



DESI GIRL

Actress Sara Ali Khan says she doesn't believe in wearing designer clothes as she looks fine in traditional outfits

LEISURE P2



WARMEST YEAR EVER

This year is 'virtually certain' to be the warmest in 125,000 years, after data shows last month was the world's hottest October in that period

INTERNATIONAL P10



STOKES LIFTS ENGLAND

Ben Stokes's century helps England secure a 160-run win in the ongoing World Cup, beating the Netherlands

SPORTS P12

Nitish apologises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 8: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Wednesday apologised in both Houses of the legislature, as well as outside, for remarks made a day before on the importance of women's education to control population growth.

Upon his arrival on the Vidhan Sabha premises, Kumar was greeted by a posse of MLAs, all belonging to the opposition BJP, carrying placards denouncing his utterances and demanding his resignation.

"I have come to know today that something I had said yesterday has not gone down well with many people. My intent was to highlight my government's thrust on women's empowerment and the role improved literacy among women plays in population control. Though if anybody's sentiments have been hurt, I seek an apology and take back my words," said Kumar. P9

Pvt buses likely to go off roads from Dec 1

Bhubaneswar: The All Odisha Private Bus Owners' Association Wednesday threatened to go on a state-wide agitation by keeping their buses off roads from December 1, 2023. "The private bus owners have also decided to stage a dharna in front of the Odisha Assembly November 22," said association member Barada Acharya after a meeting of the private bus body members at Bhawanipatna. The private bus owners have been opposing the launch of bus services from block to district level under the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LacMI).

Man pulls tusker's tail in Angul, held

Bhubaneswar: The forest department has arrested a 24-year-old man for instigating a wild elephant to attack people by pulling its tail while chasing it in Angul district, an official said. The man, identified as Dinesh Sahoo, a resident of Kulad village in Talcher Forest Range, was arrested Wednesday and booked under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The tusker was moving around near Kulad when it was chased by locals, including Sahoo, Sunday. While chasing the pachyderm, the accused had pulled its tail, instigating it to charge towards the humans, he said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Neither star campaigners nor top netas, we need Glenn Maxwell for the last leg of campaigning

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX			VARIATION
SENSEX	64975.61	↑	33.21
NIFTY	19443.50	↑	36.80
DOLLAR	83.25	↑	₹0.01
EURO	88.96	↓	₹0.05
GOLD	₹59,977	↓	₹370
SILVER	₹70,620	↓	₹14

WEATHER			
	BHUB	CTK	
TEMP MAX	31.2°C	31.0°C	
TEMP MIN	21.4°C	21.0°C	
Humidity	84%	85%	Forecast Partly cloudy sky
Rainfall	Nil	Nil	



BATTLE READY: Soldiers of Ukraine's National Guard 1st brigade Burevii (Hurricane) practice during combat training at a military training ground in the north of Ukraine, Wednesday

SRIMANDIR NATAMANDAP REPAIR HC bins ASI report

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 8: Terming it 'incomplete', the Orissa High Court Wednesday rejected the affidavit submitted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on the status of repair works at Srimandir Natamandap (dancing hall) in Puri and asked the agency to file a comprehensive report on or before the next hearing November 15.

A division bench of the HC, comprising acting Chief Justice BR Sarangi and Justice MS Raman, asked Superintending Archaeologist (Puri Circle) DB Garnayak to take back the 'incomplete' affidavit filed by the ASI, Wednesday. The court posted the hearing to November 15. The HC has been monitoring Natamandap conservation work as part of adjudication on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Abhisek Das, a resident of Cuttack, in 2016. The Natamandap repair work was



taken up by the ASI after completion of the restoration of Jay-Bijay Dwar of the 12th century shrine in 2017. The ASI had Monday informed the HC that the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras had in October submitted the structural design of steel frame and detailed intervention for strengthening the cracked beam of Natamandap with the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA). However, it was pending with

The Orissa High Court has been monitoring the conservation of Natamandap as part of adjudication on a plea filed by Abhisek Das, a resident of Cuttack, in 2016

Natamandap repair work was taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India in 2017

strengthening of the cracked beam inside the Natamandap. According to High Court-appointed amicus curiae NK Mohanty's August 15, 2023 report, the Natamandap and Jagamohan of the 12th century shrine were in a critical state and anything could happen at any moment. "Many distressed locations were observed in the second pidha of Jagamohan mostly in the form of wide structural cracks, localised dislodgement of stone blocks and detached weak lime plasters, and extensive corrosion of the existing wrought-iron clamps. These distressed locations were on the eastern and south-eastern corner of Jagamohan. There is a crack in the beam of the Natamandap. This work is very important and catastrophe may happen at any time as this subject beam is working as a cantilever from both sides," Mohanty had pointed out in his report.

Delhi plans artificial rain

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Delhi government plans to induce artificial rain through cloud seeding this month to combat air pollution in the national capital, Environment Minister Gopal Rai said Wednesday. Rai held a meeting with scientists from IIT-Kanpur who explained that cloud seeding can only be attempted when there are clouds or moisture in the atmosphere. "Experts anticipate that such conditions could develop around November 20-21. We have asked the scientists to prepare a proposal by Thursday that will be submitted to the Supreme Court," the minister told reporters. Rai emphasised that obtaining the necessary clearances and permissions for using this technology from both the central and the state governments is a time-sensitive matter. The IIT-Kanpur scientists, who have conducted research on artificial rain, delivered a presentation to the minister September 12.

Schools shut till Nov 18

In view of air pollution in the national capital, the December winter break of all schools has been rescheduled and it will be now from November 9 to November 18, a circular from the Delhi Directorate of Education stated on Wednesday. Holidays were earlier announced from November 3 to November 10 due to bad air quality.

'Odd-even' deferred

The Delhi government Wednesday said the odd-even car rationing scheme will be implemented in the national capital after the Supreme Court reviews its effectiveness and issues an order. Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the city government would submit the results of two major studies conducted by the Energy Policy Institute of the University of Chicago and the Delhi Technical University to determine the scheme's effectiveness for the SC's review. P7

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told PTI that inducing artificial rain can only be attempted when there are clouds or moisture available.

Court, Dhinkia villagers' last hope for justice

SHARAT ROUT, OP

Paradip, Nov 8: For the residents of Dhinkia, a sleepy village on the fringes of the port township of Paradip, court seems to be the last resort for any ostensible relief from the endless cycle of violence and tyranny they have been subjected to for long.

First, it was during the forcible eviction from their ancestral land, and subsequent acquisition, by South Korean steel major POSCO, and now the ongoing works for a steel plant and captive port by JSW. The villagers continue to live on the proverbial, edge. A visit to ground zero adds credence to what has been widely reported, or talked about, so far about the plight of the hapless masses. Fear is palpable and omnipresent as one walks down the dusty roads of the village. An eerie silence hangs in air, while the doors of the humble dwellings

are mostly shut and few peep through partly ajar windows. Needless to say strangers here are viewed with suspicion and taken for plain cloth sleuths looking out for potential trouble makers. Some who dare speak out squarely put the blame on JSW for the state of affairs. From land acquisition to eviction of betel vines, the villagers are allegedly facing attacks and intimidation every now and then, or being rounded up in bogus cases. "That is why people in the proposed JSW steel plant affected area are unable to protest through democratic means. The court seems to be their last hope for justice," says well-known social worker and environmentalist of the locality, Manas Kar. He says the camaraderie once shared between people living across villages like Dhinkia, Gobindpur, Nuagaon, Patana, Mahala, Gadakujanga, Bhuyanpala, Polanga and Nolia Sahi doesn't exist anymore.



According to Kar, the administration and henchmen of the company have unleashed violence and tyranny to quell protests launched by villagers after the state government announced the POSCO project in 2005. "Police was complicit in that," he says. While four protestors were, over 350 cases registered against the villagers during the protracted protests between 2005 and 2012, forcing POSCO to finally fold up. "Ironically, instead of handing over the land back to the vil-

lagers, it was allotted to JSW after the company signed an MoU with the state government in 2018 for setting up a 13.02 million tonne annual capacity steel plant and a captive port," Kar adds. Though protests erupted following the signing of the MoU, the public hearing on environment for the project was completed December 20, 2019. "So far, more than 100 cases have been filed against the villagers," he says. Manas Bardhan, a resident of Dhinkia village, says, "JSW is

only selling false dreams and never fulfilled its promises. I have been slapped with 22 false cases and thrashed black and blue several times when I raised my voice for protection of forests, land and water bodies

woman in the village begged not to click her photograph or mention her name anywhere anticipating retribution from police. Another villager, Gagan Mallick, says though over 90 per cent of the villagers are opposed to the project, they are not coming forward fearing frame-up by police. Many allege that the Jagatsinghpur district police are behaving like JSW police as the company has virtually bought them over. Significantly, over 2,200 betel vines have been evicted so far for the JSW project, forcing the dependents to work as bonded labourers in other states, says Kar. He says the betel farmers of the area were doing business to the tune of ₹80-90 crore annually with the local UCO bank. "The situation has changed now," he laments. Meanwhile, JSW officials declined to comment even after they were apprised of the people's plight.

leisure



OZZY OSBOURNE SECRETLY WORKING ON NEW ALBUM

Rock legend Ozzy Osbourne is supposed to return to his UK home 10 months ago but is still holding out even though wife Sharon wanted him back to their lavish family estate. Talking about the delay, one of his friends revealed: "Ozzy is secretly working on a new album."

