



PLETHORA OF COLOURS: Kids dressed in colourful attires take part Wednesday in the 'Karnataka Rajyotsava' programme at the Kantirava Stadium in Bangalore. PPTI PHOTO

Constable caught with ₹6L bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, Nov 1: Acting on a tip-off, Vigilance sleuths Wednesday seized cash of ₹6 lakh and a revolver from the possession of a police constable near the Baghiapada police outpost in this district over his alleged involvement in illegal ganja trade. The accused was identified as Harekrushna Sahu, a police constable of the District Voluntary Force (DVF). Sources said that he was nabbed when he was accepting a bribe.

Sahu was taken into custody after he failed to furnish the details from where he got the huge amount of cash. Sources alleged that Sahu had got the cash in the form of bribes during his dealing with ganja traders. They also stated that Sahu used to extort money from local farmers in the name of providing them

Jatni schoolboy stabbed to death

Jatni: A 14-year-old boy died after being stabbed by an unknown miscreant here Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Subham Swarup Paltasingh, son of Manoj Kumar Paltasingh, residents of Benapanjari village under Jatni police limits. According to family members, the Class IX student of Adarsha Vidyalaya was studying in his room in the afternoon when an unknown man entered and stabbed Subham before fleeing the spot. "A profusely bleeding Subham was rushed to the Khurda district headquarters hospital where he was pronounced 'brought dead' by doctors.

protection from law-enforcement agencies.

Rumours were abuzz after Sahu's arrest that he alone cannot be involved in illegal activities with ganja peddlers. Locals pointed out that Sahu is too small a fry to possess the huge amount of cash seized from his possession. They alleged that there are other police officials involved in such nefarious deals. After questioning Sahu, police raided three places during the day, but without any success.

Sources said officials from the Berhampur and Boudh Vigilance divisions participated in the raid. A case was registered in this connection and further investigations are on, Boudh Vigilance DSP Suresh Chandra Kanhar said.

Free Wi-Fi for varsities

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Government-run varsities in the state will have free Wi-Fi facility in their campuses, a notification issued Wednesday by the Higher Education department Special Secretary Ramakanta Nayak said.

The notice has been sent to the registrars of universities in the state, officials informed. "In inviting a reference to the subject cited above, I am directed to say that the government of Odisha intends to provide free Wi-Fi facilities for the students on campus of the universities for improvement in the academic environment, as most of the study resources/books are now-a-days available online," the notification read. "Therefore, you are requested to take steps to install Wi-Fi facilities in your respective campuses," it added.

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CM launches med college

Kalahandi: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated Wednesday the Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College and Hospital here. This will be the first modern treatment facility that people of the districts can avail of. The medical college and hospital has been constructed on 43 acres of land at an expenditure of ₹325 crore. A total of 100 students can study MBBS in the college. Kalahandi MP Basanta Panda, Health Minister Niranjan Pujari and 5T Chairman VK Pandian were present at the inauguration ceremony. **P3**

Govt to get 70 ambulances

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government will procure 70 ambulances for transportation of patients, officials said here Wednesday. Of these, 30 would be advanced life support (ALS) ambulances and 40 would be basic life support (BLS) ambulances, they informed. These ambulances will be used to transport patients, being treated under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). The cost for procuring 30 ALS ambulances will be borne by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) while the remaining 40 will be bought by the Odisha government. **P4**

₹538 crore Jet assets seized

New Delhi: Properties worth ₹538 crore have been seized by the Enforcement Directorate in an alleged money laundering case linked to Jet Airways (India) Ltd. The properties include 17 residential flats, bungalows and commercial buildings registered under the names of companies and people, including Jet Airways' founder Naresh Goyal, wife Anita Goyal and son Nivaan Goyal in London, Dubai, and some states in India. The central probe agency attached the properties under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. **P9**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Of course, I still have the trust of the top leadership. There is no hacker alerts on my phone

Something fishy

EOW, ED QUESTION PEOPLE EXCHANGING ₹2,000 NOTES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Smelling a rat, sleuths of the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police and the Enforcement Directorate swooped down on people queuing up in front of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) office here to exchange notes of ₹2,000 denomination. Earlier, it had been reported that many of the people who had queued up were doing so for commissions ranging from ₹300 to ₹500 for exchanging 10 notes of ₹2,000 denomination each.

EOW and ED officials questioned a number of people standing in the queue. An EOW official informed Wednesday that complaints had not been lodged regarding the exchange of notes. "We are just checking the occupation of the people who are here to exchange ₹2,000 notes. We are also checking the source of their income and other details including residential addresses and bank account numbers," informed an EOW official.

Sources informed that both the EOW and ED officials have asked the bank to preserve the CCTV footage of those queuing up for exchange of notes. This is being done in case any complaints crop up. RBI officials, on the other hand informed that in the last two days, including Wednesday, approximately ₹1.5 crore worth of ₹2,000 notes have been exchanged out of which only five per cent have been deposited.

RBI regional director, Sarada Prasan Mohanty said Wednesday that they were doing everything as per law. He added that the probe agencies can investigate if any



- RBI had announced May 19 the withdrawal of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes
- In the last 2 days ₹2,000 notes worth ₹1.5 crore exchanged in RBI Bhubaneswar

issue of malpractice crops up. When asked about allegations about some people trying to convert their black into white money by exchanging ₹2,000 banknotes, he said that it is for the probe agencies to investigate.

Meanwhile a woman who was in the line said that she had come to exchange 10 ₹2,000 notes. "I have another ₹60,000 to exchange," the woman said on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile the Reserve Bank said Wednesday that more than 97 per cent of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation have been returned to the banking system, and only ₹10,000 crore worth of such notes are still with the public. The RBI had announced May 19, this year the withdrawal of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation.

MARKET WATCH

| INDEX | VAIATION |
|--------|-------------------|
| SENSEX | 63591.33 ↓ 283.60 |
| NIFTY | 18989.20 ↓ 90.40 |
| DOLLAR | 83.37 ↑ ₹0.07 |
| EURO | 88.02 ↓ ₹0.88 |
| GOLD | ₹60,941 ↑ ₹1 |
| SILVER | ₹71,590 ↓ ₹79 |

WEATHER

| | BHUB | CTK |
|-----------|------------------------|--------|
| TEMP. MAX | 32.4°C | 32.5°C |
| TEMP. MIN | 22.4°C | 22.0°C |
| Humidity | 76% | 77% |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil |
| Forecast | Light rain very likely | |

Chefs a must for players' entourages

STRICT DIET RESTRICTIONS ARE THE ORDER OF THE DAY AS CRICKETERS EYE TOP-LEVEL FITNESS

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, Nov 1: Modern day cricketers are known to follow strict dietary restrictions. Whenever they travel and stay in hotels the chefs are informed about their food preferences. However, Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis has taken restrictions to a different level.

Stoinis is a fitness freak who is very particular about his food intake. He is travelling across India with a personal chef to ensure that he is getting a low carb diet during the ODI World Cup.

The 34-year-old all-rounder Australian is on a ketogenic diet (high-fat, low-carb) with baked oats infused with protein being one of his favourites, according to a report in 'cricket.Com.Au'. His



died is being looked after by Mumbai-born Velton Saldanha.

"Quite a few of the Indian boys do it, that's where I got the idea," Stoinis was quoted as saying by the website. "I've always been quite strict with my food and all that stuff in my preparation."

The Indian team also have their own food habits. While Virat Kohli is

a complete vegan, there are other cricketers who once in a while indulge in non-veg food that are high in protein component. However, Kohli is in a complete world of his own.

Chefs at the hotels where the Indian team stay in have informed that players prefer grilled chicken or fish that are high in protein content. Kohli on the other hand prefers vegetable dim sums and other protein-laced stuff like soya and tofu. On the other hand skipper Rohit Sharma loves to have a lot of eggs daily.

Meanwhile Suryakumar Yadav's nutritionist Shweta Bhatia had earlier revealed that the batter is always looking for food to improve his overall fitness and keep his energy levels high and eats healthy fats like nuts and Omega 3s.

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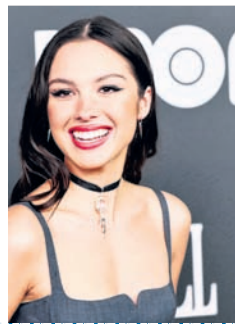
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OLIVIA RODRIGO FALLS FOR ENOLA HOLMES ACTOR

After her run of bad luck in love, American singer Olivia Rodrigo is reportedly dating British actor Louis Partridge. The *Good 4 U* performer, 20, is notorious for singing about her exes, but an insider says her luck has now changed and she has "fallen for" the British *Enola Holmes* star, also 20.

NORTH WEST ASPIRES TO OWN YEZDY AND SKIMS

Aged just 10, the eldest child of rapper and designer Kanye West, 46, and Kim Kardashian, 43, is already thinking about being a businesswoman like her parents and is eyeing taking over their fashion firms - Yeezy and Skims. She said this in her first solo cover interview with i-D magazine.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are creative, and today you will prove to be resourceful and thereby successful! Okay, you are ambitious, says Ganesh, but don't bite off more than you can chew. Be confident of your abilities, work hard and have faith in providence.

TAURUS
You will feel the burden of financial responsibilities on your shoulders today, says Ganesh. Do not let expenses bother you. Money will come to you from unexpected sources later in the day. If you can maintain an impartial judgement, then you will yield wonderful results on the financial front, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you would love to spend as much time alone as possible with your sweet-heart, says Ganesh. A casual conversation between the two of you may culminate into a sensuous consummation. In the evening, you will keep people charmed with your wit and wisdom, feels Ganesh.

CANCER
There is a fat chance that you will take pleasure in the company of your close friends and relatives, predicts Ganesh. You may have an awesome time with your mate. There may be a few minor problems here and there, but your family will rally behind you and will help you in solving your problems.

LEO
The travel bug inside you is itching to be let loose, but things are not so simple when it comes to finding new destinations, says Ganesh. With you, holidaying goes hand in hand with delays. So, although you might be excited at the prospect of going to new places, this excitement will be somewhat curtailed thanks to postponements of travel plans.

VIRGO
Motivation will remain high today, says Ganesh. Your talents and skills make you stand out as a superb artist. Words will glow if you let your creativity flow, and should you decide to dance or sing, you'll set the stage on fire today.

LIBRA
It sure is tiring to run with the herd. You may feel the desire to get away from the rat race at work today. Maybe it is the monotonous and stressful environment in office that is pushing you to your limits. But you may seek a new direction and lifestyle, one that is less taxing. Sometimes, it becomes imperative to make a few changes.

SCORPIO
You shall follow all things to the dot today. Your approach will be methodical and robotic. It is likely that you shall symbolise the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words'. Your powers of persuasion will help you amass the confidences of many, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
A la a phoenix from the ashes, find yourself reborn as the perfect family person. You are bound to shower love and care on your betrothed. Children, too, will receive your share of love, and they will love it. Enjoy spending quality time with your loved one, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
The work load may take away all your vigour, leaving you lethargic and dull, but you will come out of the sluggish phase before it can do any harm to your reputation, says Ganesh. Being observant and attentive while in meetings will help you in the long run, and in more ways than you can imagine.

AQUARIUS
Good news from across the seven seas brings cheer! If you're seeking a visa, you may get one today. Everything looks positive and it reflects in your mood. Share your happiness with your family, says Ganesh, and you will find it multiplies manifold.

PISCES
Conflicts galore will come your way at the workplace today. Keep a calm head over your shoulders and do keep tabs on your tongue. Differences only crop up if there are substantial thought processes involved, and keeping this in mind ought to give you the perspective needed to get ahead, says Ganesh.



SALMAN'S ADVICE TO NEWCOMERS

Mumbai: Salman Khan launched the trailer of his niece Alizeh Agnihotri's (Atul and Alvira Agnihotri's daughter) film *Farrey* in Mumbai Wednesday. The proud 'mamu' is quite happy with the way the film has shaped up but he revealed at the trailer launch event that his first advice to Alizeh was 'don't act'.

The *Tiger 3* actor's advice to Alizeh and other newcomers is to not get complacent. "All of you guys, don't get complacent. Just keep working, no matter what. Whatever happens, whether you girlfriend or boyfriend leaves you, or anything happens, you have to go to work everyday. Give your best in those 30 seconds when you're in front of the camera."

Salman revealed "*Farrey* was originally supposed to be an OTT film. But when I saw it, it was so good, then it would have been a waste on OTT, hence we decided to release it in theatres. They've done a fantastic job because of the director. The director is too good, hence we thought it has to release on the big screen."

Farrey is directed by Soumendra Padhi and is set to release November 24.



Samantha drops special life lesson

Chennai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, one of the trendiest and most happening actresses in Indian cinema has been active on social media, especially for the last few weeks.

Recently, the actress also shared a new picture on her official Instagram story and her fans should take a look at it and uphold a special life lesson she has said in it.

Samantha takes a long and deep gaze into the viewers as she posts this new picture on her story. Along with the picture, she has also written down the message "If you stumble, make it part of the dance."

The quote though quite popular does not date back to a single origin. The quote signifies the elements of people running behind the hopes for perfectionism which done too much can end up being a bigger problem. The actress urges her fans to follow through with the idea of this quote and hold on to the mistakes one may make in their lifetime.

"To understand that you're only human and not to be afraid of mistakes," she added.

Mumbai: As Saba Azad turns a year older on November 1, boyfriend Hrithik Roshan pens a sweet note and expresses his love on social media.

Hrithik finds his 'home' in Saba

"We all look for that place. That place where you can feel warm, inspired and safe enough in a partnership - just enough, to be able to shout out together 'C'mon life, gimme what you got, bring on the

adventure!!' That's what it feels like with you. Like Home," Hrithik writes.

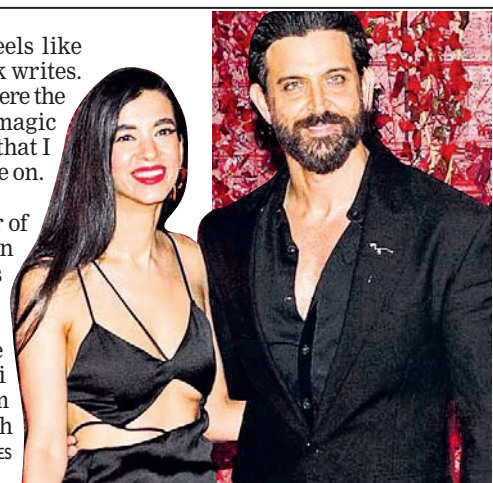
He goes on to add, "That's where the adventure begins.. creating magic even with the mundane. And that I learn from you. Let's adventure on. Happy birthday my love."

For the unversed, the father of two sons, after his separation with designer Suzanne Khan, is mostly seen with Saba at restaurants and family get-togethers. On the other hand, Sussanne and her boyfriend Arslan Goni have never shied away from sharing their affection for each other on social media.

NATYADHARA: DAY I



Bhubaneswar-based drama troupe Magic Theatre presented Odia play *Jantrika* Wednesday, on the first evening of *Natyadhara* at Bhanjakala Mandap. Written by Nabin Parida and directed by Pragyant Ranjan Khatua, the play highlighted how the misuse of scientific discoveries leads to the destruction. Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Secretary Prabodh Rath and drama director Prakash Maharana were the guests in the evening. Talking about *Natyadhara*, the four-day monthly event is a joint effort of the State Culture Department and Odisha Natya Sangh to promote theatre in Odisha.



Memorabilia of top female icons to be auctioned

A rare 'The Light of Asia' original publicity still in silver gelatin of the classic 1925 Indian silent film featuring Himanshu Rai is among the souvenirs

Mumbai: After the recently-concluded 'Bachchanalia' where Amitabh Bachchan memorabilia went under the hammer, the auction house DeRivaz & Ives has announced a similar tribute to 'feminine icons' of Indian cinema.

