



DEFENDING SINGLEHOOD

Actor Tabu says one can deal with loneliness, but it's challenging to manage with a wrong partner

LEISURE P2



ASIA'S 1ST GAY GAMES

The Gay Games Hong Kong kicks off for the first time in Asia despite opposition from anti-LGBTQ lawmakers

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA FACE PROTEAS

An invincible India take on a red-hot South Africa Sunday in a battle of equals in the World Cup

SPORTS P11



AIR WARRIORS: Two Indian Air Force aircraft fly past the Tambaram Air Force Station as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Flying Instructors School in Chennai, Saturday

Nepal quake toll 157

AGENCIES

Kathmandu, Nov 4: At least 157 people were killed and over 160 others injured when a powerful 6.4 magnitude earthquake, the worst since 2015, struck Nepal and destroyed hundreds of houses in the Himalayan nation's remote mountainous region, officials said Saturday. According to National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre, the earthquake with an epicentre in Jajarkot district, about 500km west of Kathmandu, was recorded at 11:47pm Friday.

Friday's earthquake is the most devastating one in Nepal since the 2015 earthquake that killed around 9,000 people and injured more than 22,000 others.

The impact of the quake was felt in Kathmandu and surrounding districts, and even in New Delhi in neighbouring India.

Nepal Army has mobilised its personnel to carry out rescue work in the quake-hit areas, according to Nepal Army spokesperson Krishna Prasad Bhandari.

Rescue workers Saturday dug through the rubble of collapsed houses to find survivors.

The Jajarkot and Rukum districts of western Nepal were worst hit by the quake.

As many as 157 people were

TREMOR TIMELINE

- JULY 29, 1980:** At least 200 died and thousands hurt after a strong quake hit Indo-Nepal border
- AUGUST 20, 1988:** A 6.9 magnitude quake hit Kathmandu killing at least 1,000 people
- APRIL 25, 2015:** 9,000 people lost lives to a 7.8 magnitude quake - the worst in Nepal's history
- MAY 12, 2015:** One among about two dozen aftershocks of the April 25 earthquake killed over 200 people
- NOV 10, 2022:** At least 6 people perished after a 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit Nepal
- NOV 3, 2023:** A 5.6 magnitude quake claimed over 150 lives

Ministry decided to allocate Rs 5.5 million to the disaster relief funds of both Jajarkot and Rukum West districts, aiming to support the rescue and relief operations for the affected individuals.

India has also offered to extend all possible assistance to Nepal. In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he is deeply saddened by the loss of lives and damage due to the earthquake in Nepal. "India stands in solidarity with the people of Nepal and is ready to extend all possible assistance," he said.

The US embassy in Kathmandu said the United States stands ready to assist Nepal as it "recovers from this terrible earthquake".

China has also offered to provide emergency materials worth NPR 100 million to the affected districts of Jajarkot and Rukum, officials said.

Around 159 aftershocks have been recorded following last night's earthquake, the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre reported.

Many people spent the night in the open because of fear of further quakes and damage to their houses. People were seen digging through the rubble to rescue trapped people from the remains of collapsed buildings, according to posts on social media.

Slapgate: Filmmaker Tutu Nayak arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Odia filmmaker Sanjay Nayak alias Tutu Nayak was arrested Saturday for allegedly assaulting a female journalist, police said. The arrest came after a complaint was filed by the victim at Kharvel Nagar police station here, Friday.

"I was shocked and my mike and mobile phone fell off my hands. As I sat down to gather the items, he hit me on my back. I don't know why he behaved like this," she alleged.

Based on the complaint, a case was filed under IPC Sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 294 (use of obscene words in public place) and 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty).

"The accused has been arrested after police found that a prima facie case is made against him. We have recorded the statement of the journalist. All legal procedures will be followed," said Rajanikant Mishra, the inspector-in-charge of Kharvel Nagar police station.

Ratnabhandar laser scanning Nov 28

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 4: In order to ascertain the structural stability of Srimandir Ratnabhandar, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will carry out laser scanning of the outer wall of the temple treasury November 28, Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Ranjan Das said here, Saturday.

Addressing media after the

managing committee meeting of the 12th century shrine at Niladri Bhakta Niwas here, Das said ASI had sought the temple body's permission for carrying out laser scanning of Ratnabhandar.

"The temple panel today (Saturday) deliberated upon the issue at length and allowed the ASI to go ahead with its plan," he said.

Since there is huge footfall in Puri for the holy month of Kartika, ASI has been asked to

start the laser scanning after Kartika month, the SJTA chief said. Das said, the ASI will also carry out laser scanning of temples of subsidiary deities on the shrine complex.

"If required, laser scanning of the inner temple treasury may also be allowed. The temple and district administrations will provide necessary cooperation to the ASI for smooth completion of laser scanning," Das mentioned.

Leopard kills woman

5-YR-OLD BOY RESCUED WHILE BEING DRAGGED BY THE ANIMAL



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Oct 4: Panic gripped Siliariabaha village under Dharambandha police limits in Nuapada district after a woman was killed in leopard attack Friday evening. A 5-year-old boy in neighbouring Kodapali village also had a close shave as villagers rescued him while being dragged by the animal into the jungle, Saturday evening.

The boy sustained grievous injuries and was admitted to Nuapada headquarters

hospital. The incident comes five days after the death of a 7-year-old boy in leopard attack at Katingpani village, October 30 evening. The deceased was identified as Rameshwari Majhi, 50, a former ward member of Siliariabaha. The boy was identified as Nilakantha Dharua, son of Balakram Dharua.

Rameshwari's death in leopard attack is second such incident in a week. The incident occurred when the woman had gone to attend nature's call to the village end, Friday evening. Family members grew apprehensive and searched for her, but to no avail. Some villagers spotted the leopard consuming the flesh of the woman at the village end. They tried to drive away the animal but the leopard retaliated following which the villagers ran back to the village. However, later they were able to drive it away. Forest department has started a probe into the incident.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Don't you dare stop me, I'm from the 'Sab Changa Si' land, which is ruled by the world's greatest leader

1 dies in chopper mishap

Kochi/New Delhi: A sailor of Indian Navy died Saturday in an accident involving a helicopter at a naval base in Kochi. Yogendra Singh, a leading airman, died when the helicopter met with the accident while taxiing at INS Garuda of Southern Naval Command. "A Chetak helicopter met with an accident during maintenance taxi checks at INS Garuda, Kochi, resulting in the loss of life of one ground crew," the Navy said.

Winter Session from Nov 21

Bhubaneswar: The Winter Session of Odisha Assembly will start November 21, as per a notification issued Saturday. The session which will continue till December 30 will have 30 business days. At least 23 days will be allocated for Official Business and six days for Private Members' Business (Bills and Resolutions), revealed the provisional calendar. The House will remain closed November 27 and December 25.

More rest, new mantra for pilots

IndiGo pilot's sudden death sets alarm bells ringing in civil aviation sector; DGCA proposes continuous 48 hours rest a week and reduced duty period of 10 hours for pilots operating flights at night

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: India's air safety watchdog - Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) - has proposed reduced night working hours and more rest for pilots, among measures to address rising complaints of pilot fatigue, as per new draft regulations.

In recent times, the issue of fatigue among pilots has come to the fore, especially after the death of an IndiGo pilot, who had collapsed at the boarding gate of Nagpur airport. IndiGo, however, has said that the pilot who died had a 27-hour break before duty and was in good health.

The DGCA has proposed a weekly rest of continuous 48 hours, and reduced flight duty period of 10 hours for pilots operating flights at night.

Besides, the heads of operations of scheduled airlines have to submit a quarterly report to the DGCA on the



fatigue reports received and action taken during the preceding quarter, as per the draft norms.

"An operator shall ensure that the minimum weekly rest of continuous 48 hours including two local nights is provided such that there shall never be more than 168 hours between the end of one weekly rest period and the start of the next," it said. Currently, the rest period is 36 hours.

Changes have been proposed to the Civil Aviation Requirement pertaining to 'Duty Period, Flight Duty Period,

Flight Time Limitations and Prescribed Rest Periods - Flight crew Engaged in Scheduled Air Transport Operations' and comments have been sought on the draft till December 4.

India is one of the fastest growing civil aviation markets and the requirement for pilots will be on the rise as airlines have placed huge aircraft orders as part of plans to expand their operations.

The proposal from DGCA comes more than two months after it decided to conduct a review of pilot fatigue data collected during spot checks and surveillance of airlines. Such rule changes are usually circulated for comments from airlines, pilots and other stakeholders before being finalised.

While pilot fatigue is a global problem, India is at the heart of the matter as the world's fastest-growing aviation market, with hundreds of planes on order by IndiGo and Air India.

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leisure



RUSSELL BRAND ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ON SET

Actor-comedian Russell Brand, who was accused of four sexual assault allegations earlier this year, was hit with another lawsuit by a woman alleging that in 2010, he exposed himself to her on the set of *Arthur* before sexually assaulting her in a bathroom.

ALEC BALDWIN HINTS AT HAVING VASECTOMY

Hollywood star Alec Baldwin, who shares eight children with wife Hilaria, as well as 28-year-old Ireland Baldwin with first wife Kim Basinger, says his big family is complete. "Are you done?" the host asked on SiriusXM's *Let's Talk Off Camera* with Kelly Ripa, to which he replied, "I'm done. I'm done."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
An enterprising day. The stars say you may visit an ancient place. A museum, perhaps, or a historical place. But your health may require some attention, says Ganesh. If so, it's a good idea to spend an evening by yourself.

TAURUS
It will be a thought-provoking day with tidbits of success and rewards scattered here and there, says Ganesh. If you feel you got the short end of the stick, do not let it affect your morale. Every sunrise comes with a different promise and today is not the end of the world. There are strong indications that planetary movements will change things for the better from tomorrow, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you will have the required intentions and courage to propose your sweetheart. You will be dressed to kill, or rather to marry. You will make a favourable impression with the way you'll look tonight. You will be an open book to your future partner, which is likely to work in your favour.

CANCER
Though your thoughts and views may be quite radical, you will be largely restrained while acting on them, portends Ganesh. You will have no problems starting a new venture or love affair, and taking the required action to keep them afloat.

LEO
'One small drop at a time fills an ocean over time'. Remember this lesson, says Ganesh, and continue to concentrate your efforts on your goal without losing heart. There may be times when you sit back and think twice, but know that all it takes is a small effort and that is what shall enable you to reach the zenith.

VIRGO
Meticulous as you are, hopefully you won't grudge the extra quota of domestic responsibilities that comes your way today. But then, since the work is in a more than satisfactory state, some added issues on the home front won't hurt either. Your subordinates will offer the best of their support, and you shall feel contented at the end of the day.

LIBRA
You will be very unpredictable today, and your mercurial tendencies will remain till the evening. After that, be prepared to get a pleasant surprise. Just bear in mind that being prepared is always a good idea, since you never know when the perfect moment arrives. But everything considered, all Ganesh has to say is, "Stop worrying and start living!"

SCORPIO
Today, the sugar and spice of work and home are delicately balanced to bring out the best in you, says Ganesh. You may spend a lot of your time brainstorming at your desk. In the evening, however, mental exercises will be substituted for pleasure and fun with friends and family.

SAGITTARIUS
Time to open up that can of confetti at the workplace today. Success never smelled sweeter. But you may bleed on the purchase front, says Ganesh, as in your revelry, you may just unknowingly end up shelling an extra buck or two on ordinary items.

CAPRICORN
The day will be a maze of complex problems and situations, but you will find your way out in no time, says Ganesh. At work, you may love to play the leader, but that makes you accountable, for both the good as well as the poor performance of your subordinates. In all likelihood, you may be held responsible for the poor performance of your team members.

AQUARIUS
Today is an auspicious day, particularly for astrologers, healers, spiritual guides and gurus, says Ganesh. One will think twice before challenging you today. Greed is not a word in your dictionary, and today, you are even more inspired to work for humanity.

PISCES
The focus is firmly on career advancement today. Business deals, which have been a long time in the making, will finally come through. Those pursuing a profession can expect pay rises or promotions. Make sure your skills are up to the mark to be able to tackle your new responsibilities satisfactorily, says Ganesh.

Kajol reveals her life's turning point

Mumbai: As her film *Udhaar Ki Zindagi* completed 29 years in the industry, actress Kajol revealed that it was a turning point in her career and life.

Kajol took to X and wrote: "Today marks 29 years of *Udhaar ki Zindagi* and no it didn't have any short forms for its name. It kind of just passed by in most people's memories, but for me it will always be a turning point in my career and my life."

She added: "I was burnt out and I had given too much of myself away into work... and I had to do something to change that. I took an executive decision at the great old age of 20 and decided that I deserve a break and a better pace of work. So I went

ahead and did exactly that." She added: "I did films that did not need every bit of my soul, learnt how to pace myself better and more importantly to fill my own bucket just so that I had more to give. I'm still practising that very thing today. So yes, this day needs a post. And a reminder for me and everyone else in this super fast-paced world."

The movie also stars Jeetendra and Moushumi Chatterjee. IANS



HRITHIK TO APPEAR IN *TIGER 3*

Mumbai: Hrithik Roshan's *War* character Kabir will be seen along with Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan in the upcoming film *Tiger 3* starring Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi.

A source said: "Aditya Chopra has set the wheels in motion for a full convergence of super spies within the YRF Spy Universe! No one knows this but along with Pathaan, Kabir too will make his appearance in *Tiger 3*!"

"A handful of people know how

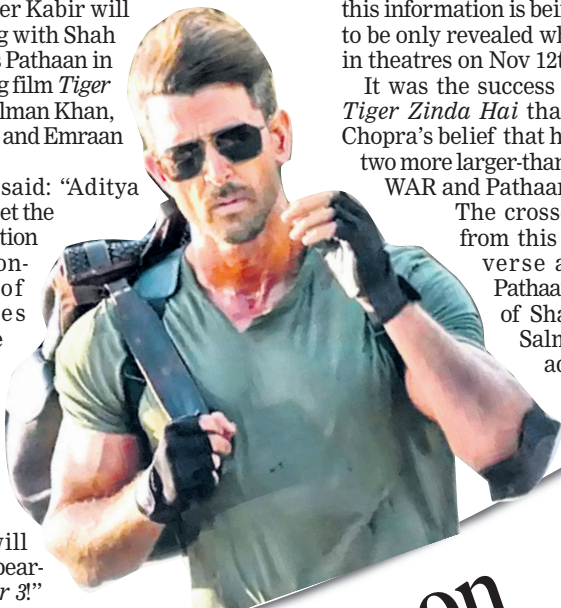
Adi is visualising Kabir in *Tiger 3* and this information is being kept under wraps to be only revealed when *Tiger 3* releases in theatres on Nov 12th!"

It was the success of *Ek Tha Tiger & Tiger Zinda Hai* that cemented Aditya Chopra's belief that he could incorporate two more larger-than-life agents Kabir in *WAR* and Pathaan into his plans.

The crossover of characters from this ambitious spy universe also started with Pathaan, which saw a union of Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan in an adrenaline pump-

ing action sequence that celebrated the superstardom of these two cinematic icons.

Tiger 3 is directed by Manesh Sharma and will release in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu November 12. IANS



Tabu opens up on her 'single' status

Mumbai: Tabu celebrated her 52nd birthday Saturday. Even though the actress is 50+, she still doesn't need to play just the side role of a mother to the male lead. She was seen as an antagonist who would go to any extent to avenge the death of her son in *Drishyam 2*, and played a dual role in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, both characters widely different from each other.

In her personal life too, Tabu is no damsel in distress but happily single with a huge circle of friends and family members. On being asked about her single status, Tabu makes it clear that she would have been unfair to herself had she given all of it up - her acting career and her wish to travel the world - for a man.

Making it clear that 'single' was not a bad word, she says, "Your happiness comes from many things unconnected with the status of your relationship. On your own, you can deal with your aloneness, but with a wrong partner, what could follow would be worse than any kind of loneliness."