MASTERSON FILES APPEAL AGAINST RAPE CONVICTION

American actor Danny Masterson was found guilty of raping two women 20 years ago in May and in September, he was sentenced to 30 years to life in prison. However, November 3, court documents obtained by The Blast show he has formally raised an appeal against his punishment.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
A plain Jane day. Work goes on as usual, and there is progress. But as Ganesh says, it's an ordinary day. Hum, whistle, doodle, and sip your green tea. While day dreaming, start planning your dream home. After all, that's where the first plan takes shape.

TAURUS
Luck is a four-leaf clover in your pocket. You might get the long desired success in education related matters today – a favourable result of a competitive examination, maybe. You will proudly smile at your power of resilience and sense of proportion, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
The day will be dedicated to spending quality time with children, predicts Ganesh. You will be overloaded with household responsibilities and will find it tough to deal with them. However, you will manage to do well and will be satisfied with the outcome.

CANCER
Today, you will strictly follow your plan book. All Ganesh needs to do to predict your day is take a peep into the book. However, this is only one of those rare days when things go according to plan. You are likely to keep your views to yourself, and will hardly betray what's on your mind.

LEO
Most battles are fought and won inside our head. Hence, Ganesh urges you to maintain a positive outlook today. The stars grant you the ability to double your efforts, and allow your imagination to take flight and chart new routes to success.

VIRGO
A day to look inside and contemplate. Find peace and prosperity, says Ganesh. Clam up like those oysters and discover the pearl within you. A fine helping hand you shall lend today to those who need it, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Ganesh has a feeling that today may not be the best day to undertake any government dealings. Call it red-tapism, or bureaucratic procrastination, but it is highly unlikely that such tasks shall be fruitful today. This may test your patience, and in doing so, bring out your competency and efficiency to the fore, especially if you happen to be a public servant. Touché!

SCORPIO
It is about time you learn to deal with frustration in a more healthy manner. The right choice is always the hardest to make. Do not let sentiments sway you into hasty choices because they may feel right, but might also be extremely impractical.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, arranging meetings with customers and suppliers will eat into most of your time. Your patience will enable you to listen to suggestions and opinions offered by people. The result of all this, however, is slated to be most favourable and productive.

CAPRICORN
You have always been generous by nature, but your benevolent attitude will do you no good, warns Ganesh. People will try, almost blatantly, to take advantage of you, and for once, you will feel that being crafty and unrelenting would have helped kept those blood-sucking leeches at bay. But as the day progresses, you will thank the Almighty for all the precious things he made you the guardian of.

AQUARIUS
Today, you work hard and party harder! The morning sees you sweating it out at work, as you do your best to implement your plans. In the evening, you will don your best attire and get ready to have a gala time with your beloved. Ganesh says, you receive as much as you give.

PISCES
You set impeccable standards for yourself, but what keeps your subordinates from grumbling about it is the efforts you make to help them achieve perfection in their endeavours, says Ganesh. You inspire, they aspire.

Sara's take on fashion

Mumbai: Sara Ali Khan is known for her real and natural personality, which she has shown over time. A recent example of this was witnessed when she made a visit to *Koffee With Karan*, and there she was asked about why she doesn't prefer wearing designer clothes.

Her honest reply was, "It is not like I don't have designer bags and shoes. I don't believe in wearing designer clothes because I look fine in Zara. I feel I have the confidence to carry it off."

She further revealed that she doesn't do it

to seem relatable. Continuing the same, the *Atrangi Re* actress said, "I don't do it to come across as relatable, but maybe what I need to be aware of is that I am an actor and I have a good amount of followers on Instagram. It's important because I am putting myself out there. So, perceptions are key."

Elaborating on it more, Sara added, "What I should be careful of is that I shouldn't come across as lazy; I shouldn't come across as unkempt, so maybe I don't need oil in my hair, but I don't think I will ever say, 'Oh, I need a blow dry; I am going to the airport.' I find that ridiculous, and I am not going to apologize for that either."



Kareena shares her surreal experience

Mumbai: Expanding on the world of audio podcasts for different storytelling, now after the Marvel character Hawkeye, Black Widow has got her own audio podcast series titled *Marvel's Wastelanders: Black Widow* in Hindi dubbed by Kareena Kapoor.

Talking about her experience in getting to voice the iconic spy-assassin-superhero, Kareena called it a surreal experience.

Elaborating on her experience, she said: "Breathing life into a character as iconic as *Black Widow* has been a surreal experience. Taking listeners on an action-packed journey in *Marvel's Black Widow*, using only my voice, has been a unique challenge. I hope that listeners are able to envision the story using their imagination and resonate with her unyielding spirit like I did."

Introducing new timelines, alternate futures, and stories, *Marvel's Wastelanders: Black Widow* takes place in a far darker future where the villains have won.

The Hindi dub of *Marvel's Wastelanders: Black Widow* features a strong cast with the voices of Kareena Kapoor Khan as the voice of Black Widow/Helen Black, Masaba Gupta as Lisa Cartwright, Vihaan Samat as Jordan Temple, Adah Sharma as Yelena Belova, Nitu Chandra as Judy Kratz, and Aditi Bhatia as K.I.M.

The audio series is streaming on Audible. Other *Wastelanders* series include characters such as Wolverine, Doom, Deadpool, Daredevil, Spider-Man and more.



'One life not enough to be an artist'



Eminent artist Jatin Das (M) with other luminaries at NGMA, Delhi

New Delhi: Veteran artist Jatin Das does not exhibit too often or talk about his work. But this month art enthusiasts will have a rare opportunity to experience a retrospective of Das' finest works: a lifetime of paintings on canvas and paper, drawings, watercolours, sculptures, graphics, terracotta, ceramic and porcelain platters, pinch toys; as well as his poems and insights about art and life. Six decades of his life as an artist.

The exhibition, titled *Jatin Das - A Retrospective: 1963-2023*, was inaugurated at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi Tuesday and will continue till January 7, 2024. It is a celebration of the 82-year-old Padma

Bhushan recipient, who is widely regarded as one of India's eminent contemporary artists.

Speaking about the event, Das said: "This retrospective was long overdue. It was not easy to make a selection for the show. What you'll see is only the tip of the iceberg. I got the chance to distance myself and view the works as a viewer. I struggle with the dichotomy that I live on the sale of my paintings, but I do not paint to sell. I am almost 83, and have been working for over 60 years. How time has escaped from my hands! I am a painter wanting to become an artist. And to be an artist, you need two or three lives. One life is not enough."

EXPO ON SELECT WORKS OF JATIN DAS

SSR was family: Ankita

Mumbai: Salman Khan-hosted *Bigg Boss 17* has been in the headlines ever since it went on air for multiple reasons.

While there are many controversial contestants in this season, one of the most popular celebrities is Ankita Lokhande who has entered the house with her husband Vicky Jain.

Recently in an episode, the actress again talked about her late ex-boyfriend Sushant Singh Rajput.

During her conversation with co-contestant Abhishek Kumar, Ankita reportedly said "When you roam around in pants and without shirt, you remind me of Sushant. His physique was exactly like yours."

She added, "Sushant was hard-working to the next level. He would be very involved and was a perfectionist. I'm very easy-going, but he would dive deep into things. He would get affected by what people talked about him on Twitter."



AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

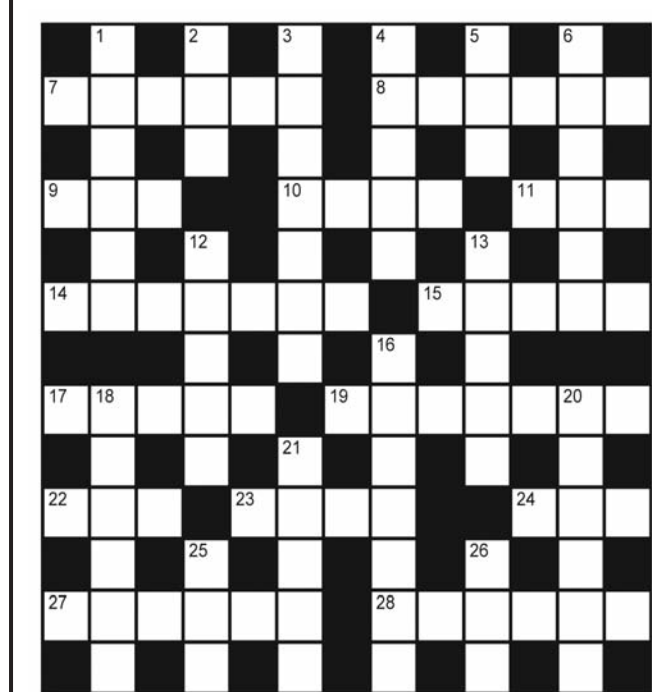


BREVITY



FUN post

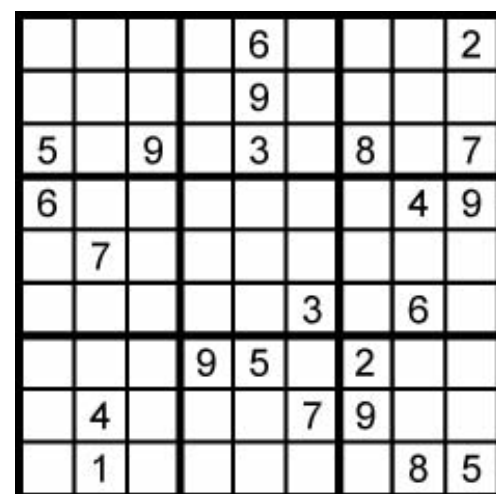
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Sailplane
 - 8 Eton rival
 - 9 Large snake
 - 10 Knocks over
 - 11 Pesky insect
 - 14 Harbour
 - 15 Ice cream topping
 - 17 Slough
 - 19 Honesty
 - 22 Variety
 - 23 Soft cheese
 - 24 Dry, as wine
 - 27 Olde worlde
 - 28 Illustrator or painter
 - Down**
 - 1 Breakfast nook
 - 2 Eccentric
 - 3 Breakable
 - 4 Fish and
 - 5 Meddle
 - 6 Golf course feature
 - 12 Terrestrial lizard
 - 13 Pathfinder or sherpa
 - 16 Troglodyte (4,3)
 - 18 Tusked mammal
 - 20 On pins and needles
 - 21 Breathing fire
 - 25 Young fox
 - 26 Utmost degree

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

India beats China in top ranked varsity list

ACCORDING TO THE QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS-ASIA ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY, INDIA IS NOW THE 'MOST REPRESENTED HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay has retained its top position in India in the QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University Rankings-Asia and the country has surpassed China in the number of ranked universities.

According to the rankings announced Wednesday, India is now the "most represented higher education system", with 148 featured universities, 37 more than last year. It is followed by Mainland China with 133 and Japan with 96. Myanmar, Cambodia and Nepal featured in the rankings for the first time.

Like last year, IISc Bangalore, Delhi University and five Indian Institutes of Technology - Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Kharagpur and Kanpur - have secured positions in the elite top 100 institutes in Asia.

"The increasing visibility of Indian universities in the QS rankings reflects the dynamic

Like last year, IISc Bangalore, Delhi University and five IITs - Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Kharagpur and Kanpur - have secured positions in the elite top 100 institutes in Asia

expansion of India's higher education landscape. While the significant growth in the number of Indian institutions and their research contributions marks a noteworthy development in the region's educational profile, it also illuminates the path ahead for India to further elevate its standing in the global academic community," said Ben Sotwer, Senior Vice President at QS.

Other Indian institutes which made it to the top 100 in the QS Asia University Rankings 2024

include IIT-Delhi (46), IIT-Madras (53), Indian Institute of Science (58), IIT-Kharagpur (59), IIT-Kanpur (63), and University of Delhi (94).

While India falls below the regional average in academic reputation and employer reputation, it has achieved the second-best regional results in the papers per faculty metric among the higher education systems with more than 10 universities ranked.

According to QS, India's outbound student mobility marks a significant milestone, exceeding China's for the first time in 15 years with a notable increase in students pursuing education in the US, while concurrently, the country works to enhance its appeal to international students.

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a UK-based company specialised in the analysis of higher education institutions around the world, ranked institutions on the basis of 10 indicators -- academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, international relation network, citations per paper, paper per faculty, staff with PhD, international faculty, international students, and outbound exchange students.

India produces an exceptional amount of research with seven of Asia's 10 best universities for papers per faculty are Indian, including both the region's most productive research institutions, Anna University and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West Bengal.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Artistes perform 'Mughal Tamsha' as part of a cultural programme organised by Infosys Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



RIOT OF COLOURS: Women checking terracotta items during an exhibition organised by Directorate of Handicrafts at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

3 convicted of corruption, forgery

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Two state government officials and a retired employee were convicted Tuesday in connection with corruption and forgery cases registered by the Vigilance department.

The convicts are - school teacher Nagesh Kumar Mahakud, Anganwadi worker Lilabati Mohanta, and revenue inspector (RI) Ramesh Chandra Mishra (retired), the department said in a statement.

The court of Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM), Balasore, awarded imprisonment for a period of one year to Mahakud and two years to Mohanta.



Both were asked to pay a fine of ₹10,000, failing which they have to undergo further imprisonment for another two months, the statement said.

The retired RI has been convicted for showing undue official favour to a beneficiary, thereby causing loss of government/public money, it said.

The court of Special Judge-Vigilance, Bolangir, awarded a two-year jail term and ₹10,000 fine to Mishra. In default of the payment, the retired employee will have to undergo rigorous imprisonment for another two months.

The department said it will now move the competent authority for dismissal of Mahakud and Mohanta, and stoppage of pension of Mishra.

Train derails after hitting buffalo

Sambalpur: A passenger train derailed in Sambalpur district after hitting a buffalo Wednesday evening, East Coast Railway (ECoR) said. All the passengers were safe, it added. Four wheels of a coach of Jharsuguda-Sambalpur passenger special train jumped the tracks at about 6:25pm on Sarla-Sambalpur section, when the animal suddenly entered the track, ECoR said in a statement. The buffalo was killed in the accident. Divisional Railway Manager of Sambalpur and his team reached the spot to supervise the operations for clearing the blocked line. The track was declared fit at 8:35pm.

ED chargesheet against state govt official, wife

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Wednesday that it has filed a chargesheet against Lingaraj Jena, the erstwhile 'safai mohareer' (cleaning assistant) in the office of additional sub-collector (settlement) in Puri, Odisha, and his wife in connection with a money laundering probe involving disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹1.88 crore.

The ED filed the chargesheet against Jena and his wife under several Sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at a court in Bhubaneswar with a prayer for conviction of the accused persons and confiscation of their attached properties worth ₹1.88 crore.

The ED case is based on an FIR registered by the Vigilance Police, Bhubaneswar, against Jena and others for commission of offences under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act for alleged possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of ₹1.88 crore.

"The ED probe found that Jena invested his ill-gotten income, over and above his known source of income, in acquiring immovable properties, mutual funds and in bank investments in his name and his wife's name, who actively betted the accused in acquisition of the properties," the ED said.

International Convention on Millets starts today



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) is all set to organise International Convention on Millets (ICM) from November 9 to 10 at Janta Maidan here with participation of local farmers, self-help groups (SHGs) and entrepreneurs.

The theme of ICM has been kept as 'Millets - Ancient Grains for Modern Challenges'. The event will have farmer engagement activities, displaying emerging technologies and machinery, featuring experience centres, technical sessions, policy roundtables, B2B meetings, food festival, quiz competitions and cooking competitions.

The convention will have special focus on tribal heritage of

millets and showcase success stories of millet entrepreneurship of Mission Shakti women SHGs.

Officials from UN agencies such as FAO, WFP, IFAD, agricultural scientists of Southeast Asian, Middle Eastern and African countries, embassy officials, and agriculture secretaries of different states will attend the session.

Thirty-one technical and non-technical sessions will be conducted at the convention. Three-time Grammy Winner Ricky Kej will perform a musical concert on climate change and Millet November 9. Renowned chef, Vikas Khanna will also interact with hoteliers, restaurateurs, food bloggers and SHG members on millet cuisine.