Vintage souvenirs of actresses that will also celebrate a saga of beauty and their acting prowess will be auctioned in Mumbai. The auction will celebrate actresses like Nadia, Jayashree, Devika Rani, Noor Jahan, Suraiya, Nargis, Geeta Bali, Bina Rai, Madhubala, Madhabi Mukherjee, Mala Sinha, Suchitra Sen, Shashikala, Sharmila Tagore, Meena Kumari, Jaya Bhaduri, Hema Malini, Zeenat Aman, Rekha, Sridevi, Madhuri Dixit and many more. Titled *Feminine Icons of Indian Cinema*, the auction



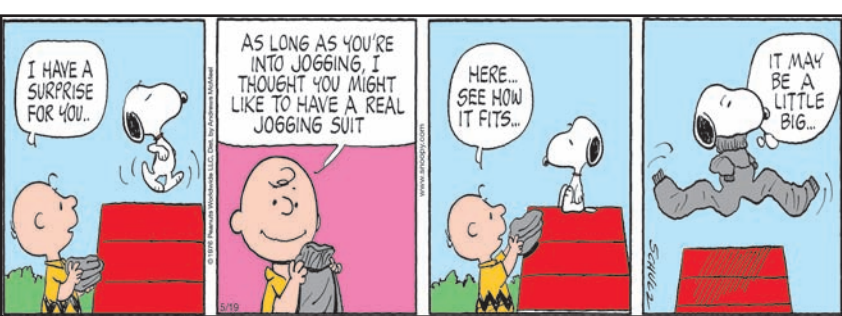
will be held November 23-25, and a variety of iconic photographs, film posters, lobby cards and other original artworks will be on offer for film buffs.

A set of ten large, offset photographic Lobby Cards of the evergreen K Asif classic, *Mughal-e-Azam*, featuring Madhubala and Dilip Kumar, will be up for bids.

Other posters to be auctioned are several rare, diverse one like *Dahej* (1950, featuring Jayashree), *Enam* (1955, Suraiya), *Saqi* (1952, Madhubala's solo portrait artwork), *Lajwanti* (1958, Nargis), Satyajit Ray's *Devi* (1960, Sharmila Tagore), *Dil Tera Diwana* (1962, Mala Sinha), *Charulata* (1981, the French release of Satyajit Ray's 1964 classic by the same title), *Ghar* (1978, Rekha), *Utsav* (1984, Rekha), *Chandni* (1985, Sridevi), and a very exclusive Russia release poster of KA Abbas's *Pardesi* (1957, Nargis), to mention a few.

A senior official of DeRivaz & Ives said that the unique auction follows the success of the Satyajit Ray and Bachchanalia sales, and soon to come up will be Raj Kapoor's 100 in December.

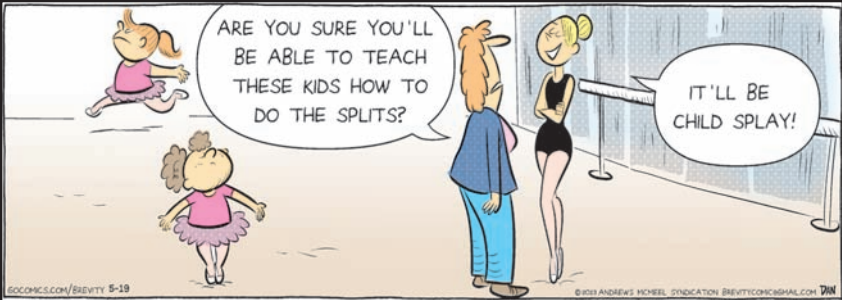
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

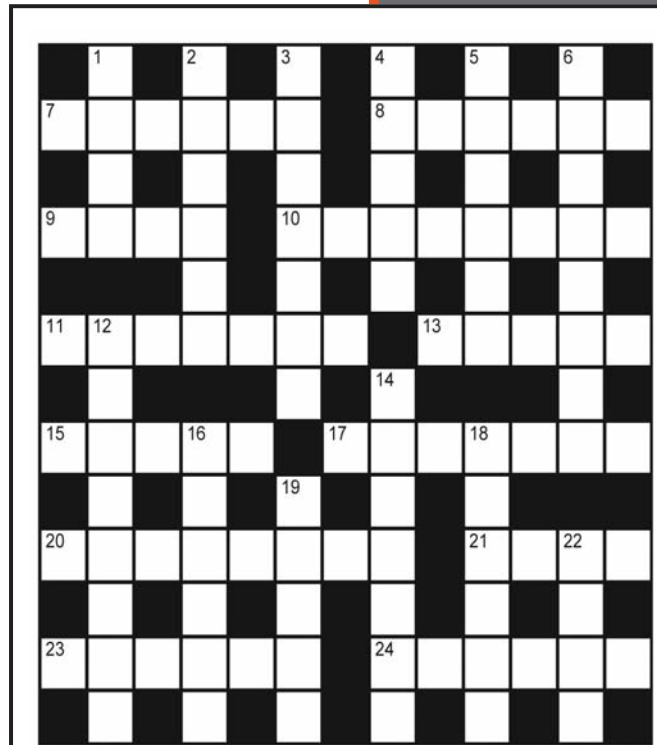


BREVITY



FUN post

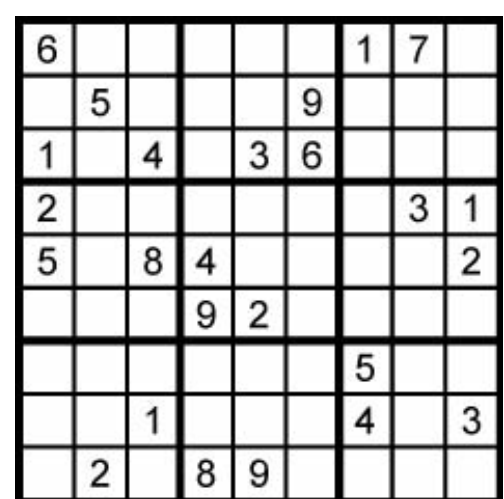
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Juice source
 - 8 Sudden
 - 9 Madame Bovary
 - 10 Acme
 - 11 Barefaced
 - 13 Redhead's dye
 - 15 Proposal
 - 17 16th century small vessel
 - 20 Shortens
 - 21 Extinct bird
 - 23 Nail polish
 - 24 Musical compositions
 - 4 Spa feature
 - 5 Amusement park feature
 - 6 Wealth
 - 12 French Latin Quarter (4,4)
 - 14 Oboe relative
 - 16 Conundrum
 - 18 Fervour
 - 19 Cat-like
 - 22 Club fees
- Down**
- 1 Cheerless
 - 2 Babe
 - 3 Acknowledge a question

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

YOUNG MINDS

A visitor interacts with students during a Math model presentation at Stewart School in Cuttack, Wednesday



HE dept issues timeline for phase III UG, PG admissions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Higher Education (HE) department Wednesday released guidelines and timeline for admission into phase III PG and UG under Student Academic Management System (SAMS) for academic session 2023-24. The move is aimed at filling up seats presently lying vacant in public universities and degree colleges in the state.

For both PG and UG admissions, the DHE has allowed applicants who have not been selected in the phase I and phase II admission process. Also applicants who were selected in the phase I and Phase II admission process but were not selected due to various reasons, and also those who failed to upload the graduation marks, for some reasons within the stipulated timeline, can apply now.

For PG courses, the department informed that the online Common Application Form (CAF) will be available on the students' website www.samsodisha.gov.in in November 7, 2023,



and the last date for providing options in CAF is November 12.

Publication of provisional first selection list of seats is November 17 while reporting of applicants for taking admission has been fixed between November 20 and 21.

Data updation of admitted students in the e-space by respective institutions (for first round admission) is November 20 to 21. Reporting of waitlisted candidates for submission of CAF is November 22 to 23.

Publication of merit list among reported waitlisted applicants on the notice board and communication to the selected applicants via phone call/sms will be made November 28.

Reporting of waitlisted candidates for admission is

November 29. Similarly, for UG the online Common Application Form (CAF) in the students' website www.samsodisha.gov.in will be available from November 4 and the last date for providing options in CAF is November 12.

Publication of provisional first selection list of seats: November 17, reporting of applicants for taking admission is November 18 to 20, a DHE release said.

Publication of merit list among reported waitlisted applicants on the notice board and communication to the selected applicants via phone call/SMS is November 25.

According to reports, out of around 2.99 lakh undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) seats in public universities and degree colleges in Odisha, a total of 91,457 seats remain vacant this year after admissions were over. The higher education department conducted phase-II admission this year too after around 1.1 lakh UG and PG seats remained vacant after the phase-I admission was over.



WHEELS OF PROGRESS: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flags off LAccMI bus service in Kalahandi, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

₹1,200cr boost for Kalahandi devpt

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Bhawanipatna, Nov 1: Asserting that Kalahandi was the 'transformation model' of Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday unveiled projects worth Rs 1,200 crore in the district.

Patnaik inaugurated projects worth Rs 300 crore, which included the Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College and Hospital and an affordable bus service that will connect the villages to block headquarters. He also laid the foundation stones for projects worth Rs 900 crore.

"Kalahandi is our model. From education, health, communication and industry to agriculture, all the sectors have seen positive development, fulfilling the dreams of the people. Kalahandi has changed its history, and added new success stories. Today, Kalahandi is providing rice to the whole country," the Chief Minister said.

Launching the Location

▶ NAVEEN FLAGS OFF 63 BUSES UNDER LOCATION ACCESSIBLE MULTIMODAL INITIATIVE

▶ PATNAIK RENAMES KALAHANDI UNIVERSITY AS MA MANIKESHWARI UNIVERSITY

Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) in Kalahandi. Naveen said 63 buses will run under it, connecting villages to the block headquarters of the district.

Patnaik took a bus ride to Balrampur from the meeting venue in the Kalahandi University campus.

He said that altogether 1,000 buses will run in the state under the scheme, which has been allocated a budget of Rs 3,178 crore.

Naveen said very soon, 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' initiative will be launched in the district.

Kalahandi is our model. From education, health, communication and industry to agriculture, all the sectors have seen positive development, fulfilling the dreams of the people. Kalahandi has changed its history, and added new success stories. Today, Kalahandi is providing rice to the whole country

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

"Every panchayat will be given Rs 50 lakh and the amount will be spent for culture and infrastructure development," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister re-named Kalahandi University as Ma Manikeshwari University. The Manikeshwari temple near the headquarters

of Bhawanipatna is a revered site in Hinduism. Patnaik said the projects he unveiled will further develop the district. Transport Minister Tunuki Sahu narrated

how the BJD government has transformed poverty-stricken Kalahandi into the third largest rice-producing district in India.

The Indravati project ensured irrigation in Kalahandi, she pointed out.

The Chief Minister, along with Union MoS for Health SP Baghel, also formally inaugurated the Saheed Rendo Majhi Medical College and Hospital (MCH), in the presence of state Health Minister Niranjan Pujari and Kalahandi MP Basanta Panda.

Spread over 43 acres, the health facility has been built at an investment of Rs 531 crore. Twenty-two departments are functioning at present with 49 teaching staff and 38 senior residents, an official said.

The first batch of 100 MBBS students were also present at the function.

Man held with brown sugar worth ₹1 crore

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: A 32-year-old man was arrested with brown sugar worth Rs 1 crore in Cuttack district, police said Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the Special Task Force (STF) of the Crime Branch conducted a raid near Kalibiri bridge in Tigiria Tuesday evening and apprehended the accused, Suryakanta Mantry, they said.

On searching him, brown sugar weighing 1.02 kg was seized, besides other incriminating materials, they added.

A case was registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and an investigation was underway, police said.

Cuttack Art Gallery soon

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 1: In a bid to strengthen the art, culture and heritage of the Millennium City, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has decided to set up an art gallery at the Town Hall here, an official said, Wednesday.

This was revealed following a meeting between various artists' associations and CMC officials at Biju Bhawan in the Silver City here. CMC Commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan said the gallery, to be named the 'Cuttack Art Gallery', aims at promoting artists to showcase their creativity through paintings and photography.

Cuttack Artists' Organisation secretary Sanjib Biswal welcomed the civic body's move, saying the gallery will provide an appropriate platform to se-



soned and budding artists to showcase their skill and talent.

Works of 40 select artists will be showcased at the gallery at the inaugural function. Besides, there will be an art competition among high school students on the day. A dedicated committee, comprising artists, will be formed and entrusted with the task of maintaining the gallery.

According to Cuttack Artists' Organisation, the CMC has approved its proposal to organise an art exhibition during Baliyatra at the fairground on the culture and heritage of the Silver City

PM selects kalash by Odia artist

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has selected a hand-painted kalash crafted by renowned Odia artist Suryasnata Mohanty to kickstart the Amrit Kalash Yatra, an integral part of the on-going 'Meri Maati Mera Desh Maha Abhiyan'.

The Prime Minister personally hand-picked the kalash painted by Suryasnata from among the thousands presented to his office, marking it a historic moment for Odisha's art community.

The hand-painted kalash, a symbol of artistic excellence, was meticulously crafted by Suryasnata who is presently serving as a joint director at the KIIT University.

Daughter of well known litterateur and Odia Professor

AMRIT KALASH YATRA



Bijoy Kumar Mohanty and Renubala Mohanty, Suryasnata is a gold medalist in LLM from the National Law School, Bangalore. Her passion for painting has earned her recognition at national exhibitions held in

The Meri Maati Mera Desh-Amrit Kalash Yatra is a nationwide initiative undertaken to honor the sacrifices of our immortal martyrs. Sacred soil from the birthplaces of these martyrs is collected in Amrit Kalash and is being transported to the National Martyrs Memorial in Delhi. The 'Amrit Vatika', featuring a blend of soil and plants from 7,500 urns nationwide, will be set up near the National War Memorial.

prestigious venues like the National Modern Art Galleries and India Habitat Centre.

Nevertheless, the recognition is not only an endorsement of Suryasnata's talents, but it is also a fitting tribute to Odisha's vibrant artistic heritage.

Guv visits Srimandir, 2nd time in 3 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Nov 1: A day after taking oath as the Governor of Odisha, Raghubar Das Wednesday visited Srimandir here, his second trip to the 12th-century shrine in a span of three days.

Das offered prayers at the temple and sought the blessings of the Lord. He had visited the temple Monday, after reaching Puri directly from his home state Jharkhand by train. On Wednesday, the new Governor was received by the temple administration officials at the Lion's Gate and escorted into the temple.

After the darshan of the deities, Das went around the temple complex and offered prayers to Mahalaxmi and Maa Bimala too. "The Governor spent around 30 minutes inside the temple," said Puri ADM PK Sahu.

Das had visited the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar Tuesday hours before taking charge of the Governor.

Simple, rapid blood test can diagnose TB accurately in children

ABOUT 2,40,000 CHILDREN WORLDWIDE DIE OF TUBERCULOSIS EVERY YEAR. THE DISEASE IS AMONG THE TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH IN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5, RESEARCHERS SAY

A simple, rapid blood test can help diagnose tuberculosis accurately in children, according to the findings of a study conducted in five countries, including India.

About 2,40,000 children worldwide die of tuberculosis every year. The disease is among the top 10 causes of death in children under the age of 5, the researchers said.

One of the main reasons for this mortality is that tuberculosis is often misdiagnosed or not diagnosed in time, particularly in

regions with limited resources, they said.

The new diagnostic tool, described in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal, and tested as part of a large-scale study in five countries, offers significant progress in this area.

The most commonly used tuberculosis tests have been based on microbiological analysis of sputum or mucus taken from the lower airways. These samples are difficult to obtain in children.

Also, child tuberculosis is



often characterised by a low bacterial load and unspecific symptoms.

"Therefore, new tests are urgently needed," said Laura Olbrich from the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU), Germany.

The new tool is based on the activity of three specific genes, which can be measured in cap-

Child tuberculosis is often characterised by a low bacterial load and unspecific symptoms

illary blood. An innovative, semi-automatic system allows health care workers to identify a so-called transcriptomic signature for these genes which can help diagnose tuberculosis.

The test has the advantage that the blood sample can be conveniently taken from the fin-

gertip and the results are available very quickly.

"We have the results in just over an hour. For most other tests, the samples have to be sent to other laboratories for analysis," said Olbrich.

The researchers have tested the new tool as part of the comprehensive RaPaed-TB tuberculosis study, which is led by Norbert Heinrich from LMU University Hospital Munich and carried out in collaboration with partners in South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi and India.

In total, the study included 975 children younger than 15 years suspected of having tuberculosis. To determine the accuracy of the test, the researchers investigated the tuberculosis status of the children using a standardised reference test, which is based on the

analysis of sputum and bacterial cultures.

"Compared to detection in culture, the test identified almost 60 per cent of children with tuberculosis, with 90 per cent specificity. This makes the test comparable with or better than all other tests that work with biomarkers," said Olbrich.

