of those mirrors.

It seems to me that there's too much self-checkout going on. I blame technology for this. Technology has promoted our obsession with self-checkout.

About a century ago, people relied only on mirrors for self-checkout. The glass mirrors we use today were invented in 1835. Before that, it was far less common for humans to fall in love with themselves. Sure, primitive mirrors existed for centuries, but people did not spend much time checking themselves out in puddles. Nor did they get carried away staring into silver plates.

When the glass mirror was first invented, you had to go to a special exhibition and wait in a long line to look at yourself in this magical object. If you got carried away and stared at your-

self too long, you'd hear a yell from behind: "Hey, give us a turn too. Don't use up all the magic on yourself."

Technology allowed glass mirrors to be mass-produced, and eventually they ended up in every household. This was a game-changer for many people. They could now stare at themselves for as long as they wanted. Nobody would be checking them out while they were checking themselves out.

Glass mirrors eventually made their way to every part of the world, sometimes in the possession of explorers who shocked people with this magical power of reflection. Some had never seen themselves before and found it terrifying. Who was this scary stranger who kept mimicking their gestures?

The invention of the modern mirror was soon followed by the invention of photography. Wealthy people would go to studios and get their images captured and printed for eternity. Of course, before doing this, they would spend hours making them-

selves up, like a bride before a wedding. Studio photography was extremely popular in the 20th century, largely because the pictures turned out well. Professional photographers could not only take photos with superior equipment in perfect lighting, they could make pimples magically disappear. Touching up photos to erase blemishes was perfectly acceptable, as long as the photos were used for non-journalistic purposes such as enticing a potential marriage partner. "But he looked so handsome in his photo" was a common thought, but rarely expressed.

Eventually cameras became household items and people could take as many pictures of themselves as they wanted. But it wasn't until the smartphone came along that self-checkout reached its peak. People could now take selfies, thousands of them, and share the very best on social media. They could take pictures of themselves in various settings. "This is me watching Manchester United; this is me

visiting the Taj Mahal; this is me falling off a cliff."

Considering the obsession with self-checkout, it didn't surprise me to see an article in 'Atlantic' magazine entitled "Self-checkout is a failed experiment." But when I read the article, it became apparent that the writer was referring to another form of self-checkout, in which stores get customers to serve as employees without paying them and without reducing prices.

Many stores around the world have introduced self-checkout. Customers initially get excited about it, especially when they see a large sign that says "Self-Checkout." But they soon realise that they're expected to do some work.

Thankfully, some stores have installed cameras and a small screen at every self-checkout register, hoping to deter theft. This allows customers to look at themselves on the screen while they're scanning items.

Yes, self-checkout gives you an opportunity for more self-checkout.

Toothless RTI

Sir, The Right to information Act (RTI) has suffered due to myopic governance. The Central Information Commission (CIC), setup to enforce the Act through disposal of complaints against state and central authorities has not moved forward in right earnest. Out of the sanctioned strength of ten Information Commissioners, the CIC has only four. The Chief Information Commissioner, YK Sinha retired early this month. Four states have no chief information commissioners and, shockingly, the state information commission itself is inoperative in a few states. The result: thousands of pending cases. Appointments to the Commission have almost always been subsequent to intervention of courts. The Supreme Court has said that the selection process of a new CIC or IC should be initiated one to two months before the superannuation of the incumbent. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Complicated conflict

Sir, The broader geopolitical landscape in the Middle East plays a significant role in shaping the positions of countries on the Israel-Palestine conflict. One of the central fault lines in the region is the divide between Sunni-majority Arab states and Shiite-majority Iran. Sunni-majority countries, like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, have historically been more aligned with Israel due to shared concerns about Iran's regional influence. In contrast, Iran supports Palestinian groups like Hamas, which create tensions in the region. Israel has forged alliances with some Arab states, particularly those in the Gulf, in recent years. This shift is partly motivated by a shared concern about Iran's influence and the desire to counter it. These developments have led to a degree of alignment between Israel and some Arab nations, leading to improved relations. The Middle East's geopolitical dynamics also influence the behaviour and policies of Palestinian factions. The US' own relationships in the region, such as with Saudi Arabia and Israel, also influence its policies on Israel-Palestine. Overall, the geopolitical rivalries and alliances in the Middle East have a significant impact on how countries in the region approach the Israel-Palestine conflict. The divide between Sunni-majority Arab states and Iran is one of the key fault lines, but the evolving alliances and strategic interests of various countries further complicate the situation. Amarjeet Kumar; HAZARIBAGH

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

ICMR finds Nipah virus in bats in Kerala's Wayanad

A month after the Nipah scare abated in Kerala's Kozhikode, ICMR has found presence of Nipah virus among bat samples collected from Wayanad

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 25: Citing an ICMR report, the Kerala government Wednesday said that there was a possibility of Nipah virus presence in bats in Wayanad district of the state. State Health Minister Veena George said that the Indian Council of Medical Research gave this information based on its studies of the bat samples collected by it.

While interacting with media, George pointed out that the bat samples collected from Sulthan Batherly and Manathavady areas in Wayanad district have tested positive for the virus.

The minister said that it does not mean there were fresh cases of the virus in that district and was only intended to caution and alert the state's health system and the general public.

She said that not only in Wayanad, there was a possibility of the virus' presence in bats in other districts also.

George was speaking to reporters about the current status of the Nipah outbreak in the state which had infected six people in Kozhikode district last month, of whom two had died.

The minister said that all those people who were on the contact list of those infected had completed their isolation and quarantine periods.

She also said that it was a matter of pride that the state was able to restrict Nipah's mortality rate, which is around 70-90 per cent, to 33 per cent.

The minister also referred to



Monoclonal antibodies, only treatment against Nipah infection, will be developed indigenously to combat the deadly virus

the various measures, like issuance of Kozhikode-specific standard operating protocols (SOPs), taken by the government to combat the virus.

Additionally, a Kerala One Health Centre for Nipah Research has also been created, she said.

Presently, there will be a consolidation of the field activities of all departments with regard to public health and will be a part of the Kozhikode Medical College, the minister said.

However, moving forward, the intention is to develop it as an independent research institute with its own infrastructure, she said.

Of the two deaths due to Nipah, the first person who died August 30 was found to be the index case, or patient zero, from whom others caught the infection. The outbreak of the virus this year was the fourth in the state since 2018.

Meanwhile, the monoclonal antibodies which are the only treatment against Nipah infection will be developed indige-

nously to combat the deadly virus, George said Wednesday.

George revealed that a decision had been taken by two national and a Kerala government institute to develop monoclonal antibodies.

The Kerala government's Institute of Advanced Virology, the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) and the National Institute of Virology in Pune would be involved in the effort, she said.

The minister said it was being considered to develop the antibodies using the cells of patients who recovered from the virus. The minister said the monoclonal antibodies were presently being imported from Australia where they are made according to the Nipah variant present there.

"We need to manufacture it indigenously for the variant seen here," she said.

The virus strain seen in Kerala was the Bangladesh variant, which has a high mortality rate of around 70-90 per cent.



WARM INVITATION: Officials of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust hand over the invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the consecration ceremony of the Ayodhya Ram temple during a meeting, in New Delhi, Wednesday

Several states want land in Ayodhya

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow Oct 25: Several state governments have approached the Uttar Pradesh government for land in Ayodhya as the first phase of Ram temple construction nears completion and the new Ayodhya township project gathers momentum.

The Uttar Pradesh Housing Board has already allotted 6,000 square metres land to Gujarat for its state guest house in the new Ayodhya township project.

The township project will be executed by the Housing Board that will come up on 1,407-acre land on Lucknow-Ayodhya NH-27. Later, the project will be ex-

panded up to 1,800-acre. The states want the land in Ayodhya to open their guest houses.

According to the Ayodhya administration, Nepal, Sri Lanka and South Korea have also asked for five-acre land in Ayodhya which will be allotted in the new Ayodhya township project.

The new township will come up in two phases. In the first phase, 539 acre land will be required. The first phase of the project will be rolled out after Deepotsav celebration in Ayodhya November 11.

As per the Ayodhya administration, land for the project has been procured in several villages, including Manjha,

Manjha Tirua, Manjha Barhata and Shahnawazpur.

Neeraj Shukla, additional housing commissioner, Housing Board, said, "The Housing Board has received applications from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh for allotment of land. We have sent a reply asking them to visit the site in Ayodhya."

"Land will only be allotted to state governments after their representatives visit the site and give their consent," Shukla added.

According to Shukla, the state government will also construct its guest house in Ayodhya.

"Around 100 mutts and ashrams have also applied for land in Ayodhya," he said.

"But due to paucity of land in Ayodhya, it will not be possible for the Housing Board to allot land to so many mutts. Therefore, we will adopt lottery system to allot land to mutts," he added.

After Ram temple, the new township project will be the next mega project to come up in Ayodhya. The state government has conceptualised the project to decongest the temple town as footfall of devotees in Ayodhya will rise manifold after Ram temple opens for devotees in January next.

