



RICHA SHUTS TROLLS

Actor Richa Chadha supports Aishwarya Rai amid trolling, deeming trolls jealous and praising her grace and beauty

LEISURE P2



REFUGEE CAMP ATTACKED

Israeli warplanes strike a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, killing at least 40 people and wounding dozens

INTERNATIONAL P10



GOLD FOR ODISHA EVES

Odisha women's football team win gold at the National Games in Goa defeating Manipur in the final

SPORTS P12

'WHERE IS EVIDENCE?'

AGENCIES

Ottawa, Nov 5: Canada's investigation into the murder of Sikh extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar has been tainted by a high-level Canadian official's public statements, India's High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma has said as he asked Ottawa to provide evidence to back up its allegations.

Verma did not name the high-level official.

In an interview with the Globe and Mail newspaper, Verma has said that there "is no specific or relevant information provided in this case for us to assist them in the investigation."

"Where is the evidence? Where is the conclusion of the investigation? I would go a step further and say now the investigation has already been tainted," Verma was quoted as saying by the newspaper. "A direction has come from someone at a high level to say India or Indian agents are behind it," he said Saturday, without naming anyone.

The ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September of a 'potential' involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar in the Canadian town of Surrey in June.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Please buy your mother's data from the dark web. I want to know what she really thinks about me

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
MAX	31.0°C 30.6°C
MIN	23.0°C 22.5°C
Humidity	87% 89%
Rainfall	3.4mm Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain

Entry of polluting trucks, CVs banned in Delhi

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 5: The Centre Sunday ordered a ban on construction work related to linear public projects in Delhi-NCR and the entry of polluting trucks and commercial vehicles (CVs) into the capital as an air quality crisis gripped the region.

These measures constitute the final stage, Stage IV, of the Centre's air pollution control plan, which is activated at least three days before the Air Quality Index surpasses the 450 mark in the capital.

However, proactive implementation could not happen this time.

The CAQM, a statutory body responsible for formulating strategies to combat pollution in the region, asked Delhi and NCR states to implement all emergency measures, which also include work-from-home directives for 50 per cent of staff in government and private offices.

Under the final stage (Stage IV) of the Graded Response Action Plan, only CNG, electric, and BS VI-compliant vehicles from other states are allowed to enter Delhi, with exemptions granted to those involved in essential services.



MILESTONE MAN: Virat Kohli celebrates his century during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 match between India and South Africa, at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Kohli equalled his idol Sachin Tendulkar's record of most ODI centuries with his 49th hundred.

8 ON TROT

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Nov 5: India routed South Africa by 243 runs in their ODI World Cup encounter at the Eden Gardens here Sunday to notch up their eighth successive victory in the ongoing tournament. Birthday boy Virat Kohli (101 n o, 121b, 10x4) hit a record-equalling 49th ODI ton as India posted 326 for the loss of five wickets and then Ravindra Jadeja (5/33) ran through the South African batting order to dismiss the opposition for only 83.

It was as if the script had earlier been written for the game. Coming into the game, South Africa were being considered a tough opponent. However, once India put up a 300-plus score, the South African batters caved in due to the pressure.

Kohli, on the way to equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI hundreds, put on 134 runs for the third wicket with Shreyas Iyer (77, 87b, 7x4, 2x6) to effectively change the complexion of the game. Jadeja (29 n o, 15b, 3x4, 1x6) also helped India's cause.

BRIEF SCORES

India
326 for 5 (Virat Kohli 101 n o, Shreyas Iyer 77) beat
South Africa
83 in 27.1 overs (Ravindra Jadeja 5/33, Kuldeep Yadav 2/7, Mohammed Shami 2/18) by 243 runs

Dairy growth dismal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Odisha is lagging behind other states in the dairy sector growth, a NABARD report says, calling for an immediate intervention by the state government to address the growing demand for milk.

Though Odisha is among the top 10 states with maximum number of cattle population in the country, yet it was at 18th spot as per the volume of milk production in 2021-22. The per capita availability of milk in the state is 144 gram per day against the national average of 444 gram. The dismal situation of the dairy sector in the state has been brought to the fore in an approach note published by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently.

"Even the per-capita milk availability in the state is quite low compared to the national average (444 gm/day) as well as the ICMR recommendation of 300 gm/day from the basic nutritional requirement view point," NABARD observes in the sectoral note on

Per capita availability of milk in Odisha is 144 gram per day against the national average of 444 gram



dairy sector in Odisha.

The apex development bank of India points out various issues plaguing the growth of dairy sector in the state. The major constraints narrated in the note include low production capacity of existing cattle stock, shortage of fodder, lack of veterinary services, absence of timely Artificial Insemination service delivery, large number of dormant/less functional milk cooperative societies. The report also exposes the lack of government support to the Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (OMFED).

OMFED looks after the entire chain of milk procurement, chilling, processing, value addition

and marketing through the three-tier cooperative structure of federation at state level, milk unions at district level and milk producers' cooperative societies at grassroots level.

The report throws light on the prevailing mismanagement at various levels in the organisation such as untimely payment of farmer dues, non-functional dairy cooperative societies (DCS) organised by milk unions/OMFED on regular intervals.

The report asserts, "Due to irregularity in payment of milk price to the farmers by OMFED through some milk unions, the milk pouring by the farmers in the DCS is getting reduced gradually and also not enabling the

farmers to expand their existing dairy unit at village level."

NABARD suggests that the state government should make OMFED more vibrant and competitive to compete with other private players in the dairy value chain. It also points out lower productivity of indigenous breeds which numbers 83.23 lakh of the 99.03 lakh cattle population in the state, as per the 20th Livestock Census. "One among the main reasons for the low productivity of our indigenous animal is the scarcity of feeds and fodder. The present shortfall in green and dry fodder was 48.4% and 23.5% of the demand respectively," NABARD points out.

NABARD also suggests that the state government should protect and preserve indigenous breeds of the state that are more resistant to diseases and adverse climatic conditions.

NABARD also recommends the state government to ensure quality semen production by improving the existing bull mother station, breeding farms through PPP mode.

Another leopard on prowl in Nuapada

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Nov 5: Hours after forest officials captured a 'man-eater' leopard in Dharambandha area of Nuapada district, villagers spotted another leopard roaming near Kodopali village in the same area.

This has sparked panic in the area with the villagers seeing no respite from leopard scare despite the capture of a 'man-eater' by the forest officials. The animal is stated to be the mate of the man-eater leopard. After spotting the animal, the villagers immediately informed the forest officials and urged them to take security measures to save them from the terror of the big cat.

On being informed, forest officials rushed to the spot and tracked the movement and activities of the animal.

The leopard which had be-

come 'man-eater' had mauled a woman to death when she had been to attend nature's call at Siliarihabahara village under Dharambandha police limits and Sadar forest range in the district, Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Rameshwari Majhi, 50, a former ward member. The villagers noticed it consuming the flesh of the woman, Saturday and tried to drive it away but the animal retaliated and tried to attack them.

The locals went into the village and came back armed with lathis. However, by then the animal had gone leaving the woman's body.

A 5-year-old boy Nilakantha Dharua, son of Balakram Dharua in neighbouring Kodopali village had a close shave after villagers rescued him while being dragged by the animal into the jungle, Saturday evening.

THE ANIMAL WAS SIGHTED HOURS AFTER FOREST OFFICIALS CAPTURED A 'MAN-EATER' LEOPARD

Beehives on Indo-Bangla fence to check border crimes

THE FIRST-OF-ITS KIND INITIATIVE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE BSF'S 32ND BATTALION WITH AN AIM OF ENSURING BORDER SECURITY AND HELPING THE LOCAL POPULACE THROUGH APICULTURE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Kolkata, Nov 5: Beehives, which have been used to ward off elephants, are now being installed on the India-Bangladesh border fence in West Bengal to stop instances of cutting the hedge for cattle smug-

gling and other crimes, besides generating livelihood for the locals.

The first-of-its kind initiative was launched recently by the Border Security Force's 32nd battalion in the border areas of Nadia district with an aim of ensuring border security and helping the local populace through apiculture, a senior officer said. India and Bangladesh share a 4,096-km frontier, with West Bengal accounting for about 2,217 km.

The Ayush ministry has been roped in by the BSF for the project. The ministry has provided the border-guarding force with the beehives and required expertise to fix those on the alloy-made 'smart fence'.

Sujeet Kumar, Commandant of the 32nd BSF battalion who conceptualised the idea, told PTI that the force has undertaken the initiative under the Centre's



'Vibrant Village Programme' (VVP) and gone a step further by requesting the Ayush ministry to provide it with medicinal plants that bear flowers and can be planted around these bee boxes so that the bees can pollinate in abundance.

"The idea of tying beehives to the India-Bangladesh border fence was launched November 2.

The BSF will ensure that these bee boxes are accessible to the locals engaged in apiculture and there has been a very warm response from the villagers to this initiative," he said.

Officials said the border areas under the South Bengal frontier of the BSF in Nadia district are prone to cross-border crimes like cattle, gold, silver and nar-

cotics smuggling, and there have been instances in the past when miscreants and smugglers have either cut or attempted to cut the fence for their illegal activities.

The beehives on the fence will be a deterrent for the smugglers trying to cut the fence as any such attempt will disturb the bees and a swarm attack of the bees can seriously injure them, a BSF official explained.

While the exact numbers cannot be disclosed, the bee boxes are being put on the fence using a wooden support frame at regular intervals and in smuggling-prone vulnerable areas, the official said, requesting anonymity.

He said the Ayush ministry has provided the BSF with saplings of medicinal plants like tulsi, ekangi, satmul, ashwagandha, aloe vera and the force personnel, along with the locals, are planting those in the border

areas. Mustard too is being planted and a public camp was recently held in Kadipur village of Nadia where the locals were informed that the honey that they extract from these beehives will be sold through the established setup and shops of the BSF Wives' Welfare Association. The profits made from the sale of the honey will go to the locals, the official said.

Ayush ministry officials have also told the BSF that the locals have informed them about the mango trees in the area not bearing good-quality fruits, but due to beekeeping in the border area, these plants could start producing good-quality fruits, which will help increase the income of the villagers.

Honeybees hover over flowers to collect food and as pollinators, play a vital role in the production of many crops that are needed to feed the world's population.

leisure

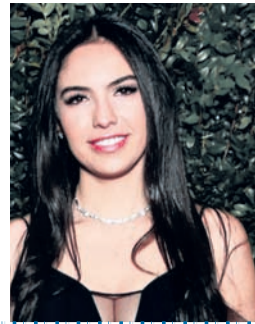


KOURTNEY, TRAVIS BLESSED WITH BABY BOY

Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian and singer Travis Barker has welcomed a baby boy. The baby is named Rocky Thirteen Barker, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

NOOR ALFALLAH CELEBRATES \$30K LAWSUIT VICTORY

Actor Al Pacino's girlfriend Noor Alfallah is in a celebratory mood after having won over \$30,000 for child support. To celebrate her victory, she was spotted having a fancy dinner with her brother Naseer at Nobu in Malibu, California, reports *Page Six*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Ganesh says go ahead and indulge in your artistic self today. You can reorganise your home or work place. Expenses are on the cards. If you have been longing for that expensive dressing table or a study table, buy it. Indulgence is okay sometimes.

TAURUS
Clarity will be a concentric circle today. You may feel trapped in a labyrinth, puzzled and perplexed, about a personal problem, predicts Ganesh. You may not be inclined to deal with unpleasant situations in the afternoon. You will exhibit your flair with words that may impress people around you, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you will be busy doing grocery shopping and other household chores. By noon, you will be pretty bored. In fact, you are likely to walk up to unknown people and chat with them to kill time. You are also likely to experiment and take a trip to the wild side.

CANCER
Love is not just in the air, it is everywhere. The love bug will bite you so hard that it may make you weep. If you are a part of a long-standing relationship, you will fall in love with your partner all over again.

LEO
Your day will start off very ordinarily. The later half of the day too should prove to be uneventful. However, events occurring in the afternoon will win you the praise of your colleagues. You will try to improve your self today. You will be inspired to take on some challenging projects, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your amazing ability to play with words will stand you in good stead today. So much so that with your silken talk you will be able to charm your way into the heart of a member of the opposite sex later today. Work that has been postponed too often will be finished.

LIBRA
Call it a proof of the old saying, 'Blood is thicker than water', but it is your family that will stand you in good stead today, foresees Ganesh. And in keeping with your grateful nature, you are likely to repay your dues later in the day. Don't be surprised if your rivals admit to your feats - it's all in the stars today. Your smooth-talking skills and sugary tone will go a long way in stimulating your partner's interest in you, hints Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Your day will gravitate to being constructive today, predicts Ganesh. At work, your dedication will keep others on their toes; and you miles ahead. Marital bliss will be at its best. All in all, a colourful day, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
The positivity in you might well be clouded today. Quite probably, find yourself to be at your wits' end more often than not ere the day passes. Ganesh sees you sitting together with your better half and talking things out.

CAPRICORN
Those meddlesome neighbours of yours may suddenly come across as more seemly, and even if you can see through their ulterior motives, you will find yourself developing a good rapport with them, says Ganesh. Later in the day, you will indulge in literary works, which will provide food for thought. Finances will be in good shape, and there won't be much that you would have to worry about.

AQUARIUS
You will plan your day well. Good, says Ganesh, as it does away with the clutter in your schedule. That way, you will also get more time to do stuff you never came around doing it. So, bring out your old Cliff Richard records, and wipe clean your dusty LP player.

PISCES
A good day for investments and speculations, especially in the real estate markets. Your gains will outweigh the risks associated with your transactions. However, maintain some monetary reserves to invest in other opportunities, as even better times are round the corner.

Sanjana wants to build box office viability

Mumbai: Actress Sanjana Sanghi, most recognised for roles in movies *Dhak Dhak* and *Dil Bechara*, says she strives for both critical and commercial success.

"At every stage of your career commercial success is welcome. The stakes for top actors may be very high because there are so many expectations pinned on them. However, today because of how the box office pattern has become where nobody knows what pulls audiences to theatres, the younger lot like us have not had a chance to build commercial box office viability," the *Fukrey Returns* actress told PTI in an interview.

She further adds, "We have come into a hybrid industry. The scenario was different from when Ranveer or Anushka debuted 10 to 15 years ago when box office was the only teller. Now, the landscape has changed. We are all evolving with time. The new box office meter is the audience's love for your character. For me, *Dil Bechara* was one

that showed me how far and wide a film on OTT can travel, because wherever I go people know Kizie Basu (her character from the film)."

"Film is something that I had to be part of because it is such a big deal where four women can be on the poster of the film. It is not a safer choice because it doesn't

have any of the classic tropes of commercial Hindi cinema where there's no big hero or song and dance. It is a unique choice to make and it is a choice I made for myself," she ends.

On the work front, Sanjana will be seen next in *Kadak Singh*.



Alia's stance on negative comments

Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt addressed all the criticism around her marriage and the complete lies that some people spread about her.

"I have lived my life in the public eye. So I have gone through different stages of scrutiny. Maybe initially I was a little more defensive. But later on, I was a bit more dismissive, forget it nobody cares. But I think I have grown into a person who genuinely feels that I have nothing to complain about," she said.