"The bacterial culture is always the reference because it yields the most stable results. But it takes up to eight weeks and is often not available (in places) where children with tuberculosis (are) present," the researcher added.

As the reference signature of the new tool was largely identified from adult samples, the researchers expect that the test accuracy can be further improved after adjusting the calculation of the signature for children.

110 laptop import applications cleared

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The government has cleared 110 of the total 111 applications, including those of Apple, Dell and Lenovo, that sought permission for imports of IT hardware products like laptops and computers worth nearly USD 10 billion, on the first day of implementation of the new system, an official said.

Other companies that received import approvals include HP India Sales Pvt Ltd, ASUS India, IBM India, Samsung India Electronics, Xiaomi Technology India, Cisco Commerce India, Microsoft Corporation (India), Siemens Ltd, Bosch Ltd, Redington Ltd, Ingram Micro India, and Oracle India.

SGST collection up by 15% in April-Oct



KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Nov 1: Odisha has recorded a growth of 15 per cent in the state goods and services tax (SGST) collection from April to October this year as compared to the same period last year after the regular settlement, the Union ministry of Finance said.

Pre-settlement SGST collection of the state from April to October stood at ₹9,374 crore which is 13 per cent higher than ₹8,265 crore collected during the same period in 2022. However, post-settlement SGST collection rose to ₹12,723 crore during the April to October period from ₹11,031 crore in the corresponding period of last year, registering a growth of 15 per cent.

Post-settlement GST is cu-

the states/UTs.

The Union Ministry of Finance said the gross GST revenue collected at national level in the month of October stood at ₹1,72,003 crore out of which ₹30,062 crore is Central GST (CGST), ₹38,171 crore SGST, ₹1,315 crore (including ₹42,127 crore collected on import of goods) IGST and ₹12,456 crore (including ₹1,294 crore collected on import of goods) is cess.

The government has settled ₹42,873 crore to CGST and ₹36,614 crore to SGST from IGST. Total revenue of Centre and the states in the month of October 2023 after regular settlement stood at ₹72,934 crore for CGST and ₹74,785 crore for SGST.

The ministry also revealed that gross GST collection for the month of October is 13 per cent higher than that of the same month last year. During the month, revenue from domestic transactions (including import of services) is also 13 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year. The average gross monthly GST collection in financial year 2023-24 stands at ₹1.66 lakh crore and is 11 per cent more than that of the same period in the previous fiscal.

IN A NUTSHELL

Pre-settlement SGST collection of the state from April to October stood at ₹9,374 crore which is 13 per cent higher than ₹8,265 crore collected during the same period in 2022

Post-settlement SGST collection rose to ₹12,723 crore during the April to October period from ₹11,031 crore in the corresponding period of last year, registering a growth of 15 per cent

Gross GST revenue collected at national level in the month of October stood at ₹1,72,003 crore

mulative of the GST revenues of the states/UTs and the SGST portion of the IGST settled to



NO TO CORRUPTION: Students take part in a rally from Raj Bhavan to Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, organised by Odisha Vigilance to mark Vigilance Awareness Week against corruption

Transformative measures to fast track service delivery

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: In a bid to streamline urban planning services under 5T framework, the state government has initiated a series of transformative measures in the recent times.

The latest being a reform in the institutional setup which is intended to augment the capacity of the Development

Authorities. In all the municipal corporations except Bhubaneswar, the commissioners have been designated as the vice-chairpersons, which will not only add to the strength of the Development Authorities by bringing in decision making closer to the local senior functionaries, but it will also fast-track delivery of town planning services to the citizens in a time-

bound manner. The alignment of the municipal corporations and the planning authorities will improve the efficacy of the institutions by optimization of the resources. Notifications have been issued by the government in H&UD department in respect of Sambalpur Development Authority and Rourkela Development Authority

Wednesday. The government has already migrated to a state-of-the-art and modern online platform-SUJOG for delivery of hassle-free municipal services including building plan approval. These progressive initiatives are expected to bring the urban governance closer to the people and enhance the quality of service.

Naveen launches 5th edition of Eco Retreat

Bhubaneswar: The 5th edition of Eco Retreat 2023-24 was inaugurated virtually by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday. The much-awaited glamping event of Odisha is now open for tourists at four exotic destinations - Putsil (Koraput), Daringbadi (Kandhamal), Satkosia and Hirakud (Sambalpur). Inaugurating the event, the Chief Minister said, "After having successfully organised four editions, Odisha government's flagship product Eco Retreat has been highly appreciated by the travel and tourism fraternity for its sustainable model incorporating best practices in waste-to-wealth and holistic resource management while offering tourists a more refined leisure hospitality akin to star category resorts." MLAs, District Collectors, SPs, CDOs, OTDC chairman Lenin Mohanty, block chairpersons of the districts and officials of Tourism department were present on the occasion. After the success of the first edition in 2019 at Ramchandi Beach (Konark), in 2020 the event was introduced in four new destinations in Baliput (Satkosia), Bhitarkanika, Daringbadi and Hirakud apart from Konark. In 2022, two more additions in Putsil (Koraput) and Sonapur Beach were introduced.

Int'l award for KIIT-TBI



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: KIIT-Technology Business Incubator (KIIT-TBI), the innovation hub of KIIT, has been conferred the 'Incubator of the Year 2023' Award by the Asian Association of Business Incubation (AABI) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The award was received by Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO of KIIT-TBI and Director-General (R&D and Innovation), KIIT. Speaking on this occasion Suar said, "The incubator is reaching new heights and creating one of the most conducive models for technology business incubation. The international recognition will drive us to accomplish even greater things in technology incubation."

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta congratulated Suar and the KIIT-TBI team for this prestigious recognition.

To date, KIIT-TBI has supported over 400 startups in var-

ious sectors, including life sciences, biotechnology, medtech, digital health, renewable energy, agritech, green tech, social incubation, and manufacturing-focused incubations.

KIIT-TBI is supported by various Indian government funding agencies such as the DST-NIDHI Scheme, DBT-BIRAC, MeiT-Y-MSH, MSME, iDeX (Ministry of Defence), among others. The department of Science & Technology, Government of India, has acknowledged KIIT-TBI as a Center of Excellence. Additionally, the government of India's DBT-BIRAC has established the BIRAC Regional Centre for Technology Promotion (BRTC) at KIIT-TBI to foster bio-entrepreneurship in the East and Northeast regions of India. KIIT-TBI has not only been recognized as one of the top incubators in India but is now also acknowledged at the international level.

GOVT TO PROCURE 70 AMBULANCES

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: In an attempt to provide speedy and effective healthcare, the state government will procure 70 ambulances for transportation of patients, officials said Wednesday.

Of these, 30 would be advanced life support (ALS) ambulances and 40 would be basic life support (BLS) ambulances, they said.

These ambulances will be used to transport patients, getting treated under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY), referred to private hospitals, besides deployment for jails, VIPs and special events, they said.

These ambulances will be deployed in the districts and medical colleges soon, the Health and Family Welfare department posted on X.

The cost for procuring 30 ALS ambulances will be borne by Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL), while the procurement of the 40 BLS ambulances will be made by the state government with its own funds, officials said.

Health Secretary Shalini Pandit directed the hospitals and districts to recruit ambulance assistants, drivers and other staff by the end of this month. The state government launched the BSKY in August 2018, providing annual health coverage of Rs 5 lakh to over 70 lakh families.

13TH FOUNDATION DAY OF OSCPCR

'Ashirbad boon for 50K Cov orphans'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The state government has provided support to 50,827 children who lost their parents during the challenging times of Covid-19 pandemic, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while addressing the 13th foundation day ceremony of Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPCR) through videoconferencing, Wednesday.

Patnaik said, "Children represent the present and future as they will be the leaders of our state tomorrow. My government has been unwavering in its commitment to investing in children, primarily through initiatives aimed at providing quality education, healthcare and supplementary nutrition programmes. For children who have sadly lost their families, we have established robust support systems within the state

machinery." Under Ashirbad scheme, the state government has provided support to 50,827 children who lost their parents during the challenging times of Covid-19 pandemic, said the Chief Minister. OSCPCR plays a crucial role in monitoring implementation of these programmes, ensuring that the needs of every child are met, he added.

Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti Minister Basanti Hembram said, "All of us together are not only protecting the rights of our children but also fulfilling their potential." Commissioner-cum-secretary Shubha Sharma hoped that overall development of children can be possible by working in harmony with each other.

On the occasion, the theme 'Aahwan- Let's join hands to protect child' was discussed.

Hembram presented a certificate and an artefact to Puri dis-

trict child protection officer (DCPO) as the best district for protection of child rights while Kabisuryanagar MLA Latika Pradhan was feted for the best legislator for child rights protection activities.

Brave child warriors from different districts who fought against child labour and child marriage were also awarded on this occasion. Various posters related to child rights and advocacy and child marriage were unveiled during the event.

OSPCPCR chairperson Mandakini Kar, in her welcome speech, called for collective commitment to protect child rights.

Bhubaneswar-North MLA Susant Kumar Rout, chief field officer of UNICEF William Hanlon, Women and Child Development department advisor Sumitra Jena and OSCPCR secretary Prabhakar Kumar Sahoo among others were present on the occasion.

Frequent mobile phone use may reduce sperm count

Frequent use of mobile phones, which emit electromagnetic radiation, can that now onwards I shall be known as Amulya Kumar Mishra for all future purposes.

However, no association was found between mobile phone use and low sperm motility and morphology, revealed the study published in the journal Fertility & Sterility.

While various environmental and lifestyle factors have been proposed to explain the decline in semen quality observed over the last fifty years, the role of mobile phones has yet to be demonstrated.

To understand, a team from the

University of Geneva (UNIGE) in Switzerland led a cross-sectional study based on data from 2,886 Swiss men aged 18 to 22, recruited between 2005 and 2018.

The data revealed an association between frequent use and lower sperm concentration.

The median sperm concentration was significantly higher in the group of men who did not use their phone more than once a week (56.5 million/mL) compared with men who used their phone more than 20 times a day (44.5 million/mL).

This difference corresponds to a 21 per cent decrease in sperm concentration for frequent users



(>20 times/day) compared to rare users (<1 time/day), the researchers said.

Semen quality is determined by the assessment of parameters such as sperm concentration,

total sperm count, sperm motility and sperm morphology.

According to the values established by the World Health Organization (WHO), a man will most probably take more than one year to conceive a child if his sperm concentration is below 15 million per millilitre. In addition, the percentage chance of pregnancy will decrease if the sperm concentration is below 40 million per millilitre.

Many studies have shown that semen quality has decreased over the last fifty years.

Sperm count is reported to have dropped from an average of 99 million sperm per millilitre

to 47 million per millilitre. This phenomenon is thought to be the result of a combination of environmental factors (endocrine disruptors, pesticides, and radiation) and lifestyle habits (diet, alcohol, stress, and smoking).

Data analysis also seems to show that the position of the phone - for example, in a trouser pocket - was not associated with lower semen parameters.

"However, the number of people in this cohort indicating that they did not carry their phone close to their body was too small to draw a really robust conclusion on this specific point," added Rita Rahban from the varsity.

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QC team's innovation saves time and money

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 1: An innovative project of the 'Udaya' Quality Circle (QC) team of Oxygen Plant has helped in bringing down the maintenance cost of cooling water pumps at ASU-III of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP).

The team comprising LD Baral, MOMT, RN Nayak, MOMT, N Rout, ACT, all of Oxygen Plant successfully executed the project 'maintenance cost of cooling water pump in ASU-III' that has reduced the maintenance cost of cooling water pumps, paving the way for substantial savings and increased productivity of the department. SK Patel, JO, Oxygen Plant was the facilitator of the team.

ASU-III's cooling water pumps required regular maintenance every six months, incurring a significant expense of approximately ₹0.80 lakh per pump. With four pumps in operation and no spare units available during maintenance, this posed a logistical challenge and financial burden.

The primary reason for this frequent maintenance was the rapid wear and tear of shaft sleeves due to the gland packing. Recognizing the need for improvement, the 'Udaya' team at ASU-III initiated a Quality Circle (QC) project in February 2023, focused on addressing the root cause of maintenance issues. Their innovative solution involved replacing the traditional gland packing with advanced mechanical seals, all without the need for any modifications to the existing pumps.

The implementation of mechanical seals brought about a remarkable transformation in the maintenance routine of the cooling water pumps. The frequency of maintenance was significantly reduced, leading to substantial savings.

Revenue from mines dips despite rise in production

The state exchequer got ₹50,000 crore as mineral revenue in 2021-22 FY while it came down to ₹37,000 crore in 2022-23 FY despite excess despatch



POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Nov 1: Mines are the principal source of revenue for the state government. However, the state government is facing loss due to the faulty valuation of the mines by the Centre-owned Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the report said Wednesday.

A review said though production is increasing from these mines, their share of revenue to the state exchequer is not rising correspondingly.

Sources said the state government received ₹50,000 crore as mineral revenue in 2021-22 FY while the revenue share dropped to ₹37,000 crore in 2022-23 FY. The drop in revenue share comes at a time when 20 lakh MT mineral was dispatched or transported in excess from Joda mineral division in Keonjhar district. The revenue share witnessed a sharp decline despite excess mineral transportation from Joda mining division.

The mining revenue is fixed on the basis of total revenue produced and its price from the mines in the state. The IBM is fix-

ing the mineral revenue on the basis of Mineral Concessions and Development Rules (MCDR)-2017. The price of the minerals produced from various mines is not equal. The average sales price (ASP) is decided by the IBM which is stated to be the reason behind the declining revenue share of the state government.

Currently, out of 94 mines under Joda division 31 are in operation while 57 are lying closed. Six mines have received temporary dispatch order. The state government earned ₹25,000 crore as revenue from sale of 71 million MT of minerals under Joda mining division in 2021-22 FY. The revenue declined by ₹9,000 crore from earlier ₹25,000 crore despite selling 72 million MT minerals in 2022-23 FY.

This is because IBM has not fixed the price of large blocks of iron ores or iron ore lumps for which various mining firms are converting the large blocks of iron ores or iron ore lumps to calibrated ores by crushing the iron ore lumps and selling at ₹7000 per tonne.

This has started from April 2022 while the price of iron ore lumps was ₹9,200 per tonne before 2022. The change in price has led to a decline in revenue share. The decline in revenue share has led to a decline in contribution to the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and National Mineral Expo Ration Trust (NMET). Moreover, the decline in revenue share is also affecting the premium money paid to the state government by the leaseholders.

As a result, the contribution for the DMF collected for the mineral bearing areas is also declining. Funds worth ₹1,805 crore was collected for the DMF in 2021-22 FY while it got reduced to ₹1,300 crore in 2022-23 fiscal. Similarly, ₹780 crore has been collected so far in 2023-24 FY.

When contacted, mining expert Jyoti Ranjan Rout said a new mining policy was formulated after 2020 and the auction of mines were launched. The mining policy came into force from 2020 but the MCDR rules remained unchanged. This has proved to be a stumbling block in revenue collection.

Revenue collection will rise only if the Odisha Mining Corporation fixes the average sale price (ASP) of iron ores and sells off the extracted minerals through auctions. The state Mining department and the Centre-owned IBM should coordinate and amend the MCDR rules-2017 which will help boost revenue collection and keep the interest of the state government protected, he added.

Fishing ban in force along 3 river mouths

MORE THAN 10,600 FISHERMEN FAMILIES WILL BE AFFECTED DUE TO THE FISHING BAN ONE-TIME LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE OF ₹15,500 WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH OF THESE FAMILIES



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Nov 1: Odisha government clamped a seven-month-long prohibition on sea fishing activity from Wednesday within 20 km of the coast at the mouths of rivers Dhamara, Devi and Rusikulya to ensure the safety of marine animals like Olive Ridley turtles during their mating and breeding season.

The measure, which is taken every year, will remain in force from November 1 to May 31 in accordance with the provisions of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, a forest department official said.

The prohibition is clamped every year as the turtles perish in larger numbers by getting entangled in fishing nets or by being hit by fishing trawler propellers, he said.

A multi-layered patrolling exercise will be in place during the prohibition period in the Olive Ridley turtle habitation corridors and involve forest, fisheries and marine police besides Coast Guard personnel, the official said.

To ensure effective patrolling, 61 on-shore camps and five off-shore camps have been set up in the state's four wildlife divisions of Bhadrak, Rajnagar, Puri and Berhampur.