Tabu will next be seen in a film titled *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha*, and *The Crew* with Kriti Sanon and Kareena Kapoor. She was recently seen in Netflix film, *Khufiya*. AGENCIES



Mannara Chopra

BIGG BOSS-17

Nepotism at its peak!

Mumbai: It seems that contestant Mannara Chopra, paternal cousin of Priyanka Chopra, has a one up among all the other contestants when it comes to the host Salman Khan or even Bigg Boss himself as her mistakes and behaviour is overlooked in the 17th edition of the 'tu tu-main main' show.

In a house, where everyone has their claws out for the jugular of each other, Mannara appears to be furiously hunting for unused four letter slime as no matter what she has used so far has got under the skin of the makers and even the show host Salman Khan.

For example, the most recent is the fight between her and Khanzaadi, where she tagged the latter a 'b**ch' and also a comment about molestation, which did not go down well with many housemates.

In the *Weekend Ka Vaar* episode, Salman too seemed to brush the matter under the carpet by saying that she apologised. On the contrary, when others use cuss words in a fight, the matter is taken up seriously either with Bigg Boss and or the Dabang star himself.

But social media users have something to share about the recent incident.

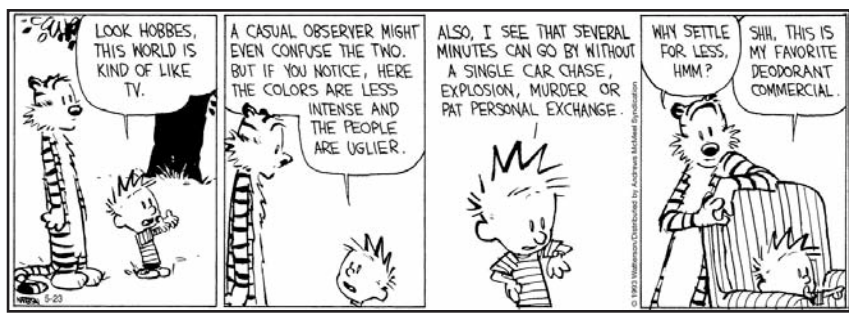
One wrote: "The way Salman literally ignored what Mannara said about Khanzaadi and only blamed Khanzaadi into all the mess Nepotism at its peak just like last year."

Another said: "She has been doing this since Day-1!! For god sake, #MannaraChopra can not take someone's firm tone!! But she'll abuse, go everyone's character, say something so disgusting & still not feel GUILTY!!" IANS

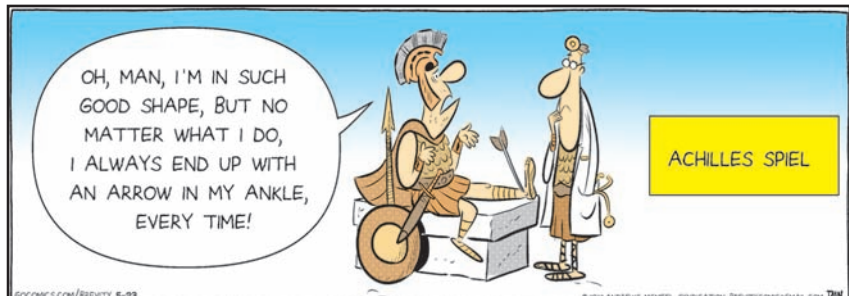
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

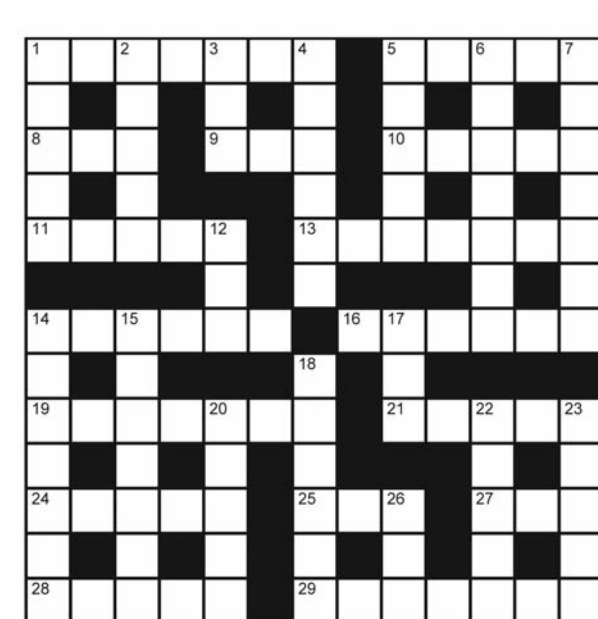


BREVITY



FUN post

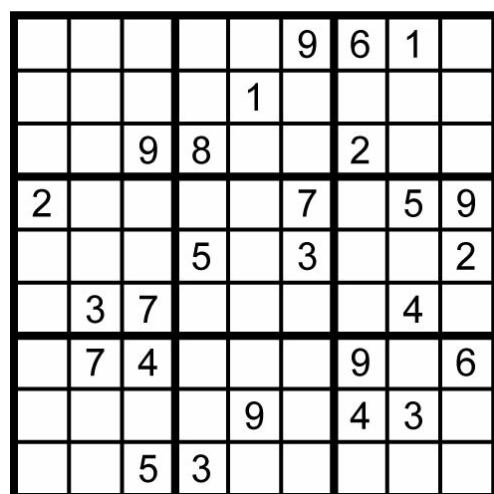
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Give the sack
 - 5 French clergymen
 - 8 Mantel piece
 - 9 Butterfly catcher
 - 10 Balkan capital
 - 11 Literary genre
 - 13 Ill will
 - 14 Frequent fliers? (3,3)
 - 16 Bit of bait
 - 19 Island music genre
 - 21 Whale food
 - 24 Vast chasm
 - 25 Beseech
 - 27 Bubble source
 - 28 Teatime treat
 - 29 Great circle
 - 6 Muggins
 - 7 Songbird
 - 12 Logger's tool
 - 14 Wild dog relatives
 - 15 Fox hunter's cry (5-2)
 - 17 Variety
 - 18 Gloomy
 - 20 Cheap jewelry
 - 22 Bullion unit
 - 23 Madagascap primate
 - 26 Bearded antelope

SUDOKU

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

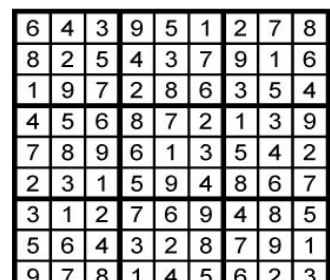


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

SETTING STAGE

Plot allocation process for Balyatra in progress at Barabati Palace in Cuttack, Saturday



Pandian for expeditious rebuilding of Puri mutts

22 ANCIENT MUTTS, WELL CONNECTED WITH DIFFERENT RITUALS OF SRIMANDIR, WERE DEMOLISHED FOR THE HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROJECT



■ THE 5T CHAIRMAN ASKED AUTHORITIES TO PLANT VARIOUS INDIGENOUS SHRUBS ASSOCIATED WITH JAGANNATH CULTURE IN THE LANDSCAPING WORK OF THE PROJECT

■ PANDIAN STRESSED ON PROPER ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARKING OF TWO-WHEELERS AND TIMELY COMPLETION OF ELECTRICITY WORKS

■ HE ALSO REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS FACILITIES FOR DEVOTEES, 'PRAMOD UDYAN' AND 'SHREE SETU'

AGENCIES

Puri, Nov 4: 5T Chairman VK Pandian has directed the authorities concerned to ensure the re-construction of the centuries-old mutts in the Holy city that were demolished for the Heritage Corridor Project within time.

Pandian, who visited Srimandir at around 4.30 am Saturday, asked officials to complete the ongoing restoration project by December 15.

For the purpose, he asked the officials to work in collaboration with the stakeholders and give importance to the history and traditions, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

Twenty-two ancient mutts,

well connected with different rituals of the 12th-century shine, were demolished for the Heritage Corridor Project, officials said.

Pandian also asked the authorities to plant various indigenous trees and shrubs associated with Jagannath Culture in the landscaping work of the project. He also suggested the installation of small replicas of the temple along the shrine's boundary wall.

He directed that the roads connecting the temple be kept free from encroachment.

Besides, he also stressed on proper arrangements for parking of two-wheelers, shifting of various materials from near the temple's boundary wall and

timely completion of electricity works.

Pandian reviewed the progress of construction of various facilities for devotees, the 'Pramod Udyan' and 'Shree Setu'.

Jajpur MLA Pranab Prakash Das, District Collector Samarth Verma, SP Kanwar Vishal Singh and officials of project executing agencies were present during the review.

Pandian had also visited the temple around the same time last Saturday.

On Friday, Shree Jagannath Temple Management Committee chairman Dibyasingha Deb said that the project will be open to the public January 17.



GOLDEN YEARS: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy lights the ceremonial lamp ahead of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the leading Odia daily at the newspapers' head office in Bhubaneswar, Saturday, as Chief Executive of the publications, Adyasha Satpathy, and Odisha Sahitya Akademi President Hrushikesh Mallick look on

Focus on ground reporting: Satpathy

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Access to quick information on social media, or messaging apps, has made journalists excessively rely on the medium, dampening the spirit of pursuing news on the ground, said Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy.

Addressing journalists at a special function ahead of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Odisha's leading daily - Dharitri - at the newspaper's headquarters here Saturday, Satpathy said such dependence on secondary sources creates a vacuum in the domain of ground reporting, resulting in misinterpretations and lack of clarity in news reports.

"Only ground reporting does justice to news stories," he said.

The event was attended by the publication's city, district and block correspondents and stringers from the nook and



corner of Odisha.

In her address, Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy said, "In today's busy life, reporters tend to miss out vital aspects of a news story in search of a bigger lead. Later, these smaller developments become an integral part of the larger picture," she said, adding,

"The observational skills of a reporter must be concerned with every arc of the story."

Odisha Sahitya Akademi President Hrushikesh Mallick said journalism at Dharitri has maintained its pristine nature to this date as it has been able to uphold its critical editorial policy.

"The strict adherence to immaculate Odia vocabulary has been able to create a strong reader base for the newspaper across Odisha," he said.

Several correspondents of the newspaper were feted for their

exemplary works in the field of investigative journalism, at the programme.

The programme was followed by a cultural event involving song, acting and dance performances by staffers of the publication.

The event was a precursor to the 50th anniversary celebrations of Dharitri November 24; which will also mark the conduct of the Dharitri Youth Conclave.

Court's judgment cannot be overruled by legislature: CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Asserting that the judgment of a court cannot be 'directly overruled', Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud Saturday said the legislature can exercise the option of enacting a fresh law to 'cure' deficiency in a judicial order.

Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit here, Chandrachud said judges don't think about how society will re-

spond when they decide cases, unlike the different arms of the government.

"There is a dividing line between what the legislature can do and what the legislature can't do when there is a judgment of the court. If a judgment decides a particular issue and it points out a deficiency in law, it is always open for the legislature to enact a fresh law to cure the deficiency," the CJI said. "What the legislature cannot do is to say that we think

the judgment is wrong and therefore we overrule the judgment. The judgment of a court cannot be directly overruled by the legislature," he asserted.

"The fact that judges are not elected is not our deficiency but our strength," he observed. He said the Supreme Court of India is the people's court which is meant to understand the grievances of people and what it does is very different from what the Supreme Court of the United States does.

Silpi Sahoo conferred with Prativa Patnaik Woman Achiever award



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Capital Foundation Society Saturday conferred Silpi Sahoo, chairperson of SAI International Education Group, with Prativa Patnaik Woman Achiever Award in recognition of her remarkable achievements in school administration and profound contribution to transformative education.

Sahoo received the honour from Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud during an award ceremony organized as part of the Capital Foundation Annual Lecture & Awards 2023, celebrating the 109th birth

anniversary of Justice VR Krishna Iyer, here.

After receiving the award, Sahoo expressed her gratitude to Capital Foundation for honoring her and dedicated the award to 'SAI family'.

"I'm extremely humbled and grateful to Capital Foundation society for giving me this award. This award is dedicated to all my SAI family members, the entire staff, teachers and my parents," she said, adding, "My SAI family members have been working relentlessly and tirelessly to provide the best quality education to our students and this award actually inspired and mo-

tivated me more towards working... giving the best education and making our children future ready and global leaders of the world," Dr Sahoo said.

The Capital Foundation Society, a non-governmental non-profit, is a vital platform for informed dialogue, enabling discussions on critical issues. It has hosted over 300 events since 1987, drawing diverse professionals, fostering debates on national and global topics. Parliamentarians, civil servants, judges, educationists, diplomats, journalists, scholars, and professionals converge to exchange ideas, reflecting the diverse perspectives and interests that make the Capital Foundation an unparalleled public forum.

The Capital Foundation also awarded several other luminaries namely Shuchin Bajaj, Founder & Director of Ujala Cygnus Hospitals, Anu Aga, Ex Rajya Sabha Member & Social Worker, Justice Akil Kureshi, retired chief justice of the high courts of Rajasthan and Tripura, CBK Mohanty among many others. The foundation awarded Chief Justice DY Chandrachud with the Justice VR Krishna Iyer award for his contribution to judicial innovation.

After receiving the award, the Chief Justice spoke on the contribution of Justice VR Krishna Iyer to the legal fraternity. The Chief Justice highlighted various decisions taken by the courts to bring reforms in the justice delivery system in the country.




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State hospitals to be mosquito free: Secy



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: Keeping in view the rise in vector-borne disease cases like Dengue and Malaria, the state government Saturday directed all chief district medical and public health officers (CMDs and PHOs) to make the hospital premises mosquito free.

Desert coolers and other water reservoirs used in the premises are to be cleaned regularly and oil sprinkling will be conducted by outsourcing agencies engaged under the Nirmal scheme.

Further, for source reduction, focus will be given to eliminating water retention inside the premises and preventing water stagnation which contributes to mosquito breeding. The other action points include cleaning the campus of bushes and other cleanliness activities to be undertaken periodically by outsourcing agencies engaged under Nirmal.

The secretary directed the officials to coordinate with rural and urban bodies for mass cleanliness drives in and around the hospitals at frequent intervals and to install fly catchers and ultrasonic mosquito repellents on the premises as per the specific requirement of the DHHS.

THE CMDs WERE DIRECTED TO INSTALL WIRE MESH IN WINDOWS OF ALL AMA HOSPITALS AND PROCURE ONE FOGGING MACHINE EACH FOR ALL DISTRICT HEAD-QUARTER HOSPITALS (DHHS) AND SUB-DIVISIONAL HOSPITALS (SDHS). OFFICIALS WERE ASKED TO COORDINATE WITH RURAL AND URBAN BODIES FOR MASS CLEANLINESS DRIVES IN AND AROUND THE HOSPITALS AT FREQUENT INTERVALS AND TO INSTALL FLY CATCHERS AND ULTRASONIC MOSQUITO REPELLENTS ON THE PREMISES.

Over 4K students take part in YATS

Joda: As many as 4,882 students from 21 schools took part in the 17th edition of Young Astronomer Talent Search (YATS) at Joda. The event was organised by Tata Steel in collaboration with Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Bhubaneswar. The major schools from Joda and nearby areas, which participated in the event, include Tata DAV School, Joda, Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Joda, Kerala English Medium School, Champua, OVS, Jhumpura, Govt Girls High School, Keonjhar and DN High School, Keonjhar. This platform enables state's school students to showcase their talent and interest in space science, astrophysics, and astronomy. It also helps them learn about the legacy of Pathani Samanta, the legendary Odia-astronomer. This year, YATS was offered in two modes of participation: physical and virtual. An open quiz for students of classes 6 to 8 was conducted physically in schools and a multiple-choice question (MCQ) assessment for students of classes 9 and 10, conducted in schools and online. The finalists will compete in the final round of competitions at the Pathani Samanta Planetarium in Bhubaneswar, December 13.