The *Gully Boy* actress explained, "Those people writing it, they're my audience. So, as long as my movies are doing well and I'm entertaining them, I still have to maintain that gratitude because that came my way, and I'm here because of the audience. If there is any chatter, I hope it dies down."

"Nobody is unfazed by negative comments. Maybe I have also become a more private person because of that but I cannot fault anyone for it. I have never in my life spoken back or said 'you can't say this about me'. Sometimes lies, complete lies have been spoken. I have never said anything back because I believe that is not the way I want to conduct myself," she concluded.



'Would love to do massy films'

Mumbai: Actor Ishaan Khattar who made his debut with *Beyond the Clouds* and will be seen next in *Pippa* opened up about his choice of scripts and said picking offbeat subjects is not a strategic decision.

"I don't think I've done massy or typical. I would love to do films that are considered massy. It is not a strategic thing (about not doing these films) because it is about the confluence of opportunities

that I've had. My desire to explore as an actor is a mix of both," the *Dhadak* actor told PTI.

"Going forward, I'll have different phases in my career and the experience that I've will inform my choices. So far, I've been lucky to have some diverse opportunities. I'm excited about the work that's coming up because it is solid and good work. It is work that I'm proud of," he added.

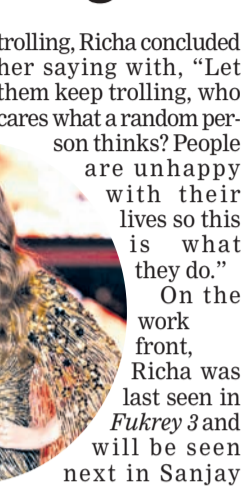
"My choices are determined by the opportunities given to me and I wish to explore the mainstream commercial movie space at some point in my career," he concluded.

Richa shuts down trolls targeting Ash

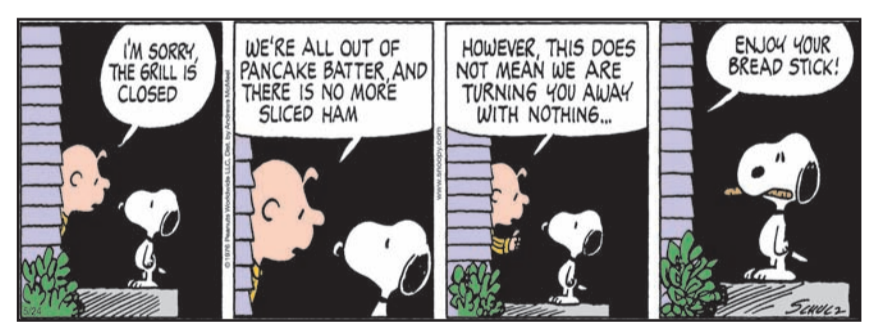
Mumbai: Actress Richa Chadha has voiced her support for co-star Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who faced severe trolling following her appearance at the Paris Fashion Week last month and suggested that the trolls are simply jealous of her.

Speaking to the media, the *Fukrey* actress said, "People are jealous of her. She is the most beautiful woman in India's history so far and I feel she is very disciplined and graceful. She doesn't talk bad about anyone. I like her a lot. People can troll her all they want, she won't be bothered by it."

When asked how should one deal with such kind of trolling, Richa concluded her saying with, "Let them keep trolling, who cares what a random person thinks? People are unhappy with their lives so this is what they do." On the work front, Richa was last seen in *Fukrey 3* and will be seen next in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming Netflix original *Heeramandi*.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

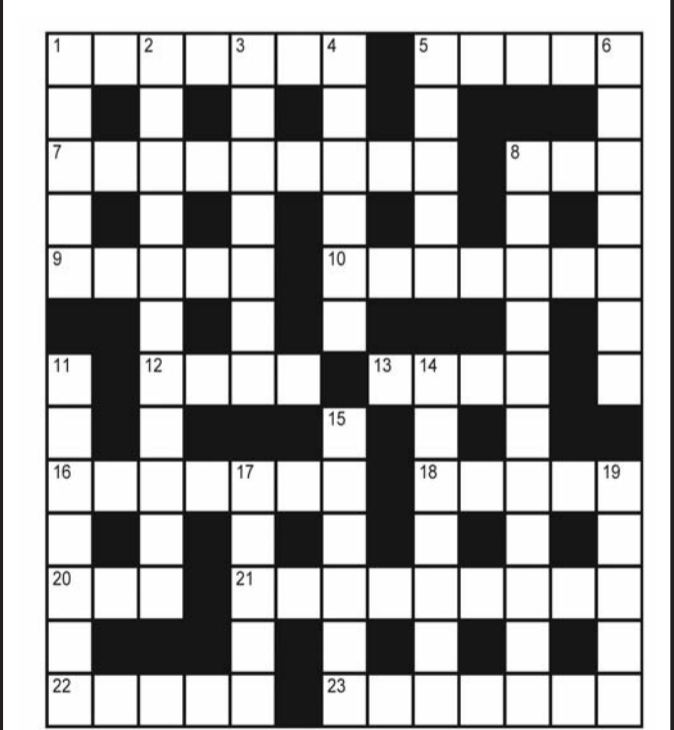


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Book store section
 - 5 Food fish
 - 7 Hotel employee
 - 8 Mongrel
 - 9 Its capital is Innsbruck
 - 10 Honourable
 - 12 Window frame or obi
 - 13 Nullify
 - 16 Steadfast
 - 18 Fancy tie
 - 20 Horatian work
 - 21 Department
 - 22 Tennis action
 - 23 Shine
 - Down**
 - 1 Aspect (6,5)
 - 2 Egotist's aim (6,5)
 - 3 Winter hangers
 - 4 Health professionals
 - 5 Comb parts
 - 6 Beach-goers
 - 8 Black Forest contraption (6,5)
 - 11 Airport section
 - 14 Famous falls
 - 15 Limericks
 - 17 Elbow
 - 19 Clipped

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.

6	4		9		5			
	1							
						2	4	
1		3		6	7			
7			4		9			
		8			7			
			1	9		3		
	3	8			2		9	

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

D	I	S	M	I	S	S	A	B	B	E	S	
R	E	O	U	R	U	P						
U	R	N	E	T	S	O	F	I	A			
I	N	U	O	F	R							
D	R	A	M	A	R	A	N	C	O	U	R	
		X	E			O						
J	E	T	S	E	T	M	I	N	N	O	W	
A	A	A	S	L								
C	A	L	I	P	S	O	K	R	I	L	L	
K	L	A	M	N	E							
A	B	Y	S	S	B	E	G	G	U	M		
L	H	T	R	E	N	A	O	U				
S	C	O	N	E		E	Q	U	A	T	O	R

SUDOKU

8	5	2	4	7	9	6	1	3
7	4	3	6	1	2	5	9	8
6	1	9	8	3	5	2	7	4
2	6	8	1	4	7	3	5	9
4	9	1	5	8	3	7	6	2
5	3	7	9	2	6	8	4	1
3	7	4	2	5	1	9	8	6
1	2	6	7	9	8	4	3	5
9	8	5	3	6	4	1	2	7

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

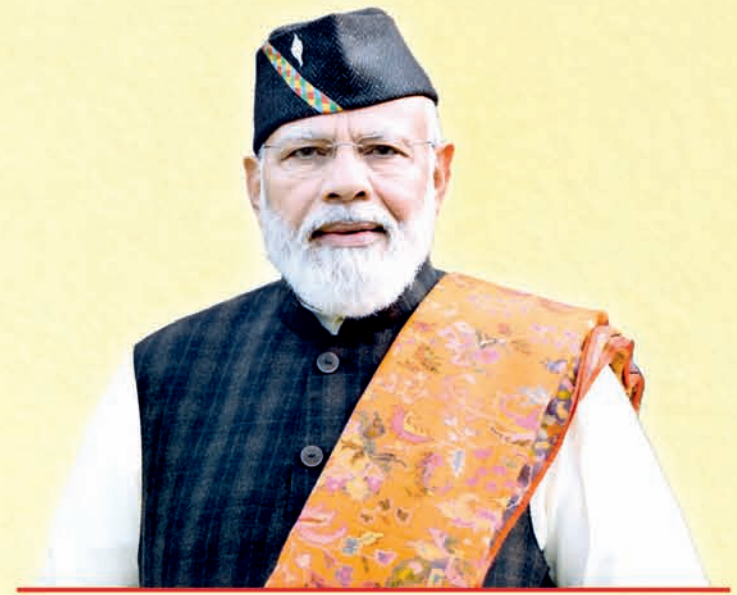


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Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

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Prime Minister

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- Natural Fibers

KEY POLICIES

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

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- Good quality of life for employees due to healthy environment.
- Attractive investment policy of State Govt.
- Availability of suitable industrial land to start business at a cheap rate.
- Good connectivity by Rail, Road and Air with NCR.
- So far, MoUs worth Rs. 94000 crore have been signed with various industrial groups in various road shows organized in the country and abroad for investment in Uttarakhand. Work is in progress on priority basis for their grounding.
- Along with Ease of Doing Business, Achievers category in the LEADS Ranking of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and Leader category in the Startup Ranking.
- The size of GSDP increased to Rs 3.03 lakh crore in the year 2022-23 which was Rs. 2.65 lakh crore in the last year 2021-22.
- Per capita income of the state more than the national per capita income.
- Unprecedented progress in Road, Rail, Ropeway (RRR) as well as air connectivity in the state.

- According to NITI Aayog, Uttarakhand is at 4th place in SDG Ranking.
- UPCL ranked 1st among Himalayan States in Consumer Service Rating by Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- First position among Himalayan states, 9th position in the entire country in the ranking of NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index for the year 2021.
- Uttarakhand Tourism awarded as the Best Adventure Tourism Destination by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- Award of Best Tourism Village to Sarmoli village of Pithoragarh district by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- The Char Dham Road Project strengthened the road connectivity of Char Dham as well as Tanakpur-Pithoragarh.
- After the construction of Delhi-Dehradun elevated road, one can go from Delhi to Dehradun in just two and a half hours.
- Work on Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project is progressing fastly.
- International Convention Center and Wellness City proposed in Rishikesh.



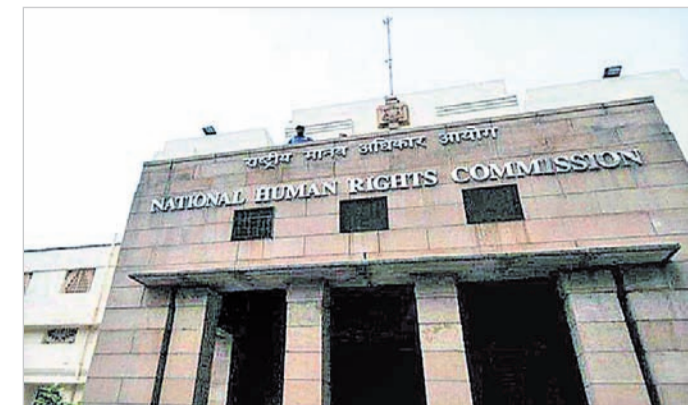
For more detail please log on investuttarakhand.uk.gov.in

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[/ukgis2023](#)



Bhadrak DM summoned over land displacement



payment proof before it within four weeks.

The commission would be forced to issue coercive process under Section 13 of the PHR Act, 1993 against the Bhadrak Collector if the official fails to submit the payment proof within four weeks, the NHRC said.

As the Bhadrak Collector did not turn up with the requisite documents, the NHRC June 26, 2023 issued a reminder to the official, seeking submission of proof of compensation payment to Mahakud within four weeks.

Considering the copies of internal communications between the Bhadrak administration and the Superintending Engineer of Salandi Canal Division, the commission September 6, 2023 observed that Collector was unable to disburse the compensation amount due to non receipt of funds from the WR department. The commission asked the Collector to submit a status report of the case afresh within four weeks.

Taking serious view of the 'casual approach' of the authorities, the NHRC has recently issued conditional summons under Section 13 of the PHR Act, 1993 to the additional chief secretary of WR department and the Bhadrak DM to appear before it, along with requisite ATR and proof of compensation payment to Mahakud, December 7, 2023.

However, the officials are not required to appear in person as the reports are submitted before the commission by November 30 this year.

pensation, Mahakud has been running from pillar to post for the money," Tripathy informed the commission.

Taking cognisance, the NHRC January 20 this year asked the Bhadrak Collector to file an action taken report (ATR) in this regard within four weeks.

Quoting the report of the Superintending Engineer of Salandi Canal Division, the Bhadrak Collector informed the commission that Mahakud is entitled to get Rs 2,25,540 as against the direct purchase of his private land -0.05-acre (SDF-II) of Plot-2315 and 0.03-acre of Plot-2315/5229 of khata no. 896 in Belana under Tihindi tehsil.

"Request has been made before the competent authority for disbursement of funds to mitigate the difficulty faced by Mahakud," the Bhadrak Collector said.

Considering the Collector's response, the rights body April 17, 2023 asked the DM to ensure payment if compensation and subsequent submission of the

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Irked over the 'casual approach' of authorities in resolving the grievance of a senior citizen who lost his land in Salandi Sanskar Yojana in Bhadrak, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued conditional summons to the additional chief secretary of Water Resources (WR) department and the District Magistrate (DM) to appear before the rights body December 7 this year.

The NHRC move came in response to a plea filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, seeking justice for Kartik Chandra Mahakud of Nayapatana village in Bhadrak district. The petitioner said Mahakud had lost land in the Salandi Sanskar Yojana. However, the senior citizen is yet to receive the monetary compensation for the lost land.

"Although most others, who have lost their land in the yojana, have received the com-



BRUSHING UP: A woman artist gives finishing touches to terracotta items during an expo organised by the Directorate of Handicrafts at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

TRIPLE TRAIN TRAGEDY

KIIT gives jobs, edu to victims' families

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Fulfilling its promise, the KIIT Deemed-to-be-University offered employment and free education to the family members of the Bahanaga train mishap victims, hailing from Odisha.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta met the candidates Sunday and offered the employment letter. A total of 20 persons opted for the job and 2 children of victims' families opted for

higher education in KIIT. They are now pursuing education in KIIT. The family members thanked Samanta for his noble gesture.

Earlier, Samanta had announced to support the victims' families by offering a job to one member from each family at KIIT and KISS as per their eligibility and provide free education to their kids at KIIT and KISS as per their eligibility from standard one up to higher level.

June 2, three trains collided in Balasore district in Odisha. The



Coromandel Express entered the passing loop instead of the main line near Bahanaga Bazar railway station at full speed and collided with a goods train. Due to the high speed, 21 coaches of Coromandel Express derailed

and three of those collided with the oncoming SMVT Bangalore-Howrah Superfast Express on the adjacent track. A total of 296 people were killed in the crash and more than 1,200 were injured.

Statistics Olympiad held at Utkal varsity

Bhubaneswar: To encourage more students to take up statistics as a subject of study, Utkal University's PG department of statistics, like previous years, organised the Statistics Olympiad, 2023 here Sunday in collaboration with Utkal Statistics Alumni Association. The Olympiad, intended for intermediate (+2) level students, was conceptualized to popularise the subject among masses by giving recognition to and rewarding students with good mathematical and statistical acumen. More than 360 students from all over Odisha appeared in the Olympiad at centers spread across the state. The examination was conducted at several centres including Bhubaneswar, Bargarh, Jeypore, Kendrapara, Puri and Sambalpur. Under the head of department Priyaranjan Dash's leadership, PK Swain and Rakesh Behera coordinated the examination process.