Slapgate: Producer Tutu Nayak gets bail

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: A Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) court here Wednesday granted bail to Odia film producer Sanjay Nayak, aka Tutu Nayak, who was arrested on charges of slapping and abusing a woman journalist November 4.



After the court accepted his bail petition, Nayak was released from Jharpada jail in the evening.

The producer was arrested Saturday for allegedly slapping and hurling abusive words at the female journalist while she was at a theatre here covering an event a day before his arrest.

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

STA adopts timed-out theme to promote quality helmets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: To create road safety awareness, the State Transport Authority (STA) has used Sri Lankan cricketer Angelo Mathews controversial timed-out dismissal to stress the importance on the use of standard and certified helmets while driving on roads.

Mathews was given out 'timed out' as he was not ready to face the first ball of his innings within the stipulated time of two minutes because the strap of his helmet was broken.

In the awareness post on X and Facebook about the importance of using helmets, the STA shared a post, "On field or off field.....bad quality helmets can take your wicket, said the STA in a post shared on X and Facebook



On field or off field.....bad quality helmets can take your wicket, said the STA in a post shared on X and Facebook

met & tie the strap. Also encourage pillion rider to do so. On Field or Off Field #SafetyFirst always!" the transport authority said in the social media post.

The post surfaced on the internet and people praised the creative approach of the transport authority.

Some users came up with hilarious remarks in the comment section as one user commented, "Even if we wear helmets, there would be accidents due to bad roads."

This was not the first time the STA has used such a creative approach on a current topic to create road safety awareness among the people. Earlier, it had used the blockbuster movies 'Baahubali', 'Pushpa' and 'RRR' to create awareness on the use of helmets.

As per the annual 'Road accidents in India' report released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways recently, Odisha recorded 5,467 deaths in 11,663 accidents in 2022.

Among those, two-wheeler riders bore the brunt as 2,498 persons were killed in road accidents last year. Out of the 2,498 deaths, 1,795 people were killed due to non-use of helmets, the report said.

Leopard shifted to Sambalpur

Bhubaneswar: A leopard, which was caged for mauling to death two persons in Nuapada district, has been translocated to Sambalpur Wildlife Rescue Centre for observation and treatment, a Forest official said Wednesday. A special team of forest personnel from Sambalpur brought the leopard from Nuapada by road Tuesday night, said Anshu Pragnyan Das, DFO (Wildlife), Hirkud. "A dedicated team has been engaged to look after the animal," the divisional forest officer said. The leopard was captured in a cage November 4 when it entered a house in Kodapali village on the outskirts of Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary in Nuapada. It has mauled to death a minor boy and a woman in the district in the past 10 days, officials said.

Regular cannabis users tend to show greater empathy

A study has found that people regularly using cannabis, or marijuana, tended to have more empathy. Researchers from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México found through brain imaging that the brain region generally affected by cannabis use and related to empathy, the anterior cingulate, had a stronger connectivity with regions related to sensing the emotional states of others within one's own body. The anterior cingulate is present in the brain's limbic system, which is involved in emotional behaviour. The study findings could help in exploring "the potential effects of cannabis in aiding treatments for conditions involving deficits in social

interactions, such as sociopathy, social anxiety, and avoidant personality disorder, among others," according to study co-author Victor Olalde-Mathieu from the university.

The study is published in the Journal of Neuroscience Research.

For the study, the researchers recruited 85 regular cannabis users and 51 non-consumers (controls). The participants completed psychometric tests and were asked to report their cannabis consumption behaviour through questionnaires. Of these participants, 46 users and 34 controls also participated in brain imaging studies.

Of the total group, cannabis users showed a greater ability to recognise and understand



other people's emotions and impressions, as adjudged by the emotional comprehension

part of the cognitive and affective empathy test, the researchers found. The test makes

- For the study, the researchers recruited 85 regular cannabis users and 51 non-consumers (controls)
- The participants completed psychometric tests and were asked to report their cannabis consumption behaviour through questionnaires
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use of cognitive and affective approaches to measure an individual's empathetic capacity

The score differences were found to be greater in the sample that participated in fMRI, they said.

"Given that the anterior cingulate is one of the main (brain) areas heavily involved in the representation of the affective state of others, we believe that the differences shown by regular cannabis users in the emotional comprehension scores and their brain functional connectivity, could be related to the use of cannabis," the researchers wrote in their study. "We believe that these results contribute to open a pathway to study further the clinical applications of the positive effect that cannabis or cannabis components could have in affect and social interactions," they wrote.

ATEI RESERVE FOREST

Slurry pipeline laying hits animal movement at night



Kolimatia area on NH-20 road-side adjoining the reserve forest. This apart, the Forest department recently claimed the presence of a Royal Bengal Tiger in Atei reserve forest.

Moreover, pipeline works are not only affecting the movement of animals but also destroying the green cover in the area.

This has sparked sharp resentment among the locals as the pipeline laying work, which is being implemented on the main thoroughfare of the district, has seen inordinate delays.

Local residents have demanded a probe and legal action against the agencies. Environmentalists and nature lovers also apprehend that laying of slurry pipelines may also affect the water flow in Kukurkata nullah, a perennial water body in the area.

Sources said that the Odisha Forest Development Corporation (OFDC) counted the number of trees along the NH after being permitted by the Forest department. Later, trees were identified and chopped down to make way for slurry pipelines.

The forest officials are neither monitoring works nor carrying out patrolling at night for which they are unable to see the laying of pipelines at night.

When contacted, ACF Prabhat Kuanr of Ghatagaon range said that in the past an agency was pulled up for laying the pipelines at night. He, however, assured of action if the allegations are found true.

Sanjiv Samal, a senior official of JSW said that the pipeline laying works of his company are not being done at night adding that it could be some other firm.



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS: Terracotta earthen lamps made by women self-help groups put on display for sale ahead of Diwali at a stall opened by ORMAS at Ramalingeswar Tank road in Berhampur

Tusker electrocuted



POST NEWS NETWORK

DFO Sumit Kumar Kar, forest ranger Lohit Rath rushed to the spot and launched an investigation.

Veterinarians conducted a post-mortem of the carcass before burying it in the jungle. The tusks were trimmed and brought to the forest office. The accused will be arrested soon, DFO Sumit Kumar Kar said.

In a separate incident, a 36-year-old man was killed in elephant attack in Kuanrpal village under Badamba block in Cuttack district, Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Sanjay Pradhan, 36, son of Kartik Pradhan in the village. He was near a mango orchard and trying to drive away elephants from destroying crops when the animal attacked killing him on the spot.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Satamile, Nov 8: A tusker was electrocuted after coming in contact with live wires laid for killing wild boars and other animals near Kantakula barrage under Nuabaga panchayat of Hindol forest range in Dhenkanal district, Wednesday.

The deceased animal aged over 22 was electrocuted, forest officials said. On being informed, forest officials comprising joint task force officer Manoj Nayyar, Angul RCCF Sudhanshu Sekhar Khora,

Teacher gets 10-yr RI for minor's rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 8: A Fast Track Special PCOSO court Wednesday sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) after convicting him for raping a Dalit minor girl over a year after kidnapping her.

The convict was identified as Nabaratna Pradhan, 40, a native of Sheragada police limits in Ganjam district. At the time of committing the crime, he was a teacher. Special PCOSO Judge Ganeshwar Pati also slapped a penalty of ₹80,000 on Pradhan apart from the punishment. In default, Pradhan has to undergo additional eight months of imprisonment, the judge observed while delivering the order.

The court also directed the district legal services authority (DLSA) to pay ₹4 lakh financial assistance to the survivor. The judge passed the order after recording statements of 17 witnesses and examining the police investigation report, special public prosecutor Mohan Singari said. At the time of the hearing Nabaratna was present in the court.

According to the case diary, the victim was found missing September 30, 2016. Even after a frantic search, the family members of the girl could not trace her. After one year, the family members of the girl came to know that a youth had kept the girl at Bangalore after kidnapping her. The father of the girl then lodged a complaint at Sheragada police station September 16, 2017. Acting on the complaint police rescued the minor from Bangalore and nabbed the kidnapper. As per the statement of the girl, police arrested Nabaratna and forwarded him to court.

MAN HACKED TO DEATH, TWO CRITICAL IN ATTACK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kujang/Tirtol, Nov 8: A man was hacked to death Wednesday while two others including a woman sustained critical injuries in attack by a co-villager at Hitarana village under Sailo panchayat of Kujang block in Jagatsinghpur district.