Women pradhans in UP to get trained under Mission Shakti 4

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Oct 25: The Panchayati Raj department in Uttar Pradesh has tied up with the Centre for Catalyzing Change to provide training to 26,000 newly-elected women pradhans.

This is being done under the ongoing fourth phase of Mission Shakti campaign.

This campaign is aimed at "strengthening women's leadership and promote gender equality in the community" and will constitute modules on development related issues, leadership skills and sustainable development goals.

Under the two-day programme, the trainers will focus on addressing specific needs to women leaders, especially those who are completely new to leader-



ship positions.

Calling it a first-of-its-kind campaign, a government spokesperson said that the aim behind such a programme was to help develop necessary skills among the women leaders to handle their work and the community and, therefore, had the requisite knowledge of issues and laws.

"In the course of the training

the pradhans will learn about their administrative responsibilities, village secretariat arrangements, operation of public service centres and other issues related to village development. They will learn how to prepare a blueprint for the overall development of the village and how to present it to officials for implementation. Another area of focus will be on monitoring

of health, nutrition and sanitation services," said the spokesman.

Manoj Singh, additional chief secretary, Panchayati Raj, said that while women are often more aware of the overall development of the village, basic amenities and family health, it was necessary to help finetune this mindset of female village leaders to empower them to fulfil their responsibilities.

"The initiative is a positive step towards promoting women leadership in local governance and gender equality. It may serve as a model for similar programmes in other regions or states. Discussions on the outcomes and best practices could benefit women leadership development across India," he said.

Now, a demand to rename Kanpur Dehat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur, Oct 25: President of Merchant Chamber of Commerce, Uttar Pradesh, Abhishek Singhania, has written a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, urging him to change the name of Kanpur Dehat district to Greater Kanpur.

He claimed this change will prove to be a milestone in view of the urban development in state.

Singhania urged that being situated on the banks of Ganga, Kanpur has its own rich and glorious history and has for long enjoyed the status of being the 'Manchester of the East' due to its flourishing textile and other small and medium industries.

"History is witness that the

city moulded itself according to new standards and its name changed accordingly from Kanhapur to Kanpur. The city was established in 1803 and in 1891 it was divided into two districts Kanpur City and Kanpur Dehat," said Singhania.

At present, Kanpur Dehat is linked with National Highways numbers 14 and 27, while the country's busiest rail route, Delhi to Howrah, passes through the district.

It also benefits from the

Bundelkhand Expressway, he stated, adding that big industrial areas like Raniya, Jainpur, Derapur were growth centres and resources, hence the name did not do justice to it. In fact, it projects an image of backwardness.

Singhania claimed that the word 'Greater' denoted modernity and better infrastructure. He said, the renaming could boost the prestige and identity of that area as well as promote local development.

In a first in Kerala, case against negative reviews

THOSE CHARGED INCLUDE SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Oct 25: Two weeks after the Kerala High Court directed the state police chief to have a closer look into vested interests playing mischief, especially on social media, when new films are released, the Ernakulam Central police Wednesday registered the first case on this count and charged nine persons.

Those charged include social media giants Facebook, YouTube and seven others and the police has begun its probe.

The Ernakulam Central police registered the FIR based on a complaint by film director Ubaini Ebrahim after he found that the social media was flooded with negative reviews of his recently released Malayalam film 'Rahel Makan Koru'.

The High Court, early this month, acted on a petition filed by Mubeen Rauf, the director of 'Aromalinte Adyathe Pranayam' that he believed his film got a negative impact due to the alleged foul play by vloggers and sought action.

At this, the court made it clear that checks and balances have to



be there and ruled that the state police chief, through the learned government pleader, will also inform this court as to if an individual or an entity can file a complaint against such activities, including unlawful and motivated 'Review Bombing', and the modus for such, leading to the manner of investigation and its conclusion, apart from other suggestions.

It must, however, be specifically kept in mind by the state police chief that, what he is now being called to respond to, is regarding action only in the cases of motivated and calculated reviews made solely to extort and blackmail; and not those which are made bona fide, the court clarified.

TEA SELLER TO THALAIVAR

Rajini resemblance makes Kochi man a celebrity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kochi, Oct 25: Sudhakar Prabhu, along with his wife Sudha, was busy running their small tea shop at Fort Kochi but their lives transformed after a leading Malayalam film director shared his video, noting his resemblance to superstar Rajinikanth.

A mighty pleased Sudha said things were all quiet till Prabhu went to see a film shooting near their tea shop.

"As he was observing the shooting, film director Nadir Shah caught a view of Prabhu. Soon he was called upon and was told he resembles Rajinikanth and a selfie was taken," she said.

"Soon the video became viral and the tea shop also started getting more and more customers and some of them ask if they can take a selfie with him and he readily agrees. We now have started enjoying this new status," she said.

Sudha added that they all knew her husband resembled the great



"I want to meet the great actor and I am sure, he will allow me if he hears about my desire"
SUDHAKARA PRABHU

actor, but things changed when the director took the lead to share the video.

"For long, we have been fans of the great actor and we went to see his recent film 'Jailor'. During the interval, Prabhu went out and there was a commotion as some felt seeing my husband, they

thought the great actor has come," said Sudha.

Meanwhile, Prabhu, 63, basking in his present glory, has one desire which he thinks will happen.

"I want to meet the great actor and I am sure, he will allow me if he hears about my desire," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA PANCHAYATI RAJ & D.W. DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
IDENTIFICATION No: - KISB- 01/2023-24
E-mail address: - ori-kishornagar@nic.in
No.I-451:1.The Block Development Officer, Kishornagar on behalf of the Governor of Orissa invites Percentage rate composite bid in Single cover system for the works as detailed in the table, from the class of eligible contractors as mentioned in the DTCN, registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade / Class registered with Central Government/ MES / Railway, to be eventually drawn up in PWD P-I form, for execution of Building. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid. If successful, the bidder who has not registered under State Government has to register under the State PWD in appropriate class of eligibility before signing the agreement.
1. Sale of Bid Documents :- 21.10.2023 to 27.10.2023 (up to 1.00 PM)
2. Received of Bid Documents :- 22.10.2023 to 28.10.2023 (through speed post or registered post only)
3. Opening of Bid Documents :- 30.10.2023 at 10.30 PM
The details of the Eligibility criteria, EMD, enclosures etc. along with the list of projects can be viewed & downloaded from the district web site i.e www.angul.nic.in and can be seen in the office of Panchayat Samiti, Kishornagar during office hours only.
Sd./- Block Development Officer, Kishornagar
OIPR-19204/11/0001/2324

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SONEPUR GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
E-mail: eemispnp@yahoo.com; Ph. No. 06654-220516
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.SNPM/03/2023-24
No.857 Date:-18.10.2023

Name of work	: Civil Construction Works
No. of works	: 5 (Five) Nos.
Estimated cost	: 17.68 lakhs to 24.75 lakhs
Tender paper cost	: Rs.6000.00
Period of completion	: 3 (Three) Calendar months.
Class of Contractor	: "B", "C" & "D".
Availability of bid documents	: From 27.10.2023 (11.00 AM) to 14.11.2023 upto (5.00 PM) in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in)
Period of Receipt of bid through online	: From 27.10.2023 (11.00 AM) to 14.11.2023 upto (5.00 PM) through On-Line
Mode of Payment	: Online
Date of opening of bid documents	: 15.11.2023 (11.00 AM onwards)
Date of Lottery (if required)	: To be intimated later.
Digital Signature certificate of Bidder	: The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.

The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website- <http://dowrorissa.gov.in>

Name & Address of the OIT: Superintendent Engineer, M.I. Division, Sonapur, In front of civil court, Dist. - Sonapur, PIN-767017 E-mail: eemispnp@yahoo.com

Further details can be seen from the E-Procurement website. <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

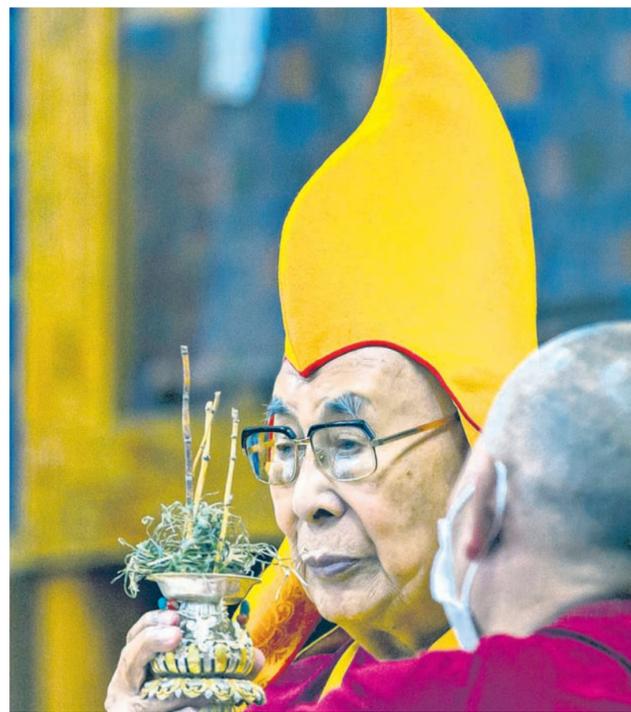
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Sonapur
OIPR-32290/11/0004/2324