The armed police constabulary force will flank the forest and fisheries patrolling teams. Five high speed boats, 13 trawlers and support boats have been pressed into service to intercept illegal marine fishing in prohibited zones, he said.

More than 10,600 fishermen families will be affected due to the fishing ban. To compensate for the loss of their income, the state government has decided to extend one-time livelihood assistance of ₹15,500 to each of the affected fishermen families, the official said.

A blanket ban on sea fishing is in force round-the-year in Gahirmatha coast, which is acclaimed as the largest habitation corridor of Olive Ridley turtles. It has been conferred the status of marine sanctuary in view of the turtles' congregation.

The female Olive Ridley turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually at the dead of the night for laying eggs - a phenomenon which is called 'Arribada'. After laying the eggs the turtles leave the nesting ground to return to the deep sea.

Hatchlings emerge from the eggs after 45-60 days. It is a rare natural phenomenon in which the baby turtles grow without their mothers before going into the sea, he said.

NHRC seeks ATR from Collector, SP on rape of minor

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Nov 1: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action Taken Report (ATR) from Jagatsinghpur District Collector and Superintendent on the alleged rape of a minor girl student by the father of her tutor.

Acting on a petition filed by human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the rights body Tuesday asked the District Collector and the SP to submit the ATR within four weeks.

Tripathy in his petition alleged that that one minor girl was allegedly raped by her tuition teacher's father October 23 in Balitutha village under Kujang police limits of Jagatsinghpur district. Nearly 15 to 20 students, including girls went to a lady teacher's house at Balitutha for daily tuition. In the absence of the teacher, her father taught the students.



However, taking advantage of his daughter's absence, prime accused Subash Muduli allegedly raped the minor girl, a Class VI student, at regular intervals. Muduli disclosed the complicity of his colleague Rabintra Das, 50, in the crime.

Tripathy said the horrible situation poses extreme violation of human rights. He requested the NHRC for an independent and impartial investigation of the incident with legal action against the culprits and psycho-social counseling with all rehabilitation measures to the victim and compensation to the victim.

The NHRC sent the copy of the complaint to the DGP for information and to the secretary of the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), calling upon him to inform the date of cognizance, if any, taken at their end in the matter within four weeks.

Woman dies in elephant attack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 1: A woman died in elephant attack while she had gone to the nearby forest at Chattrisahi of Uparadiha village under Ghatagaon forest range in this district Tuesday night. The body of the woman was recovered from the forest, Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Bela Munda, a widow living at her daughter's house.

As per sources, the woman had gone to the forest Tuesday afternoon. However, she did not return home at night. After a

frantic search, her family members found her mutilated body from the forest Wednesday and informed the Forest department.

Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF), Prabhat Kanhar said ₹60,000 assistance was provided by the Forest department to the kin of the deceased woman.

Elephants are heading towards the villages in search of food and after eating the paddy crops in the farm lands the pachyderms are taking rest in forests close to the villages. As a result, such accidents are happening, alleged the villagers.



TRADITIONAL TROUPE: Artistes perform traditional dance at a procession passing through the main thoroughfares of Baripada town before the inauguration of Mayurbhanj Mahotsav at the Chhau ground in the town, Wednesday

BJP executive meet from today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 1: The state executive meeting of the BJP Yuva Morcha will be held here Tuesday. State president of the saffron party Manmohan Samal will participate in the meeting on the concluding day and will address the participants.

Addressing the media here, the state president of BJPYM Abhilash Panda said, "Over 200 participants will participate in the meeting. This is important because we are going to play an important role in the next election, 2024. This is a preparatory meeting of the youth wing."

"We find the cadres of the party aware about the ideology of the party. Besides, in the entire western Odisha BJP

has a strong presence. Keeping that in mind we are giving this thrust here and have chosen Rourkela as the venue.

Speaking about their strategy, he said, "This time there is a big anti-government sentiment among the people. Even in coastal Odisha where the party (BJD) was very strong once is now facing anti-incumbency and rebellion. We are going to cash in on that and reap the benefit."

The youth wing is going to address the unemployment problem in the state which is badly affecting them. "Besides, crimes against women is on the rise in state. Even party women leaders are bringing in serious charges against party MLAs and leaders. This is also going to work against the BJD."

Rain deficit: Gajapati farmers high and dry

MLA DEMANDS DROUGHT DECLARATION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Nov 1: For the last three months, deficient rainfall has pushed Gajapati farmers into distress and a drought-like situation has arisen in the southern district, a source said Wednesday.

Gajapati district, unlike other places in Odisha, usually receives the last of major rains in October each year,



which provides water for the standing crops. However, this year, meager rain since the first week of August has hit the

paddy crop hard. A local farmer said, "Due to negligence by authorities, there is a water shortage. The Water Resources department did not repair irrigation facilities in the district in time. Now, cracks have appeared in our dry paddy fields affecting standing crops."

"We need government support; otherwise we have no way out of this. We have invested our money in farming and our harvest for this year has been destroyed due to lack of water," rued another farmer.

A local man alleged that the canal work for irrigation has

not been completed yet. "It is in the same stage as last year," he added.

Amid growing resentment, Paralakhemundi MLA K Narayana Rao has demanded the Odisha government to declare Gajapati district as drought-affected.

Meanwhile, Gajapati district administration has taken note of the issue. District Collector Smruti Ranjan Pradhan said that the administration is taking steps to deal with the situation. The Water Resources and Energy departments have been alerted, he informed.

New fish species discovered in Mahanadi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 1: A group of scientists has discovered that an edible freshwater fish, available in the markets of western Odisha, is actually an unregistered species.

The new species was named 'Awaous Motla', said Prof Jaya Kishor Seth, the principal investigator of a project undertaken by the Zoology department of Berhampur University and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Gopalpur.

The discovery was made during the ongoing research project funded by the department of Science and Technology of the

Odisha government. Specimens of the fish with a vibrant yellow-coloured body and a fleshy upper lip were collected from the Mahanadi river near Sonepur and Boudh bridge in June 2022, said Seth, who teaches zoology at Berhampur University.

"We conducted an extensive study of the specimens in collaboration with Anil Mohapatra of ZSI's Estuarine Biology Regional Centre and a scientist from Australia. We have ascertained that the species was a new one and very distinct from others of the genus in different aspects," Seth said.

Fishermen of the Sonepur region have christened the fish

'motla'. The species belongs to the family 'Awaous' (Oxudercidae), and thus, is named 'Awaous motla', he said.

The zoologist said the fish is consumed both fresh and dried. Local fishermen sell 'motla' at ₹600 per kg, and ₹800 per kg when dried.

Long-term research is needed to find out, among others, its migration pattern and nutritional value because of which it costs more than several other locally available fishes, Seth said.

The details on the new species were published in the online issue of Journal of Fish Biology October 28.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-CUM-MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
 MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE, S.C.B. MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA
 Telephone: 0671-2414359, Email: mhi.cuttack@gmail.com

TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. E-510: Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed publishers/suppliers for supply of Medical Journals (For the Department of Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology, Psychiatric Social Work & Psychiatric Nursing) quoting the discount on publisher's price, which are to be purchased for the Library of Mental Health Institute, SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack - 753007 within 03.11.2023 to 30.11.2023 and will be opened on 02.12.2023 at 4.30 P.M. The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. The details of tender papers along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days on payment of Rs.1,000/- (Rupees one thousand) only or from the website www.mhicocuttack.co.in. The tenders/their authorized representatives should be present at the time of opening of tender. The tender paper should be reached in the Office of the undersigned through Speed Post/Regd. Post only.

- Date of Sale of Tender Paper : 03.11.2023 to 30.11.2023
- Last date for receipt of tender paper : 01.12.2023
- Date of Opening of Tender : 02.12.2023 at 4.30 P.M.
- Place of opening of tender Office of the Director-cum-Medical Superintendent, Mental Health Institute, S.C.B. Medical College Hospital, Cuttack - 753007 (in case the due date is declared as holiday the tender can be opened on next working day).

Sd./ Director-cum-Medical Superintendent
 Mental Health Institute
 OIPR-10051/11/0012/2324 S.C.B., Medical College Hospital, Cuttack

EAST COAST RAILWAY
 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
 No. M/CS/Stores/E-Procure/Tender Notice/280, Dtd : 18.10.2023
 The following tenders have been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in

SL. NO. 1 - TENDER NO. 92235911
 DESCRIPTION : BRAKE CYLINDER - PBACM 254-130 TO PART NO. 4F-125187, MAKE-FAIVELEY, QTY.: 08 NOS.
 Warranty Period : 36 Months after the date of delivery.

SL. NO. 2 - TENDER NO. 92235912
 DESCRIPTION : BRAKE ACTUATOR TYPE PBSC (90 DEG) TO PART NO. 4F - 130199, MAKE-FAIVELEY, QTY.: 08 NOS.
 Warranty Period : 30 Months after the date of delivery.

SL. NO. 3 - TENDER NO. 92235916
 DESCRIPTION : LOWER SPRING BEAM ARRANGEMENT FOR BOLSTER SUSPENSION OF NON-AC COACHES, TO DRAWING / SPECIFICATION ICF DRAWING NO. T-0-5-667, ALT. NO. J/NIL, ITEM NO.-ALL ITEMS IN ASSEMBLED CONDITION, QTY.: 200 NOS.
 Warranty Period : 60 Months after the date of delivery.

Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1500 hrs. of 13.11.2023 (for all Sl. No.)
 Dy. Chief Materials Manager/CRW/ PR-718/O/23-24 Mancheswar

EAST COAST RAILWAY
 File No. DRMI/Engg/KUR/23-24E-Tender/96 Dtd. 25.10.2023

(1) Tender No. eTender-SPLKUR-311-2023, Dtd. 20.10.2023
 DESCRIPTION: PROPOSED COMPLETE TRACK RENEWAL (CTR-PRIMARY) OF MCL SIDING (DB-1, SPUR-5 ANANTA SIDING & SPUR-9 BALARAM SIDING FOR 2.626 TRACK KM) UNDER DEPOSIT SCHEME BY KHURDA ROAD DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.
 Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 124.98 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,12,500.00, Completion Period : 06 (Six) Months.

(2) Tender No. eTender-northkur-312-2023, Dtd. 20.10.2023
 DESCRIPTION: PROPOSED WATER DRAIN IN BETWEEN R1-R2 AND R2-R3 TO DISCHARGE RAIN WATER AT DATARI YARD UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER / JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
 Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 172.09 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 2,36,100.00, Completion Period : 09 (Nine) Months.

(3) Tender No. eTender-Southkur-313-2023, Dtd. 20.10.2023
 DESCRIPTION: EXECUTION OF CTR(S) FOR A LENGTH OF 10.559 KMS ON LOOP LINES OF DIFFERENT YARD OF KHURDA ROAD - PALASA SECTION.
 Approx Cost of the Work (₹) : 305.22 Lakhs, EMD (₹) : 3,02,600.00, Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1500 Hrs. of 10.11.2023 (For all the Tenders).
 No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in-person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website: https://www.ireps.gov.in
 Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / Corrigendum issued for this tender.
 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), PR-720/O/23-24 Khurda Road

FOCUS NATION

TIME FOR BOTTOM-UP



There is a tendency to paint a somewhat false picture of the progress of the country based on incomes of the super-rich, the rich and the upper sections of the middle class

cated enough to plan or develop their village. How this process can be changed and true decentralisation ushered in is a big challenge. Only when women and lower caste members become educated and assertive, things may change. But this process shall take a long time. The poor are deprived of benefits such as money for building a room or a toilet or even the designated amount for a day's work. There are reports that around 40-50% of the funds released are siphoned off by influential political leaders at the village level.

The situation at grassroots level is totally dichotomous with the grandeur and pomp that was demonstrated during the recent G20 summit in New Delhi. India is totally different. Modernisation of airports, building palatial auditoriums, allowing corporate entities to build five-star styled nursing homes and the likes are not the picture of development that we see in metros. To understand the real picture, politicians need to concentrate more on remote villages. There has been a tendency of some state governments to increase the number of districts, which obviously is not the solution. Posting bureaucrats who are expected to promptly carry out orders from the central or state authorities does not solve the problem. The real answer needs to be found at the grassroots and ensuring that adequate benefits reach the impoverished through better governance and a decentralised socio-economic order, as visualised by Mahatma Gandhi and emphasised by many others.

There is need to think of an alternative strategy of cooperation where development from below becomes the motto and the underlying principle. The strategy of top-down approach must be discarded, and the people must be the centre of planning and development. Once the noise and dust of the elections settle down, it would be worth a watch to see what progress the caste census will make.

INFA

The demand for caste census is picking up steam ahead of Assembly elections. The need for equitable opportunities for the OBCs, including the extremely backward castes (EBCs) is increasingly becoming part of campaign strategy. As against this, the BJP has chosen to skirt the issue saying it will divide the country. Will the voter get any wiser?

Early this month, the Congress Working Committee promised a government led by it will conduct a nationwide caste census as part of the normal decadal census which was due in 2021, would find the number of OBCs, remove cap of 50% reservation for OBCs, SCs and STs through an Act of Parliament, and finally offer 33 per cent quota to women lawmakers, including a separate quota for OBC women, at the earliest.

The neglect of OBCs by the ruling dispensation has been well manifest, though a section of analysts is not in favour of this caste-based approach. Such a census would obviously expose those who are at the bottom of the ladder and the need to bring them into the mainstream of life and activity. This hasn't been done over the years and development opportunities have been cornered by the rich and middle-income sections.

It cannot be allowed to continue for long. High growth is no doubt necessary but its benefits must reach the bottom tiers of society. The media focusses only on accelerated growth but not about equitable sharing of benefits of development. Why should there be such a wide gap in incomes of urban and rural class or between the upper castes and EBCs? These are, no doubt, daunting questions which have yet to be analysed and strategies in this regard adopted.

It is a fact that most chief ministers who have been repeatedly returned by the electorate in the last two decades or so have delivered high growth

or at least significantly higher than their predecessors. But the question arises how much of this growth percolates to EBCs or the EWS? While tall claims are made by the Centre about mega welfare schemes, a precise answer of how many have benefited is elusive and the country's poor continue to languish in poverty and squalor.

The impoverishment of the masses is reflected in recently released 2023 Global Hunger Index (GHI) where India ranked 111th out of 125 countries, slipping four places since last year. There are welfare schemes galore being announced for the poor and the EWS. For example, the Congress is reaching out to the electorate promising gas cylinders for Rs 500 each to beneficiaries of the Ujjwala Scheme in Rajasthan, in Madhya Pradesh it promises Rs 1500 per month for women, in Telangana the promise is of Rs 2500 every month. The BJP instead prefers to highlight the strides the country has taken under Modi's leadership, including infrastructure development, while calling itself the biggest proponent of OBCs. Not to forget the sharp focus on the Ram temple.

The BJP also speaks of GDP growth of the economy. However, though it may give an overall picture of the economy, it doesn't

reflect the economic conditions of the poor or the state of development of villages, especially in backward districts. Not even in the Economic Survey that is presented in Parliament, is there a reflection of the state of improvement of the backward districts or of the lower castes, the STs and the Dalits.

There is a tendency to paint a somewhat false picture of the progress of the country based on incomes of the super-rich, the rich and the upper sections of the middle class. Politicians and planners are very well versed with this, both at the Centre and in states. That is why questions have been raised on what portions of government, even private, jobs are occupied by the EBCs or the EWS or what is the percentage of enrolment of these categories in post-graduate institutions.

There is also centralisation of power at Central and state levels leaving the gram panchayats virtually having no say in matters of development of villages. Everything is dictated from the top and the vision of panchayat raj, involving the people at the grassroots level, turns out largely to be a misnomer.

The upper crust of politicians and bureaucrats feel that panchayat members are not edu-



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE STRATEGY OF TOP-DOWN APPROACH MUST BE DISCARDED, AND THE PEOPLE MUST BE THE CENTRE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Charles A. Kupchan

Given that they live cheek-by-jowl, Israelis will never be secure unless Palestinians are as well, and vice versa. The two peoples will eventually need to work together to secure a two-state solution that brings lasting peace

“Love is the keynote, Joy is the music, Knowledge is the performer, the infinite All is the composer and audience.”

SRI AUROBINDO



Play The Long Game

In the wake of the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7, Israel has every right and reason to pursue a sustained military campaign aimed at dismantling the terrorist group. And Israelis appear determined to do so.