The deceased was Binod Das, 55, a milk farmer and daily wage earner in the village. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son. The injured persons Bishnu Charan Palai and Janaki Biswal were admitted to the Manjanga community health centre and undergoing treatment.

On being informed, Tirtol police rushed to the spot and arrested the accused Subhash Biswal when he was trying to flee via a farmland. Police also detained Subhash's father Batakushna Biswal and questioning him in this connection.



THE ACCUSED

Police registered a case over a complaint filed by the deceased's son Bikash Das and launched an investigation. A scientific team was also pressed into service and the murder weapon, an axe and blood-stained napkin, seized from the spot.

The murder sparked tension in the village as villagers put up the body of Binod which was handed over to them after post-mortem outside the house of the accused and demanded compensation.

The incident occurred when Bishnu Charan was returning home on his bicycle after delivering milk to OMFED. Subhash who was cutting wood outside his house suddenly assaulted Bishnu on his shoulder with the

Kalahandi woman dies in bear attack



Bhawanipatna: A 40-year-old woman died Wednesday after a wild bear attacked her at a village in Kalahandi district, police said. The deceased was identified as Bhawani Bag, a resident of Patrabasa village. The bear attacked her while she was returning home from neighbouring Tetelpada village in the early hours of Wednesday, a police officer said. The woman died on the spot, he said. The body of the deceased has been sent for post-mortem examination, and an investigation is underway, the officer added.

Leopard hides seized, 2 held



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Two persons were arrested and two leopard skins were seized from their possession in Rayagada district, police said Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, sleuths of the Special Task Force of the police's Crime Branch conducted a raid at Tamparbiduni Chhak in Chandili police station area Tuesday and made the arrests and seizures, a police officer said. The STF identified the accused as Bikram Majhi and Raja Majhi. During the search, two leopard skins and other incriminating materials were recovered from them.

The accused persons will be forwarded to the Court of SDJM, Rayagada. In this connection, a case under U/s 379/411/120(B) IPC r/w Sec.51 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, was registered. The skins will be sent to Director, WII, Dehradun, for biological examination. An investigation is going on.

IndianOil advertisement for Pipelines Division South Eastern Region Pipelines, Jharsuguda Requires Panel Doctor. Applications are invited from Medical Professionals for part-time Doctor-in-Attendance on retainer basis to visit our Jharsuguda Office for 2 (two) hours per day for 8 (Eight) days a month.

DBS advertisement for Notice of Branch Relocation. The following branches of DBS Bank India Limited are relocating with effect from 11 December 2023, as per the details given below.

EAST COAST RAILWAY advertisement for e-Tender Notice No. ETELCONBBST-346ET4R, Dated: 02.11.2023. NAME OF WORK: GENERAL ELECTRIFICATION OF 1 NO. TUNNEL BETWEEN SUNAKHANI - SAMAL SECTION IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF TALCHER - BIMILAGARH NEW RAIL LINK PROJECT.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, BALASORE. NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement (Online Mode). Bid Identification No. SEPHBLS-19 of 2023-24 dt.30.10.2023.

UCO BANK advertisement for Possession Notice for Immovable Property. (Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property).

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PURI (R&B) DIVISION, PURI. WORKS DEPARTMENT. Short Tender Call Notice. Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) Puri-45/2023-24.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TEXTILES, BARGARH advertisement for TENDER CALL NOTICE. Ref.No.3815 Dated .06.11.2023. No.PP-55- Deputy Director of Textiles, Bargarh invites Tender Notice with certain terms & conditions from reputed & registered Company/Event Management Agencies/Firms having GSTIN No. with minimum last three years average turnover of Rs.2 Crores and having work experience of minimum 3 years of similar nature within India for the "Tentage & allied works for National Level Handloom Summit" to be organized at George High School Ground, Bargarh on dt. 13th & 14th December 2023.



Palestinians flee to the southern Gaza Strip on Salah al-Din Street in Bureij. Israel faced pressure from some of its closest allies over the plight of civilians in Gaza, where thousands streamed on foot out of the enclave's north because of dwindling food, water & fear of approaching Israeli forces



Troops march past Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev during a parade dedicated to the third anniversary of the Victory in the Patriotic War in Khankendi, also known by Armenians as Stepanakert, in Khankendi, Azerbaijan



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a public meeting ahead of Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Guna district



President Droupadi Murmu visits the Badrinath Temple, in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand. She was received at the Army helipad in Badrinath by Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Gurmit Singh, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee Chairman Ajendra Ajay



Mahila Congress activists stage a protest outside the State Secretariat against the Kerala Higher Education Minister R Bindhu for allegedly purchasing spectacles worth Rs 30,000/ with public money, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



From third left in clockwise, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock attend a session on the war in Ukraine during the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Tokyo

AP/PTI PHOTOS

of the day quote

Operation Kamala (Operation Lotus), coined by Opposition parties, refers to an alleged attempt of the BJP to engineer defection of Opposition legislators to install its own government and ensure its stability

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

In reality, PM Modi cannot digest that unlike his party's fake claims of social justice, it is only the Congress that is capable of democratically throwing up such towering leaders

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | PRESIDENT OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Thousands of people are joining the BJP family every day. This indicates that the Bharatiya Janata Party is coming to power and the Congress ship is sinking

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER

Nitish's remarks spark row

The defacto JD(U) boss faced attacks from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, several other BJP leaders, and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi for the comments that led Bihar's Opposition parties to demand his resignation and force repeated adjournments in the Assembly

AGENCIES

Guna (MP)/Patna, Nov 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday tore into Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar over his population control remarks, saying he did not even feel ashamed for using "derogatory" language against women, even as the JD(U) leader apologised for the comments that sparked a huge row.

PM Modi also slammed the opposition bloc INDIA and wondered why no leader of its constituents have uttered a word yet despite the "big disrespect" shown to women by a key leader of the grouping.

Facing mounting flak for his remarks made in the Bihar Legislative Assembly and Council Tuesday on the importance of women's education to control population growth, Nitish Kumar apologised in both Houses, which witnessed chaos, as well as outside and retracted his statement.

The National Commission for Women (NCW), meanwhile, shot off a letter to the Assembly Speaker demanding "strong action" against the Chief Minister for using "derogatory and cheap language".

Addressing a rally in Guna in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, Modi said he will do whatever he can to ensure the respect of women, and also brought up Nitish Kumar's remarks without taking his name.

Nitish Kumar, while emphasising the importance of education among women to control



Congress brought IIM and big hospitals like AIIMS, and Jawaharlal Nehru's thought behind it was to set up such institutions which will take the country forward. But it has become BJP's policy to hand over the government-run companies to industrialists and take out the money from people's kitty

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

PUNJAB REPORTS OVER 2K FARM FIRES

More than 2,000 farm fires were reported from Punjab Wednesday, a day after the Supreme Court issued directions to ensure stopping of crop residue burning "forthwith"



'CASH-FOR-QUERY' CASE BJP MP claims CBI probe ordered against Moitra



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Lokpal has ordered a CBI probe against Mahua Moitra for alleged corruption, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey claimed Wednesday, a day before the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha, which is probing the 'cash-for-query' charges by him against the TMC MP, is to adopt a draft report in the case.

However, there was no official confirmation about the anti-corruption body ordering a CBI probe against Moitra. "On my complaint, Lokpal today ordered a CBI inquiry against accused Mahua Moitra for indulging in corruption at the cost of national security," Dubey said in a post on X. His comment was in Hindi.

In an apparent reaction to Dubey's comment, Moitra said the CBI should first file an FIR to probe the alleged coal scam by the Adani Group.

Moitra posted on X, "For the media calling me - my answer: 1.CBI needs to first file FIR on ₹13,000 crore Adani coal scam. 2. National security issue is how dodgy FPI-owned (inc Chinese & UAE) Adani firms buying Indian ports & airports with the Home

Minister office's clearance. Then CBI welcome to come, count my shoes."

"Lok Pal Abhi Zinda Hai," the TMC MP said on X later.

Last month, Dubey had approached Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and the Lokpal against Moitra, accusing her of asking questions in Lok Sabha to target the Adani Group at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani in exchange for gifts. Dubey had also accused Moitra of compromising national security for monetary gains.

Moitra has denied the charge of receiving any pecuniary benefit. Following Dubey's complaint, the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha initiated the probe.

The 15-member committee has seven members from the BJP, three from the Congress, and one each from BSP, Shiv Sena, YSRCP, CPI(M) and JDU.

The committee is likely to take a grim view of the charges against Moitra, more so after she accused its chief Vinod Kumar Sonkar of asking filthy and personal questions to her in the last meeting before walking out in a rage along with opposition members.