NCC cadets of naval wing attend the All India Nau Sainik Camp 2023 (AINSC 2023) at Naval Base INS Shivaji, Lonovola, Pune, Maharashtra



An installation of blindfolded giant teddy bears adorned with photos of Israelis held captive in Gaza, is seen in a central square in Tel Aviv, Israel. The installation is meant to draw attention to over 200 people who were abducted by Hamas militants during a bloody and unprecedented October 7 cross-border attack



Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama during a special prayer offered for his long life by the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, Sera Je Hardong Khangtsen, Tibetan Chamber of Commerce and Lha Ngam Phun Sum, at the Tsiglagkhang Temple, Mcleodganj, in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh



Jammu & Kashmir Akhil Bhartiya Vidharthi Parishad (ABVP) students shout slogan against Tamil Nadu Government during a Tiranga rally in Jammu



Presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto, right, and his running mate Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the eldest son of President Joko Widodo, greet supporters upon arrival to register their candidacy to run in the 2024 election, at the General Election Commission building in Jakarta, Indonesia



Artistes take part in a cultural parade during the week-long International Kullu Dussehra festival, in Himachal Pradesh district,



A BMC worker fumigates an area at Pratiksha Nagar, Sion, in Mumbai, Maharashtra

national

of the day quote

If there is anyone who is a political villain, it is him, it is Mr Kumaraswamy. He has targeted me for watching a cricket match. But when his government (Congress-JD(S) coalition government) was about to collapse, he was sitting in America for a week. What should we call him?

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

Ram Mandir has no connection with politics. Indians have been worshipping Ram for thousands of years. Suddenly, Modi has become a Ram bhakt and is trying to divide the country on the basis of religion

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY | CONGRESS LEADER

We have seen a strong government for nine years now. Have the issues of the people been resolved? There should be a strong government, but not of any one party with a brute majority

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Petrol bomb hurled outside TN Raj Bhavan

Chennai: A Molotov cocktail, called 'petrol bomb' in local parlance, was lobbed by a man in front of the Raj Bhavan's main gate here Wednesday, an incident which drew the opposition's ire over the handling of law and order by the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu. Opposition AIADMK and BJP slammed the government over the incident that happened outside the official residence of the State Governor.

Delhi air quality dips to 'poor' category

New Delhi: The air quality in the national capital again dipped to "poor" quality as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of the city reached 249 on Wednesday evening, according to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR). Earlier Wednesday morning, air quality in the national capital had slightly improved and entered into "moderate" category as the overall AQI of the city reached 190.

NIT case: Five sent to police remand

Hamirpur (HP): A local court Wednesday sent all five persons arrested in connection with the death of a student at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Hamirpur due to suspected drug overdose to police custody till October 27.

Oppn slams NCERT replacing India with Bharat in textbooks

There has been a raging debate over the government using "Bharat" instead of "India" at various international events in the recent past, after the opposition parties named their grouping as the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA)



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Leaders of several opposition parties Wednesday opposed an NCERT panel's recommendation to replace "India" with "Bharat" in school textbooks, and alleged that the ruling BJP wanted to change history and was taking such "desperate steps" fearing its defeat at the hands of the opposition bloc INDIA.

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said the word "India" evoked as much pride as "Bharat" but the ruling dispensation wants "to indoctrinate an entire generation into hating a word we grew up feeling a lot of pride towards."

According to committee chairperson C I Isaac, the panel has also suggested introducing "classical history", instead of "ancient history", in the curriculum and including the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in the syllabus for all subjects.

Reacting sharply to the recommendations, Congress leader Venugopal said, "Be it Team India on the field or the Indian Space Research Organisation - the word India evokes pride just as much as Bharat. Their fear of a resounding defeat at the hands of INDIA is making them take such desperate steps." RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha said it has been a hysterical reaction of the

NCERT Chairman Dinesh Saklani, however, said no decision has been taken yet on the panel's recommendations

The name "Bharat" first appeared officially when the government sent out G20 invites in the name of "President of Bharat", instead of "President of India"

Later, the nameplate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the summit in New Delhi also read "Bharat", instead of India

BJP regime ever since the INDIA bloc was formed.

AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said, "It shows the fear PM Modi has of the INDIA alliance. His alliance partners are leaving him. Instead of changing name, efforts should be made to focus on issues of joblessness, inflation, and corruption."

DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai said the BJP is restoring to name-change politics in order "to divert the attention of people from its misdeeds and maladministration." Congress leader and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the NCERT panel recommendation was "wrong" and alleged an NDA hand behind the move.

Shivakumar wondered why there is the Reserve Bank of India, Indian Administrative Services and Indian Foreign Services, hinting that the word "Bharat" was not used. "Why the Republic of India is written on Indian passport," he asked.

Alleging that the NDA government forced the NCERT to take the "decision", he said the move was "completely wrong" and urged the Centre not to accept the recommendation. Congress leader Salman Khurshid said, "Our perspective is far more profound when it comes to Bharat, whether it's India, Bharat, or Hindustan, they (BJP) won't understand. They only focus on their electoral gains in everything they do."

Congress leader Jignesh Mevani the move showed disrespect towards the Constitution in which "India, that is, Bharat" is written. "So, both words can be used interchangeably," he said.

Law Commission meets Kovind panel on simultaneous polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind to examine the issue of holding simultaneous elections in the country has been renamed as the High Level Committee on One Nation, One

Election, according to an official statement Wednesday.

While the law ministry had asked the law panel to study the feasibility on holding Lok Sabha and assembly polls together, the Kovind panel on 'one nation, one election' has been mandated to examine the possibility of holding

Lok Sabha, assembly and panchayat and municipality polls together. Sources said the report of the law panel on simultaneous polls is not yet finalised.

They said "some more things are required to be done", indicating that the law panel will be invited again by the high-level

committee. According to an official statement, the high-level committee "noted" the resignation of Adhir Ranjan Choudhury, leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha, from the membership of the committee. The day the panel was constituted, Chowdhury had

declined to be a part of it. "I have no hesitation whatsoever in declining to serve on the committee whose terms of reference have been prepared in a manner to guarantee its conclusions. It is, I am afraid, a total eyewash," he had said in his letter to Home Minister Amit Shah, a member of the panel.

A WARNING JUDGEMENT FOR COPS NATIONWIDE

Injustice is easy to inflict, what stings is justice. When the applause or censure has died down you are left to savour the pleasure or pain in private. If the abiding sentiment is redemption for one, it is of rumination for the other.

The Gujarat High Court October 19 sentenced four police officers and men to 14 days simple imprisonment for the public flogging of five Muslim men for their alleged involvement in stone pelting during Garba last year.

A benchmark judgment delivered by Justice AS Supehia and Justice Gita Gopi has been scathing in upholding the law and yet softly mindful in giving ample time to appeal. Published excerpts of the judgment sound a warning bell for the cops who play to the gallery with an eye to pleasing those in power.

The verdict took note of the fact that the accused cops "have defiled the human rights and dignity of the

complainants as if they were conferred with the privilege to do so".

The Bench refused to accept the unconditional apology tendered by the accused cops terming it a 'barbarous act' wherein videography was done and widely circulated on social media. Even after the declaration of the guidelines by the

apex court, it has on numerous occasions emphasised on following them but it appears to have fallen on deaf ears", the court noted. "The insensate act where they engaged themselves in committing an inhumane act with a horrific purpose to humiliate in full public view is violative of the apex court guidelines which seek to protect human dignity, values and rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

Earlier, counsel for the accused cops had informed the court that the accused had approached victims in the presence of their advocate and offered monetary compensation which was



rejected by the victims.

Five Muslim men were beaten by policemen in Undhela village of Matar Taluka in Kheda district of Gujarat in the presence of villagers and victim's family members in public, for their alleged role in pelting stones on Navratri Garba and disturbing communal harmony in the village. Police had arrested at least 40 persons on suspecting their role in the violence.

The victim's family members had moved to the High Court pleading for action against the policemen for contempt of court. As per the Supreme

Court order in the case of D K Basu Vs State of West Bengal, the court has laid down guidelines against custodial torture. During the case hearing, the Gujarat Government submitted before the court that five policemen including a police inspector were prima facie found guilty in the case of flogging.

Based on electronic pieces of evidence, Nadiad Chief Judicial Magistrate in his report to the High Court had submitted out of the 14 police personnel, four were identified as beating Muslim men.

This is not the sole case of cops taking the law into their hands, seeking to dispense summary justice, there are at least two more - both involving people from the minority community awaiting judicial scrutiny.

Interestingly The Gujarat State Law Commission in its latest report released in July 2023 has stated "Custodial deaths in Gujarat is a matter of great

concern". The report is titled "Suggestions to have proper control on the law enforcing agency for the prevention of unwanted instances of custodial deaths". Citing the Commission report, Gujarat Congress media joint convener Dr Manish Doshi said that Gujarat tops in custodial deaths with 80 people having died in police custody over the last four years.