SEEKING JUSTICE: Members of All India Democratic Students' Organisation staging protest in front of Ramadevi University in Bhubaneswar, Saturday demanding stringent action against culprits for alleged molestation of an IIT-Banaras Hindu University student in Varanasi

Khimji's 'Dhanteras Dhanvarsha' offers

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: To add more sparkle to the festival of Dhanteras, Khimji Jewellers launched its Dhanteras Dhanvarsha scheme. Making the occasion extra special for the customers, Khimji Jewellers has come up with a wide range of enticing offers which includes flat 20 per cent off on diamonds, flat 4.5 per cent off on total value of gold jewellery and flat 25 per cent off on making charge of silver. Apart from this, the brand is also offering buyback guarantee on purchase of 999 purity gold and silver coins. Customers can avail these offers at all its stores across Odisha from November 3.

Khimji Jewellers' Managing Director Mitesh Khimji ex-



pressed said, "To make this Dhanteras special and prosperous for our valued customers we have come up with the biggest offers of the year: The 'Dhanteras Dhanvarsha' scheme is a testament of our commitment to continue providing our customers with the finest jewellery, enticing offers and a shopping experience that reflects our unwavering dedication to excellence."

The brand boasts of a collection of 100 per cent BIS Hallmarked, IGI certified diamonds and platinum jewellery apart from a wide collection of silver jewellery. With a rich legacy that spans generations, Khimji Jewellers continues to be a trusted destination for those seeking to celebrate life's special moments with the elegance and brilliance of fine jewellery," he said.

Customers can explore the traditional as well as contemporary jewellery collection under the 'Dhanteras Dhanvarsha' scheme at all the Khimji Jewellers' showrooms across the state, he added.

HE DEPT'S DIRECTIVE

'Protect rights of transgender students in edu institutions'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: The Higher Education department directed all the colleges and universities of the state to protect gender-nonconforming students in the educational institutions as per National Human Right Commission (NHRC) advisory.

In a letter, department Joint Secretary Mousumi Nayak said, "As per advisory of NHRC, educational institutions are urged to protect gender-nonconforming students from bullying harassment or other forms of violence in their respective jurisdictions."

The Higher Education department directed the institutes to form monitoring committee cells at educational institutions to address the issues of prejudices, discrimination, sexual abuse, and other violence against transgender persons.

The department also asked the institutes to take steps to provide gender neutral facilities by constructing uni-sex toilets/rest rooms.

The NHRC headed by Justice Arun Mishra had issued an Advisory to the Central and state governments and UT administrations to ensure the welfare of transgender persons. The Commission has prepared this Advisory after wide discussions with various stakeholders and its core group members on LGBTI issues.

The rights of transgender persons have gained recognition and legal validity through the enactment of the Transgender



Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, which aims to safeguard and uphold their rights.

In the Advisory, the Commission has observed that one of the primary concerns faced by Transgender Persons in the country is that despite the legal advancements, they continue to grapple with discrimination at various places like employment disparities, limited access to healthcare, and exclusion from social circles.

The Commission, in a letter to the secretaries in the department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Chief Secretaries of states and Administrators of Union Territories, has asked for the implementation of its recommendations in letter and spirit, and sought Action Taken Report (ATR) within two months.

The Advisory has focused on six key areas for action by the Centre, states and UT Administrations to ensure transgender persons get access to education, healthcare, employment, inclusivity, welfare, and grievance redressal.

TPCODL launches Quality Month 2023

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: To foster a stronger connection with all its employees, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) launched a month-long celebrations 'Quality Month-November 2023'.

TPCODL CEO Arvind Singh graced the event in the presence of senior leadership team.

Speaking on this occasion, Singh said, "Quality Month, under the theme 'Quality: Realizing Your Competitive Potential' echoes our unwavering commitment to unlocking our inherent strengths and achieving excellence through the prism of quality improvement principles and methods. It's a collective journey toward self-discovery and innovation, where we tap into our full potential to deliver the best to our customers and stakeholders."

The event provided a platform for significant highlights, offering an immersive exploration of TPCODL's Quality initiatives. This included a focus on capability development and innovative workplace management.

The CEO unveiled the TPCODL Newsletter Alokare Pathe, and Quality Month balloons were also released, followed by a tree planting ceremony.

Various activities have been organised for a month-long celebrations to inspire employees, their families, and customers to embrace a culture of continuous improvement.

TPCODL embarked on its Quality Month journey in November 2021, actively engaging more than 4,000 employees across the organisation in various competitions and events over the past two years.

ECoR warns against carrying crackers

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 4: With the festive season of light, Diwali, approaching, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) Saturday urged passengers not to carry any inflammable or explosive objects like crackers. It also urged the travelers to be watchful and not let their co-passengers carry such substances in passenger trains.

Carrying inflammable and explosive objects like crackers, gas cylinders, acid, petrol and kerosene in passenger trains is a punishable offence under the Railways Act, 1989 and the offender could get a jail term of up to 3 years, the ECoR reminded

train travelers. "Carrying inflammable items during train journey is strictly prohibited. East Coast Railway has advised all its three divisions-Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair- to launch a Special Safety Drive to keep a strict vigil on inflammable items in trains for the safety of the passengers during Diwali Celebrations," informed an ECoR official.

Officials of the three divisions have been directed to keep strict vigil on passenger movements. The security wing consisting of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel has also alerted. Apart from this, coach attendants, guards, station managers



have also been advised to keep vigil on offenders to save train passengers from danger. "Co-passengers are also requested to inform on-duty staff, if they see any passenger carrying in-

flammable items," said the official.

Passengers can call help line number 139 to report any incident concerning crackers on train. "Surprise checks are being carried out randomly in trains in this regard in case of any suspicion regarding crackers," added the official.

Additionally, East Coast Railway is also organizing awareness drive to alert passengers through public announcement systems at stations. Random and surprise checks will also be undertaken by railway staff in coordination with Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Civil Defence Volunteers.

New Age tech can enable India achieve Net Zero goal

Reeling under frequent bouts of air pollution that may shorten an average Indian's life expectancy by 5.3 years, there are New Age technologies that can be deployed in India to achieve the goal of 'Net Zero', demonstrating that the process of economic growth "need not come at the cost of our environment or indeed the health of our citizens".

According to Chandra Bhushan, one of India's foremost environment and climate change experts, technologies like electric vehicles (EVs), batteries, photovoltaic cells and hydrogen fuel, while reducing the dependence on fossil fuel energy, can help the country achieve decarbonisation and fight the menace of air pollution.

In an article written on the website of the Heinrich Boell

Foundation, a German foundation and part of the green political movement, he emphasised that the barrier is neither technical nor cost, but policy priorities.

"But these policy challenges are a cause for action, not panic. No one expects us to reach Net Zero tomorrow. But the right policies need to be implemented now so that they can take full effect over 30 years," he wrote.

The fossil fuel economy has delivered many benefits, including national development.

"Decarbonisation will bring some costs, especially for those who are dependent on fossil fuels for jobs and growth and those currently able to access cheap energy," said Bhushan.

But there has been evidence for a while that this development is not well distributed and di-



rected. "For instance, the externalities of fossil fuel energy are disproportionately borne by the most vulnerable. Communities around coal mines and power plants are exposed to horrifying levels of air

pollution, which in turn cause lung and heart disease," he noted.

More Indians own cars today than 50 years ago, but our city air has become unbreathable.

A recent Lancet-published study puts a shocking number on

"premature deaths and morbidity attributable to air pollution" - \$36.8 billion in economic losses to India (or 1.4 per cent of GDP) in 2019 alone.

To fulfil the obligations under the Paris Agreement, in November 2021 at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged that India would reach net zero emissions by 2070 and meet 50 per cent of its electricity requirements from renewable sources by the year 2030.

This is possible with the right and timely use of available technologies.

"The past two decades have seen a revolution in renewable energy technologies - solar costs have fallen 90 per cent over the past decade. Building new solar power in India is now cheaper

than building a new coal plant, and is quickly becoming cheaper than running existing coal plants," said Bhushan.

While renewable energy needs electricity storage to be as reliable as coal power, Moody's projects that wind and solar, including storage cost, will be competitive with coal in India in 2025.

Another turning point is the battery/storage revolution coming to India, which could drop costs by 60 per cent in the next decade.

"This is a continuation of the global trend, which has seen Lithium-ion batteries become 97 per cent cheaper since 1991, with further room to drop. In addition to making electricity generation cheaper, the battery revolution would drop the cost of electric transportation in India," the expert emphasised.

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Water guzzling slurry pipelines may mar Rabi crops

20-yr RI for rape of minor

POST NEWS NETWORK



The judge directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to give away ₹7 lakh ex-gratia to the survivor

6 of POCSO act after hearing from 19 witnesses and going through the investigation report. The judge also directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to give away ₹7 lakh ex-gratia to the survivor, special public prosecutor Gyanendra Nath Jena said.

Keonjhar, Nov 4: Keonjhar Fast Track Court Judge Bijay Kumar Mishra Saturday convicted Prashanta Sethi aka Happy for rape of a minor girl and awarded him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI). He also slapped a fine of ₹20,000 on the convict. Failure to pay the fine will lead to an additional 2-year imprisonment, the judge ordered.

According to the case file, the accused Prashanta Sethi aka Happy of Khuntapada village under Telkoi police limits raped a minor girl of Banspal block and rendered her pregnant with false promise of marriage.

The accused threatened to kill the girl if she disclosed the matter to anybody. However, the pregnant minor lodged a complaint at Sadar police station and a case was registered in this regard. Police then arrested the accused and forwarded him to court.

Judge Bijay Kumar Mishra pronounced the judgement against the accused U/S 376 (2), 376 (3) of IPC and under Section



both Keonjhar and Jajpur districts in all likelihood.

Residents in both the districts apprehend that Baitarani river, which originates from Gonasika hill in Keonjhar district, will dry up if minerals are transported through slurry pipelines. They also fear that the famous 'Baruni Snaan' held in Baitarani may become history soon as 13,100 hectare of farmlands in Dasarathpur, Binjharpur and Sadar blocks in Jajpur district will be deprived of water for cultivation.

The Essar Steel is laying a

slurry pipeline from Joda to Paradip for transportation of minerals while BRPL has already begun transporting mineral slurry through pipelines to its Kalinganagar plant in Jajpur. Many industrial firms have sought permission for the same. These firms are also destroying forest cover on large tracts of land while laying slurry pipelines in Keonjhar, Jajpur, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur districts. These pipelines are passing 70 km through reserve forest, 30 km through protected jungle and 20 km through other jungles.

Currently, various firms are laying slurry pipelines to Paradip via Barbil, Rimuli, Keonjhar, Anandapur, Jajpur Road, Kalinganagar and Chandikhole.

In a report, the Water Resources department has said that JSW will construct an intake wall at Mirigisingha on Baitarani to conserve and lift its water in rainy season. The intake wall will be shifted near the Kanpur irrigation project after works get completed.

The intake wall will be constructed about 16 km from the upstream of Kanpur dam. However, a review conducted by the Water Resources department showed that it may lead to water scarcity for Rabi and summer crops. As a result, it has directed the industrial firms not to lift water from Kanpur dam from February to June so that 75 per cent of Rabi crops can be cultivated. Due to this reason, it has asked JSW to construct a reservoir on its plant premises to meet its water needs.

Koraput's 'Parab-2023' begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Nov 4: The month-long 'Parab-2023', the annual cultural extravaganza of tribal-dominated Koraput district showcasing the best of tribal art and culture, commenced in a vibrant and traditional manner at Borigumma.

The festival, celebrated since 1996, aims to spotlight and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the region while promoting tourism and providing a platform for local talent to shine.

In a mesmerising display of tradition, thousands of tribals, adorned in their traditional attire, danced to the tune of folk music to celebrate the lighting of the festival torch Friday.

This symbolic 'first ritual' took place at the revered Maa Bhairabi temple at Borigumma. The rhythmic beats of tribal music filled the air as the community danced in unison, setting the tone for the days to come.

"The aim of the festival is to both protect and promote the region's rich cultural heritage. We are confident that this year's



Parab will be remembered for participation and vibrancy," said Koraput District Collector Abdaal M Akhtar, emphasising the festival's potential to boost tourism in the district, as tourist spots, including the cave shrine of Gupteswar, are being developed to attract more visitors.

Parab-2023 promises a diverse array of activities and events, including sports competition, tribal dances, songs, music featuring traditional instruments, mini-marathon and trekking.

The festival-cum-competition at panchayat, block and district levels will go on till November

24, before the mega celebrations from December 25 to 27 to be celebrated at the Government College ground here.

"This year it has been decided to celebrate Parab from the panchayat level to provide a platform for the hidden talents of the district to showcase their skills," said Jeypore MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati.

"The launching ceremony has been a huge success with the participation of over 10,000 people and it is expected that its final celebration will draw more tourists, adding to the vibrancy and charm of this cultural celebration," he added.

Gopalpur MLA, Pathaks appear in JMFC court

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 4: Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Panigrahi, former IFS officer Abhay Kant Pathak and his son Akash Pathak Saturday appeared before a Berhampur court in connection with fraud committed on the pretext of giving employment to aspiring youths in Tata Company.

The magistrate framed the charges against them during their appearance. The magistrate also quashed the discharge petitions filed by the accused persons earlier in the court.

Sources said that four cases were filed against MLA Panigrahi and the Pathak father and son. These cases include three lodged in Golanthara police station and one in Baidyanathpur police station. Panigrahi and Pathak duo appeared in the court in a case GR 2225/20 filed at the Golanthara police station.

The accused have also filed discharge petitions in the court in rest of the three cases.

The next date of hearing has been scheduled to November 8, special public prosecutor Maguni Charan Palai said. Moreover, hearing of the case which has been charge framed will begin soon in the court, the special PP said.

Kanakund, Odisha's own Grand Canyon



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Nov 4: Though it remains one of the lesser known places in the state, the sheer poetry that nature has carved in stone will definitely leave a lasting memory in one's mind. Situated in Balisankara block, 'Kanakund' can be dubbed as the Grand Canyon of Odisha.

The Ib river, while flowing at a great speed, has dug holes on the rocky bed all around. The scenic beauty of the remote spot cannot be described by words or captured through lenses. "One has to visit the place and understand what nature has in store for us. For me, it is one of God's splendid art pieces," said Lohit Panda, a visitor.

The best time to visit the place is just after the monsoon is over; however one can pick any time until summer. "But, the place has a different kind of aura during the rainy season," said Anil Minz, a local.

One has to visit the place and understand what nature has in store for us. For me, it is one of God's splendid art pieces

LOHIT PANDA / TOURIST

Just 44 km from Sundargarh district headquarters and 126 km from Rourkela, the natural spot is still virgin, with only a few groups of picnickers, adrenaline junkies and nature aficionados going there during winter. Otherwise, this place still languishes to get the attention it deserves from all quarters. Barely one and a half kilometre away a non-descript signpost on a concrete plaque is the only indicator of its existence.

The connectivity to the location is good during the dry months. Only in the final stretch, nearly one kilometre of the road that leads to Kanakund is 'kuchha'. There is barely any human habitation in the

vicinity; only long stretches of forest along the Ib river bank and fertile agricultural lands on the other side. In the middle flows Ib on the grey granite bedrock. Stand there to listen to the roar of the river gushing through its stony path.

The place has its share of horror stories as human lives have been lost in the treacherous flow of the river in the deep gorge. Reckless picnickers venture extremely close to the river for either a close glimpse of the canyon or a daring selfie and then lose their balance only to be devoured by the unforgiving water.