SHORT TAKES

SIA raids in J&K, Delhi

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Investigation Agency (SIA) Wednesday raided multiple locations in the union territory and Delhi in connection with a terror funding case, the agency said. "Continuing with its endeavour to dismantle terror support systems in J&K, the SIA Kashmir conducted searches at houses and offices at 22 locations in J&K and Delhi," the investigating agency said.

Two dead, 12 injured as bus catches fire

Gurugram: Two passengers died and a dozen sustained serious burn injuries when a moving sleeper bus caught fire on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway Wednesday night, a senior police official said. The bus was gutted by the fire. The cause of the fire was not known immediately.

HC adjourns hearing in Gyanvapi case till Dec 1

Prayagraj (UP): The Allahabad High Court Wednesday adjourned the hearing till December 1 on a petition challenging the maintainability of a suit seeking restoration of a temple at the site where the Gyanvapi mosque exists in Varanasi. The petition was filed by the Anjuman Intezamia Committee (AIC) which manages the Gyanvapi mosque.



Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva with party workers burns an effigy during a protest outside Bihar Bhavan over Nitish Kumar's remarks

at 11 am, BJP members led by the Leader of the Opposition Vijay Kumar Sinha trooped into the well, some of them even picking up chairs, meant for the reporting staff, to express their outrage.

The Opposition members were raising slogans alleging that the CM had become "a mental case" and was hence unfit to govern Bihar. However, the Opposition members continued to create a ruckus, demanding the CM's resignation. Former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, an MLC from the RJD, told PTI Video that she agreed what Nitish Kumar had said was not proper "but we should let bygones be bygones since he has apologised". NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma, who sent the letter to the Assembly Speaker demanding "strong action against the Chief Minister", also came out with a strongly worded statement on X, urging opposition leaders like Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of the Congress to condemn Nitish Kumar, a key leader of the INDIA coalition.

Priyanka Chaturvedi hit back at Sharma, accusing her of being "biased and politically motivated".

JD (U) leader KC Tyagi, however, said there should be no politics over the Chief Minister's remarks. Activists of the Delhi BJP unit staged a demonstration near the Bihar Bhawan in the national capital and demanded Nitish Kumar's resignation.

A petition was filed before a court in Muzaffarpur here Wednesday, seeking trial of Nitish Kumar

the population, Tuesday put forward a vivid description of how an educated woman can restrain her husband during sexual intercourse.

In Patna, Nitish Kumar was greeted at the Vidhan Sabha premises by a posse of MLAs, all belonging to the opposition BJP, carrying placards denouncing his utterances and demanding his resignation.

Nitish Kumar, the longest serving Chief Minister of Bihar, stood still at the entrance gate for some time, before marching towards a make-shift podium

erected nearby, where leaders address journalists while the House is in session.

"I have come to know today that something I had said yesterday has not gone down well with many people. My intent was to highlight my government's thrust on women's empowerment and the role improved literacy among women plays in population control. Though if anybody's sentiments have been hurt, I seek an apology and take back my words," he said in a statement. However, when the assembly session began

UGC unveils guidelines on setting up campuses of foreign varsities in India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The University Grants Commission (UGC) Wednesday notified the regulations for foreign universities to set up and operate their campuses in India.

"The regulations aim to facilitate the entry of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) into India, in line with the NEP recommendations and to provide an international di-

mension to higher education in India."

"These regulations aim to ensure that the education imparted in the (India) campus is at par with that of the main campus in the country of origin and that its operations comply with the applicable laws and regulations," UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said.

According to the regulations, "Foreign institutions intending to establish campuses in India should have secured a position within the top 500 in the overall category of global rankings, as decided by the commission from time to time, or should have secured a position within the top 500 in the subject-wise category of global rankings and should possess outstanding expertise in a particular area, as decided by the commission from time to time."

In case an FHEI desires to receive or utilise foreign contributions, it will have to obtain registration or prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and comply with legal requirement under the FCRA, the UGC stated.

In their Indian campuses, foreign universities will be allowed to offer study programmes leading to the award of certificates, diplomas, degrees, research and other programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels.

SNIPPETS

Refunds of air tickets during lockdown soon

New Delhi: The government Wednesday directed online travel aggregators to process pending refunds related to air ticket bookings during the coronavirus lockdown period by the third week of November. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, there was a nationwide lockdown for varying periods starting from March 25, 2020, and scheduled commercial flight services were also suspended for a certain period. On Wednesday, the Consumer Affairs Ministry held a meeting with online travel aggregators to discuss issues prejudicial to consumer interest in the travel sector.



Parl's Winter session likely to commence in second week of December: Sources

New Delhi: The Winter session of Parliament is likely to commence in the second week of December and could conclude ahead of Christmas, sources said Wednesday. The session, they said, could commence days after the counting of votes in five states December 3. Some people said the session could commence even earlier. Three key bills which seek to replace the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act are likely to be taken up for consideration during the session as the standing committee on Home has already adopted the three reports recently. The Winter session usually commences in the third week of November and concludes ahead of December 25.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

44 arrested in nationwide raids

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Jammu, Nov 8: Five modules engaged in human trafficking were busted and 44 operatives arrested as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) carried out nationwide raids Wednesday, an official said.

The raids were conducted in coordination with the Border Security Force and state police forces at 55 locations in eight states and two union territories to dismantle human trafficking support networks involved in the infiltration and settlement of illegal migrants across the Indo-Bangladesh border, a spokesperson of the NIA said.

The official said the searches were carried out in Tripura, Assam, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Haryana, Rajasthan and the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Pondicherry, dealing a big blow to the human trafficking networks.

Of the 44 operatives arrested, 21 were in Tripura, followed by 10 in Karnataka, five in Assam, three in West Bengal, two in Tamil Nadu, and one each in Pondicherry, Telangana and Haryana, the spokesperson said.

Official sources said a couple of more people, including a Rohingya Muslim from Myanmar identified as Zaffar Alam, were detained during the raids in Jammu and Samba districts.

The NIA said the coordinated raids were executed across the country early Wednesday, leading to the recovery of various items of significance including digital devices, identity-related documents including Aadhaar and PAN cards (suspected to be forged), more than ₹20 lakh in cash and foreign currency amounting to \$4,550.



ALL ABOUT ZOLGENSMA

WORLDWIDE, THE INCIDENCE OF SMA IS ONE IN 10,000 LIVE-BORN BABIES AND IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE INFANTILE AGE GROUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: A staggering ₹17 crore for a single jab! That's the cost of one Zolgensma injection used for children under two suffering from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), the disease and its treatment once again in the headlines over a 15-month-old boy in Karnataka staring at an uncertain tomorrow.

The gene therapy, one of the world's most expensive drugs, offers promising results but experts caution that it is not a definitive solution for the rare nerve condition that leads to muscle wasting and weakness. It can't cure but

limits the progress of the disease. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking help for the treatment of a 15-month-old child from the state diagnosed with SMA.

Though it is yet to be approved in India, insiders estimate that about 90 children have received Zolgensma in the last few years. Given that the single shot infusion is out of reach for everybody except the super-rich, most of this is through humanitarian programmes or crowd funding. The drug can be imported following a doctor's recommendation and government approval.

"In the West, the carrier frequency - number of people carrying the gene - of the SMA is 1 in 50. In a recent Indian study, however, the SMA carrier frequency was identified as 1 in 38. Another study from north India found it to be 1 in 30," said Sheffali Gulati, child neurologist, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. "The survival of children with SMA type 1 has increased re-



cently with the availability of supportive care such as physiotherapy, nasogastric feeding (through a tube) and invasive or non-invasive respiratory care," Gulati told PTI.

As concern mounts over the incidence of the disease and the astronomical cost of the single injection, experts decode what it exactly is:

WHAT IS ZOLGENSMA?

Zolgensma, developed by Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis, is designed to treat SMA, a rare genetic disease affecting motor neurons - complex circuits throughout the body that allow for movements of glands and muscles. SMA is caused by mutations in the SMN gene, lead-

ing to muscle weakness and, in severe cases, paralysis and even death.

WHY IS IT SO EXPENSIVE?

Paediatrician Vibhu Kawatra noted that Zolgensma's cost at approximately ₹17 crore (\$2.1 million) in India (minus taxes) is due to the extensive research and development involved.

WHO CAN USE IT?

Zolgensma is specifically designed for children under two who are diagnosed with SMA through genetic testing. It is a one-time infusion administered over one hour, aiming to improve muscle movement and developmental milestones in SMA patients.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) May 24, 2019, approved onasemnogene ABEPCARVOVEC for the treatment of SMA. The drug has been marketed under the trade name Zolgensma.

