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leisure



DION MAKES 1ST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN 4 YEARS

Singer-songwriter Celine Dion has made her first public appearance in four years after stiff-person syndrome diagnosis and was pictured with fans and appeared to be in good spirits as she attended a hockey game, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

ANGELINA SLAMS WORLD LEADERS

Actress Angelina Jolie called world leaders complicit in the death of thousands of people in Gaza as they have refused to demand a ceasefire via her social media.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may get to share your ideas and opinions with like-minded people. Ganesh says you may finally have a heart-to-heart chat with your beloved, and express your deep commitment. You may even talk of your long cherished dreams.

TAURUS
Logic may be your forte today, but in the game of life, sometimes the heart wins and sometimes the head. Your analytical skills will help you understand things better, in turn, making you wiser. You may feel an urge to spend on music cassettes, CDs and electronic gadgets.

GEMINI
You will witness a marked improvement in your emotional quotient, says Ganesh. This change may either come through watching a film, listening to a song or just a simple insight. At the workplace, people will be lavishing praise on you for your excellent performance.

CANCER
You know how to make money, and you are even better in putting it to good use. Today, you will have your one eye on the developments in the stock market, and the other on brochures of tourism companies. Yes, you may plan to spend some money on leisure, entertainment and getting closer to your family.

LEO
It may be that the best daffodils bloom early in the morning, but good ideas can come any time of the day, says Ganesh. So spruce up your management skills, as you shall need them to help organise and cash in on the multitude of ideas that will bombard you today.

VIRGO
A la Sisyphus, you may realise the futility of your efforts and constant failure in achieving success. But do not despair, says Ganesh. Recharge your imagination, inquisitiveness and intelligence and focus on your long-term goals, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Some days you get the carrot, while on others, it is the stick! Today is going to be one of those 'stick' days when it comes to dealing with your seniors, foresees Ganesh. It would be wise to delay auction bids or sealed tenders. Sometimes, waiting patiently is the best policy, especially if you are a job aspirant. Do not expect immediate success. Take abundant precautions in all matters today, warns Ganesh.

SCORPIO
There is a big black hole in your pocket, and it's high time you looked for remedies there. Loved ones will make use of your money as sultan cream - liberally and carelessly. You are most likely to burn the holes larger by spending lavishly, especially to impress a member of the opposite sex.

SAGITTARIUS
Get ready to rule hearts today. Your thoughtful insights into other people's psyche might just help you write a book on it! In the battleground of love, you will win over your sweetheart all over again, probably with a nice, slow dance coupled with a fantastic candlelit dinner.

CAPRICORN
Work will suck you dry of your energy today, says Ganesh. Business rivals will go out of their way to mar your reputation and project you as incompetent. But to their dismay, you will prove to be way too smart to let them succeed in their sinister motives. In fact, you will hit where it hurts most and show your foes that you have all it takes to be a winner.

AQUARIUS
You get a pat on the back due to your brilliant academic standing. People will admire your business acumen and may imitate your choices. But this doesn't mean you become haughty and unapproachable. Carry on the good work with a humble attitude, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Anticipation is all the fun. Sadly, this only alludes to your months-in-preparation travel plans that are most likely to be delayed today on one count or the other. Though, if this is any consolation, your trip, when it finally occurs, will bring you as much pleasure and satisfaction that you expected out of it, if not more, says Ganesh.

Rhea's mantra to deal with trauma

Mumbai: Actress Rhea Chakraborty has gone through a lot in the past three years and she has only come out stronger than before. In a recent interaction, Rhea spoke about being labeled with various names and how she overcame all the unwanted attention. Rhea in an interaction said, "When you're called names like chudail, vishkanya, murderer, drug



peddler, all of this, you don't have an option but to let go of that person." She further continued, "If you think I'm a witch, then maybe I'm a witch. If you think I'm a b*tch, then maybe I'm a b*tch. It doesn't matter beyond the point. And that is very liberating. You don't care about what anyone thinks about you. And that sounds very sage-like, but it happened to me, and I think it was the most liberating part of this trauma. And I'm glad this is what came out of it." On the work front, Rhea was last seen in Roadies Season 19.

SRK @58

'I live in a dream of your love'

Mumbai: Actor Shah Rukh Khan, who celebrated his 58th birthday Thursday, expressed gratitude to his millions of fans, who greeted the actor outside his residence Mannat, here, and said that he 'lives in a dream of their love.' The video that went viral on the social media shows the sea of fans outside his residence at midnight, chanting his name, and expressing their love for the DDLJ actor. Now, taking to X, SRK penned a heartfelt note for his admirers: "It's unbelievable that so many of u come & wish me late at night. I am but a mere actor. Nothing makes me happier, than, the fact that I can entertain u a bit. I live in a dream of your love." "Thank u for allowing me to entertain you all. C u in the morning...on the screen & off it," added SRK.

The superstar, who is having a successful year after his films *Pathaan* and *Jawan* created a storm at the box-office, got on to his balcony to greet fans. He first greeted his fans with a namaste, showed them thumbs up, blew kisses at them and did his iconic pose.

On his birthday, his film *Jawan* got a digital release and a teaser of his upcoming film *Dunki* was unveiled.



Anupam's next *Trikanya* to hit theatres in Jan'24

BHUBANESWAR: After the success of *Pratiksha*, which won the National Award recently, director Anupam Patnaik is ready with his next film, *Trikanya*. Releasing the poster Thursday, he said that the movie will hit theatres in January.

The film features a stellar cast, including Barsha Patnaik, Manoj Mishra, Aman, Sraddha Panigrahi, Partha Sarathi Ray, Nishanth Majithia, Sukant Rath,

Nivy, and Sijan Mohapatra. The movie delves into the lives of three women hailing from diverse social backgrounds and landscapes, each grappling with their own unique challenges and triumphs, Patnaik revealed.

The Odia film industry has recently been marred by internal disputes and divisions, hindering its growth and impact, admitted the Gangs of Puri director. "TriKanya will act as a catalyst to bridge these divides and



bring the industry together, uniting under the banner of Odisha and the broader Indian film landscape," he said.

Documentary on Habaspuri Weaving selected for NFDC Film Bazaar 2023

Bhubaneswar: Documentary film *Habaspuri Weaving: The Second and Last Death???* which celebrates the rich artisan heritage has been selected by NFDC Film Bazaar 2023. It was among 98 International entries received at NFDC Film Bazaar's Documentary Co-Production Market and now it features among the final 12 Projects from 7 Countries, in 17 Languages.

Building on the success of Kotpad Weaving, which was BNR Films LLP's first foray into documenting Odisha's artisans, the documentary promises to be grander in scale and depth. The documentary is set to take audiences on an immersive journey into the heart of Habaspuri Handloom; one of Odisha's unique textile traditions. Director Mayur Mahapatra conveyed



his gratitude, saying, "We aim to shine a spotlight on the incredible handloom heritage of India, while also addressing the urgent need for its preservation and support. We are grateful to NFDC Film Bazaar for their faith in our vision." Expressing his excitement, producer Biswanath Rath, the founder and CEO of BNR Films LLP said "We are honoured to represent Odisha on the global stage

through Habaspuri Weaving. This documentary is a testament to the dedication and passion of our team, and we are thrilled to be selected among the 12 international projects." For the unversed, BNR Films LLP is an award-winning film production company dedicated to creating impactful content ranging from documentaries, social short films to feature films, web series.

PEANUTS



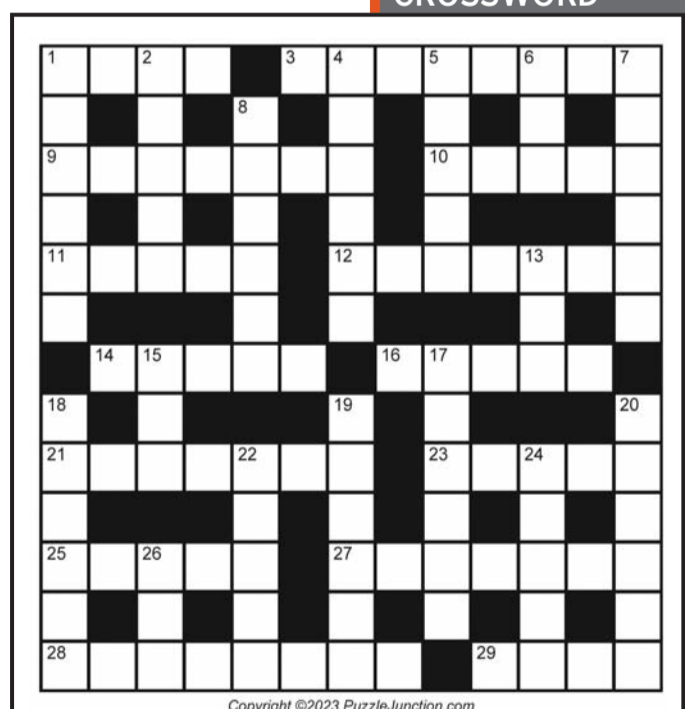
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



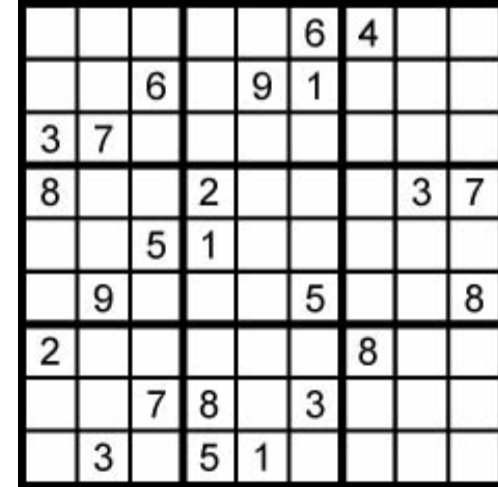
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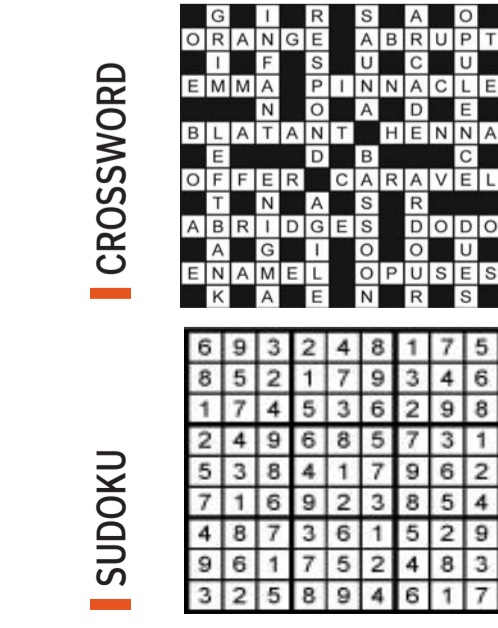
- Across**
- 1 Chinese dynasty
 - 3 George du Maurier's musician
 - 9 Underwater bloodsucker
 - 10 Rustic digs
 - 11 Church official
 - 12 Words of surprise (3,4)
 - 14 "Likewise"
 - 16 Brownish grey
 - 21 Type of car
 - 23 Razz
 - 25 Spiritual leader
 - 27 Nipper, in Italy instrument
 - 29 Wight, for one
 - 13 Trendy
 - 15 School of thought
 - 17 Respiratory disease
 - 18 Sacred beetle of ancient Egypt
 - 19 Farm building
 - 20 Oft missing TV accessory
 - 22 Cover story?
 - 24 Astrological ram
 - 26 Earwig, e.g.

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

₹306CR DEVPT BOOST

CM Naveen Patnaik sanctions ₹306 crore for development of Ganjam & Subarnapur under 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha'

DOWNTOWN P2

MOITRA WALKS OUT

TMC MP Mahua Moitra, along with other Opposition members, storms out of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee meet, Thursday

NATIONAL P7

PAK POLLS FEBRUARY 8

Pakistan's general elections will be held February 8, according to an announcement

INTERNATIONAL P8

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BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 | 2023

P1

JUSTICE CS SINGH NEXT CJ OF ODISHA

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Collegium Thursday recommended the elevation of Patna High Court judge Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh as the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.



While recommending the elevation, the Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, has taken into consideration the fact that at present the Patna HC has no representation among the CJs of HCs. Justice Singh was appointed as a judge of Patna HC April 5, 2012. The post of CJ was vacant at Orissa HC after the retirement of Justice Subhasis Talapatra October 3.

BJD appoints Jena, Das Burma as dist observers

BHUBANESWAR: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Thursday appointed senior leaders Pratap Jena and Sanjay Kumar Das Burma as the party's observers for Kendrapara and Bhadrak districts, respectively. According to a media release by the ruling party, Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik has appointed Mahanga MLA Pratap Jena and senior leader Sanjay Kumar Das Burma as the observers for Kendrapara and Bhadrak districts, respectively.



RIGHT ON THE MONEY: Mohammed Shami was pumped up after dismissing Angelo Matthews during their match in Mumbai, Thursday

PIC: ESPNCRICKINFO

INDIA SEAL SEMI-FINAL BERTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: It was sheer dominance by the Men in Blue Thursday at the iconic Wankhede Stadium here as the hosts became the first team to secure a berth in the semi-finals of the ongoing ICC World Cup courtesy their massive 302-run victory over Sri Lanka.

Mohammed Shami (5/18) and Mohammed Siraj (3/16) ran through the Sri Lanka batting line-up as the Islanders were bundled out for a paltry 55 in 19.4 overs while chasing 358.

They were staring at even bigger humiliation when they were reduced to 29/8 after losing experienced Angelo Matthews – their last recognised batter. However, Kasun Rajitha (14) and Maheesh Theekshana (12 n o) held their nerves taking the team total past 50.

The lowest team total in the ODIs was 35 – by Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka and by USA against Nepal. The lowest team total in the World Cup was 36 by Canada, also against Sri Lanka in the 2003 edition.

Earlier, sent in to bat, India amassed 357/8. Virat Kohli (88), Shubman Gill (92) and Shreyas Iyer (82) were excellent with the willow, but the trio missed out on well-deserved three-figure marks. Ravindra Jadeja's late charge of 35 pushed India past 350. Left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka (5/80) was the stand out bowler for Sri Lanka.

MORE: BACK PAGE

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We can't send honest officers for such jobs... Honest officers will not take instructions from us

RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT JUMPED TO 10.82%, WHILE THE URBAN RATE EASED TO 8.44% IN OCT: CMIE

Unemployment rate at 2-yr high

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: India's unemployment rate climbed to the highest in more than two years in October as joblessness in rural areas witnessed a sharp rise, prompting Opposition Congress to launch a frontal attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming his enduring legacy as PM is record unemployment.

The overall rate rose to 10.05 per cent last month – the highest since May 2021 – from 7.09 per cent in September; Bloomberg reported, quoting data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

Rural unemployment jumped to 10.82 per cent from 6.2 per cent, while the urban rate eased to 8.44 per cent from 8.94 per cent, it said, highlighting that the figures are based on monthly surveys of more than 170,000 households.

The weakest monsoon rains in five years is weighing on farming output in the world's second-biggest producer of rice, wheat and sugar. In urban areas, though, economic activity has been relatively strong, with manufacturing and consumption expanding.