An insider in the Tourism department says the place remains neglected due to lack of coordination between Minor Irrigation and Tourism departments. "Lack of coordination has led to a complete neglect of the spot's potential in tourism. Besides, the Irrigation department is also a little scared to give any kind of permission because of the deaths occurring there," said the source.

When this was brought to the notice of the district's Tourist Officer Niranjan Behera, he said, "The department has no plan for the spot as of now as our focus remains elsewhere." "So far, the place is not in our scheme of things. If I receive any instruction or letter regarding its development, then I will start working on it," he added.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION OF PARKING STAND

STATION & LOCATION:
1) Khurda Road - (2 Wheeler) (Opposite Kalyan Mandap), 2) Nirakarapur - MIX - (2-cum-4 Wheeler) (near circulating area).

Auction Start Date & Time: 16.11.2023 at 1100 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 01 & 02).

Auction End Date: 16.11.2023 (for Sl. No. 01 & 02) & End Time: at 1130 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 01), 1140 Hrs. (for Sl. No. 02).

Note: Prospective bidders are advised to visit the website: <https://www.ireps.gov.in> and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab to get all required information regarding this e-auction.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager /
PR-734I/O/23-24 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. MCSW-Buffering-23-24-20

NAME OF WORK: BUFFING AND POLISHING OF SS WASH BASIN, SS PAN & SS WALL PROTECTOR IN RAILWAY BG COACHES ALONG WITH BUFFING AND POLISHING OF SS SIDE PANEL & SS OVEN IN PANTRY CARS AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.

Advertised Value (₹): 16,82,151.60, **EMD (₹):** 33,700.00, **Period of Completion:** 24 Months.

Bidding Start Date: 06.11.2023 **Closing Date & Time:** At 1500 hrs. of 20.11.2023.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (POH),
PR-731O/23-24 CRW / Mancheswar

Missing man's body fished out from canal

Salipur: Police here retrieved the body of a middle-aged man floating in a canal and sent it to Cuttack for post-mortem, Saturday. The deceased was identified as Sheikh Sohail, 40, of Peer Bazar area under Jagatpur police limit, police said adding that the man was missing for the last three days. As per police, a missing complaint was lodged by the family members of the deceased at Jagatpur police station. However, police came to know from a source that a dead body was floating in Kendrapara canal near Sataphukar and recovered the body with the help of the Fire personnel.

<p>Bank of India Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015</p>		<p>POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002</p>	
<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Sahid Nagar Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Sahid Nagar Branch for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.</p>			
<p>SAHID NAGAR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower</p> <p>Borrower: Mr. Chita Ranjan Mishra, At: Plot No.: 562/1973, Khata No.: 704/85, Mouza: Baliana, Tahasil: Baliana, Dist.: Khurda, Communication Address: At: N-6, Plot No.: 181, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Odisha - 751013</p>	<p>Liabilities due as per Notice</p> <p>₹ 37,33,118.38 + interest & expenses thereon</p>	<p>Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession</p> <p>29.08.2023 / 03.11.2023</p>	<p>Description of the Immovable Property</p> <p>All that part and parcel of Land and Building consisting of Khata No.: 704/85, Plot No.: 562/1973, admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.026.42 Dec, Status: Stitban, Kissan: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Baliana, P.S./SRO: Baliana, Dist.: Khurda, standing in the name of Mr. Chita Ranjan Mishra, Bounded by North: Road, South: Property of Kailash Chandra Sahoo & Others, East: Property of Sovita Rani Mohapatra, West: Property of Debashree Bhattacharya</p>
<p>Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 05.11.2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Authorised Officer, Bank of India</p>			

WESTERN RAILWAY

RAILWAY RECRUITMENT CELL

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Website : <https://www.rrc-wr.com>

INDICATIVE NOTIFICATION FOR RECRUITMENT AGAINST SPORTS QUOTA FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024 IN WESTERN RAILWAY

Notification No. RRC/WR/02/2023 Sports quota Dated 30/10/2023

Opening Date and Time	10-11-23 AT 10.00 Hrs
Closing Date and Time	09-12-23 AT 18.00 Hrs

- Western Railway invites **ONLINE** applications from eligible **Sportspersons** for recruitment against Sports Quota for filling up 21 Group C posts and 43 erstwhile Group D posts in the following Disciplines/Pay Level through Open Advertisement under the jurisdiction of Western Railway for the year 2023-2024.

BREAK-UP OF POSTS - DISCIPLINE WISE

(A) Level 5/4 (7th PC)			
Discipline	Event/ Proficiency/ Weight Category	Posts	
Athletics (M)	400 M/800 M/1500M/5000M/ 10000M/110M (H)/400M (H) / Javeline Throw/ 20 KM Walk/ Decathlon	01	
Athletics (W)	100 M/200M/400 M/800M/1500M/ 100M (H)/Javeline Throw/ Discus throw/ 20 KM Walk/ Heptathlon	01	
Kho-Kho (M)	01 Defender/ 01 All Rounder	01	
Wrestling (M) Free Style	61kg/65kg/74kg/97kg	01	
Shooting (M/W)	10 M Air Rifle/50M Rifle 3 Position/50M Rifle Prone/ 10 M Air Pistol/25M Sports Pistol/25M Centre Fire Pistol	01	
TOTAL		05	
(B) level 3/2 (7th PC)			
Discipline	Event/position /Weight Category/Proficiency	Posts	
Athletics (M)	400 M/800 M/1500M/5000M/ 10000M/110M (H)/400M (H) / Javeline Throw/ 20 KM Walk/ Decathlon	01	
Athletics (W)	100 M/200M/400 M/800M/1500M/ 100M (H)/Javeline Throw/ Discus throw/ 20 KM Walk/ Heptathlon	01	
Weightlifting (M)	67kg/96kg/102kg/109kg	02	
Powerlifting (M)	59kg/105kg/120kg/+120kg	02	
Powerlifting (W)	47kg/52kg/57kg/69kg/84kg	02	
Wrestling (M) Free Style	61kg/65kg/74kg/97kg	01	
Kho-Kho (M)	01 Defender/01 All Rounder	01	
Table tennis (M)	Singles/Doubles	01	
Table tennis (W)	Singles/Doubles	01	
Shooting (M/W)	10 M Air Rifle/50M Rifle 3 Position/50M Rifle Prone/10M Air Pistol/25M Sports Pistol/25M Centre Fire Pistol	01	
Kabaddi (W)	Left corner/right corner/all rounder	02	
Diving (M)	High Board/ 1 m Spring Board/ 3 M Spring Board	01	
TOTAL		16	
(C) Level 1 (7th PC)			
Discipline	Event/position/Weight Category/Proficiency	Posts	
Athletics (M)	400 M/800 M/1500M/5000M/ 10000M/110M (H)/400M (H) / Javeline Throw/ 20 KM Walk/ Decathlon	03	
Athletics (W)	100 M/200M/400 M/800M/1500M/ 100M (H)/Javeline Throw/ Discus throw/ 20 KM Walk/ Heptathlon	03	
Basketball (W)	All Rounder	02	
Weightlifting (W)	45 kg/49kg/55kg/59kg/64kg/71kg/76kg/81kg/87kg	01	
Weightlifting (M)	67 kg/96kg/102kg/109kg	01	
Waterpolo (M)	Full Back/ Goal-Keeper/Center Forward/ Half Back	02	
Kho-Kho (M)	Defender/ All Rounder	02	
Volleyball (M)	Attacker/Setter/Blocker/Libero	03	
Volleyball (W)	Attacker/Setter/Blocker/Libero	02	
Basketball (M)	All Rounder	02	
Handball (M)	Left wing/ Centre back/ Right back	02	
Football (M)	Goalkeeper/Defender/ Midfielders/Strikers	04	
Shooting (M/W)	10M Air Rifle/50M Rifle 3 Position/50M Rifle Prone/10M Air Pistol/25M Sports Pistol/25M Centre Fire Pistol	01	
Kabaddi (M)	All Rounder	02	
Hockey (M)	Forward/ Midfielder/Defender cum Dragflicker/Goalkeeper	04	
Cricket (W)	Wicket Keeper/Opening Bat/ Middle Order Bat/Left Arm Spinner	03	
Ball Badminton (M)	Back Position/ Front Cum Center	04	
Badminton (M)	Singles / Doubles	02	
TOTAL		43	

- Sports Achievements: Only those sportspersons who have acquired the above sports achievement eligibility norms in the championship from 01/04/2021 and are active, will be eligible to apply for appointment against above posts under Sports Quota.
- Applications complete in all respect should be submitted online by 18.00 hrs. on 09/12/2023.
- For Detailed Notification, log on to RRC-WR's website <https://www.rrc-wr.com>

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FOCUS CAPITAL MARKET

REGULATING 'FINFLUENCERS'



Financial influencers are not subject to the same regulations and scrutiny as licensed financial advisors. This lack of accountability can lead to misinformation and potential financial harm to their followers

like YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram is essential to enforce regulations effectively. Social media platforms can play a significant role in reporting violations and assisting regulatory authorities. SEBI should prioritise investor education to help individuals make informed decisions. Education can include resources on recognising red flags, assessing the credibility of influencers, and understanding the risks associated with online investment advice.

Introducing stringent penalties for influencers who violate regulations will act as a deterrent. Encouraging individuals to report any suspicious activities by influencers by providing whistleblower protections is essential. This will help regulators identify and act on potential misconduct.

SEBI should collaborate with industry associations and self-regulatory organisations to set and enforce ethical standards for influencers. Periodic third-party audits of influencers can help ensure compliance with regulations, accuracy of disclosures, and adherence to ethical standards. The rise of influencers has brought both opportunities and challenges to the world of finance. SEBI's recent actions and proposed guidelines are steps in the right direction, but addressing the issue of financial influencers will require a comprehensive and collaborative effort involving regulatory authorities, social media platforms, industry associations, and investors themselves.

By implementing standardised certification, enhancing disclosure rules, and enforcing stringent penalties, SEBI can create an environment where financial influencers operate ethically and transparently, ultimately benefiting investors and maintaining the integrity of the financial market.

The writer is the founder and CEO of fintech startup FINCIST. Views are personal.



Sourajeet Pradhani

WITH THE ADVENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS, FINANCIAL INFLUENCERS HAVE GAINED PROMINENCE

In recent years, the financial landscape has witnessed a significant transformation. With the advent of social media and digital platforms, financial influencers have gained prominence as they provide financial advice and recommendations to a broad audience. However, this surge in financial influencers has raised concerns within the regulatory authorities, such as the SEBI. Financial influencers, often referred to as stock market analysts, market gurus, or trading experts, have gained immense popularity on platforms like YouTube, Instagram, X, and even dedicated websites. They use their online presence to share investment advice, stock picks, and trading strategies, attracting a considerable following eager to replicate their success.

One of the primary reasons for their popularity is their accessibility. Unlike traditional financial experts who may require costly subscriptions or consulting fees, these influencers offer free or low-cost advice, making it appealing to a broader audience. They leverage their market analysis, trading tips, and personal stories to connect with viewers and followers, making the world of finance seem more accessible and less intimidating.

While there are many reputable and responsible influencers, the unregulated nature of this industry has created several issues. Financial influencers are not subject to the same regulations and scrutiny as licensed financial advisors. This lack of accountability can lead to misinformation, misleading claims, and potential financial harm to their followers. In some cases, influencers may promote specific stocks or investment products with the intention of inflating their prices, only to sell their holdings once their followers buy in, causing significant market disruptions. Influencers may have access to non-public information, and there is a risk that they could use this information

to gain an unfair advantage, which is illegal. Many financial influencers lack the qualifications and experience necessary to provide sound financial advice. Following their guidance can be risky, especially for inexperienced investors.

In response to these concerns, SEBI has been taking several measures to address the issues associated with financial influencers. SEBI has proposed guidelines requiring influencers to make disclosures about their holdings and financial interests in the assets they discuss. This will help followers understand potential conflicts of interest. SEBI is considering introducing a system that would require influencers to register and pass certification exams to ensure they have a basic understanding of securities market and relevant regulations. One of the major initiatives was to provide credence to RIAs (Registered Investment Advisors) - having a master's degree in finance, minimum five years' of experience in financial sector and dealing with not more than 150 clients.

SEBI is enhancing its efforts to monitor the activities of influencers, identify potential violations, and enforce regulations to maintain market integrity. SEBI is also focusing on edu-

cating investors about the risks associated with following financial influencers. It is essential for investors to understand that not all advice provided on social media is trustworthy.

While SEBI's actions are a step in the right direction, addressing the challenges posed by financial influencers will require a comprehensive approach. Basically, most of the YouTubers are giving advice in one form or the other. If stringent regulations are imposed on the 'finfluencers' then the entire YouTube community will come under scrutiny. Introducing a mandatory certification process for financial influencers, similar to licensing requirements for financial advisors, can help ensure that they possess a minimum level of knowledge and expertise. This certification can include an understanding of market regulations, ethics, and disclosure requirements.

Transparency is key to building trust among their followers. SEBI should establish a system for continuous monitoring of the activities of influencers. By tracking their market actions, potential conflicts of interest, and the accuracy of their advice, regulators can take prompt action against any wrongdoing. Collaboration with platforms

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

New frontiers in low-cost clean tech

The leaders' declaration that emerged from the recent G20 summit in New Delhi highlighted the urgent need for collective action on climate change and sustainable finance. Central to the group's Green Development Pact is the recognition that the energy transition must be cost-effective to accelerate progress. To reach this tipping point in affordability, we must remove the barriers - like insufficient and expensive energy storage - currently preventing the growth of renewables. To be sure, there is a lot of ground to cover. According to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2022, the energy sector needs to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030 to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

There is also the question of funding. As part of the declaration, G20 leaders reaffirmed the commitment made by developed countries to mobilise \$100 billion per year in climate finance to support the developing world's mitigation and adaptation efforts. In a speech before the summit, European Council President Charles Michel claimed that this goal would be met for the first time in 2023. While this represents

a significant step forward, it falls far short of the \$4.5 trillion in annual clean-energy investments required by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

A massive shift in our approach to climate finance is clearly necessary. Multilateral development banks and philanthropies should play a vital role in facilitating affordable financing and mitigating risk to encourage private-sector investment, as well as establishing low-cost funds to ease the transition from fossil fuels to renewables. The goal is not only to decrease dramatically the price of clean-energy technologies, but also to lower the costs for research and development, facilitate reaching mass-market scale, and develop financial linkages.

Much depends on solving the problem of energy storage. Solar and wind power will almost certainly account for most renewable-electricity generation, owing to their affordability and widespread availability. But these sources are abundant only some of the time: countries around the equator receive about 12 hours of sunlight each day, while wind is inconsistent. Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are

emerging as a potential solution to this inherent variability - especially as they approach a critical cost-efficiency threshold.

Global Leadership Council, which was established by the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, has made BESS one of its signature initiatives. At the upcoming COP28 in Dubai, the council will launch the BESS Consortium, a multi-stakeholder partnership of leading development-finance institutions that will support the deployment of first-wave BESS projects across developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

India, in particular, has huge potential for BESS, given its plan to increase renewable-energy capacity to 600 gw (65% of total installed capacity) by 2032. To achieve this ambitious goal, distribution companies must be able to procure and accommodate large volumes of renewables in a sustainable manner. At the distribution end, BESS can provide grid balancing, ramping support, and other critical services to reduce the total cost of power procurement. In New Delhi, a 40-mw-hours BESS project aims to build a scalable pathway for one gigawatt of storage by 2026, creating 10,000 jobs.

The pilot project, when scaled up, could advance the technology and encourage more widespread renewable use. This would enhance the stability and dependability of the power grid, allowing for greater integration of clean-energy sources. Eventually, the project could cut carbon dioxide emissions and ensure a cost-effective and reliable supply of renewables. These technologies have immense potential to promote economic diversification, strengthen energy security, and foster job opportunities. Collaborating to advance them and establish a global landscape where sustainable energy underpins prosperity is the focus of this week's Energy Transition Dialogues in India.