ORMAS sign MoUs to aid maize farmers



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) recently signed two memorandums of understanding (MoU) with Vijayanagar Biotech of Andhra Pradesh and DeHaat of Bihar to enable farmers of Nabarangpur to market their maize through farmers' producer organisations (FPOs) at a remunerative rate.

Moreover, collection, storage, quality control and transportation of harvested maize will also be handled through this initiative by the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department under the Mukhyamantri Moka Mission.

Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar, chief executive officer of

ORMAS, signed the MoUs in the presence of Sushil Kumar Lohani, principal secretary of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department and Kamal Lochan Mishra, Nabarangpur Collector.

"ORMAS plays a vital role in facilitating the production, procurement and marketing of maize through 14 women-led farmers producer organizations (FPOs), one consortium farmer producer organization, out of which 12 FPOs have already been registered, seven Agrimalls and one producer enterprise in Nabarangpur under the state scheme 'Implementation Support to ORMAS,'" said a department official.

Representative from Vijayanagar Biotech, DeHaat, Suguna, T Farms Pvt Ltd, JAPFA Comfeed India Pvt Ltd, Venkateswar Hatcheries, Go Green Warehouses Pvt Limited and Central Warehousing Corporation along with Shankar Lal Jat, senior scientist of ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research, along with CEOs and BoD members of 14 FPOs of Nabarangpur also joined the meeting.

CUO staffers pledge to fight corruption

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, celebrated Vigilance Awareness Week, 2023 with a special programme with the theme 'Say No to Corruption, Commit to the Nation.'

Held on the university campus Sunday, the event brought together faculty and staff to champion honesty and integrity.

Vice-chancellor Chakradhara Tripathy presided over the programme and addressed the university community, delivering a message urging attendees to become responsible citizens guided by knowledge and moral values while shunning materialistic pursuits.

He emphasized India's global position, stating that if individuals dedicated themselves to selfless service without vested interests, corruption would naturally be eradicated. He underscored the importance of moral values deeply rooted in Indian culture and tradition and the significance of the National Education Policy 2020 in shaping the nation as a world leader.

Startup Yatra & Xpress garner over 190 ideas

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Continuing its journey across various educational institutes across the state, the Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress garnered over 190 ideas this week.

Towards the fag end of the initiative, about 13 bootcamps were conducted across 7 districts including Jagatsinghpur, Boudh, Nayagarh, Sonapur, Bhadrak, Cuttack and Khurda that received 197 ideas with participation from 1,279 students.

In the past 30 days, a total of 31,000 students from over 200 colleges and 60 plus schools in Odisha actively participated in the initiative.

On the 34th day of the Yatra, i.e. Saturday, bootcamps were

held at Sailabala Women's Autonomous College, Cuttack, Trident Academy of Technology, Khurda and Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Nayagarh.

The excitement and enthusiasm from the student community was palpable as they passionately pitched their ideas.

The aim of Startup Odisha Yatra and Startup Xpress is to encourage grassroots innovators and promote entrepreneurship among students.

In the next leg of their journey, Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress will conduct three bootcamps at Nayagarh Autonomous College and Inspire +2 College, Nayagarh and Malusanta Govt High School, Koraput November 6 to foster entrepreneurship and innovation at grassroot level.

CM hails India for 8th WC match win

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Indian Men's Cricket Team on registering 8th victory on trot in the ongoing CWC 23 by defeating South Africa. He also hoped that the team will continue its spectacular performance and bring glory to the country.

Taking to his social media account, CM said, "Congratulate Indian Men's Cricket Team on registering yet another remarkable victory in the ongoing CWC23 by defeating the Proteas. May the team continue to showcase its spectacular performance and bring glory to the country! Wish the team all the very best."

India routed South Africa by 243 runs in their ODI World Cup encounter at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, Sunday to notch up their eighth successive victory in the ongoing tournament. Birthday boy Virat Kohli (101 n o, 121b, 10x4) hit a record-equalling 49th ODI ton as India posted 326 for the loss of five wickets and then Ravindra Jadeja (5/33) ran through the South African batting order to dismiss the opposition for a paltry 83.

Men more hesitant to share negative info about themselves

Men are less eager and likely to share negative information about themselves than women, finds a study that showed little difference when it comes to positive news.

Published in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, the researchers suggest that this may be due to a greater concern among men over how other people will see them, resulting in a tendency to self-promote by sharing positive information about themselves and not revealing their negative experiences to others.

"The results from our studies revealed a consistent, and to

the best of our knowledge not previously identified, nuanced pattern, wherein the tendency for women to disclose more than men depends crucially on the nature of the information shared," said Erin Carbone, visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Decision Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University in the US.

"These findings can help make sense of the existing literature, as well as clarify some existing stereotypes, around gender differences in disclosure," Carbone added.

To explore gender differences in the sharing of different types of information, the researchers



carried out three different experiments with over 1,000 people. In the first study, people self-reported times when they felt

like they were "dying" to disclose information to others, then indicated whether they actually had shared the information.

Although men and women generated similar numbers of instances of wanting to share positive information (e.g., about a promotion), men were far less likely to report wanting to share negative information (e.g., a failure to receive a promotion).

Two further studies enabled the team to quantify the desire to disclose and aggregate participants' desire as well as their propensity to disclose positive or negative information about different topics and experiences.

The study also found that women reported greater satisfaction than men with their own level of disclosure, whereas most

male participants reported a greater propensity to withhold information about their thoughts and feelings even when it might have been better to share it with others.

"Our results show that gender remains an important fault line when it comes to the desire and propensity to disclose negative information, and men may be differentially advantaged by, or vulnerable to, the consequences of information sharing compared to women," said Professor Irene Scopelliti, Professor of Marketing and Behavioural Science at Bayes Business School (formerly Cass) in the UK.

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Auction of Nayagarh sugar mill starts row



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Nov 5: Payments to the tune of ₹35 crore to banks, sugarcane farmers and employees by Nayagarh sugar mill at Panipoila area in this district are yet to be realised as its auction is caught in legal wrangles and administrative bottlenecks.

The sugar mill, established on 143 acre land at Panipoila in 1998, has been in lockdown since 2015. The district administration sealed it after making an estimate of its properties March 12, 2020. The sugar mill will become a thing of past as the district administration never thought of its security.

Later, the state government sold off the sugar mill at ₹5.22 crore to a private entrepreneur Trailokya Mishra under agreement of sale. Though Mishra has made one-time payment, the sugar mill land is yet to be registered in his name.

Reports said the sugar mill cannot be auctioned as an arbitration case of ₹840 crore is sub-judice in the court. Meanwhile, a six-member team of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) visited Panipoila Friday and made an estimation of the sugar mill properties for the third time.

However, there is no let-up in theft of equipment from the sugar mill as the district ad-

Established on 143 acre land at Panipoila in 1998, the sugar mill has been in lockdown since 2015
The mill's auction is on hold as an arbitration case of ₹840cr is sub-judice in the court

ministration never spared a thought to tighten the security in and around the sugar mill. This has been going on since last four years but equipment are still lying abandoned inside the sugar mill.

The district administration woke up from its slumber after the Orissa High Court cracked whip on the issue, January 2021. The then District Collector Poma Tudu, SP Siddharth Kataria, and DFO HD Dhanraj undertook a surprise visit to the sugar mill and directed to intensify security measures in and around the sugar mill. Tudu also directed to install CCTV cameras on the sugar mill premises to check theft. Later, CCTVs were installed at a cost of ₹21,000. Similarly, all roads except one connecting the sugar mill were closed and lights were installed for proper illumination.

However, the security measures went slack again after some months. The CCTV cameras were stolen and the concerned officials looking after its security

were transferred elsewhere. This proved opportune for the miscreants to steal at their will.

Reports said that the sugar mill has an outstanding loan of ₹25 crore from the state-owned UCO Bank, Indian Bank and HDFC Bank. Similarly, sugarcane farmers are yet to receive outstanding dues of ₹4 crore and the labourers and employees ₹6 crore towards their wages and salaries.

With the district administration and the state government failing to protect the interests of the sugar mill, questions are now doing the rounds as to how the sugarcane farmers, banks, labourers and employees will get back their dues.

Speaking to mediapersons, the cooperative minister said the authorities of the sugar factory have demanded a compensation of ₹1,471.68 crore from the state government. A case has been filed in the court but its fate is still unknown.

Trailokya Mishra, chairman of Nayagarh Sugar Complex, said that the sugar mill property was estimated thrice in his absence. He has filed an ₹840 crore arbitration case in the court demanding compensation.

"I purchased the sugar mill by making necessary payment following a cabinet decision but the sugar mill and the land are yet to be registered in my name," he added.

An advocate Ranjit Dash said the sugar mill cannot be auctioned when the matter is sub-judice in the court. Moreover, the banks will not get even half of their payment dues by auctioning whatever equipment is left in the sugar mill.

Further, the district administration has failed to check rampant theft of equipment from the mill. Lastly, only the forest land will be left which cannot be sold off, he added.

Abandoned girl child rescued, parents flee

The infant weighing 2 kg and 640 gm is said to be in good health after receiving treatment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Nov 5: A newborn girl was found and rescued from a secluded place at Swarnachud foothill in Ward No. 6 of Nilagiri Notified Area Council (NAC) in Balasore district Sunday morning.

According to reports, the abandoned infant, wrapped in a polythene bag, was found near a mosque at around 4:50am Sunday Locals, after hearing the girl child's cries, reached the spot and rescued her.

Chandrabinu Das, special assistant of the local MP, went to the spot and informed the Nilagiri police station about the incident. The infant girl was rushed to Nilagiri sub-divisional hospital but as her condition deteriorated she was transferred to the Balasore District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). The infant weighing 2 kg and 640 gm is said to be in good health after receiving treatment.



Locals have identified the parents of the newborn child as Ramesh Naik and Damayanthi of Kalakut village under Nilagiri block. When villagers confronted Ramesh, he apologised saying that he had committed a grave mistake by abandoning the newborn. No complaint was registered at Nilagiri police station till the reports came in but the accused couple is absconding after locking their rented house, said the police.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



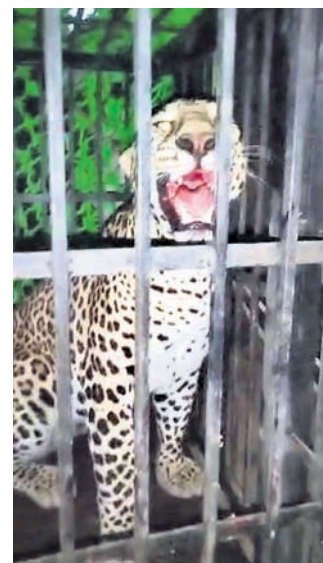
Nuapada man-eater captured

THE WILD LEOPARD HAS ALLEGEDLY KILLED A WOMAN AND A MINOR BOY AND INJURED ANOTHER MINOR IN SUNABEDA SANCTUARY AND ON ITS OUTSKIRTS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: Forest department officials captured a wild leopard, which 'killed' two persons and injured another within a week in Nuapada district, an official said Sunday.

The 'man-eater' male leopard was captured Saturday night from Dharambandha area on the outskirts of Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary in Nuapada district, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF), Bhawanipatna, Ashwini Kumar Kar told PTI over the phone. The leopard was captured in



a cage when it entered a house in Kodapali village after injuring a minor boy, said a forest official of Nuapada district. The leopard will be around seven to eight years old. The wild animal is completely fit and fine as it was captured without tranquillising, the official said. The leopard is under obser-

vation and it is likely to be translocated to some other forest area or Nandankanan zoo, he said.

The wild leopard has allegedly killed a woman and a minor boy and injured another minor in the sanctuary and on its outskirts in the last seven days. The deceased were Rameswari Bai Majhi (45) and Dambarudhar Dharua (7).

The leopard attacked the woman and dragged her into the forest Friday evening when she had gone to a nearby field to relieve herself, the forest officials said.

The minor boy was mauled to death by the leopard October 30 when he was playing at his village inside Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.

The wild animal also allegedly attacked another minor in Dharambandha area Saturday afternoon. The minor boy sustained an injury in the attack.

The forest officials informed that the government has initiated steps to pay compensation of ₹6 lakh to family members of each of the deceased.

Teacher suspended for sending obscene texts to schoolgirls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, Nov 5: The block education officer (BEO) here in Bhadrak district suspended a teacher of Karanjadia Government Nodal High School on charge of making obscene gestures to girl students and sending obscene messages to them on mobile phone, Sunday.

The accused was identified as Kalpataru Mallick, a mathematics teacher of the school transformed under the 5T scheme. He is accused of making lewd gestures to girl students and sending obscene messages to them on mobile phone. He also allegedly influenced students to do wrong things such as asking the boys to smoke cigarettes.

Mallick was suspended after parents and guardians lodged a complaint with the block education officer (BEO) Jagabandhu Sahu in this connection, Saturday. The BEO asked the ABEO Tapan Kumar Dwivedi to rush to the school and submit a report to him after conducting a probe.

Dwivedi reached the spot and conducted a probe. He found the allegation to be true and submitted a report to the BEO. The BEO issued a letter-5433, dated November 4 directing the suspension of Mallick from service.

When contacted, the BEO confirmed the development. However, efforts to get the comment of Mallick failed as he was unavailable.

Notably, Mallick was arrested last year for molesting a girl student when he was posted in another school under the block.

White Cobra rescued

Rupsa: A white Cobra measuring over 5.6 feet was rescued from the house of Purnachandra Behera of Mirigimundi village under Rupsa police limits in Balasore district, Sunday. The family members first spotted the snake inside their house and panicked. Being informed, snake catcher Subrat Kumar Pradhan reached the spot and rescued the snake. Later the snake was released to its natural habitat at Bamada forest in Mayurbhanj district.



FASHION SHOW: Participants at the audition of 'Miss Teen-2023' fashion show held at the conference hall of Sai Siksha Parishad at Jagannath Colony in Sambalpur, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Samal takes a dig at state govt Sharecropper ends life

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 5: Interacting with the media here, BJP state president Manmohan Samal brought serious allegations against the state government alleging sub-standard work in various projects in Sundargarh district.

"This is a ministry where the elected representatives have no stature. A few officers control everything while the government is busy using its own party symbol in government advertisements to further its own interest. The government is daring to ignore constitutional provisions like gram sabha or panchayat sabha," Samal said taking a dig at the state government.

Bringing another serious allegation, the state president termed the ruling regime as one of the most corrupt governments. "Every year corruption to the tune of ₹3,000 crore is taking place. Project costs are priced at triple the original cost so that

the party coffers will increase," Samal alleged.

"The government declared a drinking water project at a cost of ₹15,000 crore, but the government is doing nothing except beating drums about it," he said. Speaking on the Central government funds to the state, he said, "The Centre under BJP has given the highest funding to the state. In the last nine years, it stands at ₹18,83,000 crore."

On issues of Rourkela, he alleged that the government built a large hockey stadium, but there was widespread corruption. "Everything has been built through DMF and an investigation will definitely reveal the level of corruption in every case," he said.