Kawatra believes the therapy is not an endpoint solution for the disease, but it does stall the progress of the disease to a large extent.

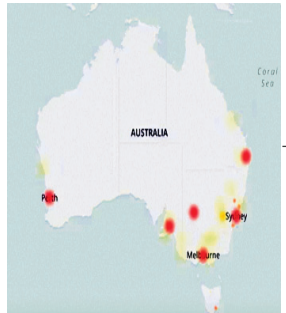
international



The natural consequence of the United States' destructive policies is the deterioration in global security

MASSIVE OUTAGE HITS OZ

More than 10 million Australians were cut off from internet and phone services after a nationwide outage hit Optus, the country's second-biggest network operator.



of the day quote

China will work with other countries to address risks brought by the development of AI and expressed his objections to cyberspace hegemony.

Unfortunately, after the establishment of the interim Afghan govt, there has been a 60 per cent increase in terror incidents and a 500 per cent rise in suicide attacks in Pakistan

We're ready to strengthen communication and dialogue with the United States at all levels, advance mutually beneficial cooperation, properly manage differences and jointly address global challenges

2023 set to be warmest in 125,000 years: EU

Record-breaking Oct means 2023 is now "virtually certain" to be the warmest year recorded. The previous record was 2016 - another El Nino year

Brussels, Nov 8: This year is "virtually certain" to be the warmest in 125,000 years, European Union scientists said Wednesday, after data showed last month was the world's hottest October in that period.



This year of the El Nino weather pattern, which warms the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

So after last month, it's hard to determine whether we're in a new climate state. But now records keep tumbling and they're surprising me less than they did a month ago

includes readings from sources such as ice cores, tree rings and coral deposits.

steady ramp of human-caused warming." Climate change is fuelling increasingly destructive extremes.

FINANCING GAP

Pak seeks \$600mn in new loans from China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Nov 8: Cash-strapped Pakistan has sought \$600 million in fresh loans from two Chinese banks to bridge a big financing gap as it negotiates with the IMF for the release of the second tranche of a \$3 billion bailout package.

Abbasi also did not respond to a query on whether Pakistan had sought another loan from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) of China.

EU MEMBERSHIP

HUGE WIN FOR UKRAINE

Ukraine clears key milestone of becoming a member of European Union as Russia war drags into 21st month

Brussels, Nov 8: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised as a "historic step" a recommendation by the European Union executive Wednesday to invite Kyiv to begin membership talks.

The bloc is also wary of taking in a country at war. "Ukraine continues to face tremendous hardship and tragedy provoked by Russia's war of aggression," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The Commission said the talks should formally be launched once Kyiv satisfies remaining conditions related to reining in corruption, adopting a law on lobbying in line with EU standards and strengthening national minority safeguards.

Still, advancing Western integration is a top priority for Ukraine at a time of growing fatigue with the war and concerns swirling over the future of vital US military aid.



Completing our Union is the call of history. Completing our Union also has a strong economic and geopolitical logic.

This is a strong and historic step that paves the way to a stronger EU with Ukraine as its member

SHORT TAKES

SA min robbed

Johannesburg: South African police are on a manhunt for suspects who robbed a government minister at gunpoint and disarmed her two bodyguards of their pistols on a busy Johannesburg highway.

May 9 attacks: More than 60 held

Lahore: More than 60 leaders and workers of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party have been arrested here in Punjab province in connection with the attacks on military installations in May.

COVID-19, SCRUTINY

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Nov 8: Some shareholders of Dulwich College International are in talks for a sale of the British school's China-heavy Asia operations, two sources said, in the latest indication of how turmoil in China's \$570 billion education industry is forcing overhauls at institutions.

Private schools rethink China future

including bilingual schools catering to Chinese nationals that have been hit hardest by regulatory changes. Besides China, Dulwich International also has schools in Singapore and South Korea.



Dozens of international and private schools in China are closing or merging, weighed down by tighter regulation, a slowing economy and dwindling foreign student numbers

China's legislature passed a law to strengthen patriotic education in schools that will take effect January 1, 2024

NEW PHASE OF GAZA WAR

Israel targets Hamas tunnels

REUTERS

Gaza, Nov 8: Air strikes on the Gaza Strip killed a Hamas weapons maker and several fighters, the Israeli military said Wednesday, as its air and ground offensive targeted the militants' tunnel network beneath the besieged Palestinian enclave.



day after day," she said. "There is no food, no water. When my son goes to pick up water, he queues for three or four hours in the line. They struck bakeries, we don't have bread."

Israel struck at Gaza in response to a Hamas raid on southern Israel October 7 in which gunmen killed 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and took about 240 hostages.

Cummins lauds Maxwell

Stokes fashions England win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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Mumbai, Nov 8: When Australian skipper Pat Cummins walked at 91/7 in a chase of 292 against Afghanistan, all he thought was of somehow getting to 200 so that the net run-rate remains in decent zone before the final World Cup game against Bangladesh.

But Glenn Maxwell had other ideas as the Australian skipper watched the "greatest ODI innings" unfold in front of his eyes with his partner hitting an unbelievable 201 not out off 128 balls to take his team to the semi-final of the global event.

"When I went out there, I thought if we can somehow scratch the 200, our net run rate should be pretty good for the semi-final. When Maxi got his 100, I kind of thought, wow, we are within 120 or something. And then I still thought, no way," Cummins was honest enough to admit that he thought winning was out of question.

"I think Maxi might be a bit different. I think he is always plotting his way to a win. I think even 200 runs out, he was kind of mapping out how he was going to do it. I was just trying to survive," Cummins said.

It was only when Australia reached 250 that he thought miracle could happen. "I reckon it was not until the spinners were just about done and there was maybe 40 off 40 or something where I thought okay even if Max gets out here, I reckon the other guys can get it done. But yeah, literally within the last 20 minutes was about the only time," he added.

Maxwell battled right leg cramp and needed multiple medical time-outs before accomplishing the impossible. "Initially, when I walked out there, we thought the mystery spinners were the biggest trouble. The ball was still spinning a little bit and they were bowling really well. For me it was just basically hanging in there," Cummins shared with the media after Australia's sensational win. "Maxi was still scoring quite



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Glenn Maxwell and Pat Cummins smile as they walk off the field after their win over Afghanistan

freely. We knew it was the kind of wicket that gets easier. (We) did not really feel like run rate was ever going to be an issue with Maxi still at the crease," Cummins said.

The Australia skipper batted for as many as 68 balls during their 202-run stand for the eighth wicket and scored a mere 12 runs, not for once attempting a scoring shot for himself and leaving all the responsibility on Maxwell. Cummins said the plan worked out quite well for Australia.

"For me, it was just about basically survival and just hope we get a look at some of the other bowlers that maybe that

wicket does not suit as much. It was a pretty simple plan. (We) did not look too far ahead," Cummins said.

Cummins said in such situations, bowlers rarely have potential plans to stop on-song batters like Maxwell who are hitting them for sixes over third man batting on literally just one leg.

"It is just a one-man show. It is just like, it looks so easy. I am up the other end and I do not see any gaps in the field — I do not see where I am going to score a boundary — and it seems like every time he sees that he just runs away for four," Cummins praised his Australia teammate. Players like Maxwell are freaks

and what they can pull off is only their preserve. "He still cannot move and still manages to hit a six of the third man with reverse (lap) — he is a freak, he hits into different areas, again, he makes it look so easy. When you are up against someone like that as a bowler, you just, you do not have many options," Cummins added.

With the crowd at Wankhede Stadium supporting Afghanistan for the majority of the game, Cummins could hear their allegiances shifting during the Maxwell 'freak show'. "The crowd is normally on Maxi's side whenever he is playing over here," Cummins said.

Pune, Nov 8: Ben Stokes' attacking century (108, 84b, 6x4, 6x6) was well complemented by the bowlers as England cantered to a 160-run win over the Netherlands here Wednesday to stay in the hunt for a place in the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan.

Though England and the Netherlands are out of reckoning for the semifinals, the contest between the two lowest-placed sides gain significance when it comes to qualifying for the Champions Trophy as only the top seven teams from the on-going showpiece will qualify for the event.

England's batting finally clicked as they posted 339/9 and then the bowlers did the rest, dismissing the Dutch for 179 in 37.2 overs. The win took England to the seventh spot in the points table on account of better run rate. The defending champions will take on Pakistan in their last match in Kolkata Saturday.