Yet they also need to heed US President Joe Biden's words of caution. During his visit to Tel Aviv on October 18, Biden empathised with the rage Israelis feel. "I understand, and many Americans understand," he said. But Biden also advised Israelis not to be consumed by their fury. "After 9/11, we were enraged in the United States," he warned, "and while we sought justice and got justice, we also made mistakes." Two days later, in a primetime television address, Biden reiterated his call for the government of Israel "not to be blinded by rage."

What would it look like in practice for Israel to follow Biden's advice? Which lessons should the Israeli government draw from the strategic mistakes that the US made after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks?

First, while Israel should use its military capability to hit narrowly defined military targets – Hamas leaders, command centers, weapons caches, and tunnels – officials should be under no illusion that brute force can achieve a desired political outcome. In both Afghanistan and Iraq, the US learned the hard way that superior military strength, while useful for eliminating adversaries, rarely produces the intended political objective.

Despite two decades of costly US involvement, Afghanistan is back in the hands of the Taliban, and Iraq is beset by political dysfunction and communal cleavages. While Israel has no choice but to use force to defang Hamas, it must employ other instruments – diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, economic opportunity – to shape what comes next.

Second, although Israel's military campaign may still be in its early stages, policymakers need to begin planning for governance of a post-Hamas Gaza. The US was caught flat-footed after dismantling the old order in Iraq and Libya; being unprepared to build something new only brought bedlam.

Israel needs to prepare now for the day after the fighting stops. Will it look to the Palestinian Authority to administer Gaza? What role will the United Nations play? Might it make more sense to assemble a coalition of the willing – such as the US, the European Union, Egypt, and Qatar – to oversee reconstruction and governance, at least at the outset? Now is the time to begin addressing these questions.

Third, even as it embarks on a robust military campaign against Hamas, Israel should, to the extent possible, limit damage to Gaza's physical and institutional infrastructure; otherwise, it risks dooming the remaining population to prolonged suffering or even societal collapse.

The US unwisely dismantled Iraq's governmental institutions, setting the stage for chaos, a tenacious Sunni insurgency, and growing Iranian influence. Despite the ugly results in Iraq, NATO proceeded to shatter Libya's political foundations, resulting in a failed state exploited by extremist groups and subject to enduring tribal division. If Israel levels much of Gaza, radicalism and violent extremism are likely to emerge from the rubble.

Finally, Israel needs to play the long game, keeping in mind that the US continues to suffer from the lasting damage produced by its strategic mistakes in the Middle East. Toppling Iraq's government empowered Iran, which now has potent proxies – including Hamas – throughout the region. And Afghanistan has descended into a humanitarian nightmare in the wake of the US withdrawal.

Moreover, America's reputation has not recovered from images of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib, reports of the CIA's "rough" interrogation techniques, the indefinite detention of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, and the many drone strikes that took the lives of innocent civilians. These and other practices have indelibly tarnished the country's image in the court of world opinion.

Israel is already fighting an uphill battle in that same court. While Israel has a right to defend itself, and the murders and kidnappings committed by Hamas warrant forceful retaliation, the Israelis should bend over backwards to comply with international humanitarian law. That means minimising the loss of civilian life while ensuring a steady flow of medicine, food, and fuel into Gaza.

Exercising such restraint will assuage the widespread political ire that Israel's continued campaign against Hamas is sure to generate. It will also reduce the likelihood of the conflict widening into a regional war; make it easier to maintain the Abraham Accords, which established diplomatic relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan; and eventually enable Israel and Saudi Arabia to resume talks on diplomatic normalisation.

Israel's conduct of the war in Gaza will also shape the tenor of its future relationship with the Palestinian community. Hamas' heinous attack, and the new round of violence it has spawned, has revealed that the previous status quo was untenable. Given that they live cheek-by-jowl, Israelis will never be secure unless Palestinians are as well, and vice versa. The two peoples will eventually need to work together to secure a two-state solution that brings lasting peace. Perhaps the tragedy of the current conflict can drive that reality home to Israelis and Palestinians alike.

The writer, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, is Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University.

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SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Perpetuating the cycle of poverty



SN Tripathy

TARGETING MECHANISMS LIKE TPDS OFTEN LEAD TO INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION ERRORS, CAUSING DESERVING BENEFICIARIES TO MISS OUT ON FOOD GRAINS WHILE INELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS BENEFIT

Public Distribution System (PDS) has emerged as a crucial mechanism for addressing food scarcity by providing essential commodities at affordable prices. Its evolution over the years has made it an integral part of the Indian government's strategy to manage the nation's food economy. PDS is designed to complement other food sources and is not meant to fulfil the entire food requirements of households or specific sections of society.

PDS is a joint effort between the Central and state/UT governments. The Central government, facilitated by the Food Corporation of India (FCI), oversees food grain procurement, storage, transportation, and bulk allocation to state governments. Meanwhile, the state governments handle the allocation within their respective states, identify eligible families, issue ration cards, and supervise the functioning of Fair Price Shops (FPSs). Wheat, rice, sugar, and kerosene are the primary commodities distributed through PDS, and some states also provide additional items like pulses, edible oils, iodized salt, and spices. In June 1997, the Targeted

Public Distribution System (TPDS) was launched to support people experiencing poverty. States were required to establish robust systems for identifying and delivering food grains to people experiencing poverty transparently and accountably at FPSs. Initially, the scheme aimed to benefit approximately six crore low-income families, with an annual allocation of 72 lakh tonnes of food grains, based on poverty estimates from the Planning Commission for 1993-94.

A "transitory allocation" of 103 lakh tonnes of food grains was made available annually to those Above the Poverty Line (APL) to ensure a gradual transition and prevent abrupt withdrawal of benefits. These grains were provided at subsidised but slightly higher prices than the Below Poverty Line (BPL) quota. Recognising the need to enhance food grain allocations to BPL families and improve food subsidy targeting, the government increased the allocation to 20 kg of food grains per family per month for BPL families at 50% of the economic cost, effective April 1, 2000.

Under TPDS, retail prices were determined by the states/UTs

after accounting for margins for wholesalers/retailers, transportation charges, local taxes, and other levies. The government allowed flexibility in setting retail issue prices by removing the previous 50 paise per kg restriction. The Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was introduced to address hunger among the poorest segments of the BPL population. National surveys revealed that approximately 5% of the population lacked two square meals a day, creating AAY, a sub-category under TPDS.

In line with the National Food Security Act 2013 provisions, the TPDS is currently operated jointly by the Central and state/UT governments. The Central government is responsible for food grain procurement, allocation, and distribution. At the same time, state/UTs identify eligible beneficiaries, manage ration cards, and oversee food grain allocation and distribution through fair-price shops.

India's PDS grapples with many challenges that undermine its effectiveness. A persisting issue is accurately identifying BPL families. Targeting mechanisms like TPDS often lead to inclusion and exclusion

errors, causing deserving beneficiaries to miss out on food grains while ineligible individuals benefit. Another critical problem is the proliferation of fake ration cards. These spurious cards allow unscrupulous individuals to access food grains, which are subsequently diverted to the open market. This results in food grain scarcity and deprives those genuinely in need. Illegal practices within food distribution further hinder the system, posing severe threats to food safety and integrity. Some FPS owners provide beneficiaries with fewer food grains than stipulated by the government at fixed rates, diverting the surplus to the open market. This leaves BPL families without the nutrition they require, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and hunger. High-quality grains are siphoned off to fetch higher prices in open markets, while subpar grains are provided to beneficiaries, particularly affecting children's nutrition and contributing to malnutrition.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune.

WISDOM CORNER

- “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view – until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.” HARPER LEE
- “Kind words do not cost much. Yet they accomplish much.” BLAISE PASCAL
- “In a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” GEORGE ORWELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1917:** The British issued the Balfour Declaration, a statement of support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”; it was made in a letter from Arthur James Balfour, the British foreign secretary. Originally sent as a letter on this day to Baron Rothschild from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, it declared British support for a Jewish state in Palestine. The letter was eventually added to Sevres peace treaty.
- 1930:** Tafari Makonnen was crowned emperor of Ethiopia, taking the name Haile Selassie. Considered as a leading figure in the Rastafari movement, Selassie reigned over Ethiopia for 44 years.

Provocative actions

Sir, The recent events in the South China Sea have underscored rising tensions between China, the United States, and the Philippines. China's actions in the region have been perceived as deliberate provocations, notably the collision between Chinese vessels and Philippine ships at the Second Thomas Shoal. Beijing's attempts to impede the Philippines' supply efforts and its aggressive interception of a U.S. B-52 bomber have amplified concerns over its assertive behaviour in the disputed territory. These actions, coupled with China's increased military maneuvers in international airspace, paint a picture of growing confrontation. The significance of this situation lies in its potential to become a focal point for a conflict between the United States and China. It's crucial to mitigate these tensions and avoid any accidental escalation that could lead to a larger confrontation. This pattern of behaviour from China prompts questions about its underlying motivations. Speculation arises about President Xi Jinping's possible intention to divert attention from domestic issues or assert control amid leadership crises. The US administration's commitment to the defence of its allies, like the Philippines, has been reiterated, signaling a firm stance against any aggressive moves by China in the region. By reinforcing these commitments, the aim is to dissuade China from further testing the established boundaries. The situation calls for a careful balance of resolve and diplomacy to ensure stability in the region and prevent the situation from spiraling into a larger conflict.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

On cusp of elimination

Sir, Dominant India decimated a listless England at Lucknow and thereby avenged its loss to them in the T20 World Cup semi-final last year. While India moves closer to securing their spot in the last four of the World Cup 2023, the bruised and battered England is on the cusp of getting eliminated from the tournament. It was a contest between teams with jerseys of 'blues', and 'light' won over the 'dark' in a commanding manner, and naturally so because 'dark' will get obliterated in the presence of 'light'. Also '9' seems to be a bogey number for the England team, as in match No.29 played on October 29, England were all out for 129, falling like nine ninespins.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Modi, Hasina launch 1st NE-B'desh rail link



celebrate the country's development. It is a demonstration of having rare friendly relations and mutual cooperation. Bangladesh and India will attain many successes in the days to come through mutual cooperation, which will strengthen the relationship between the two countries," Hasina said.

She also said that mutual efforts have helped ensure peace and stability in the northeast region of India, and establish connectivity between many Indian states with its northeast part through Chattogram and Mongla Ports.

India had extended Rs 392.52 crore as grant assistance to Bangladesh for the Agartala-Akhaura Cross Border Rail Link, officials said.

Meanwhile, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha said the rail project would enable the state to become the gateway to other northeastern states for trade, connectivity and tourism, and reduce the distance between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka from 1,600 km to 500 km.

As part of the Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line, a 65-km broad gauge route was constructed between Bangladesh's Mongla Port and the existing rail network in Khulna.

The Khulna-Mongla rail link line will help operate trains from Mongla to some of the western destinations of Bangladesh Railways and also to Dhaka via Khulna and Padma Bridge.

The 1,320-MW Maitree Super Thermal Power Project was implemented by the Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Ltd, a 50:50 joint venture between India's NTPC and the Bangladesh Power Development Board. The plant is located at Rampal in Khulna division of Bangladesh.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, Nov 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina Wednesday jointly inaugurated three projects via virtual mode, including a key rail link between Tripura's Nischintapur railway station.

"It is a matter of joy that we have connected once again to celebrate the success of the India-Bangladesh cooperation. In the past nine years, the work we have done together has not happened in decades," Modi said in an interaction with Hasina over video-conferencing.

Hasina said the three projects would further strengthen the infrastructure development collaboration between the two countries.

"The joint inauguration of these important projects shows that we have a strong bond of friendship and collaboration... I also thank PM Modi for the warm hospitality during my visit in September for the G20 Summit," she said.

"I think it is an instance for the world. We have proved that good relations with the neighbour ac-

celerate the country's development. It is a demonstration of having rare friendly relations and mutual cooperation. Bangladesh and India will attain many successes in the days to come through mutual cooperation, which will strengthen the relationship between the two countries," Hasina said.

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Curfew relaxation withdrawn in Imphal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Nov 1: A mob Wednesday tried to gherao a Manipur Police office complex demanding arms in Imphal, the capital of the restive state, prompting the authorities to order firing of several rounds in the air and withdraw curfew relaxations in two districts, officials said.

The Manipur government has withdrawn the daily curfew relaxation from 5am to 10pm in Imphal East and West districts with immediate effect owing to developing law and order situation, according to an official order.

The decision came following the attempt by a group of people to gherao the 1st Manipur Rifles complex, close to Raj Bhavan and Chief Minister's Office in Imphal West district, demanding weapons.



Security forces fired several rounds in the air to disperse the mob, officials said.

Tension had been brewing in the state capital after an on-duty sub-divisional police officer at Moreh town was shot dead by

tribal militants Tuesday morning.

In another incident, three police personnel suffered bullet injuries when militants ambushed a convoy of the state force at Sinam in Tengnoupal

district Tuesday afternoon. The convoy was sent to Moreh as reinforcement to assist in conducting operations.

The state has remained gripped by recurring bouts of violence since ethnic clashes first erupted in May. More than 180 people have been killed since then.

The clashes have occurred over a number of grievances that both sides have against the other however the flashpoint of the crisis has been a move to give Meiteis scheduled tribe status, which has since been rolled back and an attempt to turf out tribals living in protected forest areas.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley, while tribals, who include Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mainly in the hill districts.

FRESH SPATE OF ATTACKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 1: Security has been beefed up across Kashmir in the wake of a fresh spate of terrorist attacks in the Valley which resulted in the killing of a police personnel and a non-local labourer, officials said.

Security forces have intensified checking and frisking of vehicles and pedestrians in several parts of the city here as well as in other parts of the Valley, the officials said.

Nakas and mobile vehicle checkpoints (MVCP) have been established at all major intersections of the city, its entry-exit points, and important roads leading to district headquarters, they added.

Jammu and Kashmir Police and paramilitary CRPF personnel have been deployed at



sensitive places, especially around minority population areas, the officials said.

They said the security forces are also keeping a watch, including night domination, in the areas where non-locals reside.

While most of the non-local labourers have left the Valley because of the cold weather, few are still putting up in ghettos, they added.

The Valley has seen a fresh

spate of terrorist attacks. Terrorists shot dead a policeman, a father of seven, outside his house in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday.

On Sunday, a police officer was critically injured in firing by terrorists in Srinagar while a labourer from Uttar Pradesh was shot dead in Pulwama district Monday.

A senior police official said the focus of the security apparatus is to prevent the loss of life of even a single person.

Referring to themodus operandi of the attacks, the police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attacks are mafia-style where a new recruit is given a task to prove loyalty by hitting a soft target before joining the terror ranks.

In the wake of the attacks,

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the meeting of Unified Headquarters (UHQ) Wednesday.

The high-level meeting, held at the Raj Bhawan here, discussed the prevailing security scenario of J&K, the officials said.

The meeting was also the first for the newly appointed Jammu and Kashmir Police chief RR Swain.

Apart from Swain, the Army's top brass, including General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C) Northern Command, both General Officers Commanding (GOCs) of Army in Kashmir and Jammu (15th and 16th Corps), Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, Home Secretary RK Goyal, all heads of CAPFs, intelligence agencies, would attend the meeting.

Over 1K militants killed in ex-J&K DGP's tenure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 1: Over 1,000 militants were killed in Jammu and Kashmir during the tenure of former Director General of Police Dilbag Singh who retired from services Tuesday, officials said.

Singh, who has the distinction of serving as the police chief of J&K for the longest tenure, had taken over as the DGP September 7, 2018, at a time when the situation was full of challenges, they said.

Under Singh's leadership, the Jammu and Kashmir Police faced various challenges successfully including the abrogation of Article 370 and J&K's reorganisation.

"During his tenure, around 1,055 terrorists were killed, 58 surrendered, and 1,448 terrorist supporters were arrested," the officials said. During this period, the force was honoured with an Ashok Chakra, three Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakra and 887 police medals, they added.

Kaziranga elevated corridor likely to get Centre nod soon



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Nov 1: The 32-km long elevated corridor at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) may soon get the approval from the Centre, officials said here Wednesday.

While attending an event to launch several highway projects in Assam Tuesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma requested Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to give nod to this project.

Sarma said, "I urge Gadkari ji to construct a 32-km long elevated corridor at Kaziranga aimed at reducing the number of fatalities among wild animals."

Later, the Union Minister said the elevated corridor would become a reality soon and a detailed project report would be prepared for the same.