On the Talcher and Bimlagarh rail link issue, Samal said, "The Central government is allocating funds every year but one fails to understand why there is such inordinate delay in land acquisition." Regarding the Rourkela Airport instrument landing sys-

tem issue, he said, "The state government should first transfer the land to AAI and then only the later will be in a position to install that."

He stated that the state government had written to the Centre for nine medical colleges for which the Central government has provided funds. Recently a big controversy erupted when a private party, Kuanmunda dairy farm, was given the land which the state government had earmarked for setting up a medical college and hospital. Asked why his party kept quiet on this issue, he said, "I am not aware of this but definitely I am going to ask the local unit and do the needful."

Finally, Samal said that BJP will stage massive demonstrations from November 14 to 18. "We are going to protest at all levels beginning from panchayat, block, civic bodies and district headquarters highlighting the wrongdoings of this government," he said.

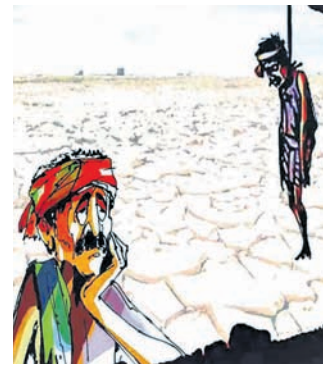
POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh/Rampur, Nov 5: A sharecropper committed suicide by hanging at Ostapada village under Chandpur police limits and Rampur block of Nayagarh district allegedly due to crop loss resulting from drought like conditions and failure to pay back loans he had borrowed to raise the crops, Sunday.

The deceased identified as Gobinda Sahu, 65, ended his life owing to crop loss and loan burden, his wife Gelhi Sahu and son Bikram Sahu alleged. On being informed, a team of agriculture officials visited the spot and conducted a probe.

Gobinda had cultivated on half acre land which he had taken on lease from a co-villager and borrowed from local money lenders to raise his crops. However, he failed to repay the loan due to crop loss.

This pushed him into distress and he took the extreme step by hanging from a tree near the farmland, Sunday. On being in-



formed, family members recovered and cremated his body without informing the police. When contacted, the chief district agriculture officer Bishnu Prasad Sahu said a team rushed to the spot and conducted a probe after learning about the sharecropper's suicide. Preliminary inquiries by the team indicated that Gobinda committed suicide over family dispute. However, the Agriculture department is continuing its probe in order to elicit more details on the death, he added.

Driver killed as dumper hits container truck

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Nov 5: A dumper driver died Sunday when his vehicle rammed into a stationary container truck from behind on National Highway-16 in Balasore district, police said.

The deceased driver was identified as Ramesh Singh of Bangalore. The accident occurred in Basta area near Kati Pola after the dumper rammed into the container truck, an officer said.

As per reports, the dumper (Regd No-AS 01 NC-0989), which was heading towards Balasore from West Bengal hit the container truck (Regd No- MH 12 TV-6020) standing on the roadside near Kati Pola.

The cabin of the dumper was completely broken and the driver was crushed inside.

Informed, the fire brigade reached the spot and rescued the driver from the cabin using hydraulic cutting machine.

A National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) ambulance rushed the driver to Basta community health centre.

However, doctors there declared him brought dead, said the police official adding that Basta police along with the patrolling team of NHAI seized the dumper and started an investigation.

Girl swept away in river; rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bari, Nov 5: A girl was rescued after she was swept away in Dudhei river, a tributary of Chingudia river, under Bari block Sunday.

The rescued girl was identified as Tulasi Jena, 20, daughter of Raju Jena of Arangabad panchayat. After being informed by locals, two retired Army personnel, Akshaya Padhihari and Dillip Padhihari rescued the girl from the river.

The condition of the girl is stated to be stable. Locals praised the two courageous youths for saving the girl's life.

FOCUS SOCIETY

THE IDENTITY TRAP



The dangers of such a trap are a polarised population, lack of meaningful political and civic discussion, and a general mistrust and animosity among otherwise peaceful people

Most people who have gone through a job interview will be familiar with the question, "Tell me about yourself" where the interviewee is expected to summarise why she/he is the perfect match for the position. When we meet people socially, we are trying to understand what kind of a person the other individual is so that we can decide whether we should socialise with her/him.

We have multiple ways in which we can identify ourselves; by religion, by caste, by nationality, by gender, by age, by profession, by education, by our political leanings; you get the idea. Some of these we inherit, like gender, religion, caste, while we acquire or develop others. Which of these identities do we feel strongest about? The effect these identities have on our choices of friends, careers, where we live, is something that has assumed very different dimensions today as compared to a few decades ago. Let me explain.

I was born and grew up in what was Bombay (now Mumbai), living in Delhi, male, Hindu by birth, engineer by training, educator by profession, amateur baker, cheesemaker, avid reader. How should I describe myself? It depends on the situation. If I am in a job interview, I would likely present my education and experience credentials. If I am at a party I would be more inclined to let my interests define me. In what context should I let my religion or caste define me?

Strange as that question sounds, ethnicity, religion and nationality have become defining attributes of some people in today's world. We all belong to some ethnic and religious group, including atheists. This is a given. The difficulty arises when we let such group membership define our total persona. Political parties have tended to use ethnic/religious/national identities to polarise the population

with the sole purpose of winning elections. People find themselves in an identity trap that is not of their making, and which is not easy to escape. This is a global phenomenon and has been seen to assume greater currency in the last decade or so.

In my opinion, when we state our identity using one or more defining attributes, we are expressing membership in a group, whether social, professional, or political. This membership can be fluid as in the case of groups representing a specific interest, such as a book club, or photography club. We may belong to such groups as long as our interest lasts, and typically we are not emotionally invested in such groups. On the other hand, belonging to certain groups based on religion, caste or region can, and sometimes does, evoke strong emotions including hatred for people who are not part of the group. It is the intensity of this emotion that is exploited by politicians for their own benefit. We see examples of this in conflicts throughout the world such as the Israeli-Hamas conflict in the Middle East.

I believe majority of the people do not feel strongly about their ethnic/religious identity

that it should lead to hatred and violence. However, if they are manipulated into believing that their group is under attack from people from other groups it can cause some people to react violently. Such people forget their multi-dimensional identity which includes their education, profession, interests, and focus on the identity that they have been led to believe is under attack. Once a person starts to believe that the core dimension of her/his identity is under attack, then other things become unimportant. Even if people in the "outgroup" may have a lot in common with us in terms of education, profession, interests, all these factors pale in comparison to the dominant identity. This is the identity trap that I refer to in the title of this article. It occurs when we let others define ourselves.

The dangers of such a trap are a polarised population, lack of meaningful political and civic discussion, and a general mistrust and animosity among otherwise peaceful people. I am not suggesting that people will not have differences with others in a democracy. In fact, a healthy democracy should encourage debates among people. When these debates are issue-based,

they are good for society, but when there is no discussion but only acrimony, and sometimes, violence, the result can be a fractured society.

The solution for such polarisation will come from a realisation that we cannot, and should not, be defined by a limited set of identity attributes, least of all those that tend to evoke high emotions and prevent us from being able to reason through a situation. It is somewhat ironic that not many people are as actively involved with local issues, either at the level of the town, or city or community. The local issues have a much greater direct impact on most citizens and residents of an area as this may include civic services such as water, education, roads, electricity, and transportation. However, these issues do not attract the same level of emotional investment as do broader, national level issues. Logically there should be more active participation of more people on local issues since the impact on our lives is more direct and visible. Getting people involved in local issues could also lead to a little better understanding of differences between people. These differences are not necessarily inherited differences, but differences that are the result of their life experiences, which include choices they have made. Perhaps this will promote a healthier appreciation of diversity among our fellow earth inhabitants.

I am not naive enough to think that this will be easy. Citizens may not be ready to take interest in local politics with the same interest that they have shown in national politics. However, we will not know unless we try. And what we should ask is whether we are better off with people lacking a voice in their own governance or are we ready to try something different. I know where I stand in this matter. I would like to define my identity. What about you?

INFA

The whole world yearns after freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature.

SRI AUROBINDO



Price of War

The helplessness of the US administration in reining in Israel wreaking havoc on the not so innocent Palestinians in Gaza in the name of uprooting Hamas is evident. The US has only started making some feeble noise intended as peace overtures by meekly appealing to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to order a 'pause' on its brutal, military attacks and incursions into Gaza Strip so that medical and other humanitarian aids can reach over two million displaced Palestinians. By such a response, the US has shown that it has no intention to seriously try to restrain Israel which is on a killing spree. Apart from it being globally insulted that all the big noise it made in the past about its constant preparedness for war was nothing in reality, Israel is unable to carry the psychological burden of hostages that it has been loaded with by the Hamas.

The US has too great a stake in the Middle East and its most trusted and dependable ally in the region, Israel, alone can safeguard its interests. Many liberal experts of America have categorically pointed out if the US administration decides not to supply arms and ammunition and other aids worth billions of dollars to Israel, the latter's belligerence would be immediately controlled. That is next to impossible due to America's geopolitical equations in the Arab world.

US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, met senior Jordanian and other Arab officials in Amman November 4 in the latest effort by Washington to avert a regional escalation of the war, ease the acute humanitarian crisis in Gaza and build support for planning a post-conflict future for the territory. The trip was his second to the Middle East since the conflict began almost a month ago. On that very day Palestinians reported a deadly Israeli strike on a UN-run school in northern Gaza serving as a shelter for refugees. Witnesses said the strike hit al-Fakhoura school in Jabalia, where thousands of evacuees were living. At least 15 people died and dozens were wounded. The confirmation of the bombardment by Juliette Touma, the director of communication for the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), shows the incident did take place and was not a war propaganda to blacken Israel military actions.

The ineffectual intervention by the US makes it clear that there is no sign that Israel will ease its effort to "crush" Hamas in Gaza. The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza says more than 9,220 people have, so far, been killed in Israeli bombardments, most of them children or women. Despite Netanyahu's statement that the offensive in Gaza would continue with full force, the US administration is continuing talks with Tel Aviv, though it does not inspire much hope of ending the retaliation any time soon.

On the contrary, Israel's planned ground offensive means ever deeper incursions into the narrow strip of land the objective of which is the encirclement of Gaza City, accompanied by massive strikes targeting Palestinian militia infrastructures. Debatably this is how Israel wants to exercise its right to defend itself after the massacre of innocent Israeli civilians on October 7. Israeli authorities assert their aim is to respond to terror not by seeking revenge at any price, but by setting a military objective which is the destruction of Hamas.

The objective may not be fulfilled as easily as Israel wants the world to believe. There are at least three obstacles in their way. The first is that Hamas' military infrastructure is so much interwoven into the urban fabric of Gaza - one of the most densely populated areas on the planet - that the goal cannot be achieved without carrying out total destruction of the city and of lives on an unprecedented scale. This could only help unite the Arab world against Israel the way never seen before. Experts say this way Israel is getting into the trap set by Hamas' strike in southern Israel.

The second obstacle is the survival conditions of Palestinians in a territory that has been under blockade since 2007. Humanitarian aid that is trickling through the Rafah crossing on the border between Gaza and Egypt is too meagre to meet the basic needs of a population of over 2 million. The third difficulty is the presence of at least 240 hostages captured on October 7 by Hamas. These hostages are believed to be held in the tunnels that are the main target of the Israeli bombardments.

All these factors coupled with the worldwide repercussions of the images of the suffering of Gaza's civilians are going against Israel. By insisting that it will not stop till the last Hamas foot soldier is alive, Israel is only helping the latter's cause. It is simple to ask for the military offensive to stop immediately and both sides should return to the negotiation table as several Arab countries are urging Israel. That goal is extremely difficult to achieve. It is also a very tricky situation where it is impossible to claim either side as 'innocent' or 'culprit'. Both, Israel and Hamas, are equally responsible for the war and suffering that is taking place today.

WISDOM CORNER

- Control your own destiny or someone else will. JACK WELCH
- The biggest adventure you can ever take is to live the life of your dreams. OPRAH WINFREY
- Know what you own, and know why you own it. PETER LYNCH

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1860:** Americans elected as their president Abraham Lincoln, whose victory led to the secession of Southern states and the long and bloody Civil War that lasted until 1865 and ended slavery in the US.
- 1917:** The second phase of the Russian Revolution of 1917 began (October 25, Old Style) as the Bolsheviks seized power in Russia.
- 1962:** United Nations passes resolution to condemn Apartheid in South Africa. The UN General Assembly asked its member states to stand up against apartheid and to cut off relations with South Africa in order to make a point. Apartheid was an official policy of racial discrimination and segregation followed in South Africa. Despite the UN Resolution, it remained governmental policy until 1994, when democratic general elections were held in the country.
- 1985:** Palace of Justice is seized in Colombia. 25 guerrillas from the 19th of April Movement or the M-19 took over the Palace of Justice which houses the Colombian Supreme Court. They took 300 people hostage. The ensuing fight between the rebels and the government's forces left more than 100 people, including 11 Supreme Court justices dead.

LOL

Make a last request



solemnly asked, "Son, do you have a last request?" To which the man replied, "Yes sir, I do. I love dance music. Could you please play The Macarena for me one last time?" "Certainly," replied the warden. He turned to the other man and asked, "Well, what about you, son? What is your final request?" "Please," said the condemned man, "kill me first."



Rajiv Gupta

PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES IN AN IDENTITY TRAP THAT IS NOT OF THEIR MAKING, AND WHICH IS NOT EASY TO ESCAPE

SPECTRUM AFRICA

Colonial-style resource curse

Since the ouster of President Mohamed Bazoum in July, Niger, a landlocked West African state, has fallen into dire straits. Perhaps the only good thing to come out of the coup - the latest in a string of military takeovers in the Sahel - is that it has focused international attention on the country, which had previously been relatively stable and democratic.

Renewed interest in Niger's plight offers an opportunity to reflect on the key development challenges confronting a vast and troubled region. Chief among them is the stickiness of the colonial development model of resource extraction, which has led to intergenerational poverty and environmental degradation - both of which fuel insecurity and migration - in other African countries as well.

Niger embodies Africa's development paradox. Despite its immense natural-resource wealth, including plentiful renewable and non-renewable energy sources and significant deposits of uranium and gold, it is one of the world's poorest countries, with more than ten million people (around 42% of population) living in extreme poverty. Almost half of Niger's children are not in school, owing largely to mass displacement and school

closures caused by an increase in violence. Unsurprisingly, the country is ranked at the very bottom of the UNDP's Human Development Index, ahead of only Chad and South Sudan.

The growing Islamist insurgency in the Sahel region has only made the situation worse. From June 2022 until June 2023, more than 22,000 Africans were killed in jihadist-related violence, a 50% increase from the preceding year. In recent years, terrorists have destroyed villages and massacred civilians in Niger. And these groups have continued to grow more powerful, despite the proliferation of foreign military bases and drone stations in the country. This rampant insecurity, coupled with stagnant economic growth, mismanagement of natural resources, intergenerational poverty, and climate disasters, has suffocated Niger's population.

Despite being the largest oil producer on the African continent, Nigeria is one of the world's most energy-poor countries in per capita terms: its citizens consume an average of 113 kilowatt hours of electric energy per capita annually, compared to a continental average of 317 kWh. Niger's uranium deposits have served its former colonial ruler, France, especially well, powering

one-third of lightbulbs in the country, according to Oxfam. Around 70% of France's electricity is derived from nuclear energy, which has enabled French citizens to consume more than 6,950 kWh of electric energy per capita annually - one of the highest rates in the world. Roughly 20% of France's total uranium imports came from Niger between 2012 and 2022, while the country accounts for one-fifth of the EU's total uranium imports.