The race to make renewables affordable offers an unparalleled opportunity to generate sustainable and inclusive growth while reducing CO2 emissions. But we can get there only if the private sector, governments, and civil society act together to lower the price of - and increase access to - clean tech.

The writer is Chairman of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet.

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“The happiness you give makes you happier than the happiness you receive.”

THE MOTHER



Anonymous Funding

The Supreme Court has finished hearing arguments on electoral bonds and will hopefully give a judgement soon. I say hopefully because it has now been six years since the scheme was introduced through the 2017 Budget. Many readers will not know the background to the bonds and what they are. This column will serve to explain the scheme. In brief, it allows unlimited, anonymous donations to any registered political party. The scheme also allows anyone including foreign governments, criminal gangs and of course corporate interests, the ability to influence political parties because parties could accept money without revealing who gave it.

The process to fund a party anonymously was made easy. Bonds would be available in denominations of up to Rs 1 crore at State Bank of India branches in 29 cities. A donor could purchase them through their bank account and hand them over to the party or individual of their choice, who could then encash them. They would be valid for 15 days.

The manner in which the scheme was introduced should alert us to the fact that something was off from the start. Four days before the Budget of 2017, a bureaucrat spotted the scheme in then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's speech, and noted that the assent of the RBI was required for such a large shift. This was because the introduction of bonds required changes to the RBI Act, something that apparently the government did not know.

The officer drafted a proposed amendment to align the Act with the change and sent the file up the ranks for the finance minister to see. The same day, 28 January 2017, a Saturday, the RBI was sent a five-line email seeking its comments. The reply came on Monday, 30 January. The RBI said it was a bad idea because it went against the RBI's authority as the sole issuer of bearer instruments, meaning cash. These bonds, because they were anonymous, could become currency and undermine the faith in India's cash. On this point, the RBI was unambiguous: amending the law to facilitate this "would seriously undermine a core principle of central banking legislation and doing so would set a bad precedent."

The second objection the RBI had was that "even the intended purpose of the transparency might not be achievable as the original buyer of the instrument (the bond) need not be the actual contributor to the party." If person A purchased the bond and then sold it, at face value or more, to any entity, including a foreign government, that entity could gift it to a party. The nameless bond was as good as cash. "The bonds are bearer bonds and transferable by delivery," the RBI said, "hence, who finally and actually contributes the bond to the political party will not be known."

The last point it made was that what was being proposed through the electoral bond scheme - the transfer of money from bank accounts of entities to political parties - could be done through a cheque, bank transfer or demand draft.

"There is no special need for, or advantage by, the creation of an Electoral Bearer Bond, that too by disturbing an established international practice." The man charged with steering the thing through the bureaucracy was Hasmukh Adhia, an IAS officer from Gujarat with a PhD in yoga. (He had earlier chaperoned the GST bill, and after he retired, Adhia was made chairman of Bank of Baroda and chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat.) He dismissed the RBI's objections on two grounds.

Firstly, he said, "It appears to me that the RBI has not understood the proposed mechanism of having pre-paid instruments for the purpose of keeping the identity of the donor secret, while ensuring the donation is made only out of fully tax paid money of a person." By this he meant that because the original purchaser had to acquire the bonds through their official account, it made the donation clean. This was not a response to the RBI's specific objections. Adhia said that the 15-day time limit for redemption would mitigate against the RBI's other fears, without explaining how.

Secondly, he said, "Also this advice has come quite late at a time when the Finance Bill is already printed." It had actually come within hours of being sent for. It was hardly the RBI's fault that the advice had not been sought earlier. This was clearly deceit, but Adhia concluded that "we may, therefore, go ahead with our proposal." His colleague economic affairs secretary Tapan Ray, concurred with Adhia the same day, and on Wednesday, 1 February, Jaitley announced the scheme which became law with the passage of the Budget.

Asked by journalist Nitin Sethi of the Huffington Post (which carried a six-part investigation into electoral bonds, based on documents procured by RTI activist Commodore Lokesh Batra) why the government had ignored the RBI's objections, the finance ministry said it had taken the decision "in good faith and in the larger public interest." At the stage when the law was passed, the details were not yet made public. This came in June 2017, when Tapan Ray revealed how the bonds would work in practice: "The information regarding purchaser and payee shall be kept secret by the issuer bank. These details would also be beyond the purview of RTI." (Ray was made chairman of Central Bank of India after he retired in 2018, and in 2019 he was also made CEO and managing director of Gujarat International Finance Tec City.)

The next body to say that the electoral bonds scheme was dangerous was the Election Commission of India. In an affidavit to the Supreme Court, it said that to exclude the reporting of donations received by political parties through electoral bonds would have "serious repercussions on the transparency aspect of political funding of political parties."

Despite all of this, for the last six years, India's politics has been funded anonymously. It is time to end this.



Aakar Patel

The manner in which the scheme was introduced should alert us to the fact that something was off from the start



Ravi Venkatesan

THE GOAL IS NOT ONLY TO DECREASE DRAMATICALLY THE PRICE OF CLEAN-ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES, BUT ALSO TO LOWER THE COSTS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

WISDOM CORNER

- “People who spend most of their time putting out fires are usually also the arsonists.” DAN SULLIVAN
- “It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.” EE CUMMINGS
- “Intuition is the whisper of the soul.” JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1605:** Celebrated with fireworks as Guy Fawkes Day, this English holiday marks the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot, when Roman Catholics led by Robert Catesby tried to blow up Parliament, the king, and his family this day in 1605.
- 1914:** France and Britain declared war on Turkey, widening the conflict of World War I.
- 1940:** Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented third term as president of the United States.

Luring children

Sir, A 33-state group in the United States has filed lawsuits against Meta that operates Facebook, Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp, by accusing it of deliberately designing features to lure children into engaging these platforms. The company is accused of making profits by damaging children's mental health by feeding them harmful contents. Since, today's school education involves a lot of mobile phone and internet usage, sifting the grain from the chaff is quite tough for the parents. Besides the dangerous repercussions of yielding to unwanted influences, psychological issues like anxiety, insomnia and depression abound in youngsters glued to the social media. As a result, their intellectual ability, self-worth and capacity to excel in school may take a severe beating. Some sort of age appropriate apps and parental consent are paramount.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Collision prevention

Sir, The Indian Railways' automatic train collision prevention system KAVACH, the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation in collaboration with the Indian industry, should be deployed on priority basis on all railway routes and locomotives. Also the speed limit of the trains should be kept within a range where the KAVACH system is not activated. Further, long range surveillance drones might be utilised for railway track inspection purposes for better safety.

Nabnit Panigrathi, RAYAGADA

Grave concern

Sir, Delhi's plummeting air quality is a matter of grave concern. Friday, a thick layer of smog engulfed the national capital as the air quality index fell to the "severe plus" category. Air quality has worsened because of stubble burning in the neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh, local pollutants, and unfavourable conditions for pollutant dispersal. The government has shut all the primary schools till Monday and imposed a ban on non-essential construction and demolition activities. The authorities would do well to take strict measures to reduce pollution in the National Capital Region.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

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
B-15, Rasulguru Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Manipur violence puts BJP on back foot

THE SIX-MONTH-LONG ETHNIC VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR HAS BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE IN POLL-BOUND MIZORAM, WHERE AROUND 13,000 ZO-KUKI-CHIN TRIBALS TOOK SHELTER AFTER BEING DISPLACED FROM THE NEIGHBOURING STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl, Nov 4: In the wake of the devastating ethnic violence in neighbouring Manipur, the BJP (which has been ruling the state) is on the back foot in the election in Mizoram.

However, BJP leaders from different northeastern states campaigned for the party in the poll-bound Mizoram and predicted that it would do better this time in the November 7 Assembly polls.

The saffron party is eyeing the votes of tribal minorities, including Chakma, Reang, Mara and Lai community people living in the southern and western region of the state.

All the political parties in Mizoram, including the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), Opposition Congress and the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) accused BJP-led governments at the Centre and in Manipur for their "utter failure to deal with the violence and to protect the tribals."

BJP leaders from Assam, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura took part in the campaign for next week's Assembly elections but no saffron



party leader from ethnic violence-hit Manipur participated in the ongoing campaign.

The six-month-long ethnic violence in Manipur has become a major election issue in poll-bound Mizoram, where around 13,000 Zo-Kuki-Chin tribals took shelter after being displaced from the neighbouring state.

Nagaland President Temjen Imna Along, who is also the state's Tourism and Higher Education Minister, Thursday said that there can be no prediction in elections.

"However, the BJP would do much better than the previous Assembly elections. We are very optimistic about the party's good result in Mizoram," said Along, who along with Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP

leader Yanthungo Patton campaigned in Mizoram.

"Our leaders have been working very hard on the ground. We would perform better than before. A nationalist party like the BJP is to be well understood by the Mizo people. People of Mizoram should put their faith in the BJP and vote for our candidates," Along told the media.

Union Minister for Arunachal Pradesh Kiren Rijiju, Patton, Along, BJP observer Rituraj Sinha (from Assam) and BJP MLA from Tripura Promod Reang attended the public meeting of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who addressed an election rally in Western Mizoram's Mamit district Wednesday.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and former Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal is also campaigning for the BJP in Mizoram.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was scheduled to visit Mizoram for the election campaign October 30, has cancelled his trip to the poll-bound state.

BJP leaders in Mizoram said that Home Minister Amit Shah would instead lead the BJP's campaign in the northeastern state.

Commenting on the cancellation of the Prime Minister's visit, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh had said that Modi cancelled his Mizoram election rally due to his silence over the Manipur crisis.

Ramesh had said in a post on X, "The Prime Minister was to address an election rally in Mizoram on Oct 30. But now there are reports that he has cancelled his visit. Could it be because questions would be raised that he had not found time to visit the deeply troubled neighbouring state that has been on the deep edge for almost 180 days... with what face would he go to the rally in Mizoram?"

The BJP, which has now one MLA in the 40-member Mizoram Assembly, has fielded 23 nominees for the November 7 elections. The party contested 39 seats in the 2018 Assembly polls, secured only 8.50 per cent votes and 33 of the contestants forfeited their deposits.

Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar convey message of unity

A MEETING WAS ORGANISED TO TAKE THE CONFIDENCE OF MINISTERS WHO INDULGED IN ISSUING STATEMENTS OVER THE POST OF THE CHIEF MINISTER



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 4: Putting an end to speculations that all is not well between Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar following "I am CM for five years" comment by Siddaramaiah, both leaders made public appearances together, cheering at each other and took part in the breakfast meeting as well as conveyed a message of unity to party workers.

Speaking after the meet, Shivakumar gave a stern warning that no Congress legislator should put his political career and party's prospects in jeopardy by issuing public statements over the post of Chief Minister. "All leaders have been warned

not to make any public statements. For those who were warned earlier for making statements, CM Siddaramaiah himself had warned all party leaders including himself that if public statements are issued it is going to bring an embarrassment to the party," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

"Even if the media asks questions, the party leaders are asked not to give replies. The media will carry out its politics, we have directed them not to get trapped into it. It is not a time to discuss power-sharing. The people have given us an opportunity to serve them for five years. We have also asked them to review the implementation of the guarantee schemes," he added.

"The ministers who did not attend the meeting would be

called on another occasion and they will also be given directions in this regard. Today 15 ministers were invited to the meeting," he said.

"Our main focus is Lok Sabha elections. We have given instructions to take up tours," he added.

The meeting was organised to take the confidence of ministers who indulged in issuing statements over the post of the Chief Minister.

Former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy said Saturday that in case Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar is made the Chief Minister, he would get the support of 19 MLAs of JD (S).

"If the situation in Congress is seen, we don't know how many will become CMs," he taunted.

Cong promises 1 lakh jobs if voted to power in Mizoram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl, Nov 4: Congress would create one lakh jobs in a year and take drastic steps to curb drugs menace if it comes to power in Mizoram which goes to the polls November 7, the party's media cell chief Lalremruata Renthlei said.

If the Congress is voted to power, it will launch the 'Young Mizo Entrepreneurs Programme (YmElevate)' to provide startup funds and jobs to the youth, Renthlei said.

"Under YmElevate, incubation and startup funds would be provided which would help create more than one lakh jobs," Renthlei told the media.

The Congress has already announced to introduce 'Tang Puihna', a monetary assistance scheme for farmers and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable economic and livelihood activities. Criticising the Mizo National Front (MNF) government, the Congress leader said that Deputy Chief Minister



Tawnluia earlier claimed that the outgoing government has created 7,983 jobs in the last five years.

"Actually, the MNF government has provided 2,218 jobs through direct recruitment in the last five years. The unemployment rate is substantially higher for females (34%) as compared to males (14 per cent)," he said. The Congress leader alleged that under the Socio-Economic Development Policy, the MNF government has recruited 771 temporary teachers but most of the selected teachers were from the ruling party families. Even Central Young Mizo Association, the state's largest NGO, raised the issue of abuse of power by the ruling party in SEDP teachers' recruitment last year, he said.

Clamour grows against K'taka caste census report

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 4: The acceptance of the caste census report is proving to be problematic for Karnataka's Congress government. One of the most influential Vokkaliga seers, Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, reiterated Friday that the caste census report should not be accepted.

The seer said that the government must rethink about accepting the report. "The present caste census is defective and the population census must be redone. The report is half baked and unscientific. It is not complete and the communities will face injustice."

Former minister KS Eshwarappa, slamming the Congress government over the caste census issue, maintained that the report deserves to be thrown into the fire.

"The Congress government should make a statement on whether they are releasing the caste census report. Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji

'UNSCIENTIFIC REPORT' - The report states that SC and ST groups form the majority in the state. Lingayats, considered to be the majority population, were shown as the third largest group, while the Vokkaligas, believed to be in second position, were shown in the fourth position. This created a stir in the state, triggering a huge controversy as the Muslim community was shown as having the second-highest population in Karnataka.

had stated that the report is unscientific. There is no signature of the member secretary in the report and it won't stand in the court even for a day," he stated. "They (Congress leaders) do not have any intention of helping the people. With this report they want to get votes. This was done by the

BJP government and then chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa had released funds. By committing fraud, Siddaramaiah wants to become the leader of the backwards," he charged. The socio-economic survey,

popularly known as the caste census, was conducted in Karnataka in 2015 by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission headed by H. Kantharaju. Though Siddaramaiah ordered the caste census, he had to bend before the leaders of the Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities of his party who insisted on not accepting the report.

Sources said the report stated that the SC and ST groups form

the majority in the state, followed by Muslims.

The Lingayats, considered to be the majority population, were shown as the third largest group, while the Vokkaligas, believed to be in second position, were shown in the fourth position, sources said.

This created a stir in the state, triggering a huge controversy as the Muslim community was shown as having the second-highest population in Karnataka.

Bangalore's air, water quality as bad as Delhi's

CONCERNS ARE BEING RAISED BY EXPERTS THAT THE KARNATAKA CAPITAL IS HEADING TOWARDS AN ECOLOGICAL DISASTER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Nov 4: Bangalore, once known as the 'Garden City of India', is presently going through the worst ecological crisis.

Following the tag of the fastest growing city in Asia for quite some time and the bustling industrial activity in and around, concerns are being raised that the Karnataka state capital is heading towards an ecological disaster.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has announced that the buffer zone along Kumudavathi and Arkavathi rivers in Bangalore

will be reduced. Concerns have been raised and protests staged against the move, while environmentalists maintain that this would hinder the rejuvenation efforts. The buffer zone extends 1 km on either side of the river.

With Bangalore witnessing rapid construction activity, mining, increase in volume of vehicles, the air quality is alarmingly deteriorating.

Noted environmentalist, author and former IPS Officer, AN Yallappa Reddy told IANS that in Bangalore, the situation is no better than Delhi.