To avoid the high number of fatal incidents of animals

in the Kaziranga National Park, the Assam government had earlier proposed to build a 32-km elevated road over nine animal corridors of the park.

The four-lane project, which will cost Rs 6,000 crore, will follow an existing arterial roadway.

According to a report of Wildlife Institute of India (WII), at least 1,176 animals were killed on the highway due to the absence of a dedicated animal corridor. A separate study conducted by the Gauhati University said that 6,000 fatal animal incidents happened at this stretch.

During monsoon floods, which is an annual occurrence at the Kaziranga National Park, animals often flee to Karbi Anglong hills, at the south of the park crossing the national highway. At that time, many animals get rammed by speeding vehicles.

500 tourists ride India's highest gondola every day

SKYVIEW PATNITOP HAS COME UP AS A MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE DESTINATION FOR THE NEW-AGE TRAVELLER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patnitop (J&K), Nov 1: Nestled amid this picturesque hill resort in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, India's highest ropeway, the Skyview Patnitop by Empyrean, sees more than 500 tourists turn up daily to experience gondola rides with breathtaking views of the Valley.

A testament to Indo-French collaboration, the ropeway executed through a Public-Private Partnership model with the Patnitop Development Authority has reinvigorated this quaint hill resort.

"Over 500 tourists go up and down daily in the gondolas. We have created several activities for tourists coming to Patnitop... They can experience the meadows and other attractions and can proudly say that they have travelled in the highest gondola in India," Dinesh Gupta, manager of Skyview by Empyrean, told PTI here.



Patnitop offers several adventure activities and has come up as a mountain adventure destination for the new-age traveller.

"We have created a luxurious and adventure destination at Skyview. The gondola starts from

Sanget valley and goes till Padora in Patnitop... This is India's highest gondola (in ground clearance). It is CEN certified (European standard certification). We have international acclamation for all safety measures and over 200

safety checks are conducted daily," Gupta said.

The experience of Skyview by Empyrean's mountain adventure destination, particularly the gondola ride, is one of a kind and truly impressive, tourists said.

"Riding the gondola in Skyview resort is an amazing feeling. We can get the entire view of Patnitop... We can see all the flora and fauna," tourist Skinda Sharma said, adding that tourists from across the country should experience it.

She said that the sound of the wind and the view of the landscape while crossing the towers one after another made her heart beat faster.

Adventure lovers can also experience Asia's longest zig-zag zipline measuring 580 metres here, Gupta said, adding 25 people can take the zipline ride at a time. He said that an all-season tubing sledge having a length of 238 metres is also operated with the highest standards with an efficient braking system.

"The initiative of the gondola is very nice. Tourists who visit Jammu usually complain about how there is nothing to do here. It's a beautiful tourist attraction for them," Arun Kumar, a student, said.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER, SUNDARGARH
 Notice No.5251/NHM Sundargarh Date:01.11.23
NOTICE FOR OBJECTION INVITATION
 Advt. No. 4241/NHM/2023. Dated. 22.08.2023
No.E-514:The provisional database of the applicants received for the posts of AYUSH Medical Officers (Homeopathy/Ayurvedic) of Co-located units, Ayush Medical Officers, RBSK and Data Assistant-cum-Accountant under NHM, Sundargarh has been hoisted in the district website www.sundargarh.nic.in to invite objection, if any, from the candidates through Registered Post/Speed Post. The Envelope containing the objection must be superscribed with the name of the post applied for with application serial number as mentioned in the list and must be sent to 'The CDM & PHO Sundargarh, At/po/dist: Sundargarh, PIN-770001, Odisha. The details of objection must reach to the office of the undersigned with supporting documents on or before 13th November 2023, 5 PM. Objection received after the due date shall not be entertained. No fresh submission of pending documents of applicants shall be accepted in response to this notice.
Sd./- CDM & PHO-cum-DMD, Sundargarh
 OIPR-10100/11/0022/2324



Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande during a visit to review operational preparedness at Siachen base camp and forward posts, in Ladakh



As part of her ongoing deployment to the Gulf of Guinea, INS Sumedha undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with Ghana Navy Ship GNS Garinga



Britain's Queen Camilla visits the equine welfare charity, Brooke, to learn how Brooke and the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals are working together towards the protection of donkeys and promoting their welfare, in Karen District of Nairobi, Kenya



BRS party president and Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao being felicitated during the 'Praja Aashirvada Sabha' at Sathupalli, in Khammam district, Telangana



Hindu married women view the Moon as part of rituals on the occasion of 'Karva Chauth' festival, in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh



Supporters congratulate Congress candidate Yashpal Gahlot after he got ticket from Bikaner West constituency for upcoming Rajasthan Assembly elections, in Bikaner



Demonstrators clash with the police during a protest against a recently approved mining contract between the government and Canadian mining company First Quantum, in Panama City

national

of the day uote

Tomorrow is a big day. Those who are finding faults never had any problems till they were with me. Now they are picking holes upon instructions from above

The Bharatiya Janata Party did not have any issue in poll-bound Chhattisgarh and was banking only on polarisation to get votes in the assembly elections

Wherever we go to fight the elections... Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Tripura, wherever Congress party fights with BJP, MIM party takes money from BJP and puts up candidates there

SHORT TAKES

Elusive leopard shot dead in B'lore

Bangalore: Foresters shot dead the elusive leopard Wednesday that had scared Bangalore residents for the past five days. After three days of intense search operations, forest department officials tracked the wild cat in the city's outskirts at Kudlu Gate near Electronic City in Bengaluru South. They had set a cage and tried to trap the leopard and when their efforts failed, shots were fired, officials said.

India, UAE sign MoU to boost ties

New Delhi: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and his UAE counterpart Ahmad Al Falasi Wednesday signed an MoU to strengthen existing educational cooperation between the two countries. The MoU aims at facilitating student and faculty mobility, joint research programmes, designing courses, organising and participation in conferences, lectures, symposia, courses, scientific and educational exhibitions in areas of mutual interest held in both countries.

4 LeT terrorist associates held

Srinagar: Four terrorist associates linked with proscribed terror outfit LeT/TRF have been arrested by joint security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district and arms and ammunition and other incriminating materials recovered from their possession, police said Wednesday.

SP hints at contesting on 65 of 80 LS seats

Lucknow: The Samajwadi Party Wednesday indicated that it will contest on 65 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2024. SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who attended a meeting of the party's state executive committee here, called upon party workers to make full preparations to remove the BJP from power in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Rlys employees' union writes to PM

New Delhi: The National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) has written Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding a revision in the pay structure of central government employees. It said the recommendation of the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) was implemented from January 1, 2016 which fixed the minimum wage at ₹18,000 per month.



Before next year's elections, they (BJP) are trying to gag the voice of all opposition parties. They are planning to arrest all opposition leaders before the polls so that they can vote for themselves in an empty country. They are hatching a conspiracy

MAMATA BANERJEE | BENGAL CM

DGCA ISSUES REVISED NORMS

Pilots and crew members cannot use mouthwash, tooth gel or any such substance that has alcoholic content, as that could result in positive breath analyser test, according to revised norms issued by aviation regulator DGCA



Cooperate with police: SC Tells Teesta, husband

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Supreme Court Wednesday directed activist Teesta Setalvad and her husband Javed Anand to cooperate with the Gujarat Police in probing the case filed against them over alleged misappropriation of funds while refusing to interfere with the anticipatory bail it had granted her.

A three-judge bench headed by Justice SK Kaul passed the order after Additional Solicitor General SV Raju submitted the two were not cooperating in the investigation. "Charge sheet has not yet been filed. ASG submits that there is an element of lack of cooperation. Be that as it may, the respondents will cooperate with the investigation as and when required," the bench, also comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and PK Mishra, said while disposing of a plea by the Gujarat government challenging the grant of anticipatory bail to Setalvad. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Setalvad, opposed ASG's submission and asserted the social activist was cooperating in the matter.

The top court also disposed of a plea by Setalvad seeking expunction of remarks made by the Gujarat High Court in its February 8, 2019 judgement while granting her anticipatory bail. "It is trite to say that any observation made at the stage of bail can hardly have any influence on the trial of the matter. We are not required to say anything more," the bench said.

APPLE ALERT ROW Oppn seeks IT panel meet

APPLE ALERT ROW

Several Opposition leaders including Moitra, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Raghav Chadha, Shashi Tharoor and his party's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera, and Sitaram Yechury claimed to have received alerts from Apple about "state-sponsored attackers trying to remotely compromise" their iPhones

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Opposition Wednesday sought to corner the government over the Apple alert issue with TMC MP Mahua Moitra writing to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla regarding the messages received by several MPs, and some other leaders demanding a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee for IT to examine the issue.

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram and CPI(M) MP John Brittas wrote to the chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee for IT and urged him to hold a meeting of the panel over the matter, sources said. In a letter to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology chairperson Prataprao Jadhav, Chidambaram, also a panel mem-



The BJP slammed the Opposition's contention and indicated a link between "George Soros-funded Access Now" and iPhone notifications, saying there was "no surprise" that Rahul Gandhi dropped everything and rushed to hold a press conference on it

ber, urged him to call all those people who have got the alerts from Apple as also representatives of the firm at the meeting, they said.

In his letter, Brittas has also asked Jadhav to convene an urgent meeting of the panel to "examine" the recent threat notification messages.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who is a member of the panel, said the parliamentary panel on IT cannot take up the matter.

Under the rules of the Lok Sabha, the investigation into Apple's warning to its subscribers comes under the jurisdiction of the central government while their iPhones can be checked by state police for

further verification of allegation, Dubey said in Hindi on X. Panel chief Jadhav, who is in his constituency in Maharashtra, told PTI that he has no information so far and the panel would act on the issue if anyone flags the matter.

Moitra, in her letter to Birla, said "illegal surveillance by the government" is the worst attack on fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution. In her letter to Birla, Moitra said opposition leaders received a message that they were "being targeted by state-sponsored attackers" who were attempting to remotely compromise the devices and access their data, communications and "even the

Apex court questions selective anonymity in electoral bonds scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Supreme Court Wednesday said the problem with electoral bonds scheme is that it provides for "selective anonymity" and "selective confidentiality" as the details are available with the State Bank of India (SBI) and can also be accessed by the law enforcement agencies.



A five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud observed the problem with the scheme would lie if it does not provide a level playing field to political parties and if it suffers from opacity.

While hearing arguments on a batch of pleas challenging the validity of electoral bonds scheme for funding political parties, the apex court said the motive behind the scheme may be

perfectly laudable but in an effort to bring in white money into the electoral process, it essentially provides for a "complete information hole".

"The problem with the scheme is it provides for selective anonymity. It is not completely anonymous. It provides for selective anonymity, selective confidentiality.... It is not confidential qua the State Bank of India. It is not confidential qua the law enforcement agencies," the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who was arguing the case for the Centre.

Under the scheme, electoral bonds can be issued or purchased from some authorised branches of the SBI.

"Your argument that look if you were to strike down the scheme, you will go to a situation which existed prior... that may not be valid for the reason that we are not precluding the government from coming out with a transparent scheme or a scheme which has a level playing field," the CJ observed.



Maratha Kranti Morcha activists burn tyres and other inflammable items during a protest on Pune-Solapur Highway to press for Maratha reservation, in Solapur. Leaders at an all-party meeting on the Maratha quota issue chaired by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Wednesday passed a resolution asking activist Manoj Jarange to call off his indefinite fast, but he refused to relent asking why the government needed more time to provide reservation to the Marathas

ED attaches ₹538cr properties in Jet Airways case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Enforcement Directorate Wednesday said it has attached in London, Dubai and India assets worth ₹538 crore of Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, his family members and companies as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged bank loan fraud.

The attached properties in-

clude 17 residential flats, bungalows and commercial premises.

Located in London, Dubai and various cities in India, these properties are in the name of various companies like Jetair Private Limited and Jet Enterprises Private Limited, Goyal, his wife Anita, and son Nivaan, the federal agency said in a statement. The total value of these assets is ₹538.05 crore, the ED said. Goyal, 74, was arrested by the ED on September

1 and the agency filed a charge sheet against him on Tuesday before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Mumbai. He is in judicial custody and lodged in Mumbai's Arthur Road jail.

Jet Airways, a full-service carrier, shut its operations in April 2019 after running out of cash. Later, Goyal stepped down as the chairperson of the airline. The money laundering case against Goyal

stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR that was registered on the basis of a complaint by Canara Bank, Mumbai.

According to the bank's complaint, JIL, its promoters and directors committed offences of cheating, criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and criminal misconduct, resulting in a "massive" NPA (non-performing asset) of ₹538.62 crore, the ED said.

DELHI POLLUTION Bad air quality spiking asthma, lung problems in kids, elderly

According to data from the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), the air quality in Delhi remained in the 'very poor' category as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 336 Wednesday morning. It is the fourth day in a row with such bad air

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 1: The continuing air pollution levels in the national capital is increasing asthma and lung problems in children and the elderly, doctors said Wednesday.

Due to bad air, "there has been a significant increase in the number of patients coming to the OPD as well as getting admitted with respiratory diseases," Vikas Maurya, Director and Head of the Department, Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh, told IANS.

"In the last three to four weeks, there has been a 20-30 per cent rise in patients coming with recurrent cough and upper respiratory tract infections. "Some patients also are coming with lower respiratory infections like

pneumonia and getting admitted; asthma attacks as well as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) attacks, exacerbations are also rising. A majority of these patients are the elderly and children," the doctor said.

As per SAFAR data, at Pusa and Delhi University, PM 2.5 was recorded at 311 and 391 in the 'very poor' category. At Lodhi Road, the PM 2.5 concentration was at 317 in the 'very poor' category while the PM 10 stood at 219, also in the 'poor' category.

At IIT Delhi station, the PM 2.5 was at 329, 'very poor' category, while PM 10 reached 188, in the 'moderate' category. Nikhil Modi, Consultant, Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, told IANS that "fine particulate matter, notably PM2.5, pene-



trates deep into the lungs, causing inflammation, aggravating asthma, and leading to COPD". "Children and the elderly are

particularly vulnerable, as prolonged exposure can stunt lung development in youngsters and intensify pre-existing conditions

The city government will ban construction work in areas recording an air quality index (AQI) above the 400 mark for five consecutive days

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

in older individuals. Moreover, the increased prevalence of respiratory infections, such as bronchitis and pneumonia, compounds the health burden on the population," the doctor said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday that the next 15-20 days would be critical in the context of AQI.

"From November 1, the next 15 to 20 days are critical. Scientists are saying that the temperature

is dropping and the speed of air has decreased, so pollutants are at a lower level. Yesterday, the AQI was nearly 350.

"Due to the work going on in 13 hotspots in Delhi, the situation is fairly under control. At some hotspots, vehicle pollution's contribution is high," he said. Nikhil Modi said that the capital city grapples with particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen dioxide, and other pollutants.

The doctors also called for immediate treatment involving managing the symptoms and health conditions. They also advocated for "comprehensive policies that focus on reducing emissions from vehicular traffic, industries, and construction activities; enhancing green spaces for fostering cleaner air".

international



I bow to the victims of German colonial rule. And as German president, I would like to apologize for what Germans did to your (Tanzania) ancestors

EURASIA'S TALLEST VOLCANO ERUPTS Huge ash columns erupted from Eurasia's tallest active volcano Wednesday, forcing authorities to close schools in two towns on Russia's sparsely populated Kamchatka Peninsula.



of the day quote

As geopolitical tensions rise, global divisions are becoming deeper and more dangerous. Smaller countries fear becoming collateral damage in competition between great powers

The situation in the Middle East does not justify antisemitism. Nothing ever excuses antisemitism. My government is determined to wage a merciless fight against it

Our most immediate concern is that violent extremists, individuals or small groups, will draw inspiration from the events of the Middle East and carry out attacks against Americans going about their daily lives

MIDDLE EAST SPILLOVER

Yemen Houthis enter fray

The new front has widened scope of a conflict that has unnerved nations all over the world, hardening fears of war spillover as Israel seeks to destroy Hamas in its Gaza Strip stronghold

Dubai, Nov 1: Yemen's Houthis have waded into the Israel-Hamas war raging more than 1,000 miles from their seat of power in Sanaa, declaring Tuesday they had fired drones and missiles at Israel in attacks that highlight the regional risks of the conflict.