Moreover, the extraction itself has caused significant harm to the environment and the health of its citizens. In 2010, a Greenpeace investigation revealed dangerous radiation levels among Nigeriens working in the mining sector, some of whom suffered from unexplained skin, liver, kidney, and lung diseases. The natural resources that were supposed to help improve the welfare of the population have failed to meet expectations. Worse still, in the absence of value addition for effective integration into global value chains, the persistence of the colonial development model has meant that Africa's resource endowment remains a blessing only for the former rulers doing the extracting and a curse for the country from which they are extracted, yielding only enduring poverty and

pollution, rather than tangible benefits, for local people.

Army Captain Ibrahim Traoré, the young leader of Burkina Faso who seized power in a military coup last year, lamented Africa's underdevelopment while speaking at the Russia-Africa Summit in St. Petersburg in July. "The question that my generation poses to itself, if I can summarize it, is how can Africa, with so many resources under our soil, with such a natural abundance of sun and water, still today remain the poorest continent?" Traoré asked.

That sentiment helps explain why Nigeriens cheered on the troops after the ouster of Bazoum. The first post-coup opinion survey indicated 78% support for the military's actions, with 73% of respondents saying the coup leaders should stay in power for an extended period or until new elections are held. As these numbers suggest, unless countries broaden the distributive gains from natural-resource exploitation while minimizing negative externalities, democracy on the continent - indeed, basic political stability - will remain fragile.

The writer is Chief Economist at the African Export-Import Bank. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Hacking alarm

Sir, The anger that erupted after several of the country's most prominent Opposition leaders received alert messages about attempts to hack their iPhones is not unexpected. Because the communication claimed government-sponsored assailants, the situation was elevated. In any democratic system, when such an instance of the government violating the privacy of Opposition leaders comes to light, the administration is automatically called to account. However, it is also critical to emphasise that in this case, it is merely a matter of doubt. Apple's iPhone texts were generated automatically, and the company is unsure of their legitimacy. It claims that some of these notifications may be false alarms. Despite this, the Opposition leaders' concerns are not without merit. If these alert texts are part of a false alarm, how did all of them end up on the phones of Opposition leaders? Memories of the Pegasus case, which surfaced two years ago, heightened the apprehensions. In this context, when the latest charge of hacking Opposition leaders' phones is made, it must be regarded seriously. The good news is that the government appears to be taking these charges seriously. Not only has a thorough inquiry into the entire situation been ordered, but the iPhone manufacturer has also been asked to participate in the investigation.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Unique paradox

Sir, This refers to the report "Don't want SC to become 'tarikh-pe-tarikh' court: CJI" (OrissaPOST, November 4). Lawyers are officers of the court and it is their duty to assist courts in all possible manner so that the administration of justice does not hamper. Sadly enough, some lawyers behave erratically and do not want court proceedings to continue uninterrupted and seek adjournment even in fresh matters without any qualm. Needless to add that seeking repeated adjournment of cases not only hampers the administration of justice, but also causes harassment to litigants to a great extent. The apex court has found a unique paradox that once the matters get listed for hearing lawyers start seeking adjournments. Kudos to the apex court for addressing the problem timely

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

'Air pollution affects brain, leads to anxiety'

New Delhi, Nov 5: As severely-polluted air has choked Delhi, doctors in the city have warned people, saying air pollution affects not just the lungs, but also other major organs, such as the heart and the brain, across all age groups.

There has been a sudden increase in cases of headache, anxiety, irritation, confusion and decrement of cognitive abilities, especially among the vulnerable populations such as the elderly, schoolgoing children and pregnant women, Dr Neeraj Gupta, head of the pulmonary medicine department at the Safdarjung Hospital, told PTI.

"Neurocognitive ability is directly linked to rising nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide in the air as they impact the nervous system." "So gas chamber is a technically correct term to be used because of the rise of the concentration of harmful gases and not just particulate matter," he said.

Gupta further said a study conducted in North Carolina among schoolgoing children has shown that the Air Quality Index (AQI) has a direct impact on their mathematical abilities.

So the only way out is avoidance of exposure to this toxic air. Especially, vulnerable populations and patients with pre-existing conditions like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and ischaemic heart disease should try to stay indoors and take preventive measures. A toxic haze lingered

IN YET ANOTHER SMOGGY DAY, THE AIR QUALITY IN DELHI-NCR CONTINUED TO BE 'SEVERE' SUNDAY WITH OVERALL AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 482



Former AIIMS director Dr Randeep Guleria said there have been studies that have linked air pollution to increased risks of brain stroke, dementia and cognitive decline

there have been studies that have linked air pollution to increased risks of brain stroke, dementia and cognitive decline. "Because of the significant multi-organ health hazard pollution causes to humans, there is an urgent need to take sustainable actions to bring down the levels of air pollution in the Indo-gangetic plains," Guleria, who is currently the chairman of internal medicine, respiratory and sleep medicine at the Medanta hospital, said.

over Delhi for the sixth consecutive day Sunday as pollution levels once again reached the "severe-plus" category due to unfavourable wind conditions, particularly calm winds during the night. The AQI deteriorated from 415 at 4 pm on Saturday to 460 at 7 am Sunday.

City hospitals have been witnessing an increase in the number of patients suffering from respiratory and breathing complications for the last few days, doctors said.

Former All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) director Dr Randeep Guleria said

LUCKNOW IS NOISIER THAN EVER

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 5: Lucknow has become noisier than ever before. This was revealed in Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR) noise monitoring report. The report was released Saturday. Among the residential areas, Indira Nagar was the noisiest location in the city during the day, while Gomti Nagar was noisiest at night this year in the post-monsoon (September-October) season.



IN ALL LOCALITIES OF THE CITY, NOISE LEVELS WERE FOUND ABOVE PERMISSIBLE LIMITS

AN INCREASING TREND IN THE NOISE LEVELS WAS WITNESSED AS COMPARED TO THE LAST POST-MONSOON PERIOD

Indiranagar recorded an average noise level of 73.5 decibels (dB(A)) during the day time and it was followed by Gomti Nagar (72.1), Vikas Nagar (68.8) and Aliganj (61.8), whereas during the night Gomti Nagar was noisiest with 64.2 dB(A) noise levels followed by Aliganj (57.3), Vikas Nagar (55.7) and Indira Nagar (61.5).

45 decibels, respectively. In commercial areas during the daytime, Chowk was the noisiest with 80 decibels, followed by Alambagh (78), Charbagh (77), Aminabad (72) and Gomti Nagar (72.1). During the night Alambagh was the noisiest with 74 dB(A) of noise recorded followed by Aminabad (79.9) Charbagh (73.6) and Chowk (72.8) respectively. The day and night noise

levels were recorded in the range of 51.9 to 88.6 and 45.2 to 83.6 dB(A) respectively. All average values were significantly higher than the prescribed national limits of 55 and 45 dB(A) for day and night time, respectively. In commercial and traffic areas, the day and night noise levels were recorded in the range of 57.9 to 107.3 and 52.8 to 90.1 dB(A), respectively. The average values of noise levels at all the commercial sites were significantly higher than the prescribed national limits of 65 dB(A) and 55 dB(A) for day and night time, respectively. Doctors said that continued exposure to noise added to stress and also affected hearing.



School students during voter awareness campaign, in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

HC directs Delhi govt, MCD to strictly comply with SC ruling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: The Delhi High Court has directed the city government and civic authorities to ensure compliance with the decision of the Supreme Court on strict implementation of law for eradication of manual scavenging.



MANUAL SCAVENGING

icated. The Government of NCT of Delhi, the Delhi Jal Board, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and all other authorities are directed to strictly comply

The high court's order came on a batch of petitions seeking strict enforcement of the provisions of the (PEMSR Act) and its rules. The bench observed that in view of the Supreme Court's order, which was passed while dealing with a prayer for the implementation of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 and the PEMSAR Act and for the imposition of a blanket ban on manual scavenging, no further orders were required to be passed on the present batch of petitions

abilities, the compensation is to be fixed depending on the severity of the disabilities. The minimum compensation to be awarded to sewer victims suffering from disabilities has been fixed at Rs 10 lakh and in case the disability is permanent and renders the victim economically helpless, the compensation must not be less than Rs 20 lakh," the court observed. "The Hon'ble Supreme Court in the aforesaid judgment has issued various directions for strict enforcement of the 1993 Act and the PEMSAR Act... In light of the aforesaid judgment delivered by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, no further orders are required to be passed in the present writ petitions and the same are, accordingly, disposed of," said the court.

PROTEST OUTSIDE JNU VC'S RESIDENCE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Four representatives of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) and 12 hostel presidents have received an inquiry notice for protesting outside the Vice Chancellor's residence, according to an official notification. No immediate response from Proctor Satish Gargoti was available in this regard. The students have been directed to appear before the proctor on November 7 for the inquiry.



the VC's residence on September 19. "Students of JNUSU and hostel presidents demonstrated outside the residence of the vice chancellor after water supply in at least five hostels were halted for several days," one of the students who have received the notice and JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh said.

UP medical colleges to teach in Hindi too

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 5: Medical institutions in Uttar Pradesh will now start using Hindi as a medium of instruction, as per government directives. In a letter to all state-run, autonomous medical colleges and officials of King George's Medical University (KGMU) and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences (RMLIMS), the director general medical education (DGME) Kinjal Singh said. "A government letter issued on October 31 has stated teaching in Hindi be started at colleges and universities under the medical education department."



who do not know the English language. "Hindi books are now available for almost all MBBS subjects. Some are under review also," said Prof NS Verma, head of physiology department at the KGMU. "Many countries such as Russia, China, Japan teach students in their own language," he added. The teachers, however, pointed out that Hindi has already been the language when it comes to explaining in detail any complex point in classroom. "Almost 60 per cent of our content is being explained in Hindi. This helps students understand what exactly we teach," said Prof Navneet Kumar, head of anatomy department at the KGMU. Prof Suryakant, from the pulmonary medicine department at KGMU, emphasised the need for teaching students English before they embark on their first year MBBS curriculum.

Tharu tribe women turn to organic kitchen gardening

After a survey pointed to "very low" nutritional levels among the vulnerable women due to the impact of Covid-19, these members of 35 self-help groups (SHGs) in six villages, including four Tharu villages, came along and started working to meet their requirements themselves



Wildlife Fund-India senior project officer Dabeer Hasan, who is running the project, told PTI. Orientation was done with the womenfolk repeatedly, stressing the importance of nutrition and they liked the idea of getting it in their own homes, without disturbing their day-to-day life. "Starting with 75 people, the numbers gradually swelled with more women joining in and now after two seasons, these women have also started contributing to 25 per cent of the project cost. Earlier, the WWF was bearing the entire cost of the project," said Hasan of WWF, which is working in more than 60 countries in the areas related to forest, wildlife and climate change. To check the impact of this project on the health of these women, Hasan said the Uttar Pradesh health department has been involved in conducting a door-to-door survey to collect latest data related to their nutritional requirement and compare it with the outcome of an earlier survey in the first season. Training of health department workers at the level of ANMs, ASHA and Anganwadi workers was held recently to conduct the survey for collecting data on the nutritional level of these women and their family members, he said, adding that this will also help in guiding as to how to proceed further. Meera Devi, a Tharu of Fakirpuri village, who is growing vegetables such as spinach, fenugreek, cauliflower, peas, coriander, radish, carrot, turnip around her house, said the yield is good.

Delhi Fire Services starts spraying water at hotspots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: To curb the rising pollution in the national capital, the Delhi Fire Services has joined hands with the Delhi government to spray water at several hotspots, officials said Sunday. "A total of 12 fire engines have been pressed into service to curb pollution. These fire tenders have already started sprinkling water at different locations which have been identified as hotspots," Atul Garg, Director of Delhi Fire Services, said. Garg said he was hopeful that sprinkling water might be able to bring some respite to citizens. A toxic haze lingered over Delhi for the sixth consecutive day Sunday as pollution levels once again reached the 'severe plus category' due to unfavourable wind conditions, particularly calm winds during the night. The air quality index deteriorated from 415 at 4 pm on Saturday to 460 at 7 am Sunday, which was later recorded at 461 at 11 am, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Considering the high pollution levels, Delhi Education Minister Atishi Sunday announced that primary schools in Delhi will stay closed till November 10. Taking to social media platform 'X' Atishi wrote,



"As pollution levels continue to remain high, primary schools in Delhi will stay closed till November 10. For Grade 6-12, schools are being given the option of shifting to online classes." Earlier, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced November 2 that all government and private primary schools in Delhi will remain closed November 3 and November 4, in view of the rising pollution levels. Under the Centre's air pollution control plan, all emergency measures, including a ban on polluting trucks, commercial four-wheelers, and all types of construction, are mandated to be initiated and enforced in the National Capital Region if the AQI crosses the 450-mark. An AQI between 0-50 is considered 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor' and 401-450 'severe'. An AQI above 450 falls in the 'severe plus' category.