The government publishes a country-wide unemployment

► The overall rate rose to 10.05% last month – the highest since May 2021 – from 7.09% in September

► CMIE data shows nearly 10 million people entered the job market in October in the hopes of finding some work



► Last month, Indian tech-services outsourcing firms announced plan to halt hiring of college graduates, potentially leaving thousands of fresh engineering students without jobs



The condition of rural India is bad. The demand in MNREGA has increased by 20%, which is clearly visible from the historical 10.8% unemployment rate

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

rate only on an annual basis and a rate for urban areas every quarter. The most recent official report, released in October, puts the unemployment rate for India at 3.2 per cent for 2022-2023.

The CMIE data shows nearly 10 million people entered the job market in October in the hopes of finding some work, it said.

Last month, Indian tech-services outsourcing firms announced plan to halt hiring of college graduates, leaving thousands of fresh engineering students without jobs.

"That could fuel discontent among the country's youth and create problems for the PM as he seeks a third term in office in elections next year," it said.

Meanwhile, the Congress attacked the PM over the unemployment rate reportedly climbing to a more than two-year high, claiming his enduring legacy as PM is record unemployment.

The party also said that India's growing 'economic crisis' continues to spiral out of control. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took a swipe

at the Centre, saying that amidst recession and inflation, the Modi government has organised such an 'unemployment fair' which is forcing crores of youth to wander from door-to-door.

"Narendra Modi ji, the PR stunt you do by distributing a few thousand 'already-sanctioned' and 'promotion' recruitment letters is like sprinkling salt on the hopes and wounds of those youth who have been waiting for jobs for years," Kharge said, claiming that out of the jobs lost during the Covid pandemic, 90 lakh well-paying jobs have completely disappeared.

"The condition of rural India is bad. The demand in MNREGA has increased by 20%, which is clearly visible from the historical 10.8% unemployment rate," Kharge said.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also attacked the government on the issue.

In a post on X, Ramesh said, "India's growing Modi-Made economic crisis continues to spiral out of control. CMIE data shows that unemployment rate in India is now at above 10%, the highest in over 2 years – when it already was the highest ever in five decades. Rural unemployment is 10.8%."

Tuition fee behind Jatni murder: DCP

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Hours after a 14-year-old boy was stabbed to death in Jatni area of Khurda, the twin city Commissionerate Police Thursday claimed that a Plus II student killed the schoolboy over payment of coaching fee to the latter's father, a tutor.

The incident took place at Benapanjari village Wednesday evening when the minor boy was in his room, while his parents were busy in taking tuition classes in other rooms of their house, said Bhubaneswar Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh.

Hearing their son's sudden scream, the couple rushed to his room and found him lying in a pool of blood.

The injured boy was immediately rushed to Khurda district headquarters hospital, where he was declared brought dead, Singh said.

On getting information of the incident senior police officers reached the spot and began investigation.

"We found a schoolbag from the crime spot with a school uniform and other materials in it. From that bag, we were able to

identify the suspect - a Plus II student who has confessed to his crime during interrogation ... We have seized the schoolbag, clothes and the weapon used in the crime," Singh said.

Another suspect was allowed to leave after questioning, he said.

The DCP said the juvenile accused has also told the police that he was a student of the boy's parents two years ago and owed them about Rs 5,000 for coaching classes.

"The accused stabbed the boy in anger as he was being humiliated and harassed by his parents in public for not paying the tuition fee dues," Singh stated.

The boy's father Manoj Paltasingh, however, said that he had never forced the accused to pay the pending money.

"My son was a bright student. He did not have enmity with anyone. The accused might have killed him for money and some other person was behind him. A proper investigation, maybe by CBI, is needed to find out the exact reason," he said.

Family members of the boy and their neighbours confirmed that they had seen the accused before in the locality.

ED officer caught taking ₹15L bribe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 2: The Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau Thursday arrested an Enforcement Directorate (ED) officer, posted in Manipur, and his associate here for allegedly taking a bribe of ₹15 lakh for settling a matter related to a chit fund case.

Those arrested are Naval Kishore Meena, an enforcement officer in the federal probe agency and resident of Vimalpura in Jaipur, and Babul Meena, a junior assistant in the Mundawar Sub Registrar Office in the newly-formed Kotpulti-Behror district of Rajasthan.

Enforcement Directorate sources said that the agency will initiate a probe after lodging a criminal case of money laundering against the officer.

Raj temple offers 'Paap Mukti' certificate for ₹12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pratapgarh (Rajasthan), Nov 2: Scores of pilgrims across the country take a dip in rivers considered holy with a firm belief that their sins would be washed away. But a temple in southern Rajasthan issues a 'Paap Mukti' certificate for just ₹12 to officially validate that a dip in its 'kund' would liberate a person of any sin.

Gotameshwar Mahadev Mandir, famous as the Haridwar of Vagad, is in Pratapgarh district, nearly 450 km from the state capital, Jaipur.

The certificate is issued by the temple trust which comes under the Devasthan department of the state government.

However, the number of certificate seekers is limited and around 250-300 certificates are is-

sued in a year for a dip in the temple's 'Mandakini Kund'.

Details of when the practice began are unavailable but it is said that those who have committed the 'sin' of deliberately or non-deliberately killing an animal or have been boycotted by their caste or community seek to get a certificate after a dip in the 'kund'. The certificates then act as evidence that they do not carry any 'sin' on their head, and that the boycott be revoked.

The certificate from the temple reads, "The 'panchs' of the villages (members of panchayat) should know that this person took a bath in 'Mandakini Paap Mochini Ganga Kund' of Shri Gotameshwar ji, which was built so that people could atone for their sins. Therefore this certificate has been provided. Please



accept him/her back into the caste society." Local sarpanch Uday Lal Meena said that a certificate is issued for ₹12 with the signature and seal of 'Amin' (patwari or revenue department personnel) who sits in an office near

the 'Paap Mochini Mandakini Kund'.

"It is believed that famous Hindu sage Maharshi Gautam was absolved of the sin of killing a cow after taking a dip here. The tradition is being followed

Around 250-300 certificates are issued annually for a dip in 'Mandakini Kund' of Gotameshwar Mahadev Mandir, famous as the Haridwar of Vagad, in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan

and it is a firm belief that those who take a dip in this 'kund' become free of their sins," he said.

"Usually, insects or other creatures get hurt or killed during farming, or bird eggs are destroyed which is taken as sin," he said. However, he refrained from talking about other reasons people are boycotted from castes or communities. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and it is said that Mahmud of Ghazni attacked the temple and tried to destroy the 'shiv ling' but swarms of bees came out of it and Ghazni's men were attacked.

"Ghazni then rebuilt the temple. The 'shiv ling' is damaged but still worshipped. Thousands of people visit the temple every month, particularly in the holy month of Sawan, and Mondays," Vikas Sharma, one of the priests said.

60 Haryana students allege sexual assault

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chandigarh, Nov 2: As many as 60 girl students have lodged a complaint of sexual assault against the principal of a senior secondary girls' school in Haryana's Jind.

The government has suspended the accused, Kartar Singh, after an inquiry. He is still at large.

The Haryana State Commission for Women is looking into allegations of two girl students who might have died by suicide because of sexual assault by the principal. Commission Chairperson Renu Bhatia told the media that 60 girls have alleged sexual assault against the principal. "We're also pursuing the serious allegations that two girls committed suicide because of the sexual assault by the principal," Bhatia said.

EOW arrests MBA grad for ₹12cr fraud

PANKAJ PARIDA ALLEGEDLY DUPED SCORES OF INVESTORS ON PROMISE OF PROVIDING FRANCHISE OF GROCERY RETAIL CHAIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar Nov 2: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Thursday arrested the promoter of a bogus company for allegedly duping various investors of ₹12 crore on pretext of providing them franchise of a grocery retail chain, Armada Bazar Pvt. Ltd.

The accused, identified as Pankaj Parida is a MBA graduate. He hails from Chandbalipada village in Balasore district and worked as the Odisha head of the company. EOW sources said Parida has been booked under Sections 406/420/467/468/471/120-B of IPC, along with Section.6 of OPID Act following arrest.

Parida came under the EOW scanner following a complaint lodged by one Rituraj Mohanty and some more people. In his



complaint, Rituraj alleged that he had been duped by Parida to the tune of ₹1.26cr on the false promise of establishing new grocery and daily utility item marts of Armada Bazar Pvt. Ltd in different cities of Odisha.

Disclosing more details, a release by EOW stated that the directors and promoters of Armada Bazar Pvt. Ltd during the period from February 2022 to January 2023 lured the public into investing in the company. In addition to this, the company

made extravagant claims of getting 3.5 per cent returns of the net monthly billing of the mart, which will be credited after two months of investment for next 38 consecutive months.

In Odisha, it floated 3 schemes for the franchise of the marts at different places like Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Nayagarh, Bargarh, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore, Parlakhemundi, Jagannathprasad, Odagaon and Nabarangpur. The schemes had given fake assurance of 8 per cent monthly returns to the investors, thus swindling a total of ₹12 crores from them.

The company is understood to have duped investors across Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and Maharashtra, an EOW official said.



CAPTIVATING MOVE: Artistes perform on the concluding day of 20th Kumar Utsav celebrations by Utkal Dance and Research Academy at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

HC relief for Jena in double murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The Orissa High Court has stayed any coercive action against BJD MLA Pratap Jena in the 2021 Mahanga double murder case.

Jena, a former law minister who was dropped from the Naveen Patnaik ministry last year, also had another moment of joy when the BJD Thursday appointed him as a party observer for Kendrapara district for the upcoming polls.

The BJD also appointed former minister Sanjay Kumar Das

Court stays coercive action against the BJD MLA who has been appointed party observer for Kendrapara dist

Burma as the party's observer for Bhadrak district.

While putting a stay on any coercive action against Jena, the high court Wednesday sought records relating to the case from the court of Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Salipur, and fixed the next date of hearing

December 19.

Jena had earlier skipped appearance in the Salipur JMFC court October 31 citing health reasons.

In a petition to the court through his counsel, Jena said doctors had advised him rest for a month.

Two elderly BJP leaders of Mahanga in Cuttack district were hacked to death in 2021 where Jena's name figured as one of the accused.

JMFC Salipur, which had taken cognisance to the offences against Jena in the Mahanga double murder case in its

September 25 order, ordered a prima facie case punishable under Sections 302, 506, 120 B of the Indian Penal Code to be made against him. He was asked to depose before the court October 31, 2023 and a summons was issued to the MLA.

However, the BJD leader skipped the hearing and urged the court to exempt him from personal appearance as per Section 205 of IPC citing illness.

Based on Jena's petition in the high court challenging the cognisance order by the JMFC court, the HC stayed any coercive action for the time being.

Panda bats for film studio at Bhawanipatna

New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Basanta Kumar Panda has requested Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur to take steps for setting up a film studio at Bhawanipatna. The Kalahandi MP met the Union minister and submitted a letter requesting for the establishment of a film studio and also a film training institute in Bhawanipatna. Panda stated that Bhawanipatna is at the centre of western Odisha and establishment of a film studio will boost the development of the region. He also told Thakur the region is origin of tribal art and Odisha's culture and dance. He requested the Union minister to ask the Odisha government to complete the land allotment work for film training institute and national film studio at Bhawanipatna.

AMA ODISHA NABIN ODISHA

₹306cr devpt boost for Ganjam & Subarnapur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday sanctioned ₹306 crore for development of rural areas under the 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha' (AONO) scheme in Ganjam and Subarnapur districts, officials said.

A total 90,723 projects will be implemented in all the 6,794 gram panchayats across the state, they said.

An amount of ₹10 lakh will be allocated to every village as part of the scheme, which has a total budget provision of ₹ 3,397 crore, they added.

The CM launched the scheme in 12 Assembly constituencies of Ganjam district and two in Subarnapur district. While the Ganjam Assembly segments were granted ₹251.50 crore, ₹54.50 crore was sanctioned for two assembly constituencies of Subarnapur district.

In Ganjam district, 5,706 projects in 503 panchayats will be executed. The assembly segments are Bhanjanagar, Chhatrapur, Khallikote, Digapahandi, Sorada, Sanakhemundi, Gopalpur, Aska, Chikiti, Hinjili, Polasara and Kabisuryanagar.

In Subarnapur district, 1,419



projects will be implemented in 109 panchayats under six blocks of Sonepur and Biramaharajpur assembly constituencies.

Launching the scheme through video-conference from Bhubaneswar, the chief minister said the villages will have both tradition and technology apart from speedy developments.

The scheme aims at promotion, preservation and protection of the Jagannath culture and tradition of the state, he added. Internet connectivity, skill development centre, works hub and banking facilities are the other features of the scheme, he said, adding that it will also open up vast opportunities for youths, women and farmers in rural areas.

This apart, Patnaik said primary schools of villages would be roped in under this programme.

Toddler saved from imminent vision loss

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Doctors at the City-based Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) recently saved a 9-month-old boy from losing vision in his right eye after he was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma.

The advanced glaucoma surgery, a combination of trabeculotomy and trabeculectomy, was performed by doctors of the hospital who specialize in dealing with such cases. The medical team's effort was instrumental in preventing the child from facing a life of partial or complete blindness. The baby boy, who hails from the City, underwent the complex surgical procedures November 1. The surgery was conducted by assistant professor of department of ophthalmology,



Saswati Sen, under the supervision of the head of the department, Matuli Das.

"The boy is recovering well and is set to be discharged soon," informed a doctor involved in the operation.

Notably, congenital glaucoma is a condition that occurs in approximately 1 out of 10,000 cases, making early diagnosis and in-

tervention crucial for successful treatment.

Sen emphasized the importance of prompt medical attention, saying, "The baby had developed the condition in four months. Such conditions happen in 1 out of 10,000 cases. The earlier you treat the eye, the better. He will regain useful vision for the rest of his life."

Auto driver killed in dastardly attack

Cuttack: An auto-rickshaw driver was allegedly killed in a macabre fashion by a fellow driver over a trivial issue concerning lifting of passengers, Thursday. The deceased was identified as Mohd Roshan, 42, of Satichoura Idgah Colony and the accused as Sharif Khan, 42, of Khatbin Sahi here. The police have arrested Sharif and booked him under Section 302 of IPC. Sources said Roshan and Sharif were friends for several years. Heated arguments ensued between the two Thursday morning owing to lifting of passengers near Buxi Bazaar area. Matters further escalated in the evening when Sharif laylaid Roshan who was returning to the auto stand around 5pm. Both Sharif and Roshan had a brief exchange of words before a violent fight ensued between them. Sharif dragged Roshan and banged his head on a police barricade, causing serious injuries. Passersby rushed a profusely bleeding Roshan to the SCB where he was declared brought dead, police said.

'Indulge' outlet opens at Utkal Kanika Galleria

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: 'Indulge the Salon' launched its latest outlet at Utkal Kanika Galleria Mall here, Thursday.

Founder of Indulge Sukirti Patnaik inaugurated the new salon in presence of chief guest OB&OCWW Chairperson Shreemayee Mishra. The guests present on this occasion were Jyote Motors Director Meenu Patnaik, Utkal Mall Director Purnima Baid and Odia film actress Aanisha among others.

Two new products-Copacabana, a Tanino protein hair botox and Ministry of Mane were also launched in the event.

Copacabana, the revolutionary natural hair extension is the preferred choice due to its lightness, natural hair, and options to style. Several celebrities across the world are using these extensions. The Beauty Essentials



team from Mumbai specially flew down to provide consultation and showcase the products.

Speaking on this occasion, Mishra applauded the women for being at the forefront of entrepreneurship. She also praised Sukirti Patnaik for giving chance to many women to become entrepreneurs as Indulge Franchise owners. Patnaik appreciated Sukirti for her leadership by bringing innovation and offering the latest services in Odisha.