I blame Israel for instability in the Middle East. The circle of conflict in the region is being expanded by its continued crimes. The Houthis will continue to mount attacks until the Israeli aggression stops

wards Israel, and there would be more such attacks to come "to help the Palestinians to victory". Saree said it was the Houthis' third attack on Israel since the start of the conflict, appearing to confirm they were behind a drone attack on Oct. 28 that resulted in blasts in Egypt and was blamed by Israel on the



Houthis, and an Oct. 19 incident in which the U.S. navy intercepted three cruise missiles. Israeli National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said

capabilities during the Yemen war in attacks on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Saudi-led coalition accuses Iran of arming, training and funding the Houthis. The group denies being an Iranian proxy and says it develops its own weapons.

Images disseminated by the military showed Saar-class corvettes patrolling near Eilat port in the Red Sea, which Israel sees as a new front as its war in Gaza draws retaliation from Iran-aligned pro-Hamas forces elsewhere in the region.

In what appeared to be a new attack overnight, the Israeli military said it had intercepted an "aerial threat" over the Red Sea.

Israeli National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said Tuesday the Houthi attacks were intolerable, but declined to elaborate when asked how Israel might respond.

HAMAS ATTACK ON ISRAEL OCTOBER 7 KILLED ABOUT 300 SOLDIERS AND SOME 1,100 CIVILIANS. 8,525 PALESTINIANS, INCLUDING 3,542 CHILDREN, WERE KILLED IN RETALIATORY ISRAELI STRIKES ON GAZA

FIRST EVACUEES LEAVE GAZA

A first group of injured evacuees from Gaza crossed into Egypt Wednesday under a Qatari-mediated deal, Egyptian media and a source at the border said, as Israeli forces pressed their battle against Hamas militants in the Palestinian enclave.



The Houthis are a formidable part of the "Axis of Resistance", which opposes Israel and the United States and has been waging attacks across the region since October 7.

SHORT TAKES

Biden to meet Xi

Washington: US President Joe Biden would meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the APEC Leadership Summit in San Francisco later this month, the White House has confirmed.

Indian student stabbed in US

Washington: A 24-year-old Indian student was stabbed by a man at a public gym in Valparaiso city in the US state of Indiana and is said to be in a critical condition, according to a media report.

Nandini wins British Academy Book Prize



London, Nov 1: India-born author Nandini Das has been named the winner of the 2023 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding.

of the first English ambassador in India, Sir Thomas Roe, in the early 17th century. "By using contemporary sources by Indian and British political figures, officials and merchants she has given the story an unparalleled immediacy that brings to life these early encounters and the misunderstandings that sometimes threatened to wreck the whole endeavour," said Professor Charles Tripp, Chair of the prize jury.

"At the same time, she grants us a privileged vantage point from which we can appreciate how a measure of mutual understanding did begin to emerge, even though it was vulnerable to the ups and downs of Mughal politics and to the restless ambitions of the British," he said.



AFGHAN EXODUS: Afghan citizens wait with their belongings to cross into Afghanistan, after Pakistan gives the last warning to undocumented immigrants to leave, at the Friendship Gate of Chaman Border Crossing along the Pakistan-Afghanistan Border in Balochistan Province, in Chaman, Pakistan

Meloni talks of Ukraine fatigue in prank call with Russians

ROME, Nov 1: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni spoke of international fatigue with the conflict in Ukraine and a lack of support for Italy in dealing with migration in a phone call with Russian pranksters.



ment it regretted that she had been deceived by an impostor posing as the head of the African Union Commission. It said the call took place September 18 in the run-up to meetings with

African leaders at the United Nations General Assembly.

Asked about Russia's war in Ukraine, Meloni, speaking in English, said: "I see that there is a lot of fatigue, I have to say the truth, from all the sides. We (are) near the moment in which everybody understands that we need a way out."

Addressing Italy's position as a first port of call for many migrants crossing the Mediterranean, Meloni lamented that international partners were

not doing enough to help. "They do all agree that only Italy has to solve this problem alone. It's a very stupid way of thinking."

Prankster Lexus, or Alexei Stolyarov, said Meloni was at least someone who was willing to share her real opinions.

"Unfortunately, unlike her, many European politicians behave like some kind of programmed robot and express points of view that are only voiced in their own circles," he told Reuters by telephone. He did the talking while Vovan also listened in on the call with Meloni, he explained.

Diwali festivities reverberate at Walt Disney

NEW YORK, Nov 1: In a first, Diwali festivities reverberated at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida as hundreds of dancers showcased the culture and heritage of India through performances in celebration of the festival of lights for a global audience at the iconic American destination.



We created history by sharing the joy and excitement of this important festival with the South Asian dance community. Celebrating the magic of Diwali in 'The Most Magical Place on Earth' was truly a dream come true

Beri said Jashn Productions is looking forward to bringing people together to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of South Asia with more events like the Diwali Dance Fest.

dancers performed a 20-minute choreographed piece while parading through the streets of Disney Springs.

cluding Gujarat, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh weaving elements of pop and hip-hop.

The Diwali Dance Fest was the first of its kind celebration that gave children the opportunity to showcase their talent on a world-renowned platform, the release added. Over 1,000 guests experienced the sights and sounds of Diwali as the iconic Disney park reverberated with sounds of Indian music and colourful costumes.

Walt Disney's iconic Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse opened the event alongside specially-abled children. Jashn Productions donated \$10K to the N-Lorem Foundation whose mission is to develop and provide personalized experimental medicines free of cost to patients with nano-rare conditions.

"The Showcase was not just a celebration of a cultural tradition but a representation of unity and the power of art to bridge gaps and bring people together," California-based ICC Bollywood directors Amit and Hiren said in the release.

NK shuts multiple embassies globally

North Korea's recent closing of its diplomatic missions is a sign that the reclusive country is struggling to make money overseas because of international sanctions

SEOUL, Nov 1: North Korea is poised to close as many as a dozen embassies including in Spain, Hong Kong, and multiple countries in Africa, according to media reports and analysts, in a move that could see nearly 25 percent of Pyongyang's missions close worldwide.



On Monday, North Korean state media outlet KCNA said the country's ambassadors paid "farewell" visits to Angolan and Ugandan leaders last week, and local media in both African countries reported the shutdown of the North's embassies there.

Both Angola and Uganda have forged friendly ties with North Korea since the 1970s, maintaining military cooperation and providing rare sources of foreign currency such as statue-building projects.

The embassy closings set the stage for what could be "one of the country's biggest foreign

policy shakeups in decades", with implications for diplomatic engagement, humanitarian work in the isolated country, as well as the ability to generate illicit revenue, wrote Chad O'Carroll, founder of the North Korea-focused website NK Pro.

More than a dozen missions may close, likely because of international sanctions, a trend of Pyongyang's disengaging globally and the probable weakening of the North Korean economy, he said in a report Wednesday.

Seoul's unification ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the pullout reflected the impact of international sanctions aimed at curbing funding for the North's nuclear and mis-

business



IndiaFirst Life is proud to be the first Indian life insurance company to receive the GIFT City IFSC registration. We aim to enhance our market presence and capitalize on the customer outreach opportunities at a global level

RUSHABH GANDHI | DEPUTY CEO, INDIAFIRST LIFE

TATA CONSUMER MERGER

Tata Consumer Products Ltd said it would merge its three wholly-owned subsidiaries -- NourishCo Beverages, Tata SmartFoodz and Tata Consumer Soufull -- to ensure "more effective utilisation of the resources" and reduce "compliance requirements"



of the day quote

Services procurement was just Rs 3,069 crore in 2019-20. It reached Rs 65,957 crore in 2022-23. This fiscal it is expected to reach Rs 1.50 lakh crore

PK SINGH | CEO, GEM

WeWork India is a separate entity from WeWork Global. The recent news around the potential bankruptcy and Chapter 11 filing in the US will have no impact on the members and stakeholders in India

KARAN VIRWANI | CEO, WEWORK INDIA

We are anticipating a 4X increase in demand this festive season as we are offering a wide selection of apparel options to lakhs of our customers

CHETAN SYIAL | CO-FOUNDER, SMITCH

Festive boost revs PV sales

THE FADING AWAY OF CHIP CRUNCH HAS HELPED THE INDUSTRY RAMP UP PRODUCTION AND CATER TO ENHANCED DEMAND IN OCTOBER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Passenger vehicle wholesales in India rose to a record high in October as companies pushed dispatches to dealers to cater to the enhanced demand in the festive season.

The overall passenger vehicle wholesales in October rose to 3,91,472 units, up 16 per cent from 3,36,679 units in the same month last year.

Last month witnessed the highest-ever dispatches of passenger vehicles in the domestic market by Maruti Suzuki India and Mahindra & Mahindra.

"It is not only the highest October in terms of sales, but also the highest ever month which we have seen in the Indian passenger vehicle industry in any year in any month," Maruti Suzuki India Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava told reporters in a call.

Besides, brisk business during the peak festival period of Navratri also helped in the volume growth last month, Srivastava said.

In October, MSI reported its best-ever domestic monthly dispatches in October at 1,77,266 units, up 21 per cent from 1,47,072 units in the year-ago period. Its total domestic passenger vehicle sales rose to 1,68,047 units last month from 1,40,337 units in October 2022.

MSI REPORTS HIGHEST-EVER MONTHLY SALES

- M&M DESPATCHES UP 36%
- TOYOTA SALES SURGE 66%
- HYUNDAI SALES RISE 15%
- TATA MOTORS SALES UP 7%



"This is the highest ever number for Maruti Suzuki in any year in any month. The previous highest being in October 2020, which was 1,63,656 units," Srivastava said.

Rival Hyundai Motor Company said its domestic sales increased by 15 per cent to 55,128 units last month, from 48,001 units in the same month a year ago.

"The festival season has again proved that customers are really wanting to buy cars. The good part is that although we do not have pent up demand, the fresh inflow is what is keeping us afloat," Hyundai Motor India COO Tarun Garg said.

Mahindra & Mahindra said its utility vehicle dispatches rose by 36 per cent year-on-year to 43,708 units in October compared to 32,226 units in the year-ago period.

"While the strong festive demand should see us continue our growth momentum in November, we will keep a close watch on select supply-related challenges," M&M Automotive Division President Veejay Nakra said.

Tata Motors said its passenger vehicle wholesales, including electric vehicles, in the domestic market were at 48,337 units compared to 45,217 units in the year-ago month, up 7 per cent.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) said its dispatches increased by 66 per cent year-on-year to 21,879 units in October. "For us, sustained growth has been coming from across every segment where Toyota has its presence," TKM Vice President of Sales and Strategic Marketing Atul Sood said.

This makes this year quite good so far, because every month has been the highest ever that month. In fact, if you include January, February and March also or even the entire calendar year also, every month has been the highest ever. That is a very positive sign for the industry

SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MARKETING AND SALES), MSI

Kia India said its sales increased by 4.4 per cent year on year to 24,351 units in October. "During the festive season, our customers' positive outlook has helped us achieve our fourth-highest monthly sales ever in India," Kia India National Head, Sales & Marketing Hardeep Singh Brar said.

The company is working towards maintaining the same momentum in the coming months, he added.

In the two-wheeler segment, Hero MotoCorp reported a 26.5 per cent increase in total sales at 5,74,930 units in October 2023, as compared to 4,54,582 units in the same month last year. Rival Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI) said its total sales stood at 4,92,884 units last, a 10 per cent year on growth over October 2022.

8-MONTH LOW

Softer rise in orders drags factory activity

Oct PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for 28th straight month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Manufacturing activities in India decelerated in October as new orders increased at the slowest pace in a year, triggering a softer rise in output and employment, a monthly survey said Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) slipped from 57.5 in September to 55.5 in October, the slowest rate of expansion since February.

The October PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the 28th straight month. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 indicates contraction.

"The survey's new orders index slipped to a one-year low, as some firms raised concerns about the current demand picture for their products," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

According to the survey, there were substantial, albeit slower, increases in total new orders, production, exports, buying levels and stocks of purchases. Hiring activity faded, and business confidence slipped to a five-



month low.

"October data signalled a deceleration in growth since September. Anecdotal evidence suggested that subdued demand for certain products and fierce competition stymied the upturn," the survey said.

On the job front, less than 4 per cent of companies hired extra staff and 95 per cent left workforce numbers unchanged. The rate of job creation was slight and the slowest since April.

On the price front, cost pressures intensified, while output price inflation receded.

Looking ahead, business sentiment remained firmly inside positive territory but slipped to a five-month low amid concerns surrounding the path for inflation and demand.

Q2 RESULTS

Ambuja Cements net rises multifold

New Delhi: Ambuja Cements Ltd Wednesday reported a multifold increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 987.24 crore for the quarter ended on September 30, on reduction in operating cost. The company, now part of the Adani Group, had clocked a net profit of Rs 51.30 crore in the July-September quarter a year-ago, according to a regulatory filing by Ambuja Cements. Its consolidated revenue from operations was up 4.10 per cent to Rs 7,423.95 crore during the quarter under review. It was Rs 7,131.39 crore in the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

PPL profit shines

New Delhi: Paradeep Phosphates Ltd (PPL) Wednesday clocked a 76.25 per cent jump in net profit at Rs 89.43 crore for the second quarter of the 2023-24 fiscal, on robust income. The company's net profit stood at Rs 50.74 crore in the same quarter previous fiscal year, according to a regulatory filing. The total income increased to Rs 3,683.02 crore during the July-September quarter of the current financial year, from Rs 2,863.69 crore in the year-ago period.

Tata Steel in red

New Delhi: Tata Steel reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 6,511.16 crore in the second quarter ended September. It had clocked Rs 1,297.06 crore net profit in the year-ago period, the company said in a regulatory filing. The company's total income declined to Rs 55,910.16 crore from Rs 60,206.78 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Sun Pharma rises

New Delhi: Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Wednesday said its consolidated net profit increased by 5 per cent to Rs 2,375 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, driven by robust sales across domestic and US markets. The drug major had reported a net profit of Rs 2,262 crore in the July-September period of last fiscal.

Hero MotoCorp up

New Delhi: Two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp Ltd Wednesday reported a 47.6 per cent rise in consolidated Profit After Tax (PAT) at Rs 1,007.04 crore in the September quarter, driven by higher revenue. The company had posted a consolidated PAT of Rs 682.28 crore in the year-ago period, Hero MotoCorp said in a regulatory filing.

₹ bounces back from new all-time low against dollar

IN FY24, THE RUPEE HAS DEPRECIATED BY 1.33%, WHEREAS, IN CY24 IT HAS DEPRECIATED BY 0.66% SO FAR

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 1: The rupee depreciated 4 paise to settle at 83.28 against the US dollar Wednesday, tracking a strong greenback against major rivals overseas and unabated foreign capital outflows.

Besides, a negative trend in domestic equities and elevated crude oil prices amid geopolitical uncertainty in the Middle East weighed on investor sentiments, according to forex traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 83.26 against the dollar and hit its all-time low level of 83.35 against the American currency during intraday. The local unit finally settled at 83.28, lower by 4 paise against Tuesday's closing level of 83.24 against dollar.

The rupee's life-time low closing level was recorded at 83.32 September 18 this year when it fell 16 paise against the dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's



strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.07 per cent higher at 106.74 Wednesday.

The local currency depreciated by 0.3 per cent in October. It had depreciated by 1.2 per cent between July and September.

On the domestic equity market front, BSE Sensex settled 283.60 points or 0.44 per cent lower at 63,591.33, while the broader NSE Nifty declined 90.45 points or 0.47 per cent to close at 18,989.15.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market Wednesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,816.91 crore, according to exchange data.

"The rupee is plagued with dollar outflows from FPIs, oil companies, importers and ECB redemptions," said Anil Kumar Bhansali Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.

Forex traders said disappointing macroeconomic data and FII outflows further pressurised the rupee.

GST mop-up skyrockets to 2nd highest-ever in Oct

TAX COLLECTIONS RISE 13% TO ₹1.72 LAKH CRORE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: GST collections increased 13 per cent to Rs 1.72 lakh crore in October, the second highest-ever, helped by momentum in the economy, efforts of taxmen in checking evasion and festive demand.

"GST revenue collection for October 2023 is second highest ever, next only to April 2023, at Rs 1.72 lakh crore; records increase of 13 per cent Y-o-Y," the finance ministry said in a statement.