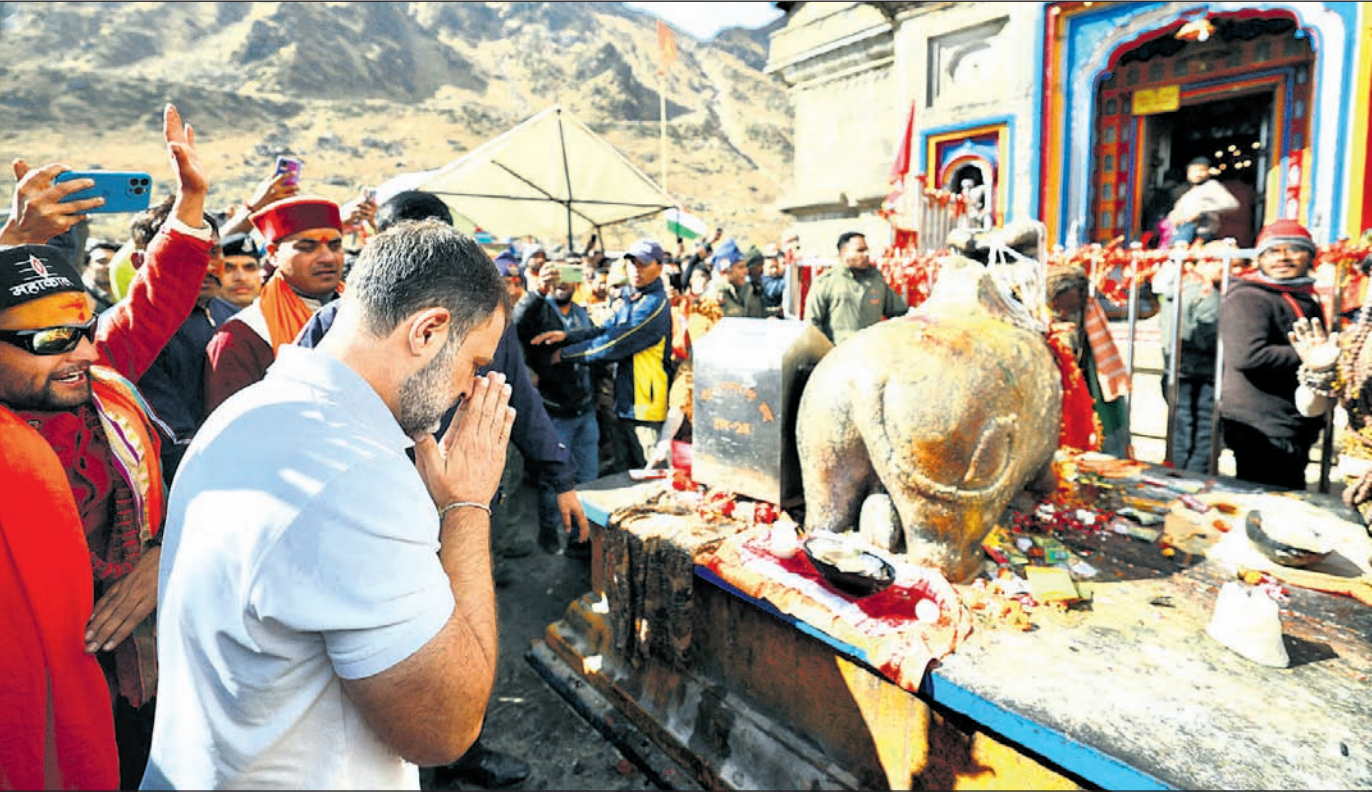
Participants during a voter awareness campaign in Bhopal ahead of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections



Firefighters attempt to douse a fire that broke out in a building at a market in Nagpur



President Droupadi Murmu during an interaction with a youth delegation from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his visit to Kedarnath in Rudraprayag district



Rubble of collapsed houses following an earthquake in Jajarkot, Nepal. More than 150 people were killed



People shop at Matunga lantern market ahead of Diwali in Mumbai



Police personnel conduct a flag march in Jagdalpur ahead of Chhattisgarh Assembly elections

national

of the day quote

The Prime Minister has announced that the PM Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) will be extended by another five years. As Chief Minister of Gujarat he had consistently opposed the National Food Security Act (NFSA) passed by Parliament in September 2013

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

It is horrific and shameful beyond words that almost 10,000 civilians of which nearly 5000 are children have been massacred, whole family lines have been finished off, hospitals and ambulances have been bombed, refugee camps targeted and yet the so-called leaders of the 'free' world continue to finance and support the genocide in Palestine

PRIVANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

Congress and corruption go hand in hand. Re-electing the ruling party in Chhattisgarh means the guarantee of loot

JP NADDA | BJP PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

BSF jawan killed

Dantewada: A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan deployed on election duty was killed after a grenade in his possession accidentally exploded in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district Sunday, police said. The blast occurred when a team of the BSF's 70th battalion stationed at Katakalyan police station for poll duty was about to launch a search operation, an official here said. The patrolling team was moving out of the police station premises when a hand grenade kept in a pouch worn by head constable Balbeer Chand exploded, he said.

Girl ends life in UP

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP): A 17-year-old girl committed suicide after her objectionable video clip made by a person of another community went viral on social media, a police official said Sunday, adding that an SHO has been suspended. The victim's body was found hanging in her house on November 3, when her mother and sister had gone outside. Kheri SP Ganesh Prasad Saha said that DSP (Pallia) Aditya Kumar Gautam has been asked to investigate the case and promptly file charge-sheet to ensure punishment to the accused.

Rajasthan BJP leader expelled

Jaipur: The BJP in Rajasthan Sunday expelled a party leader in Alwar, Sandeep Dayma, over his remarks on gurdwaras and mosques at a recent rally in the Tijara assembly constituency. The decision to expel Dayma was announced by Onkar Singh Lakhawat, the chairman of the Rajasthan BJP's disciplinary committee. "Sandeep Dayma has been expelled from the party on the direction of the state president for making a statement against the ideology of the party," Lakhawat said.

Govt blocks Mahadev app

New Delhi: The Centre has issued blocking orders against 22 illegal betting platforms, including Mahadev app and Reddyannaprestopro, on request of Enforcement Directorate, an official statement said Sunday. Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar alleged the Chhattisgarh government did not send any request to block these platforms despite having powers to do so.



Who are the corrupt? The corrupt are not those who have been nabbed by the ED and sent behind bars. The corrupt are those who joined the BJP due to ED's scare. Those who have been nabbed by the ED, but did not join the BJP, are fiercely honest. Because they know today or tomorrow they will come out

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

BHUTAN KING IN DELHI

Bhutan king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck arrived in New Delhi Sunday to a red carpet welcome with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar receiving him at the airport, reflecting the importance India has attached to the trip



LS ethics panel call on Moitra likely on Nov 7

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: The Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee will meet November 7 to consider and adopt its draft report in relation to the 'cash-for-query' allegations levelled against TMC MP Mahua Moitra by BJP's Nishikant Dubey

The meeting for adopting the draft report means that the committee headed by BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar has finished its enquiry and will now be making its recommendation after its members ranged along party lines in their last deliberations on November 2.

The BJP members are in a majority in the 15-member committee which is likely to take a grim view of the charges against Moitra, more so after she accused Sonkar of asking filthy and personal questions to her in the last meeting before walking out in a rage along with opposition member.

There are indications the committee may make a recommendation against her in its report to Speaker Om Birla amid a pos-



sibility of dissent notes from opposition members. All five opposition members had stormed out of the November 2 meeting, alleging that Sonkar asked per-

sonal and indecent questions to her regarding her travels, hotel stay and telephone calls.

She later alleged that she was subjected to a "proverbial vastraharan" in the meeting. The committee chairperson dismissed opposition members' claims as a case of unethical conduct aimed at shielding her.

The decision of Moitra, who appeared before the panel as a subject of enquiry and thus lacked the privileges bestowed on its members, to walk out of the meeting is likely to be taken up critically by the committee in its report.

Dubey has accused Moitra of asking questions in Lok Sabha to target the Adani Group at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani in exchange for bribes. He said it was Hiranandani who used her login to file questions from different places, mostly Dubai.

Moitra has admitted that he used her login details but has rejected any pecuniary considerations, asserting that most MPs share their login credentials with others.

Principal held for sexual harassment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 5: A government school principal in Haryana's Jind district has been arrested for alleged sexual harassment of over 50 girl students, police said Sunday.

"The accused principal was arrested on Saturday," Deputy Superintendent of Police, Amit Kumar Bhatia, who heads a five-member Special Investigation Team probing the case, said.

"He had been on the run for five days, but our teams arrested him. He will be produced before a court (in Jind) and we will be seeking his police remand to conduct further investigations," he said. Over 50 female students of the government school in Jind district had accused the principal of sexual harassment, the Haryana State Commission for Women had said earlier.

The Haryana Police had Monday booked the school principal, days after he was suspended by the Jind administration over allegations of sexual harassment. The State Commission for Women's chairperson Renu Bhatia had earlier said in Panchkula, "We have received 60 written complaints against the principal from the girl students. Out of this, 50 are complaints from girls who stated physical abuse at the hands of the accused. Ten other girls, in their complaint, said they knew the principal was into such things."

Woman geologist found murdered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 5: A woman, who worked as a senior geologist with the Mines and Geology Department was found allegedly murdered at her residence here, police said Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as 43-year-old K S Pratima. Officials suspect that the incident took place Saturday night after she returned to her residence at Subramanyapura police station limits.

According to police, the death was due to strangulation and slitting of the throat. "As usual, around 8 pm on Saturday, the deceased Pratima returned home. As she did not respond to phone calls last night and this morning, her elder brother came to her house to check and got to know about her murder. He informed the police," DCP, South Division, Bengaluru City, Rahul Kumar Shahapurwad told reporters here.

He said, "Forensic and technical teams are at work on the spot. Three teams have been formed for investigation. We will be able to share further information, once we get to know exactly what happened."

Noting that Pratima was re-



THE DECEASED HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS 43-YEAR-OLD K S PRATIMA

siding in the same house for the last four-five years as she has been working in Bengaluru Urban for the last four years, the DCP said she was living alone. "The death is because of strangulation and slitting of the throat," he said, adding that prima facie there is no theft of any jewellery or valuables.

Reacting to a question on the incident, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Mysuru said the murder will be inquired into and the reason is not yet known. "I just got to know about it. We will inquire into it. It seems that she was staying alone (in Bengaluru), while her husband was in his native village. The reason is not yet known, we will inquire into it," he said. According to sources, her husband lived at Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district.

Women in defence forces to get same leave as officers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal to grant maternity, child care and child adoption leave to women soldiers, sailors and air warriors on par with their officer counterparts.

The defence ministry Sunday said the decision is in line with Singh's vision of "inclusive participation" of all women in the armed forces, irrespective of their ranks. It said the measure is going to improve the work conditions for women in the military as it will help them balance their professional and family lives in a better manner.

"Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal for extension of the rules for maternity, child care and child adoption leave for women soldiers, sailors and air warriors in the armed forces at par with their officer counterparts," it said.

"With the issuing of the rules, the grant of such leave to all women in the military, whether one is an officer or any other rank, will be equally applicable," the ministry added. At present, the women officers get maternity leave of 180 days with full pay for each child, subject to

a maximum of two children. Childcare leave of 360 days is granted in total service career (subject to the child being less than 18 years of age) to women officers, according to officials.

Child adoption leave of 180 days is granted after the date of the valid adoption of a child below one year of age, they said. "The extension of leave rules will go a long way in dealing with women-specific family and social issues relevant to the armed forces," the ministry said in a statement.

"This measure is going to improve the work conditions of women in the military and aid them to balance the spheres of professional and family life in a better manner," it said.

The ministry said in line with the Narendra Modi government's commitment towards utilising "Nari Shakti" (women power), the three services have spearheaded a paradigm shift with the inclusion of women as soldiers, sailors and air warriors.

"With the recruitment of women Agniveers, the armed forces will be empowered with the bravery, dedication and patriotism of women soldiers, sailors and air warriors to defend the land, sea and air frontiers of the country," it said.



Devotees carrying a clay idol of Goddess Kali, to be taken to Kolkata, board a Sealdah-bound train ahead of Kali puja, at Santipur railway station in Nadia district, Sunday

INTERNET BAN EXTENDED IN MANIPUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Nov 5: The Manipur government has extended mobile internet ban in the state till November 8, officials said Sunday.

The move comes after a mob had on Wednesday attacked a camp of 1 Manipur Rifles here to loot its armoury, prompting security personnel to fire several rounds in the air.

The ban was extended following "apprehensions that anti-social elements might use so-

cial media extensively for transmission of images, hate speeches and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation in the state".

An order issued by Commissioner (Home) T Ranjit Singh, acknowledged the existence of "elements of imminent danger of loss of life and/or damage to public-private property...As a result of inflammatory material and false rumours which might be trans-

mitted/ circulated to the public through social media...In the context of the recent incidents of violence in some parts of the state".

Tension had been brewing in the state capital after an SDPO was shot dead by tribal militants at Moreh town on Tuesday. Barring a few days in September, mobile internet has remained banned in Manipur since May 3 when ethnic clashes broke out, and the government has been extending the prohibition periodically.

HuT TERROR MODULE CASE

17 charge-sheeted by NIA in MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge-sheet against 17 people associated with the Hijab-Tahrir (HuT), a radical group that aims at creating a Sharia-based Islamic nation through means of violent acts, an official said Sunday.



The charge-sheet was filed in a special court under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a case registered in Madhya Pradesh on May 9, the spokesperson of the agency said.

The charge-sheeted accused are Mohammad Alam, Misbah ul Hasan, Mehraj Ali, Khalid Hussain, Syed Sami Rizvi, Yasir Khan, Salman Ansari, Syed Danish Ali, Mohammad Shahruckh, Mohammad Wasim, Mohammad Kareem, Mohammad Abbas Ali, Mohammad Hameed, Mohammad Saleem, Abdur Rahman, Sheikh Junaid and Mohammad Salman, the official said.

PM, Dhankhar rare bonhomie

The Vice Presidents are selected by the Prime Ministers of the day on the basis of their abilities and trust earned by them. At times, the selections are not necessarily due to close personal relations. In recent years, it is well known that Krishan Kant and Bhairon Singh Shekhawat were picked up by I K Gujral and Atal Bihari Vajpayee respectively due to their personal friendship. Dr Hamid Ansari was not personally close to the UPA Chairperson, Sonia Gandhi and yet he made the cut for ten long years as Vice President. Similarly, M Venkaiah Naidu was not close to Narendra Modi either and that's why he was neither promoted as the President and nor repeated like Dr Hamid Ansari as the Vice President.

However, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's case is different. Modi personally picked him up due to his old association when he was a practicing Supreme Court lawyer and interacted with him on numerous occasions. When Dhankhar was appointed as Governor of West Bengal there was surprise in political circles. But Dhankhar earned Modi's confidence by his functioning as Governor. His extremely proactive approach in handling the mayhem after Mamata Banerjee's win in Assembly polls in 2021 gladdened Modi's heart, though Dhankhar's actions were not in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution. Insiders say that Dhankhar and PM Modi have developed an extremely close relationship and both of them meet more frequently than reported in the media and share their thoughts on issues of

importance.

BJP buckles under pressure

After a long time, the BJP high command has shown signs of buckling under pressure due to ground realities. If the rule of not giving tickets to leaders over and above 75 years was broken, the high command also retracted from its hardened position against powerful regional satraps. It is no secret that the BJP high command and Vasundhara Raje Scindia (Rajasthan), Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh) and Raman Singh (Chhattisgarh) were not on the same page. On the contrary, Scindia and Raman Singh were completely sidelined for the past several years. Though Chouhan was inducted as Chief Minister, he was left to fend for

himself. Even senior party MPs felt that they have been sidelined and a sword always hangs over their heads over tickets in 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Lately, the high command showed signs of change and succumbed to the ground reality that without three regional satraps, the party would be a divided house.

Congress losing grip in MP

About two months back, the Congress was perceived to be racing ahead in the upcoming Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections. But the Bharatiya Janata Party is said to have narrowed the gap with most political pundits now saying that the election promises to be a close fight between the two parties. There is an all-round agreement, endorsed

privately by many Congress leaders, that state party chief Kamal Nath's over-confidence could prove to be their undoing. There is a growing perception in the state that Kamal Nath and his immediate coterie are acting as if they are already in power. On the other hand, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is going out of his way to beat anti-incumbency though the BJP is hoping that its decision to field a record number of MPs in the high-stakes contest will help counter the fatigue factor against Chouhan.



international



Australia will cooperate where we can, disagree where we must and engage in our national interest
ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIAN PM

FIGHT AGAINST LSD

More than 84 per cent of cattle in South Korea have been vaccinated against lumpy skin disease (LSD), with the country struggling with the rapidly spreading disease nationwide, officials said Sunday



of the day quote

Attacks on journalists will not be tolerated in our democracy, and those who threaten the freedom of the press will face the full consequences of their actions
FERDINAND MARCOS JR | PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

They (the US) don't do anything. It's more, a lot more, what they authorize for the war in Ukraine than what they give to help with poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean
ANDRÉS MANUEL LÓPEZ OBRADOR | MEXICO PRESIDENT

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) will reach Hamas terror leader Yahya Sinwar and kill him
YOAV GALLANT | ISRAELI DEFENCE MINISTER

Afghan farmers lose income of \$1 billion

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamabad, Nov 5: Afghan farmers have lost income of more than \$1 billion from opium sales after the Taliban outlawed poppy cultivation, according to a report from the UN drugs agency published Sunday.