Baid shared the vision of creating a niche environment for aspiring customers through Utkal Mall and welcomed Indulge Salon.

MoU to promote English literacy among tribal kids

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: With an aim to bridge the English literacy gaps prevalent among tribal students in the state, the Scheduled Tribe (ST) & Scheduled Caste (SC) Development Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Karadi Path Education Company, a Chennai-based English skills partner.

Odisha is home to 62 distinct tribes and approximately 23 per cent tribal population. The initiative will predominantly focus on empowering ST and SC students enrolled in government-run English-medium Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and English medium schools under the Anwesha scheme.



The partnership is considered the first MoU under the Anwesha scheme to establish a comprehensive learning ecosystem within the hostels as a supplementary model to support formal schooling.

During the MoU exchange, Roopa Roshan Sahoo, Secretary of the department, expressed her vision to 'craft a sustainable learning model that could potentially influence policy reform'. To facilitate this vision, the department has engaged

Mantra4Change, a social organization committed to transforming the public education system.

Karadi Path CEO CP Viswanath said, "The department has exhibited exceptional foresight in adopting a scalable method for functional English skills development. The real success of this model will lie in transforming residential engagement post-school hours into a central pillar of learning."

Senior Vice President of Social Impact at Karadi Path Preetika Venkatarishnan explaining the approach said, "The children will be immersed in English through an innovative blend of mime, music, storytelling, and theatre, in a pedagogy that resonates with the tribal tradition of oral narratives and active listening."

BMC revamps Daruthenga waste management facility

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar Nov 2: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has restored Daruthenga solid waste management facility that had been lying defunct since May 15, 2023, through commencement of a biomining project which will take over the management of the existing waste.

The renewed facility by the civic body will adopt the process of 'Windows Method' through which big dumps will be segregated from smaller ones as part of the solid waste management process. In addition to this, new biological methods will be inducted for efficient disposal of waste.

Ever since Daruthenga waste facility went defunct, a total of 36 material recovery centres (MCCs) and 22 material recovery facilities (MRFs) are working to process the solid waste generated within the state capital.



The renewed facility will adopt the process of 'Windows Method' through which big dumps will be segregated from smaller ones

Moreover, BMC has established two trommel lines – each trommel capable of processing 35-40 tonne of waste per hour. These processing facilities are expected to be operational in 15 days, said the civic body sources.

BMC expected that there will be gradual decline in garbage heaps through improved segregation facilities in the next six-seven months.

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Waning pasture threat to Ganjam blackbucks

BLACKBUCK POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT HAS INCREASED TO 1,273 DURING LAST 12 YEARS



ing them training, digging up ponds, carrying out fodder cultivation, vaccinating other animals in the vicinity to prevent spread of infections among the endangered blackbucks.

Speed breakers have also been installed in consultation with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to slow down vehicles plying along the blackbuck corridors of the highway. Forest department has also put up various awareness plaques along the highway.

President of blackbuck protection committee in Ganjam, Amulya Kumar Upadhyaya, said the blackbucks can be found on 1,117.48 sq km of land spread over 70 villages in 85 forest beats under 21 forest sections and five forest ranges in Ganjam district.

The animals can be found in Aska, Buguda, Polsara forest ranges under South Ghumusar forest division and in Khallikote area of Jagannathprasad and Berhampur under North Ghumusar forest division.

The Jagati hill in Bhetanai area is the most preferred destination of blackbucks but the animals are facing threats in this area due barbed fencing done by the private land owners. The area is preferred by the blackbucks as rainwater gets deposited in the area. This in return attracts tourists who come trotting to this area to get a glimpse of these shy animals.

The attention of the Forest department and state government has been drawn on several occasions but the pleas are yet to be addressed.

DFO Binod Kumar Acharya of South Ghumusar forest division gave the credit for the increase in blackbuck population to co-operation of people. A watch tower has been established to keep close watch on external threats to the blackbucks while the attention of the Aska tehsildar has been drawn towards shrinking of their pasture land, he added.

There are several private lands where the blackbucks graze but people are demarcating their lands by putting up barbed fences

The headcount grew to 1,979 - 331 males, 1,366 females and 282 juveniles - in the recently conducted 2023 census. This has confirmed the claim that blackbuck population has been steadily increasing year after year in Ganjam district.

Sources said that the blackbucks do not go inside the jungle and instead prefer to graze and roam around on plain grassland. However, pasture land is shrinking day by day in the district. There are several private lands where the blackbucks live and come for grazing but people are demarcating their lands by putting up barbed fences.

Moreover, land sharks are buying acres of land and selling those to interested persons by making housing plots out of these lands.

The Forest department is taking a host of measures to protect the blackbuck population such as conducting awareness programmes, forming blackbuck protection committees, provid-



AWARENESS VEHICLE: District Collector Ananya Das along with a woman farmer flagged off an awareness vehicle as part of 'Dairy for Livelihood and Growth' programme held at Tapaswini auditorium in Sambalpur, Thursday

ATM cash loading firm staff held for siphoning off ₹45L

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 2: Police arrested a 42-year-old employee of an ATM cash loading company for alleged misappropriation of ₹45 lakh, an officer said Thursday.

The accused identified as Deepak Kumar Padhi of Mandiapalli village of Ganjam district was suspected to have misappropriated the cash while loading in different ATMs in the last one year, police said.

During the interrogation, he admitted to the misappropriation of ₹45 lakh cash and claimed that he lost the entire amount in online gambling, said Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M.

The misappropriation of the money by Padhi came to light during the internal audit of the company. Bhawani Prasad Samant, manager of the company, lodged a complaint against the accused at Baidyanathpur police station.

During questioning, the accused confessed to the misappropriation of the cash.

BAN ON MANOJ MISHRA

Actor absent as OFDC meets to resolve dispute



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: The Odisha Film Development Corporation (OFDC) Thursday held a meeting headed by Chairman Kuna Tripathy to resolve the ongoing dispute between Manoj Mishra and film producers who have banned the actor for two years in the Odia film industry.

The meeting was attended by actor Arindam Roy, Odisha Cine Artists' Association Secretary Sritam Das, Producer Tutu

Nayak and others from the Odia film fraternity. Though the meeting was regarding Manoj Mishra and the ban put on him, he was absent in the meeting.

"Manoj Mishra is our brother. I do not want this dispute to linger any longer and affect him adversely. I spoke with the producers in the meeting and they told me that they do not harbour any ill feelings against him. They also assured me that the ban will be lifted the day he comes for a dialogue," Tripathy said.

Speaking to reporters after

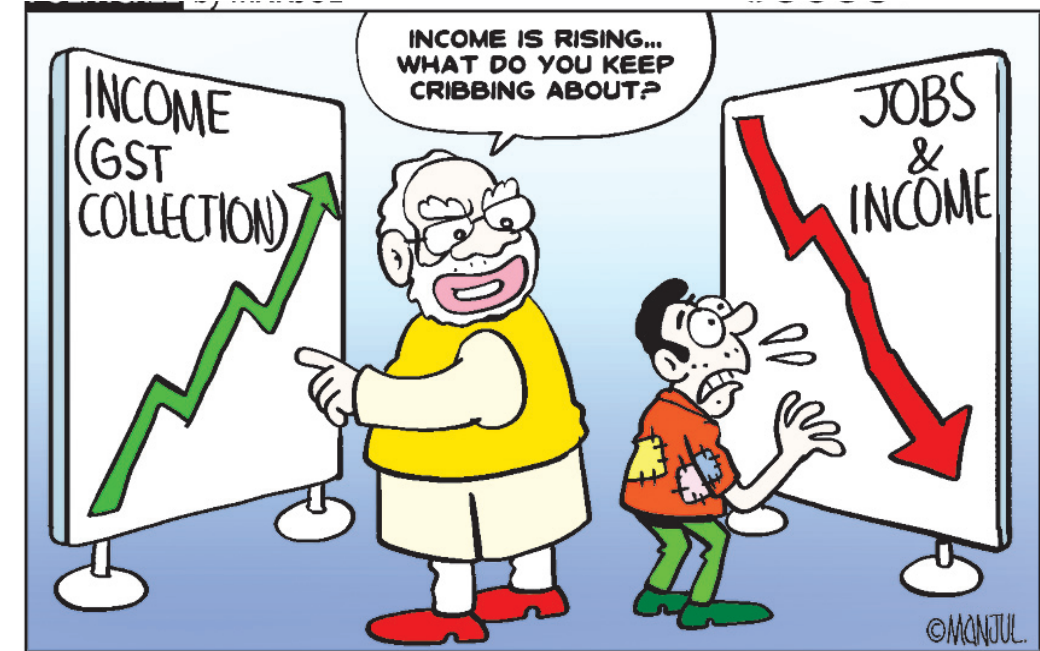
the meeting, Sritam said, "Everybody present in the meeting agreed to lift the ban on him, which is a positive sign. I would like to request Manoj Mishra to come forward and have a dialogue with them."

Oollywood industry since last week has caught itself in an infighting after actor and producer Manoj Mishra was boycotted from the Odia film industry for two years by the producers and the Utkal Cine Chambers of Commerce over the allegation that his supporters attempted to stop actor Arindam Roy's new movie 'RAM'.

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Station & Location : Bhubaneswar-4 Wheeler (in Circulating Area)
Auction Start Date & Time : 11.11.2023 at 1100 hrs.
Auction End Date & Time : 11.11.2023 at 1130 hrs.
Note : Prospective bidders are advised to visit the <https://www.ireps.gov.in> and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.
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Approx. Cost of the Work : ₹ 270.46 Lakh, EMD : ₹ 2.85,200/-, Completion Period of the Work: 06(Six) Months.
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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.
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POLITICKLE by MANJUL



20-yr jail to youth for minor rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 2: A fast track special POCOS court Thursday sentenced a youth to 20 years of imprisonment after convicting him for raping a teenage girl over a year after kidnapping her.

The convict was identified as Krishna Pradhan, 25, a native of Dharakote police limits in Ganjam district. Special POCOS Judge Ganeshwar Pati Ganeshwar Pati also slapped a penalty of ₹1 lakh on Pradhan apart from the punishment. In default, Pradhan has to undergo additional 10 months and seven days of imprisonment, the judge observed while delivering the order.

The court also directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to pay ₹4 lakh financial assistance to the 14-year-

The court also directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to pay ₹4 lakh financial assistance to the 14-year-old survivor

old survivor. The judge passed the order after recording statements of 10 witnesses and examining the girl's medical reports, special public prosecutor Mohan Singari said. The girl is staying at Utkal Balashram here as her family members refused to take her back.

According to the case diary, Krishna was a dancer and the survivor congratulated him for his performance, October 24, 2019. Later, Pradhan expressed his love for the girl to which the

latter rejected. Angered over the rejection, Pradhan made cuts on his body with a blade. He instilled fear in the girl's mind and kidnapped her to Berhampur on a motorcycle.

There he boarded a train with the girl to Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh and married her. Later, he took the girl to Surat and lived in a rented house. During this period of one year, he tortured her physically and emotionally and raped her multiple times despite her resistance. Eventually, he returned to Patapur with the girl and stayed at a house in S Gopalpur.

The girl managed to contact the Childline following which she was rescued in November, 2020. Later, she lodged a complaint at the Patapur police station. Police registered a case and arrested the accused.

Youth rapes, impregnates mentally challenged, held



PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapada, Nov 2: Police have arrested a 22-year-old youth for allegedly raping and impregnating a mentally challenged girl in Kendrapada Sadar police station area.

Police sources Thursday said the accused Manas Ranjan Samal was arrested Wednesday after the father of the victim lodged a complainant with the police. "Acting on the FIR, police registered a case against the accused u/s 376 and 506 of IPC and arrested the accused youth," said Kendrapada Sadar police station IIC Saroj Kumar Sahu. A medical check-up of the victim revealed the girl was five-month

pregnant, police sources stated. The accused was produced in a local court Wednesday and remanded to jail custody after his bail plea was rejected, the IIC added.

Vedvyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav'23 commences

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 2: Vedvyas Sangeet Nrutyotsav-2023, a five-day annual national festival of classical dance, classical vocal, folk dance and tribal/folk dance, got underway Wednesday evening here. This music and dance extravaganza remains one of the most awaited events for Rourkelaites and this is the 26th edition of the festival.

The tone was perfectly set at the huge open-air stage of Bhanja Bhavan Exhibition Ground with spectacular performances in Odissi, tribal, and Raut folk dance. The audience loved every bit of the entire evening which began with the presentation of the state anthem 'Vande Utkala Janani' by a group of young students of Bhanja Kala Kendra led by Binapani Rath.

This was followed by 'Dasavatar' by the students of Bhanja Kala Kendra, one of the scintillating performances of



Odissi choreographed by Durga Charan Ranbir and Niladri Mohanty.

The performance truly reflected the long hours of effort given by the students in learning the intricacies and subtlety of the performing art form. The grace in the movement equally

matched their facial expressions.

The next in the line was a performance by the Keshav Yadav group from Chhattisgarh. They performed Raut dance where the rhythm of dance perfectly blended with the music creating a real visual treat. Finally, it was time for the Mayurbhanj

troupe led by Jhano Murmu, which showed the extraordinary prowess of the performers showcasing difficult body movements to the tune of tribal music.

Earlier, Labour & ESI Minister Sarada Prasad Nayak, chief guest of the inaugural evening, congratulated the organisers for such a grand event and said, "The festival has found a place in the culture calendar of the state."

Rourkela will soon get a park known as Koel River Bank built at a cost of ₹34 crore on 32 acre land by next year, he informed. Nayak reiterated the commitment of the state government to promote art and culture and reassured the continued support of the government to the organisation.

The introductory speech was delivered by the general secretary Radhakrushna Mohapatra and the welcome speech was given by Ashim Behera, a former general secretary.

It is not God who made man wicked. It is man who makes himself wicked by separating himself from God.

THE MOTHER



Saving The World

China's model of economic growth has been a resounding success. With its focus on export promotion, capital investment, and technological catch-up, it has lifted some 800 million people out of poverty over the past 40 years. More recently, it has done wonders for clean-energy deployment at home, as well as driving down the costs of renewables and batteries globally. In 2023 alone, China will have installed over 150 gigawatts of solar capacity – almost half the world's total for the year.

But China's outlook is not as rosy as these figures might suggest. Its growth engine has begun to sputter, with the International Monetary Fund's latest projection putting this year's GDP gain at only 5%, a far cry from the double-digit increases of recent memory. Worse, the growth rate probably will continue to drift down toward the level of advanced economies, leading many to question whether China will ever catch up to the United States in GDP terms – even with a population that is four times larger.

Chinese carbon dioxide emissions also continue to grow, now accounting for almost one-third of the world's total. Even with the enormous push into renewables, China's electricity consumption has risen so fast as to require an "all-of-the-above" strategy that includes large amounts of coal-fired power (notwithstanding its increasingly unfavourable economics).

China's growth and emissions problems have a common source: unproductive investment. Although China is still a middle-income country with abundant high-return projects, investment in the last decade has been concentrated in the property sector. Accounting for up to 25% of GDP in the 2010s, housing investments went far beyond the needs of China's urbanising middle class. Local governments' encouragement of developers, coupled with cheap finance from state-owned banks, fueled a property bubble that sucked in resources that would have been put to better use in other economic sectors. This bubble now appears to be deflating, dragging down consumer confidence and risking a classic deleveraging spiral, similar to what the West faced after the subprime-mortgage bubble burst in 2008.