"The major pollution is coming from construction and polluting in-

dustries. These industries are not caring for any law and there is no enforcement of the law," he observes. "In Delhi there is an alarming situation. People are going to die from all kinds of diseases including heart problem, diabetes. The pollutants once they enter into the brain and heart may cause all kinds of chronic diseases," he explains.

Suresh Heblikar, noted filmmaker, actor and environment activist, told IANS that water is completely destroyed in Bangalore and the air is deteriorating rapidly.

"There is no doubt that the city is on the path of destruction and I have written extensively about it in my major media long back," he stated.

"In our country, the mega cities are no longer alive and they have all collapsed ecologically. People are living just like that. South End circle, Silk Board Junction and Whitefield area in Bangalore are experiencing the worst air quality levels and crossed the danger mark."

"You should study economic development. Development is only for some people. When you talk about pollution, don't talk only about pollution. Talk about the economic growth which the country is trying to take up. This economic growth is producing huge pollution," Heblikar opined.



GOVT. OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER KARANJIA DIVISION, KARANJIA e-Procurement Notice, KARANJIAFOREST DIVISION Bid Identification No.- DFO - KJA - 02 OF 2023 - 24

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER SUNDARGARH (R&B) DIVISION, SUNDARGARH e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. SE-R&B-SNG-32 OF 2023-24

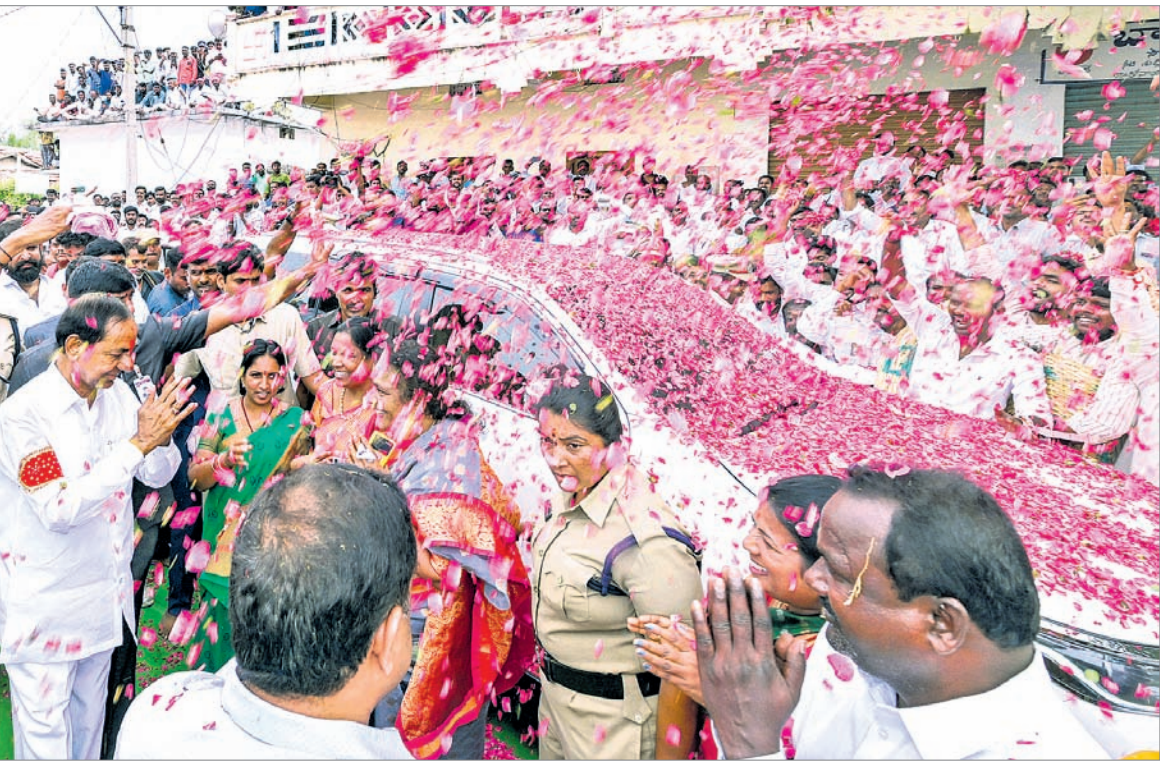
ZILLA PARISAD, RAYAGADA RAYAGADA-765001, ODISHA ADVERTISEMENT Advertisement No.5908 Date.01.11.2023

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, KENDRAPARA 'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.RWD-II/KPD-03/23-24 DTD 31.10.2023

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR Invitation for Bids Date: 01.11.2023



Schoolchildren amid dense smog near the India Gate in New Delhi. Delhi-NCR region is witnessing smog amid a surge in farm fires and unfavourable weather conditions leading to a spike in the air pollution levels



Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao during a visit to Sri Konaipally Venkateshwara Swamy Temple in Siddipet district



Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck during a visit to Kaziranga National Park in Golaghat district, Assam



Indian Army and Malaysian Army personnel during the joint exercise 'Harimau Shakti' in Meghalaya



Indian Air Force paratrooper skydiving team glide at the Air Force Station, Tambaram as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of the Flying Instructors School, in Chennai



Buque Armada Peruana (B.A.P.) Unión, a Sail Training Tall Ship of the Peruvian Navy, during a goodwill visit to Mumbai



Art students make paintings praying for citizens of earthquake-hit Nepal at Lalbaug in Mumbai

national

of the day quote

There is an urgent need to explore innovative approaches to strengthen deterrence and revitalise diplomacy for more effective conflict resolution



JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

Due to the difference in the words and deeds of leaders, the public's trust in Indian politics and its leaders has gradually eroded. And the crisis of trust in Indian politics has deepened due to the Congress



RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

India should help in finding ways to establish peace in Palestine



FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

8 dead, 3 missing

Mumbai: Eight bodies have been recovered till Saturday afternoon following the fire that broke out at a pharmaceutical company in Maharashtra's Raigad district a day ago, while search for three missing persons continued, an official said. The blaze at Blue Jet Healthcare in MIDC Mahad in Raigad district, some 170 kilometres from here, started at 11am on Friday, the National Disaster Response Force official added. "While four bodies were found till 7am, another four were recovered till 5pm. These are part of the 11 persons who had gone missing following the fire. Search operations with personnel from local agencies as well as NDRF for the remaining three continue," he said.

One killed in Delhi

New Delhi: A Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) low-floor electric bus rammed into more than a dozen vehicles in Rohini South here Saturday, killing a man, police said. The accident occurred around 2.45 pm near Vishram Chowk in Awantika. The bus hit a car, then an e-rickshaw and two-wheelers parked on the side of a road, they said. Police have the CCTV footage of the crash. A man died on the spot while another was injured, police said, adding that it seems the bus driver lost control of the vehicle. The injured was hospitalised and further investigations are underway, they said.

Drone recovered

Chandigarh: A drone was recovered from a field near the international border in Punjab's Ferozepur district, a BSF official said Saturday. The Border Security Force troops intercepted the movement of the drone near Tindi Wala village on the intervening night of November 3 and 4. "As per the laid down drill, the BSF troops immediately reacted to intercept the drone," the official said. During a search operation on Saturday, the BSF personnel recovered the quadcopter from the field, the official said. "Yet another Pakistani drone was recovered due to efforts of BSF troops," the official said.

Tragedy averted

Jammu: A major tragedy was averted with the timely detection of an IED - weighing two kg - along a busy road here Saturday evening, a police official said. The IED, fitted inside a tiffin box, was found lying near a police check point on the Sidhra-Narwal highway stretch, the official said. He said traffic movement on the road was suspended after the detection of the IED which was later removed by the bomb disposal squad. The official said a case was registered and efforts underway to arrest those responsible for planting the IED.



Climate change has become a major concern, directly impacting food and water security, but time is not on our side in the face of this crisis

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

AUTOBIOGRAPHY PUT ON HOLD

ISRO chairman S Somanath Saturday said he was withdrawing from the publishing of his upcoming autobiography, after a controversy erupted over some of his alleged critical remarks about his predecessor K Sivan in the book



BETTING APP ROW Cong fires 'rabid dogs' salvo at ED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: The Congress alleged Saturday that the imminent defeat of the BJP in the Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan Assembly polls has forced it to use its last weapon, the Enforcement Directorate (ED), to reverse its fortunes and said the claims made by the federal agency against Bhupesh Baghel are part of a "conspiracy" hatched by the saffron party to tarnish his image.

It also alleged that the ED and its "overlords" circled the aides of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Baghel like "rabid dogs" in order to reach him and asserted that the people of the state would give a befitting reply to such tactics in the upcoming Assembly poll.

The Congress said it will raise the issue with the Election Commission (EC) that the ED raids are being conducted during the poll process, when the Model Code of Conduct is in force, and claimed that it is a clear "violation" of the rules as it disturbs the level-playing field.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress general secretaries K C Venugopal and Jairam Ramesh, along with Abhishek Singhvi, said the party is exploring all legal options in this regard.



Ramesh claimed that with the defeat of the BJP in the Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh Assembly polls certain, the saffron party is misusing central agencies, such as the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "The people of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh have faith in the Congress. The BJP is indulging in vendetta politics," he said.

Another Congress leader, K C Venugopal, said there is a clear-cut conspiracy to tarnish Baghel's image, adding that people will give a befitting reply to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming polls. He also claimed that whenever the BJP

faces electoral defeats and sees its ground slipping from under its feet, it has only one weapon to use and that is the ED.

"This is a clear-cut conspiracy hatched by the prime minister to tarnish the image of Bhupesh Baghel and the Chhattisgarh government for winning this election," Venugopal alleged, claiming that all this is being done as the Chhattisgarh election is going to be one-sided in favour of the Congress and Baghel comes from an Other Backward Classes (OBC) background.

He also claimed that while the Chhattisgarh government has registered 70 FIRs, arrested 450

people and seized several mobile phones and cash worth crores from those involved with the Mahadev app scam, the BJP-led Centre has not taken any action against the kingpins of the betting app who are operating from Dubai. Venugopal said the Chhattisgarh government has frozen bank accounts with an estimated value of Rs 16 crore and the first case was registered on March 30, 2022.

"It is important to understand the modus operandi of the ED and its overlords. To reach Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel by hook or crook, they circled like rabid dogs anyone close to him," the Congress said in a statement, adding that the ED raided the houses of the chief minister's political advisor Vinod Verma, two OSD's - Manish Banchor and Ashish Verma - and close friend Vijay Bhatia.

"These raids are without application of mind, baseless and so politically motivated that they do not follow any rules, neither legal nor moral.... Despite these raids, cruel and inhumane behaviour, and mindless investigation, they found nothing significant linking either them or the chief minister to the Mahadev app. It was politically motivated from the beginning," the statement said.

Delhi grappling with toxic air pollution



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 3: Pollution levels in Delhi and its surrounding areas dipped marginally Saturday due to a relatively better wind speed but a thick toxic haze lingered over the city for the fifth consecutive day.

The concentration of poisonous PM2.5 was still over 80 times the healthy limit prescribed by the World Health Organization. Expressing concern about the expected deterioration in air quality in the coming days due to Diwali and stubble burning in neighbouring states, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai shot off a letter to Union Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav urging that only CNG, electric and BS VI-compliant vehicles be permitted in Delhi-NCR.

He also requested for an emergency meeting with NCR states to address the issue. Data from the Central Pollution Control Board showed Delhi's air quality index increased by over 200 points between October 27 and November 3, culminating in a descent into the "severe plus" category (above 450) on Friday.

On Saturday, the 24-hour average AQI, recorded at 4 pm every day, marginally improved from 468 on Friday to 415 on Saturday. Friday's 24-hour average AQI was the worst since the previous high of 471 recorded on November 12, 2021.

Rai also wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, seeking the suspension of Delhi Pollution Control Committee chairman Ashwani Kumar for "arbitrarily halting" the operation of a large smog tower installed at Connaught Place two years ago to mitigate air pollu-

- At a press conference, AAP chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar hit out at the BJP government in Haryana over the pollution crisis
- The concentration of poisonous PM2.5 was still over 80 times the healthy limit prescribed by the World Health Organization

tion. In his letter, Rai also sought disciplinary action against project in-charge Anwar Ali, whom he minister accused of changing his stance on the smog tower's effectiveness under pressure from Kumar. Meanwhile, the blame game between the AAP and the opposition BJP on the pollution crisis intensified. At a press conference, AAP chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar hit out at the BJP government in Haryana over the pollution crisis.

"The Khattar government in Haryana has done nothing for stubble management. If it wishes, we can send our experts from Punjab who can guide them on where machines are needed for stubble disposal," she said.

She claimed out of 52 most polluted districts in the country, 20 are in Haryana. BJP MP Manoj Tiwari alleged the "callous and frivolous attitude" of the Kejriwal government was responsible for the annual affair of toxic air quality in the city during winters.

In a letter to Kejriwal, he said it was high time to initiate measures to protect people and stop the blame game. With Delhi breathing toxic air, doctors expressed concern that it is increasing respiratory and eye problems among children and the elderly.

BJP leader killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Narayanpur, Nov 4: A Bharatiya Janata Party leader was killed Saturday in Narayanpur district in poll-bound Chhattisgarh allegedly by Naxalites, a police official said.

Ratan Dubey, the BJP's Narayanpur district unit vice president and the area's Assembly convener, was hacked to death with a sharp edged weapon in the market at Kaushalnagar village while he was campaigning for Assembly polls scheduled for November 7 and 17, he said.

A police team has rushed to the spot and efforts to nab those involved are underway, the official added. Condoning the incident, BJP leader Om Mathur in a message on X said, "I am deeply saddened by the brutal murder of Chhattisgarh BJP's Narayanpur Assembly convener and Narayanpur district vice president Ratan Dubey ji by Naxalites during the campaign. The entire party condemns this cowardly incident.

The incident comes amid accusations by the opposition BJP of "targeted killings" of its workers in the run up to the polls. On October 20, BJP worker Birju Taram was shot dead by suspected Maoists in Sarkhedra village in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district.

Narayanpur is among the 20 Assembly seats on which polls will be held on November 7. The second phase of polls to the 90-member House will take place on November 17, while votes will be counted on December 3.



Aam Aadmi Party leaders and workers shout slogans during a protest against rising prices in Lucknow

2 youths held over threat e-mails to Mukesh Ambani

At least three e-mails were sent to the official e-mail ID of Ambani's company in the last eight days threatening to eliminate him if he fails to pay up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 4: Mumbai police investigating the threat e-mails received by RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani wherein the senders had gradually raised the demand for money to Rs 400 crore nabbed two youths from Telangana and Gujarat Saturday,

an official said.

At least three e-mails were sent to the official e-mail ID of Ambani's company in the last eight days threatening to eliminate him if he fails to pay up. One of the two youths, identified as Ganesha Ramesh Vanrapathi (19) was picked up by the Mumbai Police's crime branch from



Warangal in Telangana and another person, identified as Shadab Khan (21), was held from Gujarat, the official said. Prima facie, Vanrapathi and

Khan were using two different email IDs to send the threatening communications. An e-mail was received by Ambani's office on October 27 in which the sender demanded Rs 20 crore stating, "If you (Ambani) do not give us Rs 20 crore, we will kill you, we have the best shooters in India." Another e-mail was received the next day seeking Rs 200 crore threatening that "If the demands are not fulfilled, a death warrant will be issued," according to police.

J&K cops introduce GPS tracker anklets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 4: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has introduced GPS tracker anklets for monitoring the terror accused out on bail, becoming the first police force in the country to do so, officials said on Saturday.

The GPS tracker anklet is a wearable device affixed around the ankle of the person to be monitored and tracks their movement. The device is already being used in Western countries such as the USA, United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand to track the movement of accused persons on bail, parole and house arrest and accordingly de-congests prisons to a large extent.

The officials of the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of the J-K Police have introduced the GPS tracker anklet for monitoring of bail-out terror accused, the officials said.