The Supreme Court by an order of July 2015 mandated all state to install CCTV cameras in all police stations. In Gujarat 130 police stations still remain without CCTV coverage while in many others though installed remain non-functional.

According to the National Human Rights report, some 24 persons died in police custody in 2021-22, which is higher, than in 2020-21's 17, 2019-20 (12), 2018-19 (13), and 2017-18, 14 deaths. Even in states like Maharashtra custodial deaths were 76, in Uttar Pradesh 46, in Tamil Nadu (40), and in Bihar 38.



The estimated cost was over ₹12 crore. The Delhi government had released Rs 10 crore to IIT-Kanpur for the procurement of necessary equipment and set up a centralised supersite for data collection

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

MANOJ LAUNCHES INDEFINITE FAST

Activist Manoj Jarange on Wednesday launched an indefinite fast to press for the demand for Maratha quota as the 40-day deadline he set before the Maharashtra government to provide reservation to the community came to an end



BIDDING ADIEU: Devotees during immersion of an idol of Goddess Durga into the Ganga at the end of Durga Puja festival, in Kolkata, West Bengal

Govt approves ₹22,303cr subsidy on P&K fertilisers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The government Wednesday announced a Rs 22,303 crore subsidy on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the current rabi season and said the farmers will continue to get key soil nutrient DAP at Rs 1,350 per bag.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the Rabi Season 2023-24 (from October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) on P&K fertilisers.

Briefing reporters, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said the Modi government is committed to ensuring adequate availability of fertilisers to farmers at affordable prices, Thakur said. In May, the Union Cabinet approved a subsidy of Rs 38,000 crore on P&K fertilisers for the Kharif season of 2023-24. The minister said that farmers will continue to get DAP (di-ammonium phosphate) at the old rate of Rs 1,350 per bag (50 kg each).

Similarly, the NPK will be available at the old rate of Rs 1,470 per bag and SSP (single super phosphate) at around Rs 500 per bag. "The MoP (Muriate of Potash) rates will come down to Rs 1,655 per bag from Rs 1,700 per bag," Thakur said.

INDIA TO RESUME SOME VISA SERVICES IN CANADA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Toronto, Oct 25: India Wednesday said it will resume some visa services in Canada with effect from Thursday, a move that came more than a month after they were suspended amid a diplomatic row over the killing of a Sikh separatist.

"After a considered review of the security situation that takes into account some recent Canadian measures in this regard, it has been decided to resume visa services for the following categories with effect from October 26, 2023: Entry visa, Business visa, Medical visa, and Conference visa," the High Commission of India in Ottawa said in a press release posted on its social media accounts.

The move is being seen as a step that could reduce tensions between the two countries.

The release said that the High Commission of India in Ottawa and its Consulates General in Toronto and Vancouver were constrained to suspend visa services temporarily because of safety and security considerations.

"Emergency situations will continue to be addressed by the High Commission and Consulates General as it is being done currently," it said, adding that further decisions, as appropriate, would be intimated



THE MOVE CAME DAYS AFTER JAISHANKAR SAID SUNDAY THAT INDIA IS LOOKING AT RESUMING VISA SERVICES FOR CANADIANS "VERY SOON" IF IT SEES PROGRESS IN THE SAFETY OF ITS DIPLOMATS IN CANADA

THE STEP IS BEING SEEN AS A STEP THAT COULD REDUCE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

based on continuing evaluation of the situation.

The move came days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Sunday that India is looking at resuming visa services for Canadians "very soon" if it sees progress in the safety of its diplomats in Canada.

Jaishankar had said that the primary reason behind India temporarily stopping the visa

services a few weeks ago was the concern over the safety and security of its diplomats in Canada and that Ottawa's inability to provide a secure environment to the Indian officials challenges the most fundamental aspect of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

His remarks came days after Canada pulled out 41 of its diplomats from India. Tensions flared between India and Canada last month following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar June 18 in British Columbia. India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

Israel urges India to proscribe Hamas as terror organisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Time has come for India to proscribe Hamas as a terrorist organisation like many other nations have done, Israeli ambassador Naor Gilon said Wednesday.

The Israeli envoy, at an interaction with journalists, also thanked India for its "100 per cent" support to Israel in its anti-terror operations against Hamas. Gilon said Israel conveyed to relevant Indian authorities to declare Hamas as a terrorist organisation following its brutal attack on Israel October 7. At the same time, he indicated that the matter was taken up earlier as well.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among first world leaders to condemn the terror attack... India is a very important moral voice in the world and the important countries for us are with us," Gilon said.

"It is time for India to declare Hamas as terrorist organisation in India," he said, adding many countries have already done that.

"India is solidly supporting us in our counter-terror operations," he said. The latest conflict has been triggered by the unprecedented and multi-pronged attacks against Israel by Hamas militants from Gaza October 7.

international



The whole world is expecting from the Security Council a call for a swift and unconditional ceasefire. This is precisely what is not in the American draft. Therefore, we don't see any point in it, and we cannot support it

VASSILY NEBENZIA | RUSSIA'S UN AMBASSADOR

INDIAN-AMERICAN SCIENTISTS HONOURED

US President Joe Biden has honoured two Indian-American scientists -- Ashok Gadgil and Subra Suresh -- with the country's highest scientific awards for their contribution to the field of science and technology



Chinese research ship docks at Colombo port amid US, India concern

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Oct 25: A Chinese research ship Wednesday docked at Sri Lanka's Colombo port, officials here said, amid security concerns raised by the US over its visit.

"Shi Yan 6 was given permission to enter the (Colombo) port for replenishment," a Sri Lankan foreign ministry spokesperson told PTI.

According to sources, Sri Lanka was delaying granting permission for the arrival of Shi Yan 6 due to security concerns raised by India. However, there is no official confirmation of the same.

It was not clear how long the vessel would remain docked at the Colombo port.

The arrival of Shi Yan 6 followed President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to China last week. In August, Colombo had announced that the Chinese research vessel is scheduled to arrive in October for marine research activities in collaboration with Sri Lanka's National Aquatic Resource Research and Development Agency (NARA).

Described as a Research/Survey Vessel with a carrying capacity of 1,115 DWT, the vessel is reported to be 5.3 metres in length overall 90.6 metres and width 17 metres.

Last month, the US expressed concern to Sri Lanka about the scheduled visit of the Chinese research ship to the island nation.

US Under Secretary Victoria Nuland, who met Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, had reportedly raised concerns about the visit of 'SHI YAN 6'.

China dispatches its research/surveillance vessels to Sri Lanka on a regular basis.

India has been raising concern over the visits of Chinese vessels in Lanka. In August this year, the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy warship HAI YANG 24 HAO arrived in Sri Lanka on a two-day visit. It was reported that the arrival of the 129-metre-long ship was delayed due to concerns raised by India.

No peace with Hamas: Israel

ISRAEL VOWS AGAIN TO DESTROY HAMAS, REJECTING CALLS FOR A CEASE-FIRE IN GAZA AT A MAJOR UN MEETING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Oct 25: Israel vowed again to destroy Hamas, rejecting calls from the UN chief, the Palestinians and many countries at a high-level UN meeting Tuesday for a cease-fire and declaring that the war in Gaza is not only its war but "the war of the free world."

Israel's Foreign Minister Eli Cohen also dismissed calls for "proportionality" in the country's response to Hamas' surprise attacks on Israel October 7 that killed 1,400 people and has since led to more than 5,700 Palestinian deaths in Gaza according to its Health Ministry.

He told the UN Security Council that the proportionate response to the October 7 massacre is "a total destruction to the last one of the Hamas," calling the extremist group "the new Nazis." He stressed: "It is not only Israel's right to destroy Hamas. It's our duty."

Cohen called the October 7 attacks "a wake-up call for the entire free world" against extremism, and he urged "the civilized world to stand united behind Israel to defeat Hamas."

And he warned that today it is Israel, and tomorrow Hamas and the attackers "will be at everyone's doorstep," starting with the West.

Over 5,700 Palestinians have been killed in the conflict, including some 2,300 minors

More than 1,400 people in Israel -- mostly civilians slain during initial Hamas attack

Cohen also accused Qatar of financing Hamas and said the fate of the more than 200 hostages taken from Israel, some of whose families came to the UN meeting, was in the hands of its Emir.

'Stop the killing'

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki demanded an end to the Israeli attacks.

"We are here today to stop the killing, to stop ... the ongoing massacres being deliberately and systematically and savagely perpetrated by Israel, the occupying power, against the Palestinian civilian population," he said. "Over 2 million Palestinians are on a survival mission every day, every night."

Under international law, he said "it is our collective human duty to stop them."

Al-Maliki warned that more attacks and killings and weapons and alliances won't make Israel safer. "Only peace will."

"For those actively engaged to avoid an even greater humanitarian catastrophe and re-



Tell me, what is a proportionate response for killing of babies, for rape (of) women and burn them, for beheading a child? How can you agree to a cease-fire with someone who swore to kill and destroy your own existence?