The remedy is simple: share the benefits of growth more widely. Chinese consumption represents only 40% of GDP, which is among the lowest rates the world, and well below the US. China's weak social safety net compels Chinese households to save large amounts of their income, which gets funneled directly into domestic investment by a state-directed financial system. Meanwhile, artificially low bank interest rates, rising public-sector consumption, and other policy choices deliberately tamp down household consumption and push up investment.

Removing these macroeconomic distortions would benefit not only Chinese households, but also the planet. Chinese investment has been hugely costly for the climate. China uses half of the world's steel and coal, and 60% of its cement. All those apartments, roads, and bridges require enormous amounts of energy and carbon-intensive materials.

Slowing the rate of investment in physical capital would curb some of this outside damage to the climate. Moreover, as incomes rise, Chinese consumers will shift their spending proportionally to services. Around the world, as households grow richer, they tend to spend more on health care, education, and hospitality, and less on carbon-intensive products. This iron law of development will further slow China's emissions growth, allowing it to bend the curve downward through concerted decarbonisation efforts.

China has already chalked up a big win for decarbonisation with its push toward electric vehicles. The country's EV uptake is unmatched by any other large economy. As of August, EVs and hybrids accounted for nearly 40% of the Chinese car market, up from virtually zero just before the pandemic. Now, China's state oil company predicts that Chinese oil demand will peak this year, largely because of EVs. Globally, the International Energy Agency expects oil demand to peak by 2028.

True, the push toward EVs comes with tradeoffs, putting further upward pressure on electricity demand. But EVs can play a crucial role in helping to stabilise electricity grids that are increasingly powered by renewable-energy sources. Since most cars are stationary for around 23 hours per day, EVs can serve as battery backups – provided that the necessary "smart grid" investments have been made.

Still, China will need to slow the growth of overall electricity demand in order to phase out coal and cut CO2 emissions. The rich world has witnessed a collapse of coal-fired power, as zero-marginal-cost renewables have combined with stagnant electricity demand to begin forcing dirtier options off the grid. There is plenty more work to do in the West as well, but with rapid cost declines for renewables and batteries showing no sign of slowing, one precondition for China to begin forcing coal off the grid is firmly in place. The other is for China to focus on moving away from investment-led growth and encouraging the development of domestic services.

The result will be a full decoupling of economic growth from growth in energy demand and, thus, CO2 emissions. From a climate perspective, China's next economic chapter cannot come soon enough.

Gernot Wagner is a climate economist at Columbia Business School. Conor Walsh is an assistant professor at Columbia Business School.

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DK Giri

THE QUESTION THAT ARISES IS WHETHER POLITICS IS A SECULAR BUSINESS OR A SACRED TRUST

There are verses in the Bible (Ecclesiastes 3:7-8) which prescribe war.

The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quoted the Bible while justifying the ongoing war Israel has unleashed on Hamas following the savage terrorist attack by Hamas on 7 October. It is in order that we read those verses, "There is a time to tear apart and a time to sew together. There is a time to be silent and a time to speak. There is a time to love and a time to hate. There is a time for war and a time for peace." Similar tenets can be found in other world religions that can be interpreted to legitimise war or any kind of violence. In Hinduism, the great epic Mahabharata is primarily the description and justification of war between righteous and the evil what is called 'Dharmayudha'. In Islam, it is jihad which means a holy war waged as a religious duty against the infidels.

In India, bombs exploded on 29 October at a religious convention of Jehovah Witness. Over 2000 people had gathered in a small town in Kerala to pray and listen to sermons. Quite unbeknown to them, the bombs suddenly went off killing two worshippers and injuring over 40 of them. A former Witness, who disagreed with the strictly orthodox interpretation of the Bible which makes them boycott elections, forsake any activity driven by nationalist symbols or spirit, refuse blood donation, claimed to have triggered the bombs as he thought the Witnesses were a threat to and a burden on the country. Hence, he wanted to eliminate them. A section of the press was attributing the explosion to Hamas. It is not worth speculating. Investigations are underway.

The lesson to draw from the above instances is the challenge of placing religion in public life and international relations. The next step is to establish India's perspective on religion in governance and internationalism so that we could conduct our diplomacy and articulate reactions to

FOCUS SOCIETY

RELIGION & VIOLENCE



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu quoted the Bible while justifying the ongoing war Israel has unleashed on Hamas following the savage terrorist attack by Hamas

religious violence in our country and across the world. Under Marxism, the dominant belief was to push religion completely into the backburner of governance. In European democracies, religion played a predominant role as churches controlled the state until they were separated organically from each other. In India, it was called secularism which meant for the state, equal respect to and equal distance from all religions. Whether that strategy is practicable is a matter of debate. I have written consistently that it was not. Secularism in India came to be understood as anti-religion which would not appeal to the public. People simply could not give up their religious practices or utterances.

Martin Luther King Jr. was at ease with the rhythms of the pulpit and he used Biblical language to supreme effect. As a clergyman and the son of a Baptist pastor, he was entitled to do so. But it does not always sit comfortably with others. The UK PM Tony Blair was embarrassingly messianic. President Obama's religious assertions were not so vapid, they reflected a mission. Perhaps the most infamous use of a word with religious subtext in recent years was when President Bush deployed crusade after the attack of 9/11 to describe the war on terrorism. Indian political leaders use reli-

gious metaphors in most of their speeches. The trend has become more evident in recent times.

The question that arises is whether politics is a secular business or a sacred trust. In fact, it could be both. Gandhi displayed the combination of the two in his lifetime. The only departure or rider to Gandhian approach to religion could be identifying the mediating principles when religion and politics collide. Gandhi was essentially a pluralist. While affirming his abiding faith in Hinduism, he respected, accommodated, and even embraced the practices of other religions. Remember, the multi-faith prayers in his meetings. And the famous words that define his multi-religious approach, "I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any."

Let us elaborate the critical need of mediating principles in resolving the conflict between religions and politics, which is causing sporadic violence across the world. We need not take the Marxist approach of derecognising religion. That is not practical. We also could not embrace the theocratic approach which is based on faith and multiple interpretations. Someone critically defined faith as 'the ability to believe in something you

know is not the case'. So, without verifiable evidence one could not formulate plans on the basis of faith. Look at the interpretations and divisions of perspectives in all religions. In India, Christians constituting 2.5% of population have over 200 denominations; Muslims are bitterly divided mainly between Shias and Sunnis, there are Bohras, Ahmedias and so on. Hindus again do not have a single text and have multiple Gods, several castes. So, no religion has a single perspective.

In such a context of religions, how can it ever become the base for nation building? We have seen Pakistan splitting away from India on account of religious difference; Muslims creating their own state. Why did then Pakistan split and Bangladesh emerge as a separate country? The war between Israel and Hamas has to be seen from a religious angle and countries react accordingly. It is clear from the statements made by both parties and objectives scanned from their manifestoes, that the fight is a religious one not about territory. That is dangerous and should be called out.

Then we accept the premise that religion should not be the basis of governance or statehood, but it is an inalienable part of human life. There is a provision of human right enshrined in the UN Declarations which is called 'Freedom of Religion and Belief' (Article 18 of UDHR). So, we must defend it. But whenever a religious or any belief conflicts with politics defined by the Constitution of the country, the latter should prevail. That is the mediating principle. The Constitution of a country that reflects the acceptance and aspirations of each individual citizen, each faith group, non-believers should be supreme. The political leaders and citizens must be wary of this mediating principle while conducting and managing religions.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism. ©INFA

SPECTRUM SATIRE

Topping politics atop SUVs

With the stage all set for the November Legislative Assembly elections in Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana, and with preparations for the 2004 Lok Sabha elections also in the first gear one thing is certain – sales of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) are about to skyrocket. Those who wield the keys to these road giants might just hold the keys to political power.

Size matters in Indian politics. Big and brawny SUVs command awe from the masses thronging election rallies. Many seem to believe that the ability to navigate pothole-ridden roads and the dusty countryside in these muscular four-wheel vehicles symbolise governing acumen. Ensclosed in their towering SUVs, our politicians gain a vantage view of mere mortals swirling around. Surveying the landscape like modern-day monarchs they occasionally bestow a gracious wave upon their loyal subjects. SUVs, widely viewed as symbols of ultimate victory, boast a whopping 46 per cent share in the country's passenger vehicle market. One may rightfully perceive

this surge in SUV ownership as a shining testament to the robust health of our political system.

Picture this: the campaign trail, where politicians are no longer merely campaigners but SUV commanders. Election rallies turn into parades of vehicular grandeur, where the candidates' choice of SUV is scrutinised more assiduously than their manifestoes. While gleaming, high-end SUVs may enamour a section of the janata, rugged, off-road beasts with giant wheels may signify a connection to the grassroots for the other lot. The choice of SUV speaks volumes about the identity and prowess of politicians. While speeches and promises seem to be tolerated with fistfuls of salt, instant delivery of goodies like Bapu brand currency notes and liquor pouches using over-sized SUVs are known to have made or marred political fortunes. What lies behind tinted windows of these road warriors remains a secret to most.

Only the henchmen of big vote contractors are allowed to get really close to the SUVs. Those behind the steering wheels inform these middlemen, in hushed tones, about the time and place

of the 'real' transactions where the mysterious game of trans-forming currency notes into votes is played in real earnest. Having delivered the message, the SUVs whir past the mesmerised crowds on their democratic mission. They are instantly followed by the lesser netas, packed in rattling tractor trolleys and trucks and shouting slogans till their tonsils turn sore. While attributing god-like abilities to their leaders, the sloganeers blow the wits out of the rival candidates and their teams with their fiery and fearsome battle cries. Blaring trumpets and ear-piercing drum beats seek to match the roar of the SUVs.

So as we rev up for the electoral extravaganza ahead, remember this: behind every formidable politician, there is an even more formidable SUV. And as these automotive leviathans cruise streets, roads, bumpy countryside, minor ponds, springs and rivulets, they remind us that in the complex dance of Bharatiya democracy, it's not just about casting votes; it is about casting tyre tracks that leave an indelible mark on the political landscape. While those coming from

money may afford a fleet of these automotive titans, budding politicians, fuelled by mere ambition, are prone to plunging into debt or deploying emotional blackmail to procure even second or third-hand SUVs. Their compelling histrionics to make family elders loosen their purse strings for buying these imposing automobiles often put even Bollywood stars to shame.

In the darkest of political conspiracy theories, it is even whispered that some SUVs develop a mind of their own, running over their owners' political rivals with a sinister grin (or perhaps just a malfunctioning brake pedal or a burst tyre). What else can one expect from these vehicles which are constant companions of wily politicians!

QED: political success is not about whether you are left or right; it is about whether you are riding high in your SUV or left choking on its dust. Welcome to the SUV-driven democracy, where the road to power is paved with horsepower.

The writer is a former RE (special projects), The Indian Express, New Delhi.



Rajiv Saxena

POLITICAL SUCCESS IS NOT ABOUT WHETHER YOU ARE LEFT OR RIGHT; IT IS ABOUT WHETHER YOU ARE RIDING HIGH IN YOUR SUV OR LEFT CHOKING ON ITS DUST

WISDOM CORNER

- I am not what happened to me, I am what I choose to become. CG JUNG
- No man is born into the world whose work is not born with him. IRVING STONE
- You are responsible for the predictable consequences of your actions. NOAM CHOMSKY

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1793: French social reformer and feminist Olympe de Gouges—who challenged conventional views on a number of matters, especially the role of women as citizens—was executed by guillotine.
- 1956: The film The Wizard of Oz (1939) aired on television for the first time and was seen by an estimated 45 million viewers; its repeated airings on TV helped make the movie an enduring classic.
- 1957: The Soviet Union launched Sputnik 2, which carried the dog Laika, the first living creature to be shot into space and orbit Earth.

Iconic ride

Sir, "Age may wrinkle the face but never the soul" alright but a die-hard fan of things old has to be ready for the new with a heavy heart. Close on the heels of Mumbai's iconic double-decker city busses passing into oblivion, another popular transport symbol of the city, the "kaali-peeli (black and yellow)" Premier Padmini taxis are now history. The "black and yellow" beauty ruled the streets of Mumbai for nearly six decades. It could have been more but for the fact that its production was stopped in 2001. So, availability of spare parts became a huge pain in the neck for taxi operators. Advantage of portability and easy maintenance were the assets of the iconic taxis. For the last ten years, visitors to Mumbai would often raise their eyebrows unable to comprehend that the beautiful black and white cars were few and far between.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Whither safety

Sir, The collision of two trains in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district has once again raised concerns about railway safety. According to the information so far, a passenger train travelling from Visakhapatnam to Palasa was running at a slow pace due to a lack of signal when it was struck from rear by another train travelling at a fast speed on the same route. Railway officials believe that this tragedy was caused by the error of the other train's loco-pilot, who also became a victim of the catastrophe. This catastrophe reminded us of a horrible train disaster that occurred in Odisha roughly five months ago, killing over 280 persons. On the 12th of this month, however, 23 coaches of the North-East Express derailed near Buxar, Bihar. It should not be forgotten that Indian Railways transports an estimated 1.25 billion people every day. In such a setting, tiny and large incidents cause concern in the thoughts of many individuals who rely fearlessly on railways to get around. The reports of both the Parliamentary Committee on Railways and the CAG have drawn attention to the railway safety system. Between December 2016 and March 2023, at least three such investigations reveal that the railway is unable to achieve its safety criteria.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

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

OrissaPOST
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New alert system to minimise conflicts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 2: An artificial intelligence-based, real-time alert system is being implemented in various parts of West Bengal to minimise man-elephant conflicts, Chief Wildlife Warden Debal Roy said.

Steps have been taken to keep the jumbos off rail tracks in the Dooars belt in the northern part of the state, and drive the herds away from human settlements in forest areas of Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia in the south.

As part of the detection system, with the help of AI, images of elephants are captured and automatically analysed, and based on the feedback, precautionary measures are taken to ward off straying herds from human settlements, Roy said.

"The project has already yielded success in Jhargram district," he said. Roy said a 34-km-long pilot project from Alipurduar to Falakata in the Dooars belt has been implemented with fibre optic cable laid along rail tracks to stop elephants from coming near mov-

ing trains. The real-time transmitted data will be received by the forest department App on mobile phones. The fibre optic network will be extended till Siliguri in the coming days, Roy said.

It is part of a bigger project by a Japanese agency to avert man-animal conflict in other forest areas. A number of forest officials from the beat ranger level will be connected through the app in both north and south Bengal, where reports of elephants straying into human settlements have been reported.

The forest department has also been undertaking an electric fencing project in which electric shock lasting a few seconds, not endangering their health, will make elephants stick to their routes, Roy said.

He said part of the project to facilitate clear passage of the jumbo movement will be implemented by the end of 2024. Days back, two villagers were killed when a wild elephant trampled them to death after its calf died while crossing a rivulet and fell into a sand ditch on the river bed in Jhargram district.

STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO KEEP THE JUMBOS OFF RAIL TRACKS IN THE DOOARS BELT IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE STATE, AND DRIVE THE HERDS AWAY FROM HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN FOREST AREAS OF JHARGRAM, BANKURA AND PURULIA IN THE SOUTH. DAYS BACK, TWO VILLAGERS WERE KILLED WHEN A WILD ELEPHANT TRAMPLED THEM TO DEATH AFTER ITS CALF DIED WHILE CROSSING A RIVULET AND FELL INTO A SAND DITCH ON THE RIVER BED IN JHARGRAM DISTRICT.