They said the J-K Police is the first police department in the country to introduce such a device. The officials said the devices were introduced after a Special NIA Court, Jammu, passed an order directing the police to affix a GPS tracker anklet on a terror accused - the importance of which was highlighted by the prosecution department of the police.

Giving details of the case, the officials said in an FIR registered under various sections of UAPA, accused Ghulam Mohd Bhat had applied for bail. During the pendency of the bail hearing, the accused sought to be released on interim bail.

78% of Mumbai families report 1 member hit by poor air

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Nov 4: As the country's financial capital gasps for breath and grapples with very poor air quality, and four out of five Mumbai families having at least one person suffering from sore throat, cough, burning eyes, the authorities are waking from their sleep slumber.

The Bombay High Court has taken suo motu cognisance of air pollution levels in the city, fire-crackers were banned for the ODI World Cup matches here, civic authorities are cracking the whip on air pollution "creators" and taking up washing of all major roads (60-foot wide) in the city.

This is largely the situation of air pollution since the end of monsoon and the early winter in October in state and country's commercial capital Mumbai, the orange city of Nagpur; the cultural capital of Pune, the tourism



hub of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (former Aurangabad) or the wine capital of the country, Nashik.

As Mumbai's choice, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) woke up to find over 6,000 construction sites in Mumbai as prime polluters and on October 20 ordered a series of measures to control the air pollution - anti-smog guns, sprinklers at building sites, special squads to catch violators, and latest, cleaning 650-kms of all major roads with recycled water daily.

A LocalCircles survey among 7,000 revealed that 78 per cent families in Mumbai have one

person down with air pollution related ailments, 44 per cent experienced burning eyes, 85 per cent blame it on construction sites and 62 per cent on vehicular emissions.

Experts at ASAR Social Impact Advisors said that as per IQAI, last week Delhi was the worst-polluted in India, followed by Jaipur, Mumbai and Nagpur, all falling in the 'unhealthy' air quality index (AQI), while Delhi topped in the world and Mumbai stood at the sixth spot.

Currently, Mumbai's AQI hovered around 125-169, the towns in Mumbai Metropolitan Region were in the range of 180, Pune at 165, Nagpur in poor AQI at 200, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar 150 and Nashik around 162.

The chief culprits for air pollution remain the same - vehicular emissions, industrial activity, construction sites, waste-burning, agricultural residues, plus certain natural

factors like limited wind movement and trapping of pollutants owing to geographical features that compound the problems.

On the recent crackdown on construction sites in Mumbai, Maharashtra Congress General Secretary Sachin Sawant wondered that when massive works of metros, coastal road, and other infra are going on why only the private developers are being blamed for the air pollution.

"How much space is left in Mumbai for the developers to pollute? The civic administration must also take similar precautions if they are serious about curbing air pollution," said Sawant. ASAR-SIA's Brikesh Singh said there must be robust collaboration among all stakeholders, like civil society, citizens groups, and urban local bodies to mitigate the effects of air pollution and work towards a cleaner, healthier future for all.

international



We're really focusing on making Ukraine the arsenal of the free world
OLEKSANDR KAMYSYHIN | MINISTER FOR STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES, UKRAINE

HASINA'S MILESTONE MOMENT

At 76-years-old, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is a political phenomenon who has guided the rise of this nation of 170 million from rustic jute producer into the Asia-Pacific's fastest-expanding economy over the past decade, Time said in a cover story on the world's longest-serving female head of gov



of the day quote

We will try to facilitate the work (on ratifying Sweden's NATO bid) as much as possible



TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

We consider the criminal US a principal culprit in all these crimes in Gaza and against Palestinians



MOHAMMAD BAGHER QALIBAF | PARLIAMENT SPEAKER, IRAN

The fact that it is the first visit in seven years to our major trading partner is a very positive step, and I look forward to constructive discussions and dialogue with the president and the premier during my visit to Shanghai and Beijing



ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA

HK kicks off Asia's 1st gay games despite dissent

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Nov 4: The Gay Games Hong Kong (GGHK) kicked off Saturday, its first time in Asia, despite opposition from anti-LGBTQ lawmakers and human rights activists.

The opening ceremony began with a march-in by the GGHK, Federation of Gay Games, and delegations from around the world, followed by performances including the Hong Kong lion dance.

"The vision of the Gay Games has always been to create a sports, arts, and culture festival that celebrates participation, inclusion, and personal best," said

Lisa Lam, co-chair of GGHK. Lam said GGHK was proud to introduce an all-genders category in multi-sports for the first time, so that people of all genders can compete together.

Over 2,300 participants from 45 countries are expected to take part in sporting and cultural events, including, dragon boat racing and mahjong.

Hong Kong has no law against discrimination based on sexual orientation and does not recognise same-sex marriage.

A ruling by its top court in September set a two-year deadline for the government to establish a legal framework to recognise same-sex unions.



Regina Ip, convener of the city's top decision-making body the Executive Council, was the only pro-establishment figure at the opening ceremony, despite calls from anti-LGBTQ law-

makers for her to resign. "The holding of the Gay Games in Hong Kong is strong testimony to the diversity, inclusion, and unity of our city," Ip said in her welcoming speech.

9 militants attack Pak Air Force base

The heavily armed militants were "sent to hell", says Army



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 4: Nine heavily armed terrorists attacked a Pakistan Air Force training base in Punjab province early Saturday and all of them were "sent to hell", the army said, a day after 17 soldiers were killed in three separate terror strikes in the country.

Pakistan Air Force's Mianwali Training Air Base, some 300 km from Lahore, was attacked by nine terrorists, the Pakistan Army said in a statement.

The military confirmed that the "combing and clearance operation at PAF Training Airbase Mianwali has been concluded and all nine terrorists have been sent to hell".

The operation was launched to "eliminate any potential threat in the surrounding area following the cowardly and failed terrorist attack on the base this morning", the statement said.

The army said while no damage had been done to any of the PAF's functional operational assets, some damage was done to three already phased-out non-operational aircraft during the attack.

The Tehreek-i-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), a newly emerged militant

group that is an affiliate of the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), has claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement to the media.

Condemning the attack, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said, "Any attempt to undermine our security will meet with unwavering resistance."

Fourteen Pakistani soldiers were killed Friday when militants ambushed two vehicles carrying security forces from Pasni to the Ormara area of Gwadar district in the restive south-western Balochistan province. The toll is the heaviest suffered by the military in Balochistan this year where separatists and militants have stepped up their attacks since a ceasefire deal between TTP and the Pakistan government ended in November 2022.

Hours before the Gwadar attack, a series of bomb blasts targeting convoys of police and security forces killed one soldier and five others and wounded 24 others in the Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The attack comes hours after a series of terror strikes killed at least 17 soldiers in the restive Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces

ANOTHER LONG WAR AHEAD Hamas fully prepared

WITH 40,000 OPERATIVES AND A WEB OF TUNNELS, HAMAS PLANS TO TRAP ISRAELI TROOPS WITH URBAN GUERRILLA TACTICS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 4: Hamas has prepared for a long, drawn-out war in the Gaza Strip and believes it can hold up Israel's advance long enough to force its arch-enemy to agree to a ceasefire, two sources close to the organization's leadership said.

Hamas, which rules Gaza, has stockpiled weapons, missiles, food and medical supplies, according to the people, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the situation.

The group is confident its thousands of fighters can survive for months in a city of tunnels carved deep beneath the Palestinian enclave and frustrate Israeli forces with urban guerrilla tactics, the people told Reuters.

Ultimately, Hamas believes international pressure for Israel to end the siege, as civilian casualties mount, could force a ceasefire and a negotiated settlement that would see the group emerge with a tangible concession such as the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Israeli hostages, the sources said.

The group has made it clear to the US and Israel at indirect, Qatar-mediated hostage negotiations that it wants to force such a prisoner release in exchange for hostages, according to four Hamas officials, a regional official, and a person familiar with the White House's thinking.

Longer term, Hamas has said it wants to end Israel's 17-year



blockade of Gaza, as well as to halt Israeli settlement expansion and what Palestinians see as heavy-handed actions by Israeli security forces at the al-Aqsa mosque, the most sacred Muslim shrine in Jerusalem.

Israel has deployed overwhelming aerial firepower since the Oct. 7 attack, which saw Hamas gunmen burst out of the Gaza Strip, killing 1,400 Israelis and taking 239 hostages.

The Gazan death count has surpassed 9,000, with every day of violence fuelling protests around the world over the plight of more than 2 million Gazans trapped in the tiny enclave, many without water, food or power. Israeli airstrikes hit a crowded refugee camp in Gaza Tuesday, killing at least 50 Palestinians and a Hamas commander.

'WE WILL DEFEAT HAMAS'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vows to wipe out Hamas and has rejected calls for a ceasefire. Israeli officials say they're under no illusions about what may lie ahead and accuse the operatives of hiding behind civilians.

The country has braced itself for a "long and painful war", said Danny Danon, a former Israeli ambassador to the U.N. and ex-member of the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee.

"We know at the end that we will prevail and that we will defeat Hamas," he told Reuters.

CHINA UNHAPPY

Beijing imposed the National Security Law (NSL) on the city in 2020 after months of anti-government protests. The law punishes subversion, collusion with foreign forces and terrorism with terms of up to life in prison.

Pro-Beijing lawmaker Junius Ho Thursday sent a letter to the city's leader John Lee, saying that the agenda of the gay games is to promote same-sex marriage, accusing it of violating the NSL.

"This is a good idea because especially China is not very fond of the gays. So this is to become visible in China as queer people," said Gerrit Schulz, 80, a participant from Berlin.

SHORT TAKES

Storm Ciaran kills 14 in Europe

Milan: Record-breaking rain produced floods in a vast swath of Italy's Tuscany region as Storm Ciaran pushed into the country overnight, trapping residents in their homes, inundating hospitals and overturning cars. At least six people in Italy and one person in Albania were killed Friday, bringing the storm's death toll to 14 across Europe this week. Throughout the day, the storm brought more death and destruction as it moved eastward across the continent. In Albania, police said a motorist died when he lost control while driving a car, which slid and hit barriers. Many roads in the country were flooded, including in the capital, Tirana.

More than 500 migrants rescued

Madrid: More than 500 migrants were rescued in the Atlantic Ocean off Spain's Canary Islands, the Spanish coastguard said on Saturday, as the number of people arriving on the archipelago so far this year neared an all-time record posted in 2006. The coastguard said they had also found two dead bodies among those rescued from four boats in the waters off El Hierro, the smallest and most westerly of the Canary Islands. The number of arrivals has recently jumped as milder weather and calmer seas since September have made it more feasible to attempt the still perilous crossing from Africa.

Ukrainian troops battle exhaustion

The war in Ukraine, now in its 21st month, has killed or wounded hundreds of thousands and destroyed swathes of the country. It has also triggered the deepest crisis in Moscow's relations with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis

REUTERS

Near Kremlinna, Nov 4: Istoryk, a 26-year-old soldier in eastern Ukraine, finally managed to fall asleep one morning, exhausted from the relentless battles against Russian forces in the pinewood forests near Kremlinna.

His rest was cut short just an hour later when a fresh firefight broke out, forcing the senior combat medic back into action in a fierce and lengthy exchange.

"We had a firefight for over 20 hours," said Istoryk, identified by his military call sign. "Non-stop fighting, assaults, evacuations, and you know, I managed it," he told a Reuters reporter visiting his position Thursday. "And we all managed it. We aren't very fresh, and right now we need to find strength."

His description of recent clashes, and the fatigue that he and his unit are experiencing, underscore the huge strain that the war, now in its 21st month,

is putting on Ukraine's limited resources and on its troops.

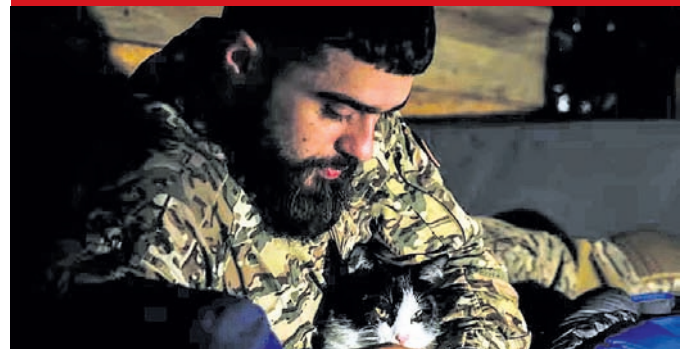
Back in the forests around Lyman, Zakhid, a 26-year-old officer, said the next phase of the war would be tough and a true test of character for the military. "We're exhausted, they're exhausted. But there are more of them, and they have more equipment."

The soldiers also know that Russia has a far bigger army and more weapons and ammunition, raising the uncomfortable question of how Ukraine can ever repel the invaders once and for all in Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War Two.

Ukraine's commander-in-chief, Valery Zaluzhnyi, described a "stalemate" on the battlefield in an interview published this week, adding that a protracted, attritional war would favour Russia and could threaten the very state.

The highly respected general's stark assessment coincides with

WAR DRAGS INTO SECOND WINTER



the advent of seasonal rains, which makes it harder to advance over muddy ground, and follows a summer counteroffensive which has liberated far less territory than Kyiv had hoped.

FALTERING OFFENSIVE

Istoryk serves in a rifles battalion of the 67th Mechanised Brigade in the Serebryanskyi forest in the Luhansk region. Most of the province is occu-

ried by the Russians. The ground around the road to the trenches is dotted with craters from incoming shells, and charred trees have snapped in half from the explosions.

Fighting of this kind is raging along the frontlines running from the border with Russia's Belgorod region in the north-east all the way to the Black Sea in the south.

Istoryk said Russia had taken

- UKRAINE'S COUNTEROFFENSIVE HAS YIELDED LITTLE SO FAR
- AS WINTER APPROACHES, REALITY OF A LONG WAR SETS IN
- MORE SUPPORT NEEDED FROM WESTERN NATIONS: KYIV

Only new capabilities, including more supplies from Western allies as well as locally produced drones, would tip the balance back in Kyiv's favour

VALERY ZALUZHNYI | COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, UKRAINE

"huge" losses in the area; five Ukrainian soldiers in an evacuation team were also killed by recent shelling nearby, he added.

Having focused on defence earlier in the year, Ukraine launched a counteroffensive in June in a bid to wrest back the initiative and cut Russia's supply lines by thrusting south towards the Sea of Azov.

Cooperating with Philippines, US to protect SCS: Japan PM

REUTERS

Manila, Nov 4: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Saturday his country, the Philippines and the United States were cooperating to protect the freedom of the South China Sea as he committed to help enhance Manila's security capabilities.

"In the South China Sea, trilateral cooperation to protect the freedom of the sea is under way," Kishida, on an official visit, said in an address before the Philippine congress in the capital Manila.

Kishida and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr agreed Friday to start negotiations on a reciprocal troop access deal to strengthen military cooperation as China becomes increasingly assertive in the region.

The Philippines and Japan, two of the United States' closest Asian allies, have taken a strong line against what they see as aggressive behaviour by Chinese vessels amid decades-old disputes over maritime sovereignty.

Last month China and the Philippines traded accusations



over a collision in the disputed waters of the South China Sea as Chinese vessels blocked Philippine boats supplying forces there.

China claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea, including parts of the exclusive economic zones of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 said China's claims had no legal basis. Japan does not have any claim to the South China Sea, but has a maritime dispute with China in the East China Sea.

"Japan will continue to contribute to the enhancement of the Philippines' security capabilities, thereby contributing to regional peace and stability," Kishida said.