The highest-ever revenue from Goods and Services Tax (GST) was recorded in April 2023 at Rs 1.87 lakh crore, while in September, it was Rs 1.63 lakh crore.

The average gross monthly GST collection in the current fiscal has also shown an 11 per cent growth year-on-year at Rs 1.66 lakh crore.

During October, revenue from domestic transactions was 13 per cent higher year-on-year.

The gross GST revenue collected in October 2023 is Rs 1,72,003 crore, out of which Rs 30,062 crore is Central GST, Rs



With this, the pace of YoY growth jumped to a 10-month high in October 2023, which is encouraging. At present, we project the CGST collections to mildly exceed the FY2024 BE

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

38,171 crore is State GST, Rs 91,315 crore (including Rs 42,127 crore collected on import of goods) is Integrated GST, and Rs 12,456 crore (including Rs 1,294 crore collected on import of goods) is cess.

The government has settled Rs 42,873 crore to CGST and Rs 36,614 crore to SGST from IGST.

The total revenue of the Centre and states in October after regular settlement is Rs 72,934 crore for CGST and Rs 74,785 crore for SGST.

Govt allows direct overseas listing of Indian cos

CURRENTLY, OVERSEAS LISTINGS BY LOCAL LISTED ENTITIES ARE CARRIED OUT THROUGH AMERICAN DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS AND GLOBAL DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: In a significant move, the government has permitted Indian companies to list on foreign exchanges, subject to certain conditions.

The corporate affairs ministry has notified the relevant section under the companies law in this regard.

Currently, overseas listings by local listed entities are carried out through American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depository Receipts (GDRs).

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Companies

(Amendment) Act, 2020 (29 of 2020), the Central Government hereby appoints the 30th day of October 2023 as the date on which the provisions of section 5 of the said Act shall come into force," the ministry said in a notification on October 30.

The rules for direct overseas listing of Indian companies are yet to be notified.

Section 5 allows certain classes of public companies to list their securities on permitted stock exchanges in permissible foreign jurisdictions or such other jurisdictions, as may be prescribed.

On July 28, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister



was looking at various aspects, including the possible eligibility criteria, to prepare the rules for the direct overseas listing of companies.

On July 28, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman said the government has decided to allow domestic companies to list overseas to help them access capital from the world markets.

In May 2020, the move was announced as part of the Covid

relief package.

A senior government official, July 28, said that initially the plan is to allow companies to list at the International Financial Services Centre in GIFT City, Ahmedabad, and later, they can list in any of the eight to nine specified overseas jurisdictions.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had previously recommended a framework within which such direct listing will be facilitated, and it is expected that the Sebi framework will be the basis for future regulation in this area.

Sebi had proposed allowing listings on stock exchanges in ten "permissible jurisdictions" with strong anti-money laundering regulations, including the NYSE, Nasdaq, the LSE and Hong Kong, along with other major exchanges in Japan, South Korea, France, Germany, Switzerland and Canada.

Power use grows nearly 22% in Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The country's power consumption grew nearly 22 per cent to 138.94 billion units (BU) in October, showing a surge in electricity demand due to festivities and increased economic activities.

In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 113.94 BU, higher than 112.79 billion units recorded in October 2021, according to government data.

The peak power demand met -- the highest supply in a day -- rose to 221.62 GW in October. The peak power supply stood at 186.90 GW in October 2022 and 174.44 GW in October 2021.

The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal rain.

The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched 238.19 GW in August. In September this year, it was 240.17 GW.

Industry experts said power consumption was affected in March, April, May, and June this year due to widespread rainfall.

Proteas whiz past Kiwis



Keshav Maharaj looks skyward in celebration after getting a wicket; (inset) Marco Jansen was congratulated by teammates following a Kiwi batter's departure during their match in Pune, Wednesday

India face Sri Lanka in battle of unequals



TIME
2 PM
TELECAST & STREAM
STAR SPORTS NETWORK
DISNEY+HOTSTAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 1: Twelve years on from that dream April 2011 night when a country of billions landed in a frenzy of delight, India take on Sri Lanka in another World Cup clash here Thursday, albeit one that is poles apart from being termed an encore.

If that World Cup final was truly a battle of titans in every sense, the impending contest is more or less a battle of the unequals. India have hitherto marched on immaculately in pursuit of a third title and Sri Lanka have lost more than what they have won.

Unbeaten in six straight games and largely unchallenged for longer spans, India have displayed traits of being a champion side which has the knack of staging remarkable fightbacks.

India's confidence is irrefutably high but greater is their self-belief and trust on skills — witnessed in the mini-tournament created by Australia in Chennai when reduced to 5/3 or when England limited them to a modest 229/9 in Lucknow.

The doggedness to keep striking England until the defending champions were disintegrated was not only another display of their potential, but also a sign that India's opponents must raise the performance bar significantly higher when it comes to facing Rohit Sharma's team in this World Cup.

Coming into fray as a forced selection with India looking to answer Hardik Pandya's absence by creating 'balance', Mohammed Shami has only provided the happiest of selection headaches with nine wickets — including a fifer — in only two appearances.

But the think tank led by captain Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid knows 'Special Shami' must be preserved for greater battles ahead — for India would still need Jasprit Bumrah fresh and firing to steer through remaining challenges in the league stage.

There is no news on Pandya's return yet, but going into this game there would be lingering concerns on how India's young guns would go. Both Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer came into the World Cup with consistent performances in the ODIs, but are yet to make a strong dent on the tournament.

Sri Lanka are no pushovers but they have faltered more often than not in this World Cup after an superlative show in the qualification round. Injuries and unavailability of key players have also ravaged the team from the island nation, but its young brigade should make the most of facing a high quality opponent in its pomp.

Sri Lanka's bowlers have largely done a fair job given they have missed the presence of more experienced bowlers, but given their resources they will hope to put up a fight against the rampant Indian batters in perfect batting conditions.

JUGGERNAUT CONTINUES: Rassie van der Dussen (L) and Quinton de Kock continue their stellar form with centuries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 1: Quinton de Kock and Rassie Van der Dussen brought cricket back to prominence in South Africa amid the euphoria over the country's epic triumph in rugby, their scintillating hundreds ensuring a 190-run hammering of New Zealand in the World Cup here Wednesday.

De Kock (114, 116b, 10x4, 3x6) hit his fourth century of the tournament to go level with Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara who achieved the feat in the 2015 edition. So far, only three batters have scored four or more centuries in a single edition of World Cup.

Van der Dussen, on the other hand, blazed away to a 118-ball 133 (9x4, 5x6) as South Africa racked up an imposing 357/4 after being asked to bat first. New Zealand were bowled out for 167 in 35.3 overs.

The Proteas have displaced India at the top of the points table following the win. Both are on 12 points, though India have played one game less.

David Miller blasted 53 (30b, 2x4, 4x6) to provide the final flourish four days after the whole country was basking in the rugby team's record fourth World Cup triumph in Paris where the Springboks beat New Zealand's All Blacks, their biggest rivals in the sport.

Meanwhile, left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (4/46) bowled James Neesham with a turner that would make the late Shane Warne proud. Glenn Phillips delayed the inevitable with his knock (60, 50b, 4x4, 4x6).

Earlier, taking dew into account, New Zealand's stand-in skipper Latham opted to bowl first at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium whose stands were half-full with some people gathered outside when the in-form De Kock and skipper Temba Bavuma walked out to bat.

However, dew was not a factor as South Africa proved to be too good for their opponents who suffered their third defeat of the tournament in seven outings. For the Proteas, it was their sixth win in seven matches, the margin of victory doing their net run rate a world of good.

After Bavuma's (24) dismissal, in De Kock and Van der Dussen, the South Africans had the perfect duo to set the tone, and they did exactly that with a 200-run partnership in little over 30 overs. De Kock rode on a bit of luck with one of his shots falling in a no man's land.

was not the only challenge for the Kiwis as they also had players getting injured, the last thing for a team that was already grappling with injuries to key players heading into this match. After Matt Henry hurt his right hamstring and received treatment, Neesham also had some injury issues.

Meanwhile, luck also smiled on Van der Dussen as he got more than one reprieve on way to his century. First, De Kock reached his hundred in style, smashing Neesham on the outside for a maximum. Soon, Van der Dussen got to his ton with a four.

De Kock and Van der Dussen were dismissed, they had done enough for South Africa to aim for 350. Then, Miller produced a few big hits to prop them up towards the end.

BRIEF SCORES

South Africa 357/4
(Rassie van der Dussen 133, Quinton de Kock 114, David Miller 53; Tim Southee 2/77, Trent Boult 1/49)
beat New Zealand 167
(Glenn Phillips 60, Will Young 33, Daryl Mitchell 23; Keshav Maharaj 4/46, Marco Jansen 3/31) by 190 runs.

Sachin statue inaugurated at Wankhede Stadium



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 1: Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar's statue was unveiled at his home ground — Wankhede Stadium — by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at a grand ceremony here Wednesday.

Tendulkar was accompanied by his wife Anjali and daughter Sara. The dignitaries present on the occasion were former BCCI and ICC chief Sharad Pawar; incumbent BCCI secretary Jay Shah, treasurer Ashish Shelar, vice-president Rajiv Shukla and Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) president Amol Kale among others.

"It is indeed a special moment for me. It was around February when Mr Shelar and Mr Kale called me on the behalf of the MCA, they said we are having this thought of having your statue inside the stadium. I was extremely delighted, to be honest. I did not know how to react," Tendulkar said.

"I am truly humbled when I stand here. I go to the ground, there are thousands of images that come to my head and thoughts, so many incredible memories. It is truly an honour to walk on this turf which has given me everything in life," he added.

Tendulkar recalled his first-ever visit to the Wankhede Stadium and revealed that the first game that he watched at this venue was without a ticket as a 10-year-old.

"My first visit to the Wankhede was way back in 1983, I was only 10 years old. The West Indies had come to India and this was after the World Cup, the excitement was there. All my colony friends in Bandra, not 10-year-olds but my brother's friends, possibly 30-40 years old... They all decided to go for this match," he said.

"I do not know how it happened but a 10-year-old Sachin was also asked to accompany I went along with them, we took a train at Bandra, got off at Churchgate and enjoyed the whole game. And by the way, I sat at the North Stand. We all cricketers know what the North Stand can do — when they get behind the team no opposition can stop India and Mumbai," Tendulkar said.

Tendulkar recalled being a part of the famous North Stand gang in the stadium here, saying that when they get into the act, it gets very difficult for opponents to get the better of India. "I was a part of the North Stand gang, I also made a lot of noise, enjoyed the game. (On) my way back home to Bandra and somebody said 'achcha manage kiya na?' (We managed it well, no?). There were 25 of us and we only had 24 tickets. I asked how did we manage? The reply came, 'usko Sachin ko chhupa ke le jana pada' (we had to hide Sachin between us to taken him inside)," he said. "Sometimes, being vertically challenged can also work well for you," quipped Tendulkar.

Pegula secures semis spot at WTA Finals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cancun (Mexico), Nov 1: As match point after match point came and went — there were six in all she didn't convert — Jessica Pegula made sure she stayed calm and didn't, as she put it, "freak out" against No.1-ranked Aryna Sabalenka at the WTA Finals.

When her seventh chance to end things arrived, Pegula finally was able to complete a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Sabalenka in round-robin action at the season-ending championship for the top eight players in women's tennis Tuesday. The 29-year-old American is now guaranteed to finish atop her group and reach the semifinals in Cancun.

In Tuesday's other singles match, 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina beat Maria Sakkari 6-0, 6-7(4-7), 7-6(7-2). That eliminated Sakkari from semifinal contention and means Sabalenka will face Rybakina on Thursday for their group's second berth in the final four; that's a rematch of the Australian Open title match in January, won by Sabalenka.

Pegula has won both matches



and all four sets she's played so far at these WTA Finals, a year after going 0-3 at the competition. She had lost four times in a row to Sabalenka, who was the runner-up to Coco Gauff at the US Open in September.

Tuesday, on a temporary hard court that has drawn criticism from Sabalenka and others, Pegula dominated for stretches. That included a four-game run in the opening set, and then a 4-0 start to the second while grab-

bing 16 of 19 points.

The big-hitting Sabalenka — who lost just one game Sunday against Sakkari — finished with more than twice as many unforced errors as Pegula, including a 17-8 margin in the first set.

Not a happy return
Carlos Alcaraz's hopes of finishing the season as the top-ranked player took a hit after a 6-3, 6-4 loss to qualifier Roman Safullin in the second round of the Paris Masters. In his return from injury, Alcaraz dropped serve four times and made 27 unforced errors to 21 for Safullin, a former World No.2 junior.

Alcaraz leads the ATP Tour with six titles this year but hasn't lifted any trophy since Wimbledon. He seems to be running on fumes lately because of his demanding style of play.

The fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev, the 16th-seeded Karen Khachanov, Tallon Griekspoor, Alexander Bublik and Daniel Altmaier also moved into the third round. Meanwhile, Alexander Zverev and Hubert Hurkacz stayed in contention for the three remaining spots at the ATP Finals by advancing to the second round.

Aishwary secures 50m rifle 3P gold in Asian tourney

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions individual event and helped India grab a team silver at the Asian Shooting Championship in Changwon, Korea Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Tomar shot 463.5 in the final to win the gold. China's Tian Jiaming took the silver with a score of 462.7. Another Chinese, Du Linshu picked up the bronze with 450.3. Tomar had finished fifth in the qualification round with 591.

The Indian trio of Tomar, Swapnil Kusale and Akhil Sheoran won the team silver with a total score of 1764, behind China (1777).

India has already got maximum two possible Olympic quota places in this event through Kusale and Sheoran. Kusale had won the Paris Games quota during the World Championships in Cairo last year. Sheoran did the same in this year's World Championships in Baku.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maxwell falls off golf cart

AHMEDABAD: Australia batter Glenn Maxwell has been ruled out of the World Cup clash against England November 4 after he fell off a golf cart that resulted in a concussion and facial bruising. Maxwell was riding on the back of a golf cart after a round Monday when he fell off. "In transporting back from the clubhouse to the team bus, where Glenn Maxwell came off the back of a cart, and has suffered a small concussion. So, he will go into concussion protocols for the next period of time, and will unfortunately miss the England game," Australia head coach Andrew McDonald told reporters. The players were enjoying a round of golf having got a week's break between the New Zealand and England game. A replacement will not be needed, said the head coach.

'Bazball' added to Collins Dictionary

LONDON: 'Bazball' has made its way to the Collins dictionary in recognition to the bold, risk-taking style of play adopted by the England men's cricket team under red-ball coach Brendon McCullum. The term was coined after former New Zealand captain and opener McCullum, who is popularly known as 'Baz', took over the reins as England's Test coach in May 2022. Since, the term has been used widely especially during this year's Ashes series. Listed as a noun, Bazball is described "a style of Test cricket in which the batting side attempt to gain the initiative by playing in a highly aggressive manner," in the dictionary. Bazball was one of Collins' 10 words of the year and was also shortlisted for the Word of the Year but lost out to AI (artificial intelligence).

Willey announces retirement

BANGALORE: England all-rounder David Willey Wednesday announced that he will retire from international cricket after the end of the ongoing World Cup and insisted that his team's underwhelming performance in the showpiece has not influenced his decision. Willey's decision has come a week after England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) excluded him from the list of cricketers who were offered central contracts for the 2023-24 season. "I never wanted this day to come. From a young boy, I've only ever dreamed of playing cricket for England," Willey wrote in an Instagram post. "So, with careful thought and consideration, it is with great regret that I feel the time has come for me to retire from all forms of international cricket at the end of the World Cup."

No fireworks in Delhi, Mumbai during WC ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The BCCI has banned the display of fireworks during the remaining World Cup games in Delhi and Mumbai due to worsening air quality in the two mega cities. Delhi has only one match left to host, the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka game Nov 6, while Mumbai are scheduled to host two more league games, Nov 2 and Nov 7, and the semifinal Nov 15.

"BCCI is sensitive to environmental concerns. I took up the matter formally with the ICC and there won't be any fireworks display in Mumbai, which can add to the pollution level," said BCCI secretary Jay Shah in a statement Wednesday.



Delhi's air quality remained in the "very poor" category for the fifth consecutive day Wednesday with an air quality index (AQI) of 372. The pollution situation has been alarming in Mumbai also. The Bombay High Court Tuesday expressed concern over the "deteriorating" air quality index in Mumbai while taking suo motu (on its own) cognisance of the issue.