Onion price touches ₹100 a kg in Kolkata

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 2: Onion prices touched Rs 100 a kilogram in a number of retail markets in Kolkata on Thursday.

While the minimum price of onions in the retail markets in Kolkata is Rs 80 a kilogram, in certain markets located in the posh localities it is being sold at Rs 100 a kilogram.

The members of the West Bengal government task force, created to keep the prices of essential commodities in retail markets in check, apprehend that the prices might increase during the forthcoming festival season of Kali Puja, Diwali and Bhai Phota (Bhai Dooj), following which the prices might ease.

The task force members have started taking precautionary measures to control the prices. Accompanied by the police, they have started visiting different retail markets, asking the sellers



to maintain the price of onions within a reasonable range.

They opine that a combination of internal and external factors is resulting in the skyrocketing price of onions.

"The production of onions in West Bengal is limited and we have to depend in a major way for supply from Nasik in Maharashtra. The first problem is that the onion suppliers there are on strike. The Union government through cooperative societies is purchasing the onions directly from the farmers. But



Members of All Bengal Minority Youth Federation participate in a protest march in solidarity with Palestinians, in Kolkata, Thursday

76K apply for PM Vishwakarma Scheme

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 2: The Uttar Pradesh government has received 76,000 applications so far under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17 this year.

The scheme aims at making artisans self-reliant. The craftsmen whose applications are accepted will be provided training and a voucher of Rs 15,000 for purchase of toolkit. They will also receive assistance in getting bank loans.

Applications have been received from craftsmen engaged in 18 trades identified under the scheme, with 42,000 -- the highest number of applications-- being received from those involved in tailoring.

Applications have been received from masons (9,000), carpenters (7,000), blacksmiths (4,000), barbers (2,600), garland makers (1,500), hammer and toolkit makers (1,300), and toy makers and washermen (1,000 each).



THE SCHEME AIMS AT MAKING ARTISANS SELF-RELIANT. APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM CRAFTSMEN ENGAGED IN 18 TRADES IDENTIFIED UNDER THE SCHEME, WITH 42,000 -- THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS-- BEING RECEIVED FROM THOSE INVOLVED IN TAILORING.

Before being accepted, the applications will be vetted at three stages -- panchayat (urban local

body), district and state levels.

Beneficiaries will be given PM Vishwakarma certificate and an ID card. After a five-day basic skill training, they will be issued certificates. Selected persons will get advanced training that will last a fortnight or more. At this point, they will be given toolkits or money for toolkits, and assistance to get a bank loan of up to Rs 1 lakh.

Those who repay loans through digital transactions and get advanced training can get loans of up to Rs 2 lakh.

"The government will encourage beneficiaries to take advantage of digital transactions. They will be given a QR code and UPI ID and assisted in making digital transactions. Each beneficiary will be given an incentive of Re 1 per transaction. The government has allocated Rs 250 crore for quality certification, branding, advertising, publicity and marketing of this scheme," a government spokesperson said.

SP to contest 65 UP LS seats: Akhilesh



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 2: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav has said that if the INDIA alliance materialises in Uttar Pradesh, his party would contest 65 of the 80 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and leave 15 for the alliance partners.

"The SP is prepared to contest all 80 LS seats in UP if INDIA partnership with the Congress stays, the SP would

contest no less than 65 seats," he said at a party meeting. The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) is an opposition front announced by the leaders of 28 parties to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections against the ruling BJP.

In Uttar Pradesh, the INDIA bloc has four constituents - SP, Congress, Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) and Apna Dal (K). "The SP is fully capable of defeating the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in UP single-handedly and had there not been dishonesty in elections in the state, the SP would have formed the government after the 2022 UP Assembly polls. Therefore, the party must ensure full alertness to foil any attempts of dishonesty in the LS polls," said Yadav, according to party sources in the meeting.

Dudhwa Park to reopen from Nov 15

The park, sprawling over 490 square kilometres along the Indo-Nepal border in Lakhimpur Kheri, has not only reduced its service rates but is also introducing a helicopter service to make access more convenient for tourists

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 2: The Dudhwa National Park is all set to open once again starting November 15 and this time, it comes with a host of exciting updates and offerings.

The park, sprawling over 490 square kilometres along the Indo-Nepal border in Lakhimpur Kheri, has not only reduced its service rates but is also introducing a helicopter service to make access more convenient for tourists.

Field director of Dudhwa National Park, Lalit Verma, said, "The park will open its gates to visitors on November 15, and bookings are already underway for those interested in staying within its captivating wilderness."

One of the most significant developments is the launch of a hel-

icopter service that will connect Lucknow to Dudhwa, Chuka Tiger Reserve, and Kartaniyaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. This initiative is currently in the process of being finalised. Travelling from Lucknow to Dudhwa by road is a 240 km journey, which can take up to five hours. With the helicopter service, this journey will be reduced to less than half an hour.

Lalit Verma said, "The nearest helipad to Dudhwa is approximately seven kilometres away, and it will take approximately 20 minutes to reach Dudhwa from there. The helicopter service will operate under the guidance of the civil aviation department. Companies will be invited to participate in a tender process, and once the bidding is finalised, the service will commence at a reasonable price."

'WBPCB relaxed decibel limit due to green-cracker lobby'

Experts like Ghosh and N. Dutta, feel that WBPCB, relaxing the decibel limit from 90 to 120 has wrongly interpreted the Supreme Court order on this count

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 2: The West Bengal Pollution Control Board's decision to relax the firecracker decibel limit from 90 to 125 was initiated following pressure from the green-cracker lobby in the state, experts in the related field have claimed.

According to them, since the green-crackers formulated by CSIR-NEERI are not meeting the acoustic sound level of 90 decibels, the WBPCB changed their guide-

lines in respect of the permissible sound limit to 125 decibels.

City's acclaimed green technologist and environment activist SM Ghosh stated that continuous bursting of such green-crackers will alarmingly raise the air and noise pollution during the festive period which may badly affect not just humans but also birds and animals.

"Green-crackers use alternative chemicals such as potassium nitrate and aluminium instead of magnesium, barium, carbon and other harmful pollutants. Regular crackers also produce 160-200 decibels of sound, while that from green crackers are limited to about 100-130 decibels. Now agreeing that the green-crackers are minimising the air-pollution, we will have to keep in mind that sound pollution also comes under the bigger ambit of environment pollution," Ghosh said.



He said that the worldwide practice of technological up-gradation to control both poisonous emission and excessive noise in all health safety matters should also be adopted in India.

Experts like Ghosh and N. Dutta, feel that WBPCB, relax-

ing the decibel limit from 90 to 120 has wrongly interpreted the Supreme Court of India order on this count.

They pointed out that while the apex court of the county has fixed the upper decibel limit at 125, it has also given full liberty to

individual state governments to set lower decibel limits for minimizing the noise pollution if needed.

"We all know Kolkata is one of the noisiest cities in the world because of high human population density in limited space and excessive vehicular density on six per cent motorable roads against Kolkata's total geographical area. In normal working days the acoustic sound crosses 80 decibels in most of the city's commercial areas and also in some residential zones because of high pitch vehicular honking and emission exhaust sound apart from public whispering. Considering all the said facts, WBPCB, state environment department and National Green Tribunal took the decision earlier to maintain the fireworks sound level maximum to 90 decibels earlier," Ghosh added.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SONEPUR GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA. E-mail: eemispn@yahoo.com, Ph. No.: 06654-220516 e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION No. SNPMI/03/2023-24 No. 910 Date: 02.11.2023 TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE No. A-756: The tender invited vide BID Notification No. SNPMI/03/2023-24 vide T.O. Letter No. 857 Dated: 18.10.2023 is hereby cancelled due to administrative ground. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Sonapur OIPR-32290/11/0007/2324

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, BERHAMPUR DIVISION AT- COURT PETA, BRAHMAMPUR-760004 Phone / Fax- 0680-2281354, Mob. - +91 7653908594 Email- dfo.berhampur@odisha.gov.in Bid Identification No.307 / IF Dated 01.11.2023 TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DOUBLE STORED (INTERNAL VIGILANCE FORESTER AND FOREST GUARD QUARTERS) IN BERHAMPUR FOREST DIVISION, BERHAMPUR No. MM-247:- The Divisional Forest Officer, Brahmampur Forest Division on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in OFF-LINE mode from eligible contractors with valid licences for execution of building & other work as detailed in DTCN. 1 Nature of works : Construction of Internal Vigilance Forester Quarters (G+1) and Forest Guard Quarters (G+1) (Flying Squad) 2 No. of work : 02 Nos. Forester and 02 Nos. Forest Guard Quarters (G+1) of each 3 Tender form cost : Rs. 12,000/- (For each one) 4 Class of contractor : 'B' & 'C' class contractor 5 Availability of bid document : From Dt.02.11.2023, 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 16.11.2023, 5.00 P.M. 6 Last date and time of submission of bids in tender box of office : Dt. 16.11.2023, 05.00 P.M. 7 Date of opening of bid : Dt. 17.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M. 8 The bidders have to participate in OFF-LINE bidding only. Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Brahmampur Division OIPR-08038/11/0021/2324

obcc Odisha Bridge & Construction Corporation Limited (A Government of Odisha Undertaking under Works Department) Email:heritagediv1@obcc.in No. 1003 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date:01.11.2023 1. Name of Work : Construction of cremation platform for new crematorium building at mandalia, Sambalpur 2 Bid Identification No. : 02/OBCC/HD/2023-24 3 Bid Security Amount : Rs.33,100/- 4 Date of availability of bid document in e-Procurement Portal : From 07.11.2023 5 Last date and time of receipt of online Bid : 22.11.2023 till 5.00 PM 6 Opening Date & Time of Bid : 11.30 Hrs. of 23.11.2023 7. Bid Processing Fee (Online mode) : Rs.11,800.00 (Including GST) 8 Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Calendar Months 9 Class of Contractor : C and B Class 10. Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : General Manager, Heritage Division, OB&C Ltd., Sambalpur 11. Further details with any addendum, corrigendum, cancellation can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in. 12. The undersigned has the right to accept or reject the Notice/RFP without assigning any reason therefor. Sd/- General Manager OIPR-34171/11/0002/2324 Heritage Division, OB&C Ltd., Sambalpur



Bharatiya Kisan Union activists stage a dharna in protest against the issue of land acquisition by Prayagraj Development Authority, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh



Christian nuns offer near a grave at a cemetery on All Souls Day in Nadia, West Bengal



Artistes dressed as cartoon characters participate in a voter awareness rally ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, organised by the Association for Democratic Reforms, in Bhopal



Aam Aadmi Party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bagwant Mann during a roadshow ahead of the Assembly elections, in Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh



Children with painted faces participate in a programme at a school as part of the 'One Day 4 Children' celebrations, in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh



A potter makes earthen lamps (diya) ahead of the Diwali, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh



A farmer burns stubble (parali) to remove paddy crop residues from a field on the outskirts of Amritsar. Surge in farm fires in Punjab and Haryana lead to a spike in the pollution levels in the Delhi-NCR region

AP/PTI PHOTOS



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, right, welcomes President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, as she arrives, on the 2nd day of the UK Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit, in Bletchley, England

national

of the day quote

We are the first government which imposed restrictions on itself for the import of weapons

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

I would like to tell the Congress today, if you want to understand how development is done, they can do so by going through the works done by PM Modi and CM Khattar

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

The BJP depends on the Hindu versus Muslim binary for its political survival. In Bihar, we are rapidly fulfilling the promise of job creation and the Centre has, therefore, been compelled to imitate us by organising Rozgar melas

TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

SHORT TAKES

Death threat to Kerala CM

Thiruvananthapuram: A 12-year-old boy using his mother's phone called the state police headquarters and threatened to kill Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The police, which immediately swung into action and lodged a case, said that it was a playful and mischievous act on the part of the minor, but it was investigating all angles.

EC, education ministry ink pact

New Delhi: The Election Commission (EC) Thursday signed an MoU with the Union education ministry to take electoral literacy to classrooms across the country. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) seeks to integrate voter education and electoral literacy into the curricular framework, starting from classes 6 to 12 in all schools. In a statement, the EC said that the "from classroom to polling stations" philosophy will prepare students in schools for their first vote.

ISIS module case: 8th accused held

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has made the eighth arrest in the Pune-based ISIS module case, an official said Thursday, describing it as a "significant development" in the ongoing investigation into the activities of the proscribed terror group. The arrested person was identified as Mohammad Shahnawaz Alam, a resident of Hazaribagh area of Jharkhand.

Raj polls: BJP releases 3rd list

Jaipur: The BJP Thursday released its third list of 58 candidates for the November 25 Rajasthan assembly elections, fielding its nominees against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot. Mahendra Singh Rathore, a former chairperson of the Jodhpur Development Authority, is pitted against Gehlot in the Sardarpura assembly constituency and former MLA Ajit Singh Mehta against Pilot in Tonk.

6 held for urinating on SC youths in TN

Tirunelveli: Six persons were arrested allegedly for assaulting, stripping, and urinating on two youths from Scheduled Caste in the district, police said. The arrested, all in the 21 to 25 years age group, said to be under the influence of alcohol, accosted the youths and asked them to reveal their caste identity, said police. Upon revealing their identity, the gang of six assaulted, stripped, and urinated on the two who were returning after a bath from Thimirabarani river, said police.



Only the Centre can do it (resolve the Maratha reservation issue) but PM Modi is busy with poll campaigns
SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

GYANVAPI SURVEY COMPLETE

The Archaeological Survey of India on Thursday told a Varanasi court that it has "completed" the survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex and is granted additional time till November 17 to submit its report



DELHI POLLUTION WORSENS

HOSPITALS HAVE REPORTED A RISE IN CASES OF PROLONGED COUGHING, THROAT INFECTION, EYE IRRITATION AND NASAL DISCHARGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Delhi-NCR's air quality neared the emergency threshold Thursday, prompting an immediate ban on non-essential construction work and the closure of primary schools in the capital, as authorities acted swiftly to address the health-threatening pollution.

Curbs on construction, entry of diesel trucks

This action comes as part of Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) - the Centre's air pollution control plan that is implemented in the region during the winter season. Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 402 at 5 pm. At a meeting to review the air quality situation in Delhi-NCR, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), a statu-



tory body responsible for developing strategies to combat pollution in the region, said that the pollution levels are only "expected to increase further" owing to unfavourable meteorological

and climatic conditions. GRAP categorises actions into four stages: Stage I - 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II - 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III - 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - 'Severe Plus' (AQI >450). Stage III of GRAP involves a complete halt on construction and demolition work except for essential government projects, mining and stone crushing. It also includes a ban on the entry of light commercial vehicles registered outside Delhi and diesel-guzzling trucks, and medium and heavy goods vehicles (except those involved in essential services).

Kejriwal skips ED questioning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday did not appear before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in a case linked to the now scrapped Delhi excise policy and wrote to the Central agency demanding the "recall" of its summons to him, calling it "vague, motivated and unsustainable in law". The reply of the CM is being examined by the ED, official sources said and indicated that a fresh date for Kejriwal could be issued for a closer date as the Supreme Court has recently taken note of the prosecution's assurance that the trial in the case will be concluded within the next 6-8 months.

The central agency had summoned Kejriwal for questioning in the alleged Delhi excise policy case and to record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act PMLA. Kejriwal's party colleagues Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh are in judicial custody in the case.