SHORT TAKES

India secure bronze

JOHOR BAHRU (MALAYSIA): Goalkeeper HS Mohith made a crucial save in the penalty shootout as the Indian junior hockey team edged arch-rivals Pakistan 6-5 to bag the bronze medal at the Sultan of Johar Cup, here Saturday. The regulation time ended with a scoreline of 3-3 with Arun Sahani (11th), Poovanna CB (42th) and captain Uttam Singh (52nd) scoring for India, while Sufyan Khan (33rd), Abdul Qayyum (50th) and skipper Shahid Hannan (57th) scoring for Pakistan. The penalty shootout went all the way to sudden death and Mohith tackled Hannan perfectly to seal India's victory.

Vaishali in sole lead

ISLE OF MAN (UK): India's R Vaishali shot into sole lead after she crashed through the defences of former World Champion Antoaneta Stefanova of Bulgaria in the ninth round of Fide Grand Swiss chess tournament here. Vaishali also completed an inconsequential fourth Grandmaster norm in the process and now just needs around seven rating points to become the third woman from India to attain the feat. Vaishali is on seven points. With just two rounds left, she will face Zhongyi Tan of China in what is seen as the final hurdle between her and the title.

Djoko reaches semis

PARIS: Novak Djokovic took his revenge over defending champion Holger Rune to reach the semifinals of the Paris Masters after a nearly three-hour battle. The Dane beat Djokovic in last year's final but could not prevail this time. Djokovic won the quarterfinal match 7-5, 6-7(3-7), 6-4 Friday. The top-ranked Djokovic, a six-time champion at the Paris Masters, advanced to the last four for the ninth time. The result extended Djokovic's winning streak to 16 matches. He will meet the fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev for a place in the final. Rublev rallied to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 against Alex de Minaur. Earlier, Grigor Dimitrov booked his spot in the semifinals with a 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 win over Hubert Hurkacz.

Pak alive in semifinal race

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 4: Fakhar Zaman hit an extraordinary hundred (126 n o, 81b, 8x4, 11x6) and the weather gods too smiled on 'unpredictable' Pakistan, who miraculously kept their semifinal hopes alive after walking away with a crucial 21-run win over New Zealand through DLS method in World Cup, here Saturday.

Zaman and skipper Babar Azam (66 n o, 63b, 6x4, 2x6) helped Pakistan to 200/1 in 25.3 overs when the skies opened up for the second time to end the proceedings. At that point Pakistan were 21 runs ahead of the DLS calculations in a daunting chase of 402 which was revised to 342 in 41 overs.

New Zealand will feel gutted after making a mammoth 401/6, riding on Rachin Ravindra's 94-ball 108 (15x4, 1x6) and comeback man Kane Williamson's 79-ball 95 (10x4, 2x6).

Pakistan now have eight points with a match to go against struggling England, while New Zealand (NRR: +0.855), also on



FAKHAR ZAMAN

eight points, will face on-their-way-out Sri Lanka in their final league game. Pakistan (-0.424),

however, still remain at the sixth place on the table behind Afghanistan (-0.330) because of

Aussies knock England out of World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 4: Adam Zampa (3/21) produced three timely strikes in the middle overs as Australia knocked out defending champions England out of the World Cup with a 33-run win here Saturday, their fifth consecutive victory.

Australian batters were guilty of not converting starts but still managed to post 286 against their arch-rivals. Marnus Labuschagne (71, 83b, 7x4) recorded his highest score of the tournament.

Amid heavy dew, Ben Stokes (64, 90b, 2x4, 3x6) kept the chase alive while batting alongside Dawid Malan (50, 64b, 4x4, 1x6) and Moeen Ali (42, 43b, 6x4) before Zampa landed the killer blows to stop

England at 253 in 48.1 overs. Chris Woakes (32) tried his best towards the end but it wasn't enough.

England batters including Stokes, Moeen and Malan did exhibit the strokeplay they are known for but could not stay long enough to see their team through. It was Australia's fifth win in a row.

Earlier, Labuschagne, Steve Smith (44, 52b, 3x4), Cameron Green (47, 52b, 5x4) and Marcus Stoinis (35, 32b, 3x4, 2x6) were among the batters who failed to cash in on their starts.

Leggie Adil Rashid (2/38) was frugal as usual while pacer Mark Wood (2/70) was back to his menacing ways, using the short ball to hurry the opposition batters, especially Green. Chris Woakes

(4/54) was also impressive.

England were able to get the early wickets after putting Australia in to bat. Smith and Labuschagne then shared a 75-run stand. It seemed Australia would not be able to use their full quota of overs after the departures of Green and Stoinis, but Zampa's timely cameo of 29 from 19 balls took the team close to 300.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 286 (Marnus Labuschagne 71, Cameron Green 47, Steve Smith 44, Marcus Stoinis 35; Chris Woakes 4/54, Adil Rashid 2/38) beat England 253 (Ben Stokes 64, Dawid Malan 50, Moeen Ali 42, Chris Woakes 32; Adam Zampa 3/21, Pat Cummins 2/49, Josh Hazlewood 2/49) by 33 runs.

the net run rate.

Those calculations apart, those with a sense of history will trace these fateful happenings to Pakistan's campaign in the 1992 World Cup when weather and mathematics helped them first to the semifinals and then eventually to the title.

But for all that, Pakistan on this need to be indebted to the power of Zaman, who carted the New Zealand bowlers around the park with utter disdain. Zaman conjured his hundred in just 63 balls. At the other end, Babar was a comparatively quieter presence but with Zaman in full flow he did not have to attempt anything colourful.

Earlier, Ravindra made a hundred with talent written in bold letters over it, while Williamson nearly made a century on comeback as New Zealand piled up a mammoth score.

Pakistan bowlers did not have enough variations to counter a smooth Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch as Ravindra and Williamson ran them ragged after the Kiwis were asked to bat first.

It was also only the second instance in this event that a team crossed the 400-run mark after South Africa did that against Sri Lanka in New Delhi. Pakistan (six points) need to chase the target in 35.2 overs to climb to the fourth spot, which is with the Kiwis (eight points).

Glenn Phillips (41) too chipped in with some typical beefy blows as the Black Caps innings switched on the afterburners. In total, New Zealand made 114 runs in the last 10 overs to give Pakistan a steep mountain to scale down.

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand 401/6 (Rachin Ravindra 108, Kane Williamson 95; Mohammad Wasim 3/60) lost to Pakistan 200/1 (Fakhar Zaman 126 n o, Babar Azam 66 n o) by 21 runs via DLS method.

Unbeaten India face formidable Proteas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 4: The top spot is at stake and an unconquered Indian team will certainly feel a sense of deja vu when they take on a red-hot South Africa Sunday in what will be a battle of equals in the World Cup.

It promises to be a fascinating contest and Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin can't escape that "been there in this position" feeling since they were part of the World Cup squad that had a similar run in 2011.

The only game that India had lost in the 2011 edition was against South Africa when an unheralded Robin Peterson had smashed Ashish Nehra for 19 runs after Indian batting imploded in Nagpur despite a hundred from Sachin Tendulkar.

Kohli, who is one short of record-equaling 49th ODI hundred, and Ashwin are the only players in the current squad who were part of India's title-winning run.



Prasidh Krishna got a call-up after all-rounder Hardik Pandya was ruled out of the World Cup due to ankle injury

Sunday, Rohit Sharma's players need to guard themselves from complacency and emulate the all-conquering Australian team of 2007 which won the World Cup without losing a single game. A win and 16 points would confirm India's top spot with a match left against the Netherlands.

Indian fans however won't mind 'Law of Averages' catching up before the semis and not feel the heat when it matters most.

India eves beat Korea to set up ACT title clash against Japan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 4: Unbeaten India continued their sparkling form, defeating Asian Games silver medallist South Korea 2-0 to enter the final of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Saturday.

The Indians, who thrashed Korea 5-0 in their final round-robin match, scored through Salima Tete (11th minute) and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke (19th) to emerge winners.

Asian Games bronze medallist India will take on Japan in the final Sunday. The Japanese eked out a narrow 2-1 win over Asian Games champions China 2-1 in

the first semifinal.

In the second semifinal later in the day, the Indians started from where they left and pressed hard on the Japanese goal from the onset with relentless attacks. Their pressure finally tasted success when Salima gave the lead after being set up by Udita from a counter-attack to end the first quarter with a slender one goal advantage.

The Indians started with the same intensity in the second quarter and doubled their lead from a penalty corner. Vaishnavi scored from a rebound from close range with a reverse flick after Deep Grace Ekka's flick was saved by the Korean goalie.

DSPL - 343

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Timeline for Registration

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The Fill selling trend witnessed in September and October continued in early November as well

VK VIJAYAKUMAR | CHIEF INVESTMENT STRATEGIST, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

MAERSK TO SLASH 10K JOBS

Shipping group AP Moller-Maersk, reported a steep drop in third-quarter profit and revenue and said it would cut at least 10,000 jobs in the face of overcapacity, rising costs and weaker prices, sending its shares tumbling



of the day quote

I will be in San Francisco later this month where the US and India are also working together to have an innovation handshake. They want to work with all the young talent that we have in India

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

We are pleased with H1 operating and financial performance, and volume levels at our mega-facilities have also been consistently high

SAHIL BARUA | MD & CEO, DELHIWERY

Responsible AI is on top of the mind for SAP. I think it's extremely important that whenever we build AI, especially generative AI which has a much larger footprint of algorithmically produced content, we keep a close eye on what we're delivering to our customers

WALTER SUN | GLOBAL HEAD OF AI, SAP

AI FLOOD

Musk brings ChatGPT rival

THE CHATBOT, GORK WILL BE A WITTY AND EXCLUSIVE AI CHATBOT WITH REAL-TIME INSIGHTS

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 4: Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company, xAI, has recently unveiled its inaugural AI model, called Gork, to a limited audience. Musk provided a preview of a chatbot utilizing xAI's latest "Gork" model, indicating its resemblance to substantial language models like OpenAI's ChatGPT.

In a post on X, Musk mentioned that Gork has instant access to information via his social media platform, X (previously known as Twitter). He implies that this advantage sets xAI's model apart from other language models.

"Grok has real-time access to info via the X platform, which is a massive advantage over other models," stated the owner of X in his post.

In a recent post, Musk shared amusing characteristics of his AI-driven chatbot. He posted an image where a user requested a step-by-step guide on making cocaine. Although the chatbot provided the requested instructions, it also added a touch of humor and sarcasm in its



warning to the user. "Just kidding! Please don't actually try to make coke. It's illegal, dangerous and not something I would ever encourage," wrote Musk in his tweet.

Musk admires the wit exhibited by the new AI platform. He expressed that Gork is sharp and enjoys sarcasm. He said that he is clueless about who might have influenced it in this direction, as he shared a screenshot of a user asking Gork.

In addition to his admiration for AI platform's sarcastic personality, Musk holds a favorable view of Gork, affirming that their latest model is one of the top options currently available. He shared on X, "In certain

The bot is being compared to other chatbots like OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard and Microsoft's Bing AI

crucial aspects, it is currently one of the best." A user requested access from Musk, saying, "How refreshing. Please grant me access to this, Elon." Musk responded with, "Ask, and you shall receive." This suggests that there is a possibility for X users to gain access to Gork if Musk grants authorization.

The report from the publica-

OpenAI to make models cheaper

ChatGPT maker OpenAI is expected to announce product enhancements that will make its AI models cheaper, with more functionality, in its first-ever developer conference Monday. The conference signals OpenAI's ambition to expand beyond a consumer sensation to becoming a provider of a hit developer platform, and CEO Sam Altman has teased attendees with the promise of "some great new stuff." The one-day event, in a desolate area of San Francisco near City Hall, is attracting hundreds of developers from around the world. The burgeoning AI sector has been a bright spot for San Francisco's economy, which has struggled to bounce back from the pandemic.

tion adds that Musk intends to make xAI's language model available to all X Premium+ subscribers. X has introduced two subscription options, giving users the choice between a \$16 per month Premium+ tier for an ad-free experience and a basic \$3 per month tier. Additionally, there is the X Premium tier, which is priced at \$8 per month.

Air India signs interline pact with Alaska Airlines



An interline arrangement refers to a pact to issue and accept tickets for flights that are operated by the partner airline. When selling an interline ticket, the operating airlines' own flight numbers are used

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Air India has entered into an interline partnership with Alaska Airlines.

The partnership will allow Air India customers to "avail seamless connections from New York JFK, Newark-New Jersey, Washington DC, Chicago, San Francisco, and Vancouver gateways to and from 32 destinations

in the USA, Mexico, and Canada on Alaska Airline's network", according to a release.

The release said the scope of the partnership includes bilateral interlining which allows both the airlines to sell tickets on each other's network.

"The two airlines have also entered a Special Prorate Agreement, which allows Air India to file 'through fares' on routes covering Alaska Airlines' network," it added.

This arrangement means that a passenger can have a single fare for a single ticket covering all destinations in an itinerary.

Tata Group-owned Air India is expanding its presence in both domestic and international networks.

RESULTS CORNER

BYJU'S loss narrows

New Delhi: Edtech firm Think and Learn Private Ltd, which operates under the brand name of BYJU'S, Saturday reported narrowing of operational losses in core business to Rs 2,253 crore for the 2021-22 fiscal. The EBITDA, or the operational loss in core business, was down from Rs 2,406 crore in the year-ago period, the company said. BYJU'S said its core business revenue grew 2.3 times to Rs 3,569 crore in FY22 from Rs 1,552 crore in the previous year.

of Rs 14,752 crore in the year-ago period and Rs 18,356 crore in the June quarter. On a standalone basis, it posted a net profit of Rs 14,330.02 crore as against Rs 13,264.52 crore in the year-ago period. The bank, which controls over a fifth of the overall market and has the widest network in the country, reported a total income of over Rs 1.12 lakh crore for the quarter under review, up from Rs 88,733 crore in the year-ago period.

BoB net jumps 28%

New Delhi: Bank of Baroda (BoB) Saturday reported a 28 per cent rise in its net profit to Rs 4,253 crore for the second quarter ended September on the back of a decline in bad loans and rise in interest income. The state-owned lender had posted a net profit of Rs 3,313 crore in the

corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. Its total income rose to Rs 32,033 crore in the second quarter of 2023-24, compared to Rs 23,080 crore a year ago, BoB said in a regulatory filing.

Vedanta in red

New Delhi: Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Ltd Saturday reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 1,783 crore for the second quarter ended September 2023 on account of one-time exceptional item because of adoption of new tax rate. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,808 crore in the year-ago period, Vedanta Ltd said in a filing to BSE. The consolidated income of the company in the July-September period increased to Rs 39,585 crore from Rs 37,351 crore in the year-ago period.

Goyal seeks ideas from startups to manage tomato supply chain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Saturday said sought views of startups to manage the tomato supply chain as price of the vegetable rises significantly during certain months.

Tomato prices in the Delhi-NCR were high in July following a supply disruption from the producing centres owing to rains.

"I am looking for ideas from some of you... how we can manage the tomato economy better because tomato prices went up to Rs 200 per kg," Goyal said at a startup event in Gurugram.

In July, the consumer affairs ministry had also announced a



Tomato Grand Challenge hackathon to invite innovative ideas at various levels of the tomato value chain to ensure availability of tomatoes to the consumers at affordable prices and help tomato farmers get value for the produce.

The startups should come out with solutions both for elementary and "big" serious problems, Goyal said.

The budding entrepreneurs would help in making India a developed country, the Union minister added.

COAL PRODUCTION SURGES 19% YoY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 4: India's coal output increased 18.59 per cent to 78.65 million tonne (MT) in October.

The country produced 66.32 MT in the corresponding month of previous fiscal year.

Coal output by state-owned CIL increased 15.36 per cent to 61.07 MT in October this year as compared to 52.94 MT in the year-ago period, the coal ministry said in a statement. Coal India Ltd (CIL) accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output. The production during April-October FY24 increased to 507.02 MT as compared to 448.49 MT during the same period in FY23.

The dispatch of coal increased to 79.30 MT last month against 67.13 MT in October FY23.

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