They pledged to wipe out the country's drug cultivation industry and imposed a formal ban in April 2022, dealing a heavy blow to hundreds of thousands of farmers and day labourers who relied on proceeds from the crop to survive. Opium cultivation crashed by 95 per cent after the ban, the re-

Afghanistan was the world's biggest opium producer and a major source for heroin in Europe and Asia when the Taliban seized power in August 2021

port from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime said. Until 2023, the value of Afghanistan's opiate exports frequently outstripped the value of its legal exports. UN officials said the strong contraction of the opium economy is expected to have far-reaching consequences for the country as opiate exports before the ban accounted for between 9-14 per cent of the national GDP. Afghans need urgent humanitarian assistance to meet their most immediate needs, absorb the shock of lost income and save lives, said UNODC executive director, Ghada Waly.



Afghan refugees settle in a camp near the Torkham Pakistan-Afghanistan border in Torkham, Afghanistan. A huge number of Afghan refugees entered the Torkham border to return home hours before the expiration of a Pakistani government deadline for those who are in the country illegally to leave or face deportation

Hamburg airport hostage standoff over, suspect held

REUTERS

Frankfurt, Nov 5: Police arrested a man and rescued a child at the centre of a hostage standoff at Hamburg airport Sunday, ending a crisis that had forced authorities to close the busy air hub.

A man, who police said was suspected of carrying a gun, and possibly explosives, drove a vehicle through the gates of the airport on Saturday night, officers said. Police said the 35-year-old man was with his four-year-old daughter and was thought to be involved in a custody dispute. "The hostage situation is over," the city's police force wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, early on Sunday afternoon.



"The suspect got out of the car with his daughter. The man was arrested by the emergency services without resistance. The child appears to be unharmed," it added. The airport said it was working to resume operations as quickly as possible. A total of 286 flights with around 34,500 passengers had been scheduled for Sunday, it said earlier. "I wish the mother, the child and her family a lot of strength to cope with this terrible experience," Hamburg mayor Peter Tschentscher wrote on X. The episode raised concerns over security at the airport less than four months after climate activists got onto the runway and blocked planes.

Attack on refugee camp

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas demands an immediate Israeli ceasefire at a meeting with US diplomat Antony Blinken

AGENCIES

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Nov 5: Israeli warplanes struck a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip early Sunday, killing at least 40 people and wounding dozens, health officials said. The strike came as Israel said it would press on with its offensive to crush the territory's Hamas rulers, despite US appeals for a pause to get aid to desperate civilians.

Israel has rejected the idea of halting its offensive, even for brief humanitarian pauses proposed by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his current tour of the region. Gaza's Health Ministry said more than 9,700 Palestinians have been killed in the territory in nearly a month of war, and that number is likely to rise as Israeli troops advance into dense, urban neighborhoods.

Airstrikes hit the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza overnight, killing at least 40 people and wounding 34 others, the Health Ministry said. It said first responders and residents were still digging through the rubble, hoping to find survivors. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The camp, a built-up residential area, is located in the evacuation zone where Israel's military had urged Palestinian civilians in Gaza to seek refuge as it focuses its military offensive on the north. Despite such appeals, Israel has continued its



Airstrikes hit the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza overnight, killing at least 40 people and wounding 34 others. Efforts were under way Sunday to resume evacuations of injured Gazans and foreign nationals through the Rafah crossing to Egypt. The UN said about 1.5 million people in Gaza, or 70% of the population, have fled their homes. Food, water and the fuel needed for generators that power hospitals and other facilities is running out

An Israeli minister said that dropping an atomic bomb on the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip was "an option", prompting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to suspend him from government meetings indefinitely

bombardment across Gaza, saying it is targeting Hamas fighters and assets everywhere and accusing it of using civilians as human shields. Critics say Israel's strikes are often disproportionate, considering the large number of women and children killed. Blinken met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, a day after meeting with Arab foreign ministers in neighboring Jordan.

Abbas, who has had no authority in Gaza since Hamas took over in 2007, said the Palestinian Authority would only assume control of Gaza as part of a "comprehensive political solution" establishing an independent state

that would also take in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, lands Israel seized in the 1967 war. His remarks seemed to further narrow the already slim options for who would govern Gaza if Israel succeeds in toppling Hamas.

The last peace talks with Israel broke down more than a decade ago, and Israel's government is dominated by opponents of Palestinian statehood. Blinken had met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Friday, who insisted there could be no temporary ceasefire until all hostages held by Hamas are released.

Arab leaders have called for an immediate cease-fire. But Blinken said that "would simply leave Hamas in place, able to regroup and repeat what it did October 7," when the group launched a wide-ranging attack from Gaza into southern Israel, triggering the war. Swaths of residential neighborhoods in northern Gaza have been leveled in airstrikes.

Russia test fires nuclear capable ballistic missile

REUTERS

Moscow, Nov 5: Russia's new strategic nuclear submarine, the Emperor Alexander III, has successfully tested a Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile, the Russian defence ministry said Sunday.

The missile, which the Federation of American Scientists says is designed to carry up to six nuclear warheads, was launched from an underwater position in the White Sea off Russia's northern coast and hit a target thousands of kilometres away on the Kamchatka peninsula in the Russian Far East, the defence ministry said.

"Firing a ballistic missile is the final element of state tests, after which a decision will be made to accept the cruiser into the Navy," a ministry statement said. The Emperor Alexander III is the seventh of the Russian Project 955 Borei (Arctic Wind) class nuclear submarines and

the fourth of the modernised Borei-A variant, according to Russian sources.

They are known in NATO as the Dolgoruky class of submarines, after the first boat - the Yuri Dolgoruky - became the first new generation of nuclear submarine launched by Russia since the Cold War.

The Borei class submarine is armed with 16 Bulava missiles. The 12-metre (40-foot) missile has a range of about 8,000 km (5,000 miles).

Since rising to power in 1999, President Vladimir Putin has increased military spending and sought to rebuild Russia's nuclear and conventional forces after the chaos that accompanied the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

The Ukraine war has triggered the worst crisis in Moscow's relations with the West since the depths of the Cold War and Putin last month said he was not ready to say whether or not Russia should resume nuclear testing.



SHORT TAKES

High alert issued in Quetta hospitals

Karachi: A young doctor suffering from the deadly Congo virus fever has died in Quetta, prompting authorities in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province to issue a high alert in medical centres of the provincial capital. The Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus has claimed 17 lives in the southwestern province alone this year, according to the Secretary of the Health Department, Abdullah Khan. The emergency was issued in hospitals and medical centres after it emerged on Sunday that at least 16 healthcare professionals, including doctors working at two hospitals in the province, had been infected with the virus.

Moldovans cast ballots in polls

Chisinau (Moldova): Moldovans are casting ballots in nationwide local elections Sunday amid claims by Moldovan authorities that Russia has been conducting "hybrid warfare" to undermine the vote in the European Union candidate country. While local elections in Moldova, a country of about 2.5 million people situated between Romania and Ukraine, would not usually garner much international attention, ongoing accusations of Russian meddling add a geopolitical dimension to the vote.

Court sends BNP leader to prison

Dhaka: A court in Bangladesh Sunday ordered the imprisonment of opposition BNP leader and former home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury in a case filed over vandalism of the chief justice's residence during a clash between his party supporters and police that left two people dead. The direction of the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Court came as clashes and clandestine arson attacks left dozens, including policemen, wounded and vehicles burnt amid a new 48-hour nationwide transport blockade called by the opposition.

S'pore PM plans to step down

Singapore: Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Sunday he planned to bow out and hand over power to his deputy, Lawrence Wong, late next year, before the 2025 general election. Lee, 71, initially intended to retire before turning 70, but it was shelved because of the Covid-19 pandemic. He has served as head of the long-ruling People's Action Party, or PAP, and as prime minister since 2004.

Nepal govt scrambles to rush aid to quake victims

OUT OF A TOTAL OF 157 PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THE TRAGEDY, THE BODIES OF 120 HAVE SO FAR BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS. ABOUT 253 PEOPLE WERE INJURED IN THE QUAKE, THE MOST DEVASTATING IN THE COUNTRY SINCE 2015

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 5: Nepal's authorities Sunday scrambled to rush aid to those affected by Friday's earthquake that killed 157 people and left a trail of destruction in the Himalayan nation's remote mountainous region.

The relatives of victims were now preparing for their cremations. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Sunday held a Cabinet meeting, during which he decided to provide Rs. 2 lakh cash each to the

family of those killed in the Jajarkot earthquake as immediate relief, according to officials.

The Nepal government also decided to provide free medical treatment to those injured in the earthquake. During the meeting, it was also decided to prepare an integrated action plan to construct earthquake-resistant housing within one year for the rehabilitation of those affected.

It was decided that Surkhet municipality in the Karnali province would be the main liaison office and Nepalgunj the auxiliary liaison office to make



A woman cries near the earthquake damaged house where her son, daughter in law and grand child died

the search, rescue and relief distribution works effective, said Government spokesperson and Minister for Communications and Information Technology

Rekha Sharma. Makeshift huts will be provided to the affected people at the earliest, Sharma added. "All the injured individuals will receive treatment free

THE EARTHQUAKE WITH AN EPICENTRE IN JAJARKOT DISTRICT, ABOUT 500 KM WEST OF KATHMANDU, WAS RECORDED JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT FRIDAY

AS THE EARTHQUAKE DESTROYED HUNDREDS OF HOUSES IN THE MOUNTAINOUS REGION, SEVERAL PEOPLE HAD TO SPEND SATURDAY NIGHT UNDER THE OPEN SKY

"The distribution of food, tarps, and tents has already begun in some affected areas, with plans for further deliveries in progress. The government is committed to ensuring that all necessary assistance is provided to the survivors," he said. This time, the government will rectify the weaknesses that occurred during the 2015 earthquake response, he pointed out.

In the aftermath of the disaster, Nepal's immediate neighbours, India and China, and the United States have offered support with logistics and search for the victims by sending rescue teams to the country.

Since various countries have expressed willingness to extend assistance to the earthquake victims, the government will formulate standards for the type of aid it can accept, Basnet said.



In Netherlands, we will shortly be submitting the detailed decarbonization proposal to the Dutch government seeking regulatory and financial support

TV NARENDRAN | CEO & MD, TATA STEEL

BoB WORLD TERMINATED

Bank of Baroda (BoB) said there was very insignificant and immaterial financial implication of 'bob World' on the bank. The bank has terminated the services of head digital lending business Akhil Handa as part of actions initiated following regulatory steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India, BoB MD Debadatta Chand said



of the day quote

Global and domestic macroeconomic events, FII, DII investment pattern, crude oil inventories, movement of the rupee against the dollar, US bond yield, the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, the ongoing Q2 earning season will dictate the trend in the market this week

ARVINDER SINGH NANDA | SENIOR VP, MASTER CAPITAL SERVICES

Revenue growth is expected to move into the positive territory in H2 as pricing deflation in the domestic business steadily tapers off. The company has taken price drops in its core brands as Saffola and Parachute

SAUGATA GUPTA | MD & CEO, MARICO

Diverging demand patterns between utility vehicles and the small car segment is continuing. The company is working on increasing the flexibility in operations to produce vehicles as per the evolving market demand

RAHUL BHARTI | EXECUTIVE OFFICER CORPORATE AFFAIRS, MARUTI SUZUKI

Q2 RESULTS

Bol profit up 52%

Mumbai: State-owned Bank of India Saturday reported a 52 per cent jump in the net profit at ₹1,458 crore in the September 2023 quarter. The city-headquartered bank had reported a post tax profit of ₹960 crore in the year-ago period, Bank of India said. It's core net interest income climbed 13 per cent to ₹5,740 crore during the quarter on the back of a 10 per cent growth in advances and a 0.04 per cent widening in the net interest margin at 3.08 per cent. The non-interest income increased 19 per cent to ₹1,688 crore in the reporting quarter. The gross non-performing assets ratio improved by 0.83 per cent to 5.84 per cent in the later quarter from 6.67 per cent recorded in June.

Olectra PAT triples

New Delhi: Electric vehicles manufacturer Olectra Greentech's profit after tax nearly tripled to ₹18.58 crore in September quarter 2023-24 mainly on the back of higher revenues. In the year-ago period, the PAT was ₹7.42 crore, a company statement said. Revenue for Q2 FY24 was ₹307.16 crore as against ₹177.34 crore earlier. It said the revenue grew due to increase in vehicle deliveries. During the quarter under review, Olectra delivered 154 electric vehicles, against 111 delivered in the same period of 2022-23.

SELLING SPREE

FPIs begin Nov on gloomy note

FOREIGN INVESTORS WITHDREW ₹3,400CR IN JUST 3 TRADING SESSIONS IN NOV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: Foreign Portfolio Investors' (FPIs) sell-off continues as they pulled out over ₹3,400 crore from the Indian equity markets in the first three trading sessions of November on rising interest rates and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

This came after such investors withdrew ₹24,548 crore in October and ₹14,767 crore in September, data with the depositories showed.

Before the outflow, FPIs were incessantly buying Indian equities in the last six months from March to August and brought in ₹1.74 lakh crore during the period.

Going forward, this selling trend is unlikely to continue since the main trigger for FPI selling, the rising bond yields, has reversed on the US Federal Reserve signalling a dovish stance in its November meeting.

"The main trigger for this reversal in bond yields is the subtle dovish commentary from Fed chief Jerome Powell that 'despite elevated inflation, inflationary expectations remain well anchored'. The market has interpreted this statement as the end of the rate hiking cycle," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to the data with the depositories, FPIs sold shares to the tune of ₹3,412 crore during November 1-3. FPIs have been on a selling spree since the



“This could be largely attributed to the growing geopolitical tensions due to the conflict between Israel and Hamas, alongside a notable rise in US Treasury bond yields

HIMANSHU SRIVASTAVA | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, MORNINGSTAR INVESTMENT ADVISER

start of September. In the current scenario, experts believe that there could be an enhanced focus on safe-haven assets such as gold and US dollars.

On the other hand, the debt market attracted ₹1,984 crore in the period under review after receiving ₹6,381 crore in October, data showed.

This approach may represent a tactical move by foreign investors to allocate funds to Indian debt in the short term, with the intention of redirecting capital into the equity markets when conditions become more favourable, Morningstar's Srivastava said.

In terms of sectors, frontline banking, automobiles, capital goods, and mid-caps in IT and real estate are poised to do well.

With this, the total investment by FPIs in equity has reached ₹92,560cr and ₹37,485cr in the debt market this year so far

Q2 GROWTH

BoM tops again

Bank of Maharashtra top among PSU lenders in loan, deposit growth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) retained the top spot among public sector lenders in loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during the second quarter of the current financial year.

BoM was the top performer among PSBs in terms of deposit, advances, and total business with growth of about 25 per cent during the first quarter as well.

The deposit and advances of the Pune-based lender posted an over 20 per cent rise, the highest by any public sector bank during the July-September period.