The Delhi Chief Minister's Office said that in reply to the probe agency's notice, Kejriwal has alleged that the summons were "illegal, politically motivated" and aimed at preventing him from campaigning in the poll-bound states.

Calling the summons "vague, motivated and unsustainable in law", Kejriwal also claimed that the notice by the ED was sent to him for extraneous considerations at the behest of the BJP. Earlier in the day, Kejriwal travelled to Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli where he took part in a roadshow along with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

As per the PMLA, a person can ignore an ED summons three times and after that, the ED has the option of seeking a non-bailable warrant (NBW) from a court. "The said summons is not clear as to the capacity in which I am being summoned i.e. As a witness or a suspect," the Chief Minister said.

Moitra, Oppn MPs walk out of Ethics panel meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Opposition members of the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee Thursday stormed out of its meeting along with TMC MP Mahua Moitra as they accused its chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar of asking her "indecent personal" questions, a charge he said was motivated to shield the parliamentarian from queries into her "unethical conduct".

Moitra, who pleaded innocence to bribery allegations, termed Sonkar's questions to her "filthy" following the walkout while he defended the queries, saying they were related to businessman Darshan Hiranandani's affidavit in which he admitted to giving her bribes and using her parliamentary login ID to ask questions on her behalf.

Angry words and accusations flew thick and fast at the over four-hour-long meeting of the panel which might now prepare its recommendations and adopt a draft report at the next meeting, which is yet to be scheduled. It may recommend action against Moitra, sources said.

BJP MPs, who are in majority in the 15-member ethics panel, continued to hold deliberations after the walkout by five opposition lawmakers and are learnt to have taken a grim view of Moitra's angry words and uncooperative attitude, the sources said. BJP MP and panel member Aparajita Sarangi said Moitra behaved in an "angry, rude and arrogant" manner when she was asked about Hiranandani's affidavit

Opposition members, including N Uttam Kumar Reddy of the Congress, Danish Ali of the BSP and Girdhari Yadav of the JD(U), hit out at Sonkar. Reddy accused Sonkar of acting at someone's behest, an apparent jibe at the government, while Ali lashed out at indecent and unethical queries. They also objected to the alleged leak of re-



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ports submitted to the panel by Union Ministries of IT and Home about the details, including the place and timing of log-in to Moitra's parliamentary ID and her foreign travels. The committee had sought the assistance of the ministries for its inquiry. They claimed BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who is the complainant against Moitra, had already shared some of the details. The third-term BJP MP from Godda in Jharkhand Wednesday referred to "media reports" that her login ID was opened 47 times from

Hiranandani's place in Dubai and as many questions were asked in Parliament.

Defending the committee's action, Sonkar told reporters it has been tasked with conducting a comprehensive probe. But instead of cooperating, he said, Moitra turned angry along with opposition members as they used "objectionable words" and made unethical claims against him.

BJP members said it was natural for the committee chairperson to ask her about her travel details. Opposition members alleged she was also queried about whom she met during her visits and other "personal" details. Every question posed to her was relevant to the allegations against her, BJP MPs insisted.

Moitra appeared before the committee at 11 am and spoke for over an hour, pleading innocence and claiming the allegations were borne out of personal animus of advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai after she ended her personal relationship with him.

Dubey's complaint is based on details submitted by Dehadrai. Opposition members like Ali and Reddy have supported her line of argument and asserted that there is no evidence to support bribery charges against her.

MARATHA QUOTA ROW

Jarange ends fast; gives govt two months time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jalna, Nov 2: Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Thursday ended his nine-day-old indefinite fast for Maratha quota, but warned of a bigger agitation if no action was taken in two months on giving reservation benefits to the community.

His announcement at the fast site in his Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district came after 4 state ministers met him and requested him to call off the indefinite hunger strike. Speaking to reporters in Mumbai later, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde thanked Jarange for calling off the fast. "I have ended my fast, but the Maratha quota agitation continues. Relay fasts will also continue," Jarange said, and asked the government to decide by December 24. The ministers present told him to extend the deadline to January 2, but he did not budge. A delegation of retired high court judges Sandeep Shinde, M G Gaikwad and some officials also met Jarange, who reiterated his demand for reservation for Marathas across



Maharashtra. He demanded "fool proof reservation" and asked the state government to give him its assurance.

The ministerial delegation included ministers from all three ruling parties, Shiv Sena, BJP and NCP. It comprised Uday Samant, Sandipan Bhumre, Dhananjay Munde and Atul Save. Jarange said he will not "touch the door of his residence" till all Marathas get reservation benefits. He also demanded that a date be fixed to revoke offences registered against Maratha quota agitators. "Why Kunbi caste certificates can't be given to Marathas even after over 13,000 records were found?" he asked. Munde said the additional issues raised by Jarange will be taken up through an all-party proposal December 8 during the winter session of state legislature in Nagpur.



NCC cadets perform during the Keraleeyam festival, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

SC asks EC to give data of parties' funds

The electoral bonds scheme for funding political parties should not become a tool for 'legitimisation of quid pro quo' between power centres and people who are benefactors of that power, the Supreme Court said

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 2: The Supreme Court Thursday reserved its order on the challenges posed to the Electoral Bond Scheme after listening to the hearing for three days in a row.

The court has however, directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to submit the details of the funds received by all the political parties through Electoral Bonds till September 30 to the court within two weeks. A Constitution Bench headed



by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, JB Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra heard the arguments from both sides - the Centre and petitioners challenging the scheme.

After the Centre concluded its submissions the Bench asked the ECI to submit the data on the funding received through Electoral Bonds to date.

However, Advocate Amit Sharma appearing for the ECI

told the Bench that he did not have the required data. The Bench expressed its displeasure to the ECI for not maintaining the required data despite an interim order passed in April 2019 which directed the commission to maintain the data of electoral bonds received till date.

Advocate Sharma told the Bench that the ECI thought that the April 2019 order was limited to only the electoral bonds issued in relation to the 2019 Lok

Nitish blames Congress for INDIA losing steam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 2: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Thursday blamed the Congress' preoccupation with assembly polls in five states for the INDIA coalition's inability to build on the momentum it had gained in recent months.

The JD(U) leader's remarks came at a rally held here by the Communist Party of India which was evocatively themed 'Bhaajpa hataao Desh bachao' (dislodge the BJP from power, save the country).

Speaking in the presence of senior leaders such as CPI general secretary D Raja, Kumar recalled that parties opposed to the current dispensation had come together to form the new coalition.

"But, of late, there has not been much progress on that front. The Congress party seems to be more interested in the five assembly polls. In the INDIA



coalition, all of us had agreed to assign the Congress the leading role. But it appears they will respond and call the next meeting only after they are through with the ongoing elections," said Kumar who had hosted the first meeting of opposition leaders here in June which set the tone for the formation of the new coalition. Raja, who spoke after Kumar had left the venue, lauded the JD(U) supremo's initiatives that helped parties opposed to the BJP come together and build on the momentum generated by the results of the Karnataka assembly polls.

international

of the day quote

I believe there will be nothing more transformative to the futures of our children and grandchildren than technological advances like AI. We owe it to them to ensure AI develops in a safe and responsible way, gripping the risks it poses early enough in the process

RISHI SUNAK | UK PM

Nepal wants to develop cordial and friendly relations not only with India and China but also with all other countries in the world, including the US, on the basis of mutual benefits

NARAYAN PRAKASH SAUD | NEPAL FOREIGN MINISTER

We will have to pay 2.5 billion rupees as loans and interest next year. So we have set aside a considerable proportion from the budget for repayment of loans

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | SRI LANKA PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Cops accuse lunch host of murder

Canberra: The host of a weekend family lunch at her Australian country home was charged with murdering three guests with poisonous mushrooms and attempting to murder a fourth who was left fighting for life, police said Thursday. Police arrested Erin Patterson, 49, earlier on Thursday at her home in Leongatha in Victoria state where her former husband's parents Gail and Don Patterson, both aged 70, Gail Patterson's sister Heather Wilkinson, 66, and her husband Ian Wilkinson, 68, were invited for lunch on July 29. All four guests were hospitalized the next day and only Ian Wilkinson survived.

Indian student on life support

Washington: P Varun Raj, the 24-year-old Indian student who was stabbed at a fitness centre in the US state of Indiana over the weekend, continues to be in a critical condition and is on a life support, sources familiar with his ongoing treatment said. P Varun Raj, a Computer Science student, was stabbed with a knife into the temple by the assailant Jordan Andrade, 24, at the public gym on Sunday morning for reasons that the authorities are still investigating.

Quake hits Indonesia

Jakarta: An earthquake slightly damaged houses and other buildings in southeastern Indonesia early Thursday, causing some panic but no apparent casualties. The quake was strongly felt in several cities and villages and caused some to panic, said Daryono, who heads the Earthquake and Tsunami Center at Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency.

Democracy under threat around the world: Watchdog

REUTERS

Stockholm, Nov 2: Half of the world's countries are suffering democratic decline, ranging from flawed elections to curtailed rights including freedoms of expression and assembly, an intergovernmental watchdog group said Thursday.

In its annual report, the Stockholm-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) said 2022 was the sixth consecutive year in which countries with net declines outnumbered those with net advances, the longest consecutive fall since its records

Diplomacy to pause fighting and ease siege intensifies

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rafah (Gaza Strip), Nov 2: Israeli troops advanced toward Gaza City Thursday, as the Palestinian death toll rose above 9,000. With no end in sight after weeks of heavy fighting, US and Arab mediators intensified efforts to ease Israel's siege of the Hamas-ruled enclave and called for at least a brief halt to the hostilities in order to aid civilians. US President Joe Biden suggested a humanitarian "pause" the day before, as an apparent agreement among the US, Egypt, Israel and Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, allowed hundreds of Palestinians with foreign passports and dozens of wounded to leave Gaza for the first time. Dozens more left on Thursday. Israel did not immediately re-



territory's 2.3 million people from their homes, while food, water and fuel run low. Israeli troops pushed into Gaza in larger

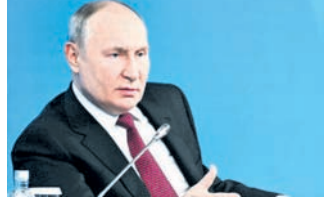


Palestinians loot a truck with humanitarian aid near the Rafah border crossing in the Gaza Strip, Thursday

spond to Biden's remarks, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has previously ruled out a cease-fire. Arab countries, including those allied with the US and at peace with Israel, have expressed mounting unease with the war. Jordan recalled its ambassador from Israel and told Israel's envoy to remain out of the country until there's a halt to the war and the "humanitarian catastrophe" it is causing. More than 3,700 Palestinian children have been killed in 25 days of fighting, and bombings have driven more than half the

numbers over the weekend after three weeks of heavy airstrikes that have demolished entire neighbourhoods. The war, the fifth and by far deadliest in Gaza, began when Hamas launched a bloody October 7 rampage into Israel, killing hundreds of men, women and children. Some 240 were taken captive. The US has pledged unwavering support for Israel as it seeks to end Hamas' rule over Gaza and crush its military capabilities, even as the two allies seem to have no clear plan for what would come next.

Putin signs bill revoking ratification of nuclear treaty



REUTERS

Moscow, Nov 2: President Vladimir Putin Thursday signed off on a law revoking Russia's ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a move he says is designed to bring Moscow into line with the United States. Russia says that it will not resume testing unless Washington does and that its de-ratification does not change its nuclear posture or the way it shares information about its nuclear activities. Washington had signed but never ratified the 1996 treaty and President Putin had said he wanted Russia, which had signed

and ratified the pact, to adopt the same stance on the treaty as the United States. Some Western arms control experts are concerned that Russia may be inching towards a test to intimidate and evoke fear amid the Ukraine war, an idea Russian officials have played down. Vladimir Putin said on Oct. 5 that he was not ready to say whether or not Russia should resume nuclear testing after calls from some Russian security experts and lawmakers to test a nuclear bomb as a warning to the West. Such a move, if it did happen, could usher in a new era of big power nuclear testing, Western experts fear. President Putin's approval of the de-ratification law was posted on a government website which said the decision took immediate effect. Both houses of Russia's parliament have already approved the step. Post-Soviet Russia has never carried out a nuclear test.



began in 1975. "In short, democracy is still in trouble, stagnant at best,

The think-tank said the deterioration of democratic guard-rails such as elections, parliaments and independent courts had led to problems in safeguarding the rule of law and holding politicians to account

and declining in many places," IDEA Secretary-General Kevin



India is the most important country for the US and their relationship is the most defining relationship of the century
ERIC GARCETTI | US AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

LI KEQIANG CREMATED

Former Chinese premier Li Keqiang, who died of a sudden heart attack October 27, was cremated Thursday in Beijing after President Xi Jinping and other senior ruling Communist Party leaders paid homage



Biden picks Campbell as Deputy Secretary of State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 2: President Joe Biden has nominated his current Deputy Assistant Kurt Campbell to be the Deputy Secretary of State as part of his administration's efforts to develop a foreign policy focussed more on Asia as well as the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

Campbell, 66, currently serves as Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs on the National Security Council since January 20, 2021. A top advisor on Asian affairs, Campbell's nomination is being seen as an elevation of one of the architects of the Biden administration's efforts to increase focus on Asia. The veteran American diplomat was previously founding chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Asia Group, a strategic advisory and capital management group, the White House said in a statement Wednesday.

"Among the other positions he has held during his distinguished career, Campbell served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Affairs, White House Fellow at the Treasury Department, and as Director of the Democracy Office at the National Security Council during the Clinton



Administration," it added. Campbell's nomination would need the Senate's approval, and if confirmed, he would replace Wendy Sherman, who retired earlier this year. Campbell is considered to have played an important role in helping the Biden administration vis-a-vis QUAD, comprising the United States, Australia, India and Japan along with his focus on Asia matters, amidst China's aggressive actions in the region.

Pak general elections to be held February 8



The election date is expected to end the uncertainty in the country as political parties will now move into election mode

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 2: Pakistan's general elections will be held February 8, it was announced Thursday after the election commission officials met President Arif Alvi at the directives of the Supreme Court, ending uncertainty over the much-awaited polls in the cash-strapped country.

The new date was announced by the President House in a statement following a meeting between the top election officials and President Alvi, hours after the election commission lawyer told the apex court that elections will be held on February 11. On the order of the Supreme Court, Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja along with Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan and four members of the electoral body met President Alvi to discuss the general elections date, the president's office said.

"The President heard about the progress the ECP has made in delimitation and for elections. After a detailed discussion the meeting unanimously agreed to hold General Elections in the country on 8th February 2024," it added. Earlier, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) told the Supreme Court about February 11 date during a hearing of a set of petitions calling for holding elections within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly and the provincial legislatures. Last month, the ECP announced that elections would be held in January 2024 but stopped short of announcing a

date. A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan and Justice Athar Minallah took up the pleas moved by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and others. The ECP had announced earlier that 54 days were needed to hold elections after the completion of the delimitation exercise by November 30, and the apex court bench asked the lawyer of the election body to clearly state the stance on the holding of elections in the country. In response, Sajel Swati said that the final list of constituencies will be published on December 5 and all other arrangements including the drawing of constituencies will be completed by January 29. "Hence we decided that elections will be held on Feb 11, which is the second Sunday," the lawyer said. Later, the chief justice in his order stated that the election date given would have to be implemented. "SC wants polls to be held without any arguments," the top judge said. The ECP announcement coincides with the review talks between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the release of USD 710 million second tranche of a USD 3 billion loan to the cash-strapped country to stabilise its debt-ridden economy. The clarity on the election date will strengthen the hands of the Ministry of Finance during the negotiations which started on Thursday, although the IMF has not explicitly attached any such condition.