ELI COHEN | FOREIGN MINISTER, ISRAEL

gional spillover, it must be clear that this can only be achieved by putting an immediate end to the Israeli war launched against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip," he said. "Stop the bloodshed." UN Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres opened the monthly meeting on the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict -- which has turned into a major event with ministers from the war's key parties and a dozen other countries flying to

Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad leaders discuss 'real victory' plan

BEIRUT: The head of Lebanon's Hezbollah met top leaders of the Palestinian militant factions Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and discussed what their alliance must do to "achieve a real victory for the resistance", Hezbollah said Wednesday. Part of an Iran-backed regional alliance, the heavily armed Hezbollah has had daily exchanges of fire with Israeli forces along the Israeli-Lebanese frontier since war broke out between Israel and Hamas Oct 7. The meeting involved Hezbollah's Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas deputy chief Saleh al-Arouri and Islamic Jihad chief Ziad al-Nakhala, Hezbollah said in a statement. "An assessment was made of the international positions being taken and what the parties of the Axis of Resistance must do ... to realise a real victory for the resistance in Gaza and Palestinian and to halt the brutal aggression," Hezbollah said. "There was agreement on continuing the coordination."

'US BIGGEST DISRUPTOR OF PEACE'

US claims that Beijing was on track to nearly quadruple the number of warheads it has to 1,500 by 2035

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Oct 25: China said the United States is the "biggest disruptor of regional peace and stability" in the world in a scathing response Wednesday to a Pentagon report on China's growing military buildup.

The annual report that is required by Congress is one way

the Pentagon measures the military capabilities of China, which the US government sees as its key threat in the Asia-Pacific region and America's primary long-term security challenge.

The statement China's Ministry of Defence issued in response called the Pentagon report's findings false and used it in turn to hit back at the US' recent actions in helping Israel and Ukraine, as well as its buildup of military installations worldwide.

The Pentagon report builds on a warning last year that China was expanding its nuclear force rapidly, in line with a general



buildup of its military. China's top diplomat Wang Yi will visit the United States Thursday ahead of a possible meeting between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping in November.

US-China relations have deteriorated since 2018, initially over a trade dispute but expanding to the pandemic, China's actions in Xinjiang and over Taiwan.

The US has sent depleted uranium munitions and cluster bombs to Ukraine, sent its carrier battle groups to the Mediterranean and weapons and munitions to Israel, is this the so-called gospel 'the human rights defender' is bringing to the area?

WU QIAN | SPOKESPERSON FOR DEFENCE MINISTRY, CHINA

China also made sure to address Taiwan in its response. The Pentagon report said China is intensifying military, diplomatic and economic pressure toward the self-ruled island.

of the day quote

You, Mr Secretary General, have lost all morality and impartiality. Because when you say those terrible words that these heinous attacks did not happen in a vacuum, you are tolerating terrorism and by tolerating terrorism, you are justifying terrorism

GILAD ERDAN | ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN

We've achieved a lot in the year since I became PM. But be in no doubt, there's so much more to do. I know this year has been tough. And there is still work to be done to help hardworking families across the country, but I'm proud of the steps we've made

RISHI SUNAK | UK, PM

We want to further deepen our strong economic and cultural relationship with India as part of our renewed Asia Pacific strategy

MICHAEL MARTIN | DEPUTY, PM IRELAND

SHORT TAKES

Khan challenges Nawaz Sharif

Lahore: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party chairman Imran Khan has thrown a challenge to Nawaz Sharif, saying he will contest against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo in "whatever constituency" he chooses in the upcoming polls. Khan's challenge came as a video posted from his X handle. The former prime minister has been in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi in the cipher case since early August and the video was recorded before his arrest. "Nawaz Sharif was waiting to return to Pakistan once I am sent to jail and the PTI is eliminated. All the corruption cases against Nawaz and company have already been closed," Khan said in the video, posted after Sharif returned to Pakistan after a four-year self-imposed exile in London. Nawaz returned to Pakistan October 21.

Johnson for US House speaker

Washington: Republicans chose Rep Mike Johnson as their latest nominee for House speaker late Tuesday, hours after an earlier pick, Rep Tom Emmer, abruptly withdrew in the face of opposition from Donald Trump and headline GOP lawmakers. Johnson of Louisiana, a lower-ranked member of the House GOP leadership team, becomes the fourth nominee after Emmer and the others fell short in what has become an almost absurd cycle of political infighting since Kevin McCarthy's ouster as GOP factions jockey for power.

Anti-Black racism rising in EU nations, led by Germany

REUTERS

Vienna, Oct 25: Racism towards Black people is growing in Europe, with Germany, Austria and Finland showing the highest rates of discrimination and harassment, a survey of first- and second-generation Black immigrants in 13 EU countries published Wednesday found.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which commissioned the survey and analyzed its findings in a report, said that in the space of six years since the previous study the proportion of respondents who had felt racially discriminated against in the past 12 months had risen by 10 percentage points to 34%.

In Austria and Germany the proportion was 64% - almost twice the previous level of 33% in Germany and a significant increase from the 42% recorded in Austria six years earlier. The next worst was Finland with 54%.

"It is shocking to see no improvement since our last survey," FRA Director Michael O'Flaherty said. "Instead, people of African descent face ever more discrimination just because of the colour of their skin." The proportion of respondents who reported feeling racially discriminated against over the past five years rather than 12 months rose to 45% across the 13 countries surveyed, an increase of six points from the previous study. The top three were the same, with Germany's rate the highest at 76%.



Supporters of a religious party 'Jamaat-e-Islami' take part in a rally against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza and to show solidarity with the Palestinian people in Karachi, Pakistan

Despite losing limbs, Ukrainian sappers return to work

UKRAINE, LOCKED IN A RAGING 20-MONTH WAR WITH RUSSIA, ESTIMATES THAT 174,000 SQ KM OF ITS TERRITORY - ABOUT A THIRD OF THE COUNTRY - IS POTENTIALLY STREWN WITH MINES OR DANGEROUS WAR DETRITUS

REUTERS

Kharkiv Region, Oct 25: Andrii Ilkiv, a Ukrainian police sapper, had his leg amputated below the knee after a land mine blew up beneath him in September 2022.

By May the following year he was back at work, standing on a prosthetic limb, sweeping for and defusing mines.

The 37-year-old father of four is one of 14 sappers who have returned to their demining jobs in a national police unit of some 100 people, despite being wounded in blasts while clearing mines during Russia's invasion.

"Of course, obviously there's fear when you return, when you stand next to a minefield there's fear, but on the other hand you



know that with the help of a metal detector, a sapper spade and special equipment, you can move, and conduct demining work," said Ilkiv.

Ukraine, locked in a raging 20-month war with Russia, estimates that 174,000 sq km of its territory - about a third of the

country - is potentially strewn with mines or dangerous war detritus.

Kyiv fears it could take decades to clear the area.

Ilkiv's unit was created during the war and is focused on humanitarian mine clearance away from the fighting. They are now

operating in the regions of Kherson and Kharkiv, parts of which were recaptured from Russia last year.

Four of their sappers have been killed in blasts so far, and 16 wounded.

Ilkiv, wounded when an anti-personnel mine exploded in the village of Dementiivka in the Kharkiv region, said he decided to return because of the large volume of mine-clearance work still to be done, an argument that he presented to his wife.

"She was a bit surprised, shocked. But she has accepted it," he told Reuters while working in the Kharkiv region this week.

The area they were clearing when the mine exploded, wounding him, was particularly tricky, he said. "The mines were buried beneath the ground, impossible to uncover with visual cues."

"At first you don't feel pain, and you can use this moment of

numbness to perform first aid - put on the tourniquet, before the state of shock comes over you."

Valeri Onul, another sapper, also returned to work in the unit despite losing a leg in a blast in November.

"I lifted myself up, looked down, one of my legs was gone... they started pulling me out, I tried to help with my good leg, moved bit by bit and managed to get myself out without triggering two mines that were there," he said. Even in the immediate aftermath of the blast, he said he was sure he would return to mine-clearance work when he had made a recovery.

"Many thoughts crowded my mind, I do not know how many per second, but there was one crazy wish, after I was brought to hospital and I regained my senses, already then, I wanted to get back to work."

Russia withdraws from nuclear test ban treaty

Russia says it will not resume testing unless Washington does, but a test by either Russia or US could trigger a new arms race - and more testing by other countries - at a moment of acute tension, with wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East

REUTERS

Moscow, Oct 25: Russia's parliament completed the passage of a law Wednesday withdrawing ratification of the global treaty banning nuclear weapons tests, evidence of the deep chill in relations with the United States as Moscow pursues its war in Ukraine.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Russia was not prepared to resume discussing nuclear issues with the US unless Washington dropped its "hostile" policy.

The bill to deratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was approved by 156 votes to zero in the upper house after the lower house also passed it unanimously. It now goes to President Vladimir Putin for signing.

Putin had requested the change to "mirror" the position of the United States, which signed the CTBT in 1996 but never ratified it.

Though it has never formally come into force, the CTBT has made nuclear testing a taboo - no country except North Korea has conducted a test involving a nuclear explosion this century.