With a growth rate of 23.55 per cent, gross domestic advances of the bank rose to ₹1,83,122 crore at the end of September 2023, according to published quarterly numbers of public sector banks (PSBs). It was followed by Indian



BOM SHINES 23.55%
IOB SURGES 20.29%
CENTRAL BANK RISES 17.26%
UCO GROWS 16.53%
SBI UP 13.21%; AT 7TH SPOT

Overseas Bank with 20.29 per cent growth, Central Bank of India (17.26 per cent growth) and UCO Bank with 16.53 per cent growth.

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) stood at the seventh spot with 13.21 per cent rise in domestic advances growth. However, SBI's total loans were

about 16 times higher at ₹28,84,007 crore as compared to ₹1,75,676 crore of BoM in absolute terms. With regard to deposit growth, BoM witnessed 22.18 per cent rise and mobilised ₹2,39,298 crore at the end of September 2023.

Bank of Baroda was in second place with 12 per cent growth in deposits (Rs 10,74,114 crore), while SBI recorded an 11.80 per cent increase at ₹45,03,340 crore, according to the published data.

BoM retained the top position in terms of garnering low-cost Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) deposits at 50.71 per cent followed by Central Bank of India at 49.93 per cent.

Helped by high growth in loan and deposits, the bank's total business also recorded the highest growth of 22.77 per cent at ₹4,22,420 crore, followed by Bank of Baroda at 13.91 per cent growth (Rs 19,08,837 crore) at the end of September 2023.

Mcap of 9 of top-10 valued firms' surges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: The combined market valuation of nine of the top-10 most valued firms surged ₹97,463.46 crore last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer, amid an overall positive trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 580.98 points or 0.91 per cent.

Barring Bajaj Finance, the rest nine firms, including Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India emerged as gainers.

The market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped ₹36,399.36 crore to ₹15,68,995.24 crore.

State Bank of India's market capitalisation (mcap) zoomed ₹15,305.71 crore to reach ₹5,15,976.44 crore.

Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Infosys, ITC, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India and Bajaj Finance.

Headline inflation under control: FinMin

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 5: While GDP growth remains on track in 2023-24, the declining trend in headline inflation was briefly interrupted in the second quarter due to a spike in the prices of certain food items, however, according to the Finance Ministry, it was a temporary phenomenon caused by the seasonal and weather-driven supply constraints in a few food items.

In a report released by the Finance Ministry recently, it was stated that headline inflation has moved to track (under control) on the back of vegetable price correction and the recent reduction in LPG prices.

"As per the latest release of the consumer price index (CPI), headline inflation was 5 per cent in September, within the upper tolerance limit of inflation tar-



geting. This indicates that the increase in inflation during July-August was only temporary, caused by the seasonal and weather-driven supply constraints in a few food items," it noted.

Among the 299 items in the CPI basket, only 11.4 per cent of food items with double-digit inflation in July caused a spike in headline inflation. However, this declined significantly to 7 per cent in September. Alongside softening food inflation, the fuel & light group witnessed a de-

- LPG price cut, vegetable price correction major factors behind inflation drop, says Finance Ministry report
- Headline inflation moderated to 5.5% in H1 of this year as compared to 7.2% in H1 of 2022-23 and 6.2% in H2 of same year

flation in September.

As a result of the cut in prices of domestic LPG by ₹200 per cylinder, inflation in LPG declined to (-) 12.7 per cent in September compared to 4.2 per cent in August, it said further.

Core (non-food, non-fuel) inflation further softened to 4.5 per cent in September from 4.9 per cent in August. This is the lowest core inflation recorded in the last 42 months. Besides, August was the seventh consecutive month that core inflation has re-

mained within the RBI's upper tolerance band of 6 per cent.

"The recent price trends also vindicate the monetary policy stance of the RBI for the last one and a half years. Since May 2022, the monetary policy actions broadly included absorbing excess liquidity in the system by gradually increasing the policy repo rate by 250 basis points and changing the policy stance to the withdrawal of accommodation, to break the stickiness of core inflation and to keep the headline inflation at check," the Finance Ministry report said.

The RBI in its monetary policy committee meeting of October decided to remain focussed on the withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target while supporting growth, and hence, kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent.



To enhance transparency in power services and the experience of customers, the Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited has launched Consumer Self Service App. The application is available on both android and iOS devices. It was launched by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami under the government's 'From digital innovation to good governance' initiative

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK

Union Bank staffers vow to fight corruption

Bhubaneswar: Walkathon for staff members of Union Bank of India was held from Rupali Square to Kendriya Vidyalaya No 1 Bhubaneswar by regional office at Bhubaneswar November 5 in presence of vigilance officers from central office. In the event around 150 staff members gathered and took pledge to fight against corruption. The event was also graced by Zonal Head Bhubaneswar Sarvesh Ranjan, Deputy Zonal Head Bhubaneswar R Devraj, Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Regional Office, Niranjana Barik, Deputy Regional Head, Bhubaneswar Regional Office, Jeetendra Kumar Samal, MLP Head Hareram Shah, RLP Head Hare Krishna Padhi along with executives from Regional Office Bhubaneswar, the branch heads, officials and staffers from all branches of the City.



BoM on path of honesty

Bhubaneswar: Bank of Maharashtra, Bhubaneswar Zone observed Vigilance Awareness Week. A bike rally was organised on this occasion. Sanjib Kumar Dash, Deputy Zonal Head, Bhubaneswar Zone, Deepak Dandapat, Chief Manager, Bhubaneswar Branch, Ashish Kumar, Regional Vigilance Officer along with employees of Local Branches of Bhubaneswar were present in this programme. Corruption prevention, following path of honesty, duty and building an ideal society was the part of the discussion in this programme. The rally started from Bhubaneswar Zonal Office via Rupali Square, Master Canteen Square, Rajmahal Square and ended at Forest Park.



'India unlikely to have hyperloop trains in near future'

Hyperloop is a high-speed train, running in vacuum in a tube. The technology is proposed by elon musk, founder of e-car firm tesla and commercial space transport company spacex



that the offer which came from foreign countries are not very viable options. They are at a very low level of maturity of technology," he told PTI in an interview.

"So we have not given much importance to that and as on today, it is only a study pro-

gramme. I don't expect hyperloop to enter into our transportation framework in the near future," he said.

The Virgin Hyperloop test run was conducted November 9, 2020, on a 500-metre track in Las Vegas in the US with a pod, as the hyperloop vehicles are called, trav-

elling with passengers, including an Indian, inside an enclosed tube at more than 161 km/hr.

According to Saraswat, the offers which came are at a very low level of maturity and "we cannot make investment on that kind of a technology."

Virgin Hyperloop is among a handful of companies which are trying to build such a system for passenger travel.

Maharashtra has deemed hyperloop a public infrastructure exercise and approved the Virgin Hyperloop-DP World Consortium as the original project proponent for the Mumbai-Pune hyperloop project.

LITHIUM ION IMPORTS
Replying to a question on India's reliance on lithium imports from China, Saraswat said as on today production of lithium battery in India is very low, so the dependence is on the import of batteries from China and other sources.

"But mostly it is from China because competition wise the Chinese batteries are

cheaper," he said.

Pointing out that India has given incentives for setting up battery manufacturing facilities in the country, Saraswat said, "Hopefully, next year you will have couple of business houses going into production in a large scale for manufacturing of lithium-ion battery in the country." About 75 per cent of the lithium-ion imports come from China.

On reports of India talking to Chile and Bolivia for tapping into lithium mining, Saraswat said there was a suggestion that India should go for acquisition of certain mining facilities in Chile, Argentina and other places.

"And what has happened is instead of the government directly going to these countries and acquiring mines, our private sector has already signed business to business agreement with some of the companies in these countries and they have already got supply chain agreement for getting lithium from these centres."

Power usage grows 9.4% in April-Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 5: India's power consumption grew 9.4 per cent to around 984.39 billion units in the April-October period this fiscal compared to a year ago mainly due to improvement in economic activities and weather conditions.

Power consumption in the April-October period in fiscal year 2022-23 was 899.95 billion units, according to power ministry data.

Another indicator, peak power demand, was also higher at nearly 241 GW during the April-October period this fiscal against

215.88 GW in the same period in 2022.

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

In the same month a year ago, power consumption stood at 113.94 BU, higher than 112.79 billion units recorded in October 2021, as per government data.

A spokesperson of Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd said, "In the last couple of months, electricity consumption has gone up substantially."

'King' matches 'Icon'

BRIEFS

Rohit equals ABD's 6-hitting record

Kolkata: Indian skipper Rohit Sharma has equalled South Africa's AB de Villiers record for hitting the most ODI sixes in a calendar year. Rohit achieved the feat when he hit Lungi Ngidi for two sixes while scoring 40 against South Africa during India's ODI World Cup game at the Eden Gardens here. The two sixes took Rohit's tally to 58 in 2023. He will definitely have a chance to go past the record set by De Villiers in the next few matches India play in November.



Anushka Sharma's congratulatory post for hubby Virat Kohli on Instagram

Pakistan team fined for slow over rate

Bangalore: Pakistan players have been fined 10 per cent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate against New Zealand in a World Cup league game which they won by 21 runs here Saturday. "Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after Babar Adam's side was ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration," an ICC media release stated Sunday. Pakistan skipper Babar pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

Vinicius racial abuse incident condemned

Madrid: The Spanish league has denounced racist abuse targeting Vinicius Junior at last weekend's 'clasico' match between Real Madrid and Barcelona. Madrid forward Vinicius, who is black, has been the victim of repeated racist verbal attacks from fans in the past two seasons. La Liga authorities have asked hosts Barcelona to investigate the incident and identify the culprits. It has also condemned the incident which took place October 28 in a report to the Spanish Soccer Federation and has said that the 'incident could have incited violence'. "Offenders must be identified and punished," the report stated.

Odisha eyes win gold



Members of the Odisha women's football team pose with their gold medals Sunday

OP PHOTO

Total medal haul at ongoing National Games stands at 43

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5: The Odisha eves have won the football gold at the ongoing National Games in Goa. In the women's football final at the 37th edition of the National Games, the Odisha women's team defeated Manipur in the final Sunday. After the match ended 1-1 in regulation time, the Odisha eves held their nerves to win the tie-breaker 4-2 and with it the gold medal. Odisha also added one more

gold medal and a bronze to take their medal tally to 43. The second gold medal of the day came in the Canoeing and Kayaking 500m event while the bronze came in the C-2 500m Canoeing event. In the women's football final, Odisha took the lead 51st minute after a goalless first half. Pyari Xaxa scored with a scorching shot to put Odisha ahead. However, the Manipur side equalised deep into the second session. In the ensuing tie breaker, Odisha showed remarkable composure to win the shootout 4-2. In Canoeing and Kayaking, Fulmani Xaxa and Bidya Devi won the gold medal for Odisha in the K2-W 500m event.

Interestingly, the success in football is a testament to the numerous measures the Odisha government has taken to identify grassroots-level talents. Recently Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, inaugurated the Odisha Football Academy, the Bhubaneswar Football Academy, and Capital Arena Football. These centres, equipped with a total of six FIFA certified pitches, including five natural and one synthetic football turf, LED floodlights, modern players' changing rooms, and several other top-notch amenities, provide aspiring footballers across genders with essential infrastructure for training.

Women bag ACT crown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 5: The Indian women's hockey team won the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) crown defeating Japan 4-0 in the final played here Sunday. In a fast-paced match, the Indians took the lead in the 17th minute through a field goal scored by Sangeeta Kumari in the opening minutes of the second quarter. The hosts completely dominated the fourth quarter scoring three goals. Neha doubled the score by deflecting a shot by Deep Grace Ekka off a penalty

corner. Lalremsiami made it 3-0 minutes before the final hooter and finally Vandana Katariya completed the rout. Asian Games gold medal winners Japan started on a bright note and had an early chance in the fourth minute, but wasted it. However, India did not have to wait long enough for the lead. Neha found an unmarked Sangeeta inside the Japan 'D' and the opportunistic striker made no mistake to beat the rival goalkeeper. When India were 2-0 up, Japan earned a penalty stroke, but Savita Punia made a great save.

Vaishali inches towards GM title

Isle of Man (UK): On the verge of her Grandmaster title, R Vaishali outwitted former Women's World Champion Zhongyi Tan of China to remain in sole lead after the end of the 10th and penultimate round of FIDE Women Grand Prix here Sunday. Vaishali, along with her younger brother Praggnanandhaa became the first brother-sister duo to qualify for the respective Candidates and they will be in action in Canada next year, fighting for a place in the World Championship finals. At 2,498 live rating, Vaishali is just two points short of becoming a Grandmaster.

SAKYASEN MITTRA, OP

He is an epitome of modern day cricket royalty. No cricketer in the world at present carries the 'King' tag with such elan. Forget about the two other versions of international cricket - Tests and T20s, in the ODI format Kohli is the real 'King', a player who mesmerises bowlers with his batting symphony. Kohli equalled Sachin Tendulkar's feat of 49 ODI hundreds at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on his 35th birthday. On a day, he was supposed to receive gifts Kohli gave the passionate Kolkata crowd a century to cherish and made them a part of history.

The 70,000-odd people at the 'Mecca of Indian cricket' watched with joy as Kohli marched majestically to the three-figure mark. They had been chanting 'Kohli... Kohli...' since the Indian team arrived in Kolkata a couple of days back. No one else mattered to them, not even home boy Mohammed Shami. It was clear Kohli wanted to give them something in return.

The start was not fluent as one would expect of Kohli. Kagiso Rabada beat him a couple of times outside the off-stump. However, once Kohli came to terms with the pitch, he realised that shot-making would be difficult. The result was that only 40 of his unbeaten 101 runs came in boundaries. The rest were the efforts of a supremely fit man at 35 who ran the second and third runs

with the same fleet-footedness that he did the first.

There had been discussions that it would have been better if Kohli had got the record-equaling ton in the game against Sri Lanka at Mumbai in front of Tendulkar. Probably not, because the cricketing gods had other ideas. Kohli's journey of ODI centuries started from Eden Gardens itself when he got his first one against Sri Lanka December 24, 2009. There couldn't have been a better place for Kohli to match the feat of the batting icon.

However, should this be called matching of a feat? It took Tendulkar 451 ODI innings to get 49 centuries while Kohli has done so in just his 277th. No one knows, how many tons Kohli will get if he goes on to play the same number of games like Tendulkar did.

Kohli's Sachin prajji was quick to congratulate the former on 'X'. "It took me 365 days to score my 50th hundred after I got my 49th. I hope you break my record and get your 50th hundred in the next few days. Congratulations," Tendulkar wrote.

For a man, who burst on to the cricket scene by leading India to the World Cup under-19 title more than 15 years ago, Kohli has indeed come a long way. He definitely has set the benchmark for the next generation of cricketers like Shubman Gill and the Yashasvi Jaiswals.

Kohli described his feat as 'it's stuff of dreams' as he touched the man he always idolised. "Every opportunity to play for India is big one for me. To be able to do that (49th hundred) on my birthday, in front of the whole crowd, it's stuff of dreams, something that as a child you wish had happened," Kohli said after the completion of the Indian innings.

He couldn't have been closer to the truth.



	M	I	R	100s	50s	SR
Virat Kohli	289	277	13,626	49	70	93.63
Sachin Tendulkar	463	452	18,426	49	96	86.23

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