Storm Ciaran whips Western Europe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Nov 2: Recording-breaking winds in France and across much of Western Europe left at least five people dead and injured several others as Storm Ciaran swept through the continent overnight and into Thursday, plunging vast numbers into darkness, devastating homes and causing travel mayhem in several countries.

Winds of more than 190 kph (118 mph) slammed the northern tip of France's Atlantic coast, uprooting trees and blowing out windows.

A truck driver was killed when his vehicle was hit by a tree in northern France's inland Aisne region, Transport Minister Clement Beaune said. Another person has been badly injured at a university in the northern city of Roubaix, and 15 other people were hurt around western and northern France, authorities announced. Seven of the injured were emergency workers.

Dutch airline KLM scrapped all flights leaving and arriving in the Netherlands from the early afternoon until the end of the day, citing the high sustained wind speeds and powerful gusts expected in the country.

Huge waves slammed into French ports and shorelines, as wind flattened street signs and ripped off roofing. Felled trees blocked roads around western France, according to Associated Press reporters and images on French media and social networks.

About 1.2 million French households were left without electricity on Thursday, electrical utility Enedis said in a statement. That includes about half of the homes in Brittany, the Atlantic peninsula hardest hit by Ciaran. Enedis said it would deploy 3,000 workers to restore power when conditions allowed.



A soldier holds a rifle during a presentation as part of Britain's King Charles III visit at the Mtongwe Naval Base in Mombasa, Kenya, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

business

of the day quote

Standards for goods and services should help in promoting global trade and not act as non-tariff barriers

SUNIL BARTHWAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

There's a very clear mandate from MeitY on how games should be released in India, and I think, that is the most positive outcome of the (PUBG) suspension. Other games are also looking at this and saying, India has a proper structure

ANIRUDH PANDITA | FOUNDER, LOCO

With most consumers planning to shop online, it's imperative that we stay vigilant and prioritise security. The digital landscape offers fantastic deals and convenience, but it also presents potential risks

RITESH CHOPRA | DIRECTOR, NORTON INDA

Q2 RESULTS

Adani Enterprises dips; Power shines

Mumbai: Adani Enterprises Ltd Thursday reported a 50.5 per cent fall in its net profit in the quarter that ended on September 30 to Rs 227.82 crore, as compared to Rs 460.94 crore in the same quarter last year. As compared to Rs 673.93 crore in the previous quarter, the dip in net profit was sharper at 66.1 per cent. The company's revenue from operations was down 41 per cent to Rs 22,517.33 crore during the quarter as compared to Rs 38,175.23 crore last year. Adani Power's consolidated profit jumped over nine fold to Rs 6,594 crore in the September quarter of this year compared to the year ago, due higher one-time income, and deferred tax assets.

Godrej Properties profit surges 22%

New Delhi: Realty firm Godrej Properties Thursday reported a 22 per cent increase in its consolidated profit to Rs 66.80 crore in the second quarter of this fiscal year on higher revenue. Its net profit stood at Rs 54.96 crore in the year-ago period. Total income rose to Rs 605.11 crore during the July-September period of 2023-24 financial year from Rs 369.20 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Tata Motors sees 4th straight qtr rise

New Delhi: Tata Motors Thursday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,783 crore for the September quarter, riding on robust performance by its British arm Jaguar Land Rover. This is the fourth successive quarter of positive results for the auto major. The Mumbai-based company had posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 1,004 crore in the July-September period last fiscal. Total consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 1,05,128 crore, as compared with Rs 79,611 crore in the year-ago period, Tata Motors said.

Dabur profit up 5%

New Delhi: Homegrown FMCG major Dabur India Ltd Thursday reported a 5 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 507.04 crore in the second quarter ended September 30. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 490.86 crore in the July-September quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. Its revenue from operations was at Rs 3,203.84 crore in the quarter under review as against Rs 2,986.49 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.



India is a safe haven, and the good thing about India is it has a stable government

MARK MOBIUS | FOUNDER, MOBIUS CAPITAL PARTNERS

FCI SELLS 2.87L TONNE WHEAT

State-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) sold 2.87 lakh tonne of wheat from the buffer stock to bulk consumers in the 19th round of e-auction. FCI has been selling wheat and rice from the Central pool to bulk buyers like flour millers and small traders under the Open Market Sale Scheme since June 28 through a weekly e-auction in order to control the retail prices of these key commodities



Samsung continues to rule smartphone market

SAMSUNG LEADING SMARTPHONE SHIPMENTS FOR FOUR QUARTERS IN A ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Smart devices maker Samsung continued to lead the smartphone market in the country for the fourth consecutive quarter in July-September with a 17.2 per cent market share, market research firm Counterpoint said Wednesday.

Shipments of iPhone maker Apple crossed 2.5 million units in the reported quarter thereby registering an all-time high in a quarter, according to the Counterpoint's Monthly India Smartphone Tracker report.

"Samsung maintained its leading position for the fourth consecutive quarter with a 17.2 per

cent share driven by the success of its A and M series. Aggressive push in offline through better incentives and price parity across channels, focus on the fastest growing premium segment and innovation through the latest ultra-premium offerings are some of the strategies helping Samsung keep ahead of the competition," Counterpoint Research, research analyst, Shubham Singh said.

Samsung was closely followed by Xiaomi, with its 16.6 per cent market share driven by strong demand for the Redmi 12 series and offline expansion.

Vivo came third with 15.9 per cent market share. The brand was the fastest growing brand among



APPLE SHIPMENTS SOAR TO ALL-TIME HIGH
SAMSUNG WAS FOLLOWED BY XIAOMI, VIVO

the top five, registering 11% YoY growth.

During the reported quarter, the share of 5G smartphone shipments reached 53 per cent. The

main growth driver was OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) pushing multiple launches in the Rs 10,000-15,000 segment with 5G penetration reaching 35 per cent in this segment, compared to 7 per cent in the year ago period.

The research firm said that the trend of ultra-premiumization, which are smartphones above Rs 45,000, is steadily gaining momentum with each passing quarter.

In the reported quarter, the ultra-premium segment grew 44 per cent year-on-year (YoY) basis driven by the availability of easy financing options, implementation of various incentive programs in the market,

and growing consumer aspirations for the latest technology.

According to the report, Apple recorded 34 per cent YoY growth.

"Third quarter, 2023 also marked the best quarter for Apple's shipments in the country, which crossed 2.5 million units. Premiumization has started in the world's second-largest smartphone market and Apple has again got the timing right to benefit from this trend through its devices and financing offers," the report said.

OnePlus was the top brand in the affordable premium segment, in Rs 30,000-Rs 45,000 price segment, with a 29 per cent share driven by strong sales of the OnePlus 11R, the report said.

RBI set to receive ₹2K notes by post

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: People can send their Rs 2,000 banknotes to specified regional offices of the Reserve Bank through the insured post for credit in their bank accounts.

Besides, the RBI is offering TLR (Triple Lock Receipt) form to people for a deposit of Rs 2,000 banknotes in their bank account.

"We encourage customers to send Rs 2,000 notes through the insured post to the RBI for direct credit in their account in the most seamless and secure manner. This (will) save them from the hassle of travelling to specified branches and standing in queue," RBI Regional Director Rohit P Das said.

On May 19, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination bank notes from circulation. More than 97 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes in circulation as of May 19, 2023, have since been returned.

Adani takes full control of QBML

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 2: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group has acquired the remaining 51 per cent stake in Quintillion Business Media Pvt Ltd to take full control of the Raghav Bahl-curated digital business news platform for an undisclosed amount.

Adani Enterprises Ltd, the ports-to-energy conglomerate's flagship firm, in a stock exchange filing, said its subsidiary AMG Media Networks Ltd "has executed a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of remaining 51 per cent stake in QBML", the firm which operates the business and financial news digital media platform BQ Prime.

It, however, did not disclose the financial details of the transaction.

Quintillion was Adani's first bet in the Indian news industry before taking about 65 per cent stake in broadcaster NDTV in December last year.

AMG Media had previously bought a 49 per cent stake in Quintillion Business Media Ltd (QBML) for Rs 47.84 crore.

Indices snap 2-day slide as US Fed keeps status quo on rates

STOCKS RALLIED AS INVESTORS REACTED TO THE POSSIBLE PEAK OF US FEDERAL RESERVE'S HISTORIC TIGHTENING CAMPAIGN

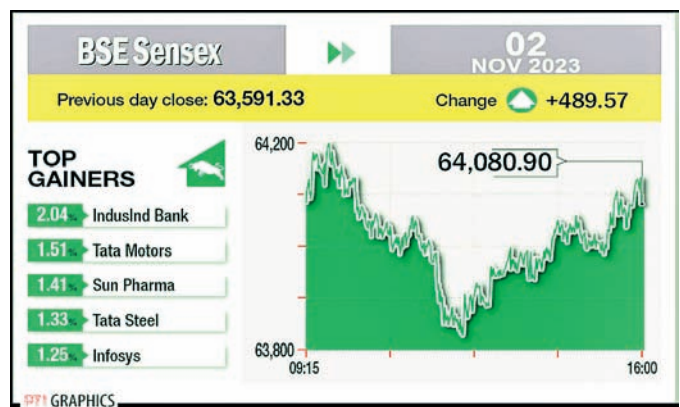
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: Benchmark Sensex rebounded by nearly 490 points while broader Nifty closed above the 19,100 level Thursday, snapping their two days of losses following a rally in global markets after the US Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 489.57 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at 64,080.90. During the day, it rallied 611.31 points or 0.96 per cent to 64,202.64. The broader Nifty climbed 144.10 points or 0.76 per cent to 19,133.25. In the previous two sessions, Nifty dropped nearly 152 points while Sensex shed 521 points.

Among the Sensex firms, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Sun Pharma, Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, HCL Technologies and Axis Bank were the biggest gainers.

Tech Mahindra and Bajaj



Finance were the laggards.

"A pause with dovish commentary from the Fed led to a rebound in the global and domestic market sentiment. Further, the fall in US bond yields indicates a prolonged pause in interest rate hikes," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.20 per cent and smallcap gained 0.97 per cent. All the indices ended with gains, with realty rallying 2.55 per cent, telecommunication jumping 2.42 per cent, metal (1.68 per cent), power (1.60 per cent), capital goods (1.15 per cent),

consumer durables (1.13 per cent), commodities (1.10 per cent).

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

The rupee rose by 6 paise to close at 83.22 against the US dollar in a range-bound trade.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.67 per cent to \$86.12 a barrel.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) were net sellers in the capital markets as they sold shares worth Rs 1,261.19 crore, according to exchange data.

National Drinking Water Conference by ICC



BHUBANESWAR: National Drinking Water Summit by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) was inaugurated at Bhubaneswar Thursday. This two-day conclave is presided by ICC Expert Committee on Water whose Chairman Ankur Patni, in his welcome address mentioned the good progress made to enhance drinking water availability across the country and Odisha through positive policy interventions by various govt stakeholders and implementation with active contribution by the private sector. He added that we need to learn from our experiences and further improve future implementations with increased collaboration between government and private sector. Soumendra Priyadarshi, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, joined as guest of honour in this programme. It was also graced by BMC commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange, IAS, as Chief Guest who thanked ICC and emphasised the need to ensure that optimum quality of water reaches every doorstep. He also said that we should ensure that there is equitable availability of high quality water. ICC State Council Chairman JB Pany delivered the vote of thanks. Malaya Pradhan, Deputy Director of Factories and Boilers (Safety), Ashok Kumar Mishra, CGM (Environment) also graced the occasion. ICC Regional Head JP Pal and other members were present in the event.

BoB holds Vigilance Awareness Week

SAMBALPUR: The regional office of Bank of Baroda in Sambalpur observed the Vigilance Awareness Week-2023 in a programme held under the chairmanship of the regional head Surendra Gond Thursday. Dhanupali PS IIC Ranjan Biswal, Town PS IIC Bulu Swain, Assistant Professor of Hirakud Degree College (Commerce) Siddhant Mohanty had joined as the guests. An oath was taken by all the employees of the bank to root out corruption. In the end, additional regional head Kedarnath Behera gave the vote of thanks. Kamal of baroda Deputy Regional Head Kedarnath Behera and other staff members also attended the programme.

Philanthropists more generous this year, Nadar leads

IN PAST FIVE YEARS, THE NUMBER OF DONORS CONTRIBUTING OVER ₹100CR SURGED FROM TWO TO 14, AND THOSE DONATING OVER ₹50CR ROSE FROM FIVE TO 24

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 2: Shiv Nadar, founder-chairman of HCL Technologies, has emerged as India's most generous businessman, donating Rs 2,042 crore in the last financial year. That's an average of Rs 5.6 crore per day and 76 per cent more than the amount he donated in FY22, when he gave away upwards of Rs 3 crore per day on average.

Overall, 119 Indian business tycoons donated Rs 5 crore or more in FY23, together contributing Rs 8,445 crore for philanthropic activities. That was more than 59 per cent of what they donated in FY22, according to the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023.

Azim Premji of Wipro followed Nadar, having donated Rs 1,774 crore during the year. That was 267 per cent more than FY22.

Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries occupied the third position, having given Rs 376 crore in philanthropy, largely channelled through the Reliance Foundation, where the focus is predominantly on education and health care.

Nikhil Kamath of Zerodha emerged as the youngest philanthropist on the list. At 12th place, the Kamath brothers donated Rs 110 crore in the year.



The list further showed that Rohini Nilekani of Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies led among women, donating Rs 170 crore. She ranked 10th on the list. She was followed by Anu Aga (40th rank) and Leena Gandhi (41st) with donations worth Rs 23 crore each. Seven women philanthropists were featured in the list. A total of 14 Indians, up from six last year, donated over Rs 100 crore. The list further showed that 24 Indians, up from 12 last year, donated over Rs 50 crore, and 47 donated over

This is a record year for big philanthropy. Given India's potential for wealth creation and assuming a continued commitment to philanthropy by billionaires, I anticipate these figures to potentially double over the next five years

ANAS RAHMAN JUNAID | MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESEARCHER, HURUN INDIA.

Rs 20 crore. Education emerged as the most favoured cause for donation, with 62 philanthropists cumulatively donating Rs 1,547 crore towards it. This was followed by Rs 1,345 crore in the arts, culture and heritage, and Rs 633 crore in health care.

With 39 individuals, Mumbai proved to be the philanthropy capital of India, followed by New

Delhi (19) and Bangalore (13). Other philanthropists featured in the top 10 included Kumar Mangalam Birla, Gautam Adani, the Bajaj family, Anil Agarwal, Nandan Nilekani, and Cyrus and Adar Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India.

Around Rs 75 crore of the contribution by Kumar Mangalam and family came from their personal funds. For the Bajaj family, this marks their first appearance on the list. Anil Agarwal and family's donations, meanwhile, increased 46 per cent over FY22.

The total donations in India, however, were lower than Rs 11,984 crore in FY20 and Rs 14,755 crore in FY21.

The cumulative corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending of BSE 200 companies has grown from Rs 5,561 crore in FY15 to Rs 12,271 crore in FY23.

ACTION REPLAY!