CNN published satellite images last month showing that Russia, the United States and China have all expanded their nuclear test sites in recent years.

The US Energy Department said last week it had conducted a chemical explosion at its test site in Nevada "to improve the United States' ability to detect low-yield nuclear explosions around the world".

Speaking to Russian lawmakers before Wednesday's vote, deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov said the Nevada blast was "undoubtedly a political signal". Russia says its monitoring stations will keep supplying data to the global network that detects nuclear blasts.

As our president said, we must be on alert, and if the United States moves towards the start of nuclear tests, we will have to respond here in the same way

SERGEI RYABKOV | DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA





I am particularly proud of our speed of the committed True 5G roll-out. Today, we have covered the entire country with a robust True 5G network ahead of our promised time frame of December 2023. 85 per cent of the entire 5G deployment in India is made by Jio

AKASH AMBANI | CHAIRMAN, RELIANCE JIO

HONDA, GM SCRAP CHEAPER EV PLAN

Honda Motor and General Motors (GM) are scrapping a plan to jointly develop affordable electric vehicles (EVs), the Japanese company said, just a year after they agreed to work together in a bid to beat Tesla in sales. The decision underscores GM's strategic shift to slow the launch of several EV models to focus on profitability, as it grapples with the rising costs of United Auto Workers strikes



of the day quote

We are thrilled to solidify our partnership with ION Mobility to drive the premium electric two-wheeler growth in Indonesia with the showcase of Project Dynamo at the IMOS

SHARAD MOHAN MISHRA | PRESIDENT (GROUP STRATEGY), TVS MOTOR

India has recognised the potential for cities to be centres of economic growth and has emphasised the need to make cities livable through inclusive, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure, which is also in line with ADB Strategy 2030

SANJAY JOSHI | PRINCIPAL URBAN DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, ADB

We are examining the potential of the SUVs in the Indian market

TAKASHI WATANABE | PRESIDENT, LEXUS INTERNATIONAL

BLOODBATH AT D-ST

Mkt tremors hit investors

₹14.60L-cr lost in five trading sessions as the ongoing tensions in the Middle East unnerved investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Equity investors became poorer by ₹14.60 lakh crore in five days of market slump amid mounting tensions in the Middle East and higher valuations of Indian stocks.

Benchmark Sensex and Nifty plunged nearly 1 per cent Wednesday due to heavy selling in financial and IT shares.

Falling for the fifth day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 522.82 points or 0.81 per cent to settle at 64,049.06 with 24 of its components ending in the red. The index plunged by 2,379 points in the five sessions.

Both the blue-chips witnessed longest losing streak since an eight-session slide that ended Feb 28

The Nifty declined by 159.60 points or 0.83 per cent to 19,122.15. In the five sessions, the index lost around 690 points.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies eroded ₹14,60,288.82 crore to ₹3,09,22,136.31 crore in five days. Among the Sensex firms,



Markets extended fall for the fifth straight session as banking, IT stocks led the slump in the backdrop of persisting global turbulence. Higher valuations of Indian stocks have been a concern and the current global turmoil is allowing investors to reduce their equity exposure

SHRIKANT CHOUBANI | HEAD OF RESEARCH (RETAIL), KOTAK SECURITIES

Infosys, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, Titan and Axis Bank were among the major laggards.

Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nestle, and JSW Steel were the gainers.

"It was a sea of red at Dalal Street which was primarily clouded by lingering concerns

about corporate India's earnings, which as of date was uninspiring and, most importantly, they could come under heavy pressure from inflation, an economic downturn, and soaring interest rates. The negative take-away was that the bear remained in total control despite WTI oil prices tumbling to \$83 a barrel," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

SENSEX DROPS BY 2,379 POINTS TO END AT 64,049.06

NIFTY DECLINES BY 690 POINTS TO SETTLE AT 19,122.15

MCAP OF BSE-LISTED FIRMS AT ₹3,09,22,136.31 CRORE

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.77 per cent and midcap index fell 0.52 per cent.

Among the indices, tech dropped 1.39 per cent, telecommunication fell 1.29 per cent, utilities (1.25 per cent), IT (1.13 per cent), power (1.09 per cent), financial services (0.83 per cent), realty (0.80 per cent) and bankex (0.70 per cent). Metal emerged as the only gainer.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory while Seoul ended lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended in the green Tuesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.30 per cent to \$88.32 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹252.25 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

Online gaming cos get GST notices worth ₹1L-crore

IN AUGUST, THE GST COUNCIL CLARIFIED THAT 28% TAX WOULD BE LEVIED ON THE FULL VALUE OF BETS PLACED ON ONLINE GAMING PLATFORMS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: GST authorities have issued show cause notices worth ₹1 lakh crore to online gaming companies for tax evasion so far, a senior official said Wednesday.

The official, however, said there is no data yet of foreign gaming companies registering in India since October 1.

The government has amended the GST law, making it mandatory for overseas online gaming companies to register in India from October 1.

In August, the GST Council clarified that 28 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) would be levied on the full value of bets placed on online gaming platforms.

Since then, a host of gaming companies have received either an intimation notice or a show cause notice for short payment of GST.

"Online gaming companies served notices worth about ₹1 lakh crore by GST authorities so far," the official said.

While gaming company Dream11 is reported to have received a show cause notice for evasion of ₹40,000 crore, casino operators and gaming platform providers, like Delta Corp, have received notices from GST authorities in two instalments to

talling ₹23,000 crore for short-payment of taxes.

Online gaming companies have been approaching the High Courts against such GST demands, contesting the claims of revenue authorities. The online gaming companies claim they were paying taxes at the rate of 18 per cent as the games played on the platform were 'games of skill'.

Delta Corp had approached the Bombay High Court challenging the GST demands.

The High Court of Bombay at Goa considered the writ petitions filed by the company and its subsidiaries on October 23, 2023, Delta Corp said in a regulatory filing on October 24.

"Basis a statement made on behalf of the concerned tax authorities, the...High Court has directed such authorities not to pass any final orders on the captioned show cause notices without the prior permission of the...High Court," Delta Corp said.

Separately, a show cause notice was sent to GamesKraft in September last year for alleged GST evasion of ₹21,000 crore.

While the Karnataka High Court has ruled in favour of the company, the central government in July filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court.

Q2 RESULTS

Tech Mahindra's profit plunges

Bangalore: India's Tech Mahindra Wednesday posted its biggest fall in profit in over 16 years as expenses mounted and clients tightened spending amid a tough macroeconomic environment. Tech Mahindra's net profit for the quarter fell 61.6%, its worst performance since March 2007. Consolidated revenue from operations fell 2.02% year-on-year, while expenses rose nearly 7%, led by a 30% jump in "other expenses." India's information technology (IT) industry has been grappling with delays in dealmaking, as businesses in the US and Europe, from where it draws the bulk of revenue, cut back investments amid fears of a recession.

Axis Bank net profit rises 10%

New Delhi: Private sector lender Axis Bank Wednesday reported a 10 per cent rise in net profit at ₹5,863 crore for the September quarter. Axis Bank had reported a net profit of ₹5,329 crore in the year-ago period. The bank's provisioning increased to ₹815 crore during the second quarter of the current fiscal, up from ₹550 crore in the year-ago period. Axis Bank's total income rose to ₹31,660 crore during the quarter under review, from ₹24,094 crore last year. The bank's Net Interest Income (NII) grew 19 per cent year-on-year to ₹12,315 crore.

Union Bank holds mega outreach camp in City

BHUBANESWAR: Union Bank of India has organised mega outreach camp for Khurda district which was held by Regional Office Bhubaneswar at various locations in Bhubaneswar. The camp was organized in the presence of Central Office General Manager Gokulananda Das, FGM and Zonal Head Bhubaneswar Sarvesh Ranjan, DGM and RH Bhubaneswar Niranjana Barik, AGM and Dy RH Ashok Kumar Mishra, AGM and Dy RH Jeetendra Kumar Samal, AGM and MLP Head Hareram Shah along with executives from regional office Bhubaneswar, RLP Bhubaneswar, the branch heads of many branches of the City and the bank's existing and new esteemed customers. In the event around 200 sanction letters were distributed in various schemes to the customers. The event was carried out at Nayapalli branch, Chandrasekharpur branch, Bhubaneswar main branch and Aiginia branch. General Manager Das discussed with the customers regarding the various schemes available with the bank and requested them for more feedbacks to make the banking services more effective.



Centre extends mandate on imported coal-based plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The government has asked imported coal-based power plants to operate at full capacity until June 30, 2024, amid a surge in electricity demand and inadequate domestic coal supplies, according to a notification.

The power ministry had earlier extended its directive to imported coal-based (ISB) plants to operate at full capacity until October 31, 2023. The government in March this year issued the first directive under Section 11 of the Electricity Act to ISB plants.



"After consultations with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the Government decided to extend the time period for Section 11 directive to imported coal-based generators, up to 30.06.2024 (30th June 2024)," the ministry said in the notification dated October 23.