DREAM SHOW ON LOOP AS INDIA REPEAT 2023 ASIA CUP FINAL ACT CRUSHING SRI LANKA BY 302 RUNS TO ENTER SEMIFINALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 2: The Indian bowlers showed an action replay of the 2023 Asia Cup final, where they reduced Sri Lanka to 12/6 before bowling them out for 50. This time it was 14/6 at one stage, but the same opposition were eventually bundled out for 55.

Mohammed Shami (5/18) and Mohammed Siraj (3/16) intimidated and scarred an under-prepared Sri Lanka with a fast bowling exhibition for the ages as India demolished the islanders by a record 302 runs to enter the World Cup semifinals here Thursday.

On a Wankhede track that looked placid, India piled on a mammoth 357/8. Sri Lanka crumbled under lights for a paltry 55 in 19.4 overs to ensure an eighth semifinal appearance for India at the global event. This was India's biggest victory by margin of runs in the 48-year history of the tournament.

With 14 points from seven games, Rohit Sharma's army will like to finish with an all-win record as they now face South Africa in Kolkata Nov 5 and the Netherlands in Bangalore, Nov 12.

Shami took his second five-wicket haul in this edition and with 45 scalps, became India's highest wicket-taker in World Cup history.

Siraj was equally incisive and Jasprit Bumrah (1/8) formidable as ever in a picture-perfect bowling performance. As the Indian juggernaut rolls on, every performance seems like a dream played on a loop.



Exactly 45 days ago, Siraj had dismantled the Sri Lankans for 50 in the Asia Cup final and it seemed that the effect of that game has stayed in the minds of the Lankans, who became the second team after Bangladesh to get eliminated from the 10-team event.

It was fascinating to see how the same 22 yards looked so different when the two teams batted. Virat Kohli (88, 94b, 11x4) missed out on a world record-equalling 49th ODI hundred with the maestro Sachin Tendulkar himself in attendance, but batting seemed like the easiest job on the planet.

Shubman Gill (92, 92b, 11x4, 2x6) and Shreyas Iyer (82, 56b, 3x4, 6x6) pulverised the opposition even as they missed out on personal landmarks. But the capacity Wankhede crowd wouldn't have believed what came in next.

On that placid track, the ball started jaggling around as Siraj and Shami didn't give any Lankan batters any respite during the 19 odd overs that they bowled. Shami and Siraj showed quality of pitch doesn't matter, quality of players do.

Earlier, Kohli enjoyed a 189-run second wicket stand with his heir apparent Gill, who looked a million dollars during his stay. After a mini-slump, it was Iyer,

who feasted against a mediocre bowling attack on a placid track, to get some form back before the match against South Africa at Eden Gardens, which will be played on a spicier track.

Starting briskly with a flurry of sixes, Iyer's innings was instrumental in taking India past 350 after they lost both Gill and Kohli in quick succession.

Dilshan Madushanka (5/80), who bowled a peach of a delivery to skipper Rohit Sharma (4) first up, also denied all three Indian batters what would have been deserving hundreds. He used the slower cutters and bouncers to good effect during his second and third spells.

Kohli and Gill weathered the storm adequately well to get through the initial overs and piled up a mountain of runs to put India on top. In the sixth over, Dushmantha Chameera almost had Kohli's wicket but could not hold on to a return catch on his follow-through which saw the ball popping out.

Beginning with a risk-free approach, Kohli and Gill stitched India's highest-ever partnership in this World Cup for any wicket, putting on 189 runs from just 179 balls for the second wicket.

Kohli looked primed to equal the legendary Tendulkar's tally

Mohammed Shami, with 45 scalps in 14 innings, became India's highest wicket-taker in World Cup history. He surpassed Zaheer Khan (44 in 23 innings) and Javagal Srinath (44 in 33 innings)

The margin of victory – in terms of runs – was the 2nd highest in World Cup history after Australia's 309 run win over the Netherlands earlier in the edition. It was also the fourth highest win-margin in ODIs, where the record belongs to India – 317-run win over Sri Lanka earlier this year



of most ODI centuries but met with a soft end, lobbing a straight catch to cover. The ball stopped on him as he was committed on the drive but it hit the upper part of the blade to balloon up.

BRIEF SCORES: India 357/8 (Shubman Gill 92, Virat Kohli 88, Shreyas Iyer 82; Dilshan Madushanka 5/80) beat Sri Lanka 55 (Kasun Rajitha 14, Maheesh Theekshana 12 n o; Mohammed Shami 5/18, Mohammed Siraj 3/16) by 302 runs.

Afghanistan favourites against the Netherlands



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Lucknow, Nov 2: They have outlived tags like 'minnows' and 'giant-killers' with their lion-hearted performances but spirited Afghanistan's quest to reach the next level starts in earnest against an equally inspirational Netherlands in a World Cup match between the two teams here Friday.

Starting as favourites on a tricky Ekana Stadium surface, with a quality spin attack at their disposal, Afghanistan (6 points) will not only look to secure two points against the Dutch (4 points) but also aim to win big and improve the net run-rate in their bid to remain relevant in the race to semifinal.

The manner in which Afghanistan's top order batted to outclass sides like Pakistan and Sri Lanka, it showed that the victory against defending champions England wasn't a mere flash in the pan.

Just like Kenya, with a bit of luck, made it to the semifinals of the 2003 World Cup, Afghans will hope that the rub of the green goes their way, beginning with the Dutch test.

After this game, they take Australia (Nov 7) and South Africa (Nov 10) in what would determine whether they have it in them to go to the next level – the World Cup semifinals. One defeat and it all comes crashing down.

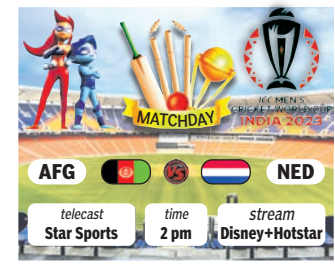
The 'Orange Army', too have been a surprise package of this World Cup, securing upset wins over South Africa and Bangladesh. It has put them ahead of Bangladesh and bottom-rung England in the 10-team standings to keep a slender semifinal qualification hopes alive.

On six points each, Pakistan and Afghanistan are two other teams outside top-four who are very much in the mix of a last-four berth. But Afghanistan with a much-inferior net run-rate (-0.718) compared to Pakistan (-0.024) would mean that the Hashmatullah Shahidi-led side have a lot of catching up to do.

The bowling has always been their strength but their biggest turnaround this time has been their batting which has clicked as a collective unit, something that came to fore in their clinical chases of 283 (vs Pakistan) and 242 (Sri Lanka) in their last two outings.

The likes of Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Ur Rahman will be tempted to bowl at the Ekana stadium that is known for its slow conditions. Teams batting second have won nine of 12 ODI matches played at the Ekana, including two in the World Cup.

The Edwards-led Netherlands bowled out Bangladesh for 142 to secure yet another upset in the World Cup during their last match at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. They now have the four points in the pocket, same as Sri Lanka. But the Netherlands' NRR is much inferior and they face the improbable scenario to post wins over Afghanistan, England (Nov 8) and India (Nov 12) to keep their hopes alive.



ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY HOCKEY

India eves blank Korea, to meet them in semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 2: Already through to the semifinals, India thrashed South Korea 5-0 with Salima Tete scoring a brace in their last league match to maintain their unbeaten run and top the table in the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Thursday.

Salima scored in the sixth and 36th minutes while Navneet Kaur struck from a penalty corner – also in the 36th minute. Vandana Katariya (49th) and Neha (60th) were the other goal scorers for India.

With 15 points from an all-win league campaign, India topped the six-team table and face South Korea again in the semifinals Saturday. South Korea ended at fourth spot with seven points.

Under the tournament format, the top team after the round-robin league plays the fourth-placed finisher in the semifinals while the teams finishing second and third face each other.

China ended at second spot after beating Japan 1-0 in another match of the day. Both China and Japan ended on same nine points. The two sides could not be separated on the basis of goal difference (+9 each) and

goals scored (12 each). China finished second on the basis of head-to-head result. China and Japan face again in the semifinals Saturday.

India were leading 1-0 at the half time but the double strike – one field goal each from Salima and Navneet – in the 36th minute changed the complexion of the game.

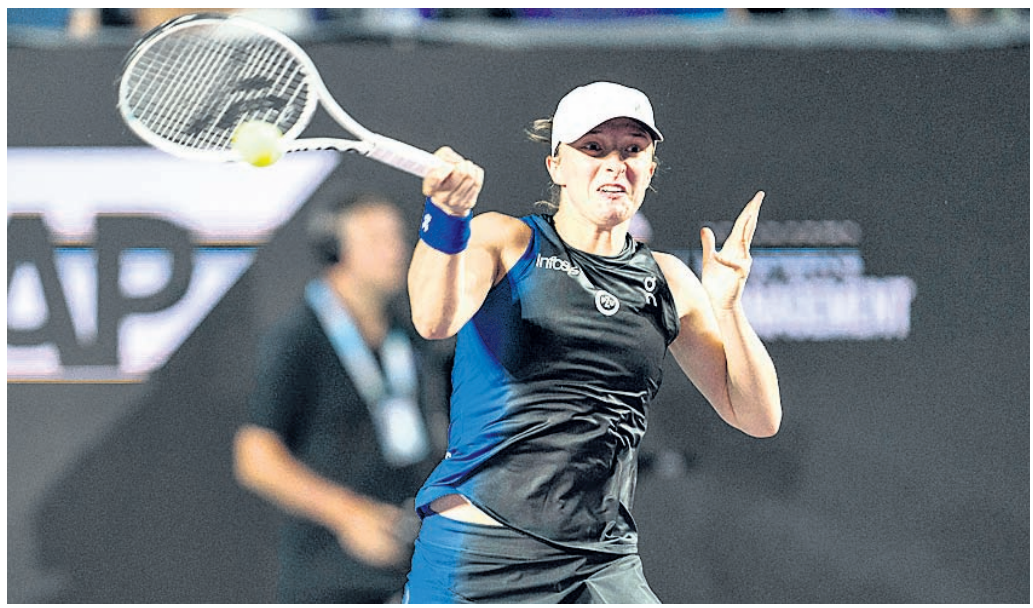
Veteran Vandana struck a field goal in the 49th minute to take the match beyond South Korea's reach. Neha then completed the tally in the final minute through a field effort. India earned four penalty corners in the match from which they converted one. South Korea earned just one PC in the entire match.

India have had a dominating run in the tournament so far, having beaten Thailand (7-1), Malaysia (5-0), China (2-1) and Japan (2-1). The last match between India and South Korea – during the Hangzhou Asian Games – had ended in a 1-1 draw.

India lost 0-4 to China in the semifinals of the Asian Games but defeated Japan 2-1 to clinch the bronze medal. India have won the Asian Champions Trophy only once – in 2016 – while they were runners-up twice, in 2013 and 2018.



Swiatek sails past Gauff at WTA Finals



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cancun (Mexico), Nov 2: US Open champion Coco Gauff double-faulted four times in a row while serving for the second set and wound up losing 0-6, 5-7 to three-time major title winner Iga Swiatek in round-robin action at the WTA Finals on a windy Wednesday night.

Gauff led 4-2 in the second set, then was a game away from forcing a third while serving at 5-4. The teenager from Florida went up 15-love, then dropped

the game with the series of double-faults.

After the fourth, Gauff spiked her racket, then picked it up and tossed it at her bench as she walked to the sideline. That was part of a stretch in which the American lost nine points in a row and 12 of the last 13 against Swiatek, who improved to 9-1 against Gauff.

Earlier, Gauff chucked her racket after one errant backhand return late in the lopsided opening set. That was the 22nd 6-0 set won in 2023 by Swiatek,

a 22-year-old from Poland who was ranked No.1 for nearly 1 1/2 years until Aryna Sabalenka overtook her after the US Open in September.

Swiatek is the first woman to win at least 20 sets by a 6-0 score in two consecutive seasons since Steffi Graf and Monica Seles both did it in 1991-92. Swiatek improved to 2-0 in round-robin play, while Gauff dropped to 1-1. Both will play their last group matches Friday.

Djokovic on course

Novak Djokovic stayed on track for the year-end No.1 ranking for a record eighth time by beating Tomas Martin Etcheverry 6-3, 6-2 in the second round of the Paris Masters Wednesday. Djokovic was competing in his first singles match since mid-September when he played for Serbia in the group stage of the Davis Cup.

Djokovic won five straight games to take the opening set with an ace and lead 2-0 in the second set. The Serbian player only faced one break point that he saved with a forehand cross-court winner at 1-0 in the second set.

A six-time champion at the Paris Masters, Djokovic increased his lead to 5-1 before converting his third match point when Etcheverry netted a backhand.

Djokovic can widen the gap with No.2 Carlos Alcaraz in the race for the year-end top spot after the Spaniard lost to qualifier Roman Safiullin Tuesday. Alcaraz is the only player who can overtake Djokovic after Daniil Medvedev dropped out of contention after he was beaten by Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 6-7(4-7), 7-6(7-2) earlier Wednesday.

Djokovic holds the men's record with seven year-end No.1 finishes, one more than Pete Sampras. Women's tennis great Steffi Graf holds the overall record with eight.

Srabani secures 200m gold in 37th National Games



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 2: Experienced Odisha sprinter Srabani Nanda fought hard to clinch gold in the women's 200m on the penultimate day of the track and field events of the 37th National Games Thursday at the Athletics Stadium in Bambolim.

In an exciting 200m duel, Srabani spoiled Kamaljeet Kaur of Punjab and Jyothi Yarraji from Andhra Pradesh party by crossing the finish line at 23.69 seconds. "I'm too happy to have won gold in the season ending competition," Srabani said. The Odisha's sprinter will take a break before starting her preparation for the next season. "My next focus will be indoor competition," she added.

GUJRATHI TAKES SOLE LEAD, VAISHALI JOINS LEADERS' PACK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Isle of Man (UK), Nov 2: Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi produced a classic game to beat Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan, and jumped to sole lead after seven rounds of the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament here Thursday.

With the win, Gujrathi took his tally to 5.5 points and it looks more impressive as he started with a first round defeat in the event. The Indian has also made a strong claim for the two remaining slots in the next Candidates tournament that will decide the challenger for the World Championship.

Arjun Erigaisi remained in joint second spot with 5 points

after missing out on a great opportunity to defeat Russian Andrey Esipenko.

In the women's event, R Vaishali regained joint lead defeating Bibisara Assaubayeva of Kazakhstan. Vaishali, sister of R Praggnanandhaa, took her tally to 5.5 points out of a possible seven and now shares the lead with Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine and Antoaneta Stefanova of Bulgaria.

Vidit was in his elements with black pieces and he conducted a brilliant middle game. It was a tactical skirmish where Sindarov failed to evaluate the position correctly. Sindarov lost two minor pieces for a rook after the dust subsided and the resulting



Vidit Santosh Gujrathi

endgame was hopeless. Vidit wrapped the match in 57 moves.

ing for a draw but the Kazakh girl blundered into an absolute pin that cost her a piece in the endgame. The rest was just a matter of routine technique and Vaishali did not falter.

Amongst other Indians in the fray in the open section, R Praggnanandhaa scored his first victory in the event over compatriot Abhijeet Gupta. After six draws in a row, Praggnanandhaa was relieved after the victory, a result of Gupta's blunder under time pressure.

In the women's section, GMD Harika almost bowed out of contention after losing to Irina Bulmaga of Romania and B Savitha Shri met her nemesis in Dinara Wagner of Germany.