Under Section 11 of the Electricity Act, the government

Have at least 2 WTDs: RBI to pvt banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 25: The Reserve Bank of India Wednesday asked private banks and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks to ensure at least two Whole Time Directors (WTDs), including the MD & CEO, on their boards to facilitate succession planning.

Given the growing complexity

of the banking sector, it becomes imperative to establish an effective senior management team to navigate the ongoing and emerging challenges, the RBI said in a circular.

"Establishment of such a team may also facilitate succession planning, especially in the background of the regulatory stipulations in respect of tenure and upper age limit for Managing

Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) positions," it said.

The RBI asked banks to ensure the presence of at least two WTDs, including the MD & CEO, on their boards, to address issues



and challenges. The number of WTDs should be decided by the board of the bank by taking into account factors such as the size of operations, business complexity, and other relevant aspects.

"In compliance to these instructions, banks that currently do not meet the mini-

mum requirement...Are advised to submit their proposals for the appointment of WTD(s)... Within a period of four months," the circular said.

It further said banks, which do not already have the enabling provisions regarding appointment of WTDs in their Articles of Association, may first seek necessary approvals from the RBI, expeditiously.

India now AIIB's top spot for funding infra projects

FORMED IN DEC 2015, THE AIIB HAS TO DATE FUNDED SOVEREIGN INDIAN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO THE TUNE OF \$10BN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Oct 25: Given the sheer size of infrastructure development taking place across the country, India has emerged as the biggest project funding market for the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), a top bank official said Wednesday.

Stating that financing of a lot more new infrastructure projects is under discussion for next year, AIIB South Asia Director General Rajat Misra said, "Lending to India will continue to grow as the bank balance sheet will also grow."

Misra was speaking to PTI on the sidelines of Singapore International Energy Week here. Formed in December 2015, the AIIB has to date funded sovereign



Indian infrastructure projects to the tune of \$10 billion.

This works out to more than 20 per cent of AIIB's total infrastructure project funding. For this year, the bank has lent more than \$1.3 billion to Indian projects, including \$438 million for the Chennai Metro Rail Phase 2 Project (Balance Corridor 5) and

\$250 million for the Second Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project.

He also pointed out that AIIB has "a very thorough due diligence and each project is evaluated on its viability."

After India, the bank has rated China, Turkey, Indonesia and Bangladesh as top borrowers.

Smuggled gold seizures rise 43% in H1

GOLD SMUGGLING SEIZURES THIS YEAR FROM APRIL TILL SEPTEMBER 2023 IS 2,000 KG VIS-A-VIS 1,400 KG IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Smuggled gold seizures have increased nearly 43 per cent to 2,000 kilogramme during April-September, with most of the yellow metal entering India through the land borders of Myanmar, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal said in April-September period of last year, 1,400 kg of gold was seized, while during the full fiscal 2022-23, around 3,800 kg was seized.

"There is no change in duty structure of gold vis-a-vis last year. But smuggling may be de-



There is no change in duty structure of gold vis-a-vis last year. But smuggling may be dependent on the prevailing prices of gold in international and domestic markets

SANJAY KUMAR AGARWAL | CHAIRMAN CBIC

pendent on the prevailing prices of gold in international and domestic markets." Agarwal told reporters here.

Gold smuggling seizures this year from April till September 2023 is 2,000 kg vis-a-vis 1,400 kg in the same period last year.

"Gold has been smuggled mainly through land border Myanmar, Nepal and Bangladesh," Agarwal said.

The trend of gold smuggling into the country is dependent upon the prices prevailing in domestic market and international market. It cannot be solely linked with the customs duty prevailing on gold, the CBIC chief said.

The department is making concerted efforts to curb gold smuggling whether it is through land borders or through air-

ports or any other routes, Agarwal said.

To deter the smuggling of gold, Customs field formations and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) keep constant vigil and take operational measures, such as passenger profiling, risk-based interdiction and targeting of cargo consignments, non-intrusive inspection, rummaging of aircraft and coordination with other agencies.

As per a DRI report for 2021-22, gold smuggling in India is fuelled by the huge demand for gold, combined with import duty on licit import of gold.

The basic Customs Duty rate on gold is 12.5 per cent. Along with the Agricultural Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC) of 2.5 per cent and IGST rate of 3 per cent applicable to the imports of gold, the overall tax rate works out to 18.45 per cent.

India is a negligible producer of gold and the huge demand for gold in the country is met through imports. India imports gold dore bar as well as refined gold.

Antil throws off own WR

Hardik likely to miss more World Cup ties



T11 1500m race with a time of 4:27.70. He had also won a gold in men's T11 5000m race Tuesday.

Sundar Singh Gurjar also set a new WR in the men's F46 javelin throw as he sent his spear to a distance of 68.60m en route to winning the gold. The earlier WR of 67.79m was in the name of Dinesh Mudiyansele Herath of Sri Lanka.

In fact, Indians swept all the three medals in the men's F46 javelin throw event with Rinku (67.08m) and Ajeet Singh (63.52m) winning silver and bronze respectively.

It was 1-2 for the Indians in the women's T11 1500m event with Rakshitha Raju (5:21.45) and Killaka Lalitha (5:48.85) taking gold and silver respectively. Rakshitha had won a gold in the same event in the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta.

Haney and Nimisha Suresh Chakkungalparambil added gold medals in men's F37/38 javelin throw and women's T47 long jump events. Haney produced a Games record of 55.97m while Nimisha cleared 5.15m to take India's gold medal tally to 15.

Pooja won a silver in women's F54/55 discus throw of 18.17m while Narayan Thakur and Shreyansh Trivedi picked up a bronze each in men's T35 200m and T37 200m with times of 29.83 and 25.26 respectively.

Indians finished second and third in both the men's T13 1500m

race and men's F47 shot put events. Sharath Shankarappa Makanahalli (4:13.60) and Balwant Singh Rawat (4:20.58) clinched silver and bronze while Rana Soman (14.42) and Hokato Hotozhe Sema (13.94) finished second and third respectively.

In para table tennis, Tokyo Paralympics medallist Bhavina Patel won a bronze in women's singles Class 4 after she lost to Gu Xiaodan of China 1-3 (7-11, 11-6, 6-11, 7-11) in the semifinal.

India won three medals in para archery - two silver and a bronze. Armless archers Sheetal Devi and Sarita won a silver medal after losing 150-152 to the Chinese pair of Lin Yueshan and Zhang Lu.

The other silver was won by men's doubles compound pair of Rakesh Kumar and Suraj Singh after losing 150-155 to the Chinese duo of Ai Xinliang and He Zihao.

Harvinder Singh and Sahil won a bronze in men's doubles recurve event after beating the Thai pair of Hanreuchai Netsiri and Pornchai Phimthong 6-0. Harvinder had won a bronze medal in the Tokyo Paralympics and a gold in the 2018 Asian Para Games.

In para badminton, Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramdass settled for a bronze in mixed doubles SL3-SU5 after losing their semifinal match to the Indonesian pair of Leani Ratri Oktila and Hikmat Ramdani 19-21, 14-21.

In para powerlifting, Zainab Khatun and Rajkumari won a silver and a bronze respectively in the women's 61kg category. Khatun lifted 85kg while Rajkumari had a successful effort of 84kg.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Star all-rounder Hardik Pandya is likely to sit out of India's next two World Cup matches as he is yet to recover from his ankle injury that rendered him out of action last week.

Pandya had slipped in his follow-through while bowling against Bangladesh in Pune October 19 and missed the clash against New Zealand in Dharamsala October 22 due to the injury. The Baroda player had reported to National Cricket Academy (NCA) Monday in Bangalore for his injury management.

"Hardik is still under medication. While the swelling on his left ankle has subsided considerably, he will start bowling only towards the weekend. Right now, important is to give him time to recover," an NCA source told PTI.

Since India are in a very strong position to make the semifinals, having won all five matches so far; Pandya could easily be rested for the next two matches that will allow him complete recovery before the knock-outs.

"Pandya has suffered a bad sprain but fortunately not a fracture. The BCCI medical team



wants to take maximum precaution. He is likely to miss next two to three matches. The team wants him fully fit for the knock-out stage," added a BCCI source.

Pandya is likely to undergo a fitness test Thursday and BCCI's medical team will ascertain his comeback date depending on how smoothly he is able to bowl full tilt without any apparent discomfort or pressure on his left ankle.

India next play against defending champions England October 29 in Lucknow and take on Sri Lanka in Mumbai November 2. Pandya's absence had created space for Suryakumar Yadav and Mohammed Shami in the playing XI against New Zealand.

GILL NARROWS GAP IN RANKING

Dubai: Young Indian opener Shubman Gill closed the gap with Pakistan skipper Babar Azam to just six points as the No.1 ODI batter in the ICC rankings that was released Wednesday. The 24-year-old, who became the fastest batter to reach 2000 ODI runs in their World Cup match against New Zealand Sunday, has improved to 823 ratings points. Virat Kohli has improved three spots to be on joint fifth with Aussie left-handed opener David Warner (up two spots). India quick Mohammed Siraj, who has picked up six wickets from five appearances at the World Cup, jumped one place to close in on Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood as the No.1 ODI bowler.

English troika on target amid tributes for Charlton

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Oct 25: On a night of tributes for the late Bobby Charlton, Harry Maguire kept Manchester United in contention and fellow England standouts Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham each scored in the Champions League.

A second-half header from Maguire and then a penalty saved by Andre Onana in stoppage time secured a 1-0 win for United over FC Copenhagen to earn the English club its first points following consecutive losses.

Kane produced the crucial goal to help Bayern Munich earn its 16th straight win in the group stage with a 3-1 victory over Galatasaray, and Bellingham scored with a long-range shot for Real Madrid's second in a 2-1 win at Braga Tuesday.

Charlton, the former England and Manchester United star, died Saturday at age 86. In United's first home match since his death, a lone piper playing the tune to the United anthem "We'll Never Die" provided a moving soundtrack inside Old Trafford.

GROUP A

Bayern lead Group A with a perfect nine points at the halfway stage and haven't dropped a point in group play since 2020. Galatasaray are next with four points, United have three and Copenhagen have one.

Kane made little impact until late in the second half for Bayern's second goal. The England captain first tried a flashy backheel off Jamal

Musiala's low cross but the ball hit defender Sacha Boey. It then bounced favorably for Kane to score with his second effort in the 73rd. Musiala then scored Bayern's third. Kingsley Coman had scored early for Bayern.

In Manchester, Maguire had been criticised for his recent performances and he celebrated his goal emphatically and then formed a heart with his fingers.

GROUP B

Goals from Gabriel Martinelli and Gabriel Jesus earned Arsenal a 2-1 win at Europa League champion Sevilla. Martinelli has now scored in his first start for Arsenal in the Champions League, the Europa League (vs Standard Liege), Premier League (vs West Ham) and League Cup (vs Nottingham Forest).

GROUP C

Bellingham scored his 11th goal in 12 matches since joining Madrid to help the 14-time European champion strengthen their lead in Group C. Madrid have a full nine points. Napoli are next with six points after a 1-0 win at Union Berlin; Braga have three points and Berlin have none. Rodrygo also scored for Madrid.

GROUP D

Brais Mendez scored again as Real Sociedad defeated Benfica 1-0 in Lisbon to hand last season's quarterfinalist a third straight defeat. Surprise starter Alexis Sanchez set Inter Milan on their way to a 2-1 victory over Salzburg to boost the Nerazzurri's chances of reaching the knockout stages.

Maxwell show sets up record Oz win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: Glenn Maxwell waltzed his way to the fastest World Cup century (106, 44b, 9x4, 8x6) after David Warner hit his second successive hundred (104, 93b, 11x4, 3x6) as Australia crushed the Netherlands by 309 runs - the biggest in tournament history - to continue their winning run here Wednesday.

After opener Warner laid the foundation, Maxwell went on a six-hitting spree as Australia displayed their batting might to amass a mammoth 399/8 after opting to bat. Steve Smith (71, 68b, 9x4, 1x6) and Marnus Labuschagne (62, 47b, 7x4, 2x6) also returned to form with resolute fifties but it was Maxwell who stole the show in the end.

Maxwell reached the hundred in 40 balls to surpass South African Aiden Markram's 49-ball ton which also came at the same venue during this World Cup against Sri Lanka.

With a mountain to climb, the Netherlands folded for 90 in 21 overs with Vikramjit Singh top-scoring with a run-a-ball 25 at the top.

It was Australia's third win on the trot, consolidating their position in the top four with six points with New Zealand and England in line in their next matches. For the Netherlands, it was their fourth loss, leaving them at the bottom position in the 10-team event.

Earlier, Warner was involved in two big partnerships - 132 with Smith and 84 with Labuschagne - as Australia kept a steady run rate of 6-an-over throughout the innings.



The Dutch might have nurtured hopes of a fight back briefly as Australia lost three wickets in 19 balls to slip from 244/2 to 267/5 but Maxwell forged a 103-run stand off 43 balls with Pat Cummins (12 n o) to take Australia just one run short of 400.

His carnage left Dutch all-rounder Bas de Leede scarred as he ended up conceding 115 runs in his 10 overs, the most expensive

ODI spell in history. Logan van Beek (4/74) was the highest wicket-taker for the Netherlands.

BRIEF SCORES

Australia 399/8 (Glenn Maxwell 106, David Warner 104, Steve Smith 71, Marnus Labuschagne 62; Logan van Beek 4/74) beat The Netherlands 90 (Vikramjit Singh 25; Adam Zampa 4/8, Mitchell Marsh 2/19) by 309 runs.

NUMBERS' GAME

40 Ball faced by Glenn Maxwell to complete his century, quickest in the World Cups, surpassing the previous best of South African Aiden Markram's 49-ball century record against Sri Lanka earlier in the edition. This was also 4th fastest ton in ODI history

115 Runs conceded by Bas de Leede in his 10 overs, most by a bowler in an ODI. The previous record was in the name of Australians Mick Lewis and Adam Zampa - both had conceded 113 in their 10-over spells against South Africa

309 It is the biggest margin of win across all editions of World Cup and the second biggest in ODI history, besides being the biggest for Australia

6 David Warner's World Cup centuries, most among the Australians, going past Ricky Ponting (5) while joining India's Sachin Tendulkar

Sanju, Jalaj help Kerala ease past Odisha in SMAT

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 25: Skipper Sanju Samson (55 n o, 31b, 4x4, 4x6) led from the front with the willow before Jalaj Saxena (5/17) stole the show with a five-wicket haul as Kerala overpowered Odisha with a 50-run victory in their Group B match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) T20 cricket tournament at the DY Patil Stadium in Mumbai, Wednesday.

Chasing a target of 184 runs, Odisha hardly troubled Kerala as they lost wickets at regular intervals to be eventually bowled out for 133 in 18.1 overs. The highest partnership was 43 runs for the second wicket between opener Sandeep Pattnaik (10) and the top scorer Subhranshu Senapati (37).

Rajesh Dhuper (28) and skipper Govind Poddar (27) also got starts but failed to convert those into big ones. Jalaj was absolutely amazing in his 4-over spell and he was ably supported by Shreyas Gopal (4/18).

Earlier, Kerala were invited to bat first after losing the toss and their batters didn't disappoint. Varun Nayanar (48) and Vishnu Vinod (35) put together 60 runs for the second wicket after losing the first wicket early. Then Sanju, with Vishnu, guided the team past 150 with a 65-run third wicket stand.

After Vishnu's departure, Sanju remained at the crease till the end to help his side post 183/4. Tarini Sa (3/31) was the best among Odisha bowlers.

MEN'S SKEET TEAM SHOOT GOLD IN ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 25: The Indian men's trio of Anant Jeet Singh Naruka, Gurjoat Khangura and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa won the gold medal with a combined total of 358 in men's skeet team event of the Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, South Korea. The Indians' aggregate score was enough to pip the Korean team by a point, while Kazakhstan finished third.

Naruka and Khangura also made the individual final but missed out on medals, and the two available Paris Olympic quota places, after finishing fourth and sixth respectively.

Sarabjot Singh and Surbhi Rao also won a silver for India on the day. They shot a combined 581 in qualification, the



same score shot by four other teams including two Chinese pairs who took the top two positions by virtue of greater accuracy.

The Indians were third, but as only one team from a country could make the final, Sarabjot

and Surbhi were drawn to play Li Xue and Liu Jinyao for gold. The Chinese prevailed 16-4, and the Indians took home silver.

In the junior events, India's Shubham Bisla and Sainyam won bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition, over-

coming Kazakhstan's Malika Seil and Kiril Tsukanov 16-10 in the first bronze medal match. Naruka, who won silver at the Hangzhou Asian Games, shot 33 in the six-man men's skeet final to finish fourth.

Qatari Rashid Saleh Al-Athba won gold with 53 hits out of 60. While he already had won a Paris quota in earlier competitions, second placed Kim Minsu of Korea and Chinese Taipei's bronze medal winner Lee Meng Yuan, took the other two, as Naruka fell short, shooting 33 out of the first 40 targets. Khangura had earlier become the first of the top six to bow out with 15 hits out of the first 20 targets.

Earlier in qualification, Khangura had shot two perfect rounds of 25 to log 121 and make it to the top-six in third posi-

tion. Naruka had to take the shoot-off route with a qualification round score of 119. He piped Kuwaiti legend Abdullah Alarshidi, who he had gone down to in the Hangzhou Asian Games final, to settle for the sixth and final qualifying spot. Angad Bajwa shot 118 to miss out, finishing in ninth position.

The Indian women skeet shooters had a tough outing with Ganemat Sekhon finishing best among the four on show. She shot 108 to end 15th overall. Karttiki Singh Shaktawat and Parinaaz Dhaliwal shot 107 each to end in 17th and 18th positions respectively, while Darshna Rathore was 19th with a score of 106. Ganemat, Parinaaz and Darshna finished fourth in the team competition with an overall score of 321.



SILENCING CRITICS: Manchester United's scorer Harry Maguire and goalkeeper Andre Onana, who denied FC Copenhagen a late penalty, rejoice after the custodian's save, Tuesday