Opting to bat, Stokes initially provided the stability in the middle before opening up towards the end, while Dawid Malan (87, 74b, 10x4, 2x6) got England off to a flier with his breezy knock. Chris Woakes (51, 45b, 5x4, 1x6) also did his bit with the willow.

Chasing a huge target of 340, the Netherlands lost their first wicket in the fifth over when Max O'Dowd gave a simple catch to Moeen Ali at mid-on off the bowling of Woakes (1/19). In the next over, Netherlands were two down when Colin Ackermann nicked a David Willey (2/19) delivery to Jos Buttler behind the stumps.

Wesley Barresi (37) and Sybrand Engelbrecht (33) tried their best to stabilise the chase with a 55-run stand for the third wicket before Barresi was run out.

The Netherlands skipper Scott Edwards (38) and Teja Nidamanuru (41 n o) then shared 59 runs for the sixth wicket before the former got out off Ali's bowling (3/42). Thereafter, Netherlands wickets fell like nine pins as they were bowled out for 179 in 37.2 overs.



ON A ROLL: Ben Stokes goes big as the Netherlands skipper and wicketkeeper Scott Edwards looks on, Wednesday

Earlier, Malan looked at his attacking best. Boundaries came thick and fast for England. Netherlands had their first success in the seventh over in the form of Jonny Bairstow (15). Malan and Joe Root then played cautiously to take the innings forward.

But two wickets in consecutive overs halted England's charge as England slumped to 139/3 in 22 overs. Harry Brook didn't last long. England skipper Jos Buttler's torrid time continued as he too perished shortly. Ali's departure reduced England to 192/6 by the 36th over.

But Stokes and Woakes had other plans as they shared 129 runs for the seventh wicket to take England past the 300-run mark.

BRIEF SCORES
England 339/9
(Ben Stokes 108, Dawid Malan 87, Chris Woakes 51; Bas de Leede 3/74, Aryan Dutt 2/67, Logan van Beek 2/88)
Netherlands 179
(Teja Nidamanuru 41 n o, Scott Edwards 38; Moeen Ali 3/42, Adil Rashid 3/54) by 160 runs.

Barca winning run in UCL ends at Shakhtar

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamburg (Germany), Nov 8: Barcelona missed their chance to reach the knockout round of the Champions League with games to spare after a 0-1 loss to Shakhtar Donetsk Tuesday.

It was Shakhtar's first win as a host in the group stage of the competition since it started playing away from Ukraine because of the war with Russia. A crowd of nearly 50,000 was in hand at Volksparkstadion in Hamburg.

A draw would have been enough to secure Barcelona a spot in the round of 16 for the first time after two straight eliminations in the group stage of Europe's top club competition.

The result ended Barcelona's perfect Champions League record this season and moved Shakhtar into position to also advance from Group H. Barcelona stayed with nine points and are tied with Porto, which defeated winless Antwerp 2-0 at home later Tuesday. Shakhtar have six points in third place.

Danylo Sikan scored the winner with a header in the 40th minute in the game that Shakhtar hosted in Germany because of the war. The Ukrainian team lost 1-3 to Porto in their first home game in the Champions League this season. Barcelona had lost only once this season — to Real Madrid in the Spanish league 'clasico' last month.



Giroud helps AC Milan pip PSG



IMPRESSIVE OUTING: Olivier Giroud wheels away in celebration after scoring the winner against PSG, Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, Nov 8: AC Milan scored for the first time in this season's Champions League to beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 in a hugely entertaining match Tuesday at San Siro and leave Group F wide open.

Rafael Leao and Olivier Giroud, who set up the first goal, scored early in each half to help Milan recover from conceding a ninth-minute opener to Milan Skriniar and give their team their first group win. Milan, who lost 0-3 at

PSG two weeks ago, started the day bottom of their group.

Borussia Dortmund beat Newcastle 2-0 in the other match and now lead the group with seven points. The German team are a point above PSG, two above Milan and three above Newcastle.

The match in Milan marked the first time Gianluigi Donnarumma had played at San Siro since leaving the Rossoneri on a free transfer two years ago and joining PSG. And the Italy goalkeeper got a predictably hostile reception

at the stadium where he was once a beloved player.

Donnarumma made more than 250 appearances for Milan after breaking into the team when he was 16. As well as booing the 24-year-old Donnarumma and chanting offensive songs about him, Milan fans had also printed out thousands of fake dollar notes with his face on and the word "Dollarrumma."

HAALAND ON TARGET

The Champions League is European club football's most testing stage. Try telling that to Erling Haaland. The Norway striker extended his record in the competition to 39 goals in 34 games as Manchester City advanced to the knockout round with a 3-0 win against Young Boys Tuesday.

Haaland scored twice, including a brilliant long-range effort in the second half, to move him to within two of City great Sergio Aguero's total of 41. Phil Foden was the other scorer in the night for City.

ATLETICO ON RAMPAGE

Antoine Griezmann and Alvaro Morata have come through for Atletico Madrid again. The red-hot duo scored two goals each in a 6-0 rout of 10-man Celtic Tuesday, leaving Atletico top of Group E in the Champions League.

Indian archers impress at Asian Championships



Jyothi Surekha Vennam (L) and Parneet Kaur will vie for gold when they face off in the compound women's individual section final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, Nov 8: The Indian archers won two bronze, while also assuring themselves four more medals by advancing into their respective finals at the Asian Championships here Wednesday.

On a day World Champion Aditi Swami suffered a heart-break after being ousted by Bonna Akter in the pre-quarters, veteran Jyothi Surekha Vennam

and Parneet Kaur set up a gold medal clash to assure India a top-two spot in the compound women's individual section.

The top-seeded compound women's team of Aditi, Jyothi and Parneet eliminated hosts Thailand 228-217 in a lopsided semifinal. India will take on third seeds Chinese Taipei in the gold medal clash.

India have also advanced to the final of the compound mixed team event. The team of Aditi and Priyansh defeated Kazakhstan's Adel Zhexenbinova and Andrey Tyutyun 157-155 in the semifinal to set up a gold medal clash against Thailand.

The Indian compound men's team of Abhishek Verma Prathamesh Fuge and Priyansh bagged a bronze after a shoot-off win over Chinese Taipei. Both the teams were 235-235 after four ends, and India sealed the bronze by winning the shoot-off 29-28.

In the compound men's individual section, only Verma remained in the medal hunt and will fight for a bronze, taking on Joo Jaehoon of South Korea. In the recurve section, only the women's team remained in the medal hunt and will play for bronze against Chinese Taipei.

SHUBMAN, SIRAJ ATTAIN TOP POSITIONS IN ODI RANKINGS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 8: India opener Shubman Gill and pacer Mohammed Siraj Wednesday grabbed the top positions in the batting and bowling charts respectively in the ICC ODI rankings. While Gill replaced Babar Azam from the top of the batters' chart, Siraj displaced South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj in the bowlers' list.

Gill became just the fourth player from his country behind Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli to hold the No.1 ODI batter ranking.

Among other Indian batters, Virat Kohli has risen to fourth place following his sensational run in the World Cup, while skip-

per Rohit Sharma is placed sixth. Meanwhile among bowlers, Siraj rose to the top spot with his impressive effort so far in the tournament. Siraj displaced Maharaj from the top. Among other Indian bowlers, fellow Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has risen three spots to eighth, while Mohammed Shami jumped seven spots to be placed 10th on the chart.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav also climbed three places to be placed fourth, while fellow tweaker Ravindra Jadeja has moved up eight rungs to the 19th spot. Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan is leading the all-rounders' chart, while Jadeja is the highest-ranked Indian at the 10th spot.

AIFF sacks Prabhakaran due to 'breach of trust'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) Wednesday announced that it has sacked secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran due to "breach of trust", a move described as "conspiracy" by the Delhi based sports administrator.

Prabhakaran's sacking comes 14 months after his appointment to the high-profile job even as the national federation did not mention what the breach of trust was that prompted the action.

"The All India Football Federation hereby announces that the services of Dr. Shaji Prabhakaran have been terminated due to breach of trust with

immediate effect as of November 7, 2023," the AIFF statement read.

"The AIFF Deputy Secretary, Mr M Satyanarayan, will take charge as Acting Secretary General of AIFF with immediate effect," the statement added.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey served the termination letter Tuesday to Prabhakaran, who was appointed September 3 in 2022 and took charge September 6.

The 51-year-old Prabhakaran, however said the decision has no constitutional validity. In a letter addressed to the AIFF members, Prabhakaran wrote: "As per AIFF Constitution, it is the Executive Committee that can only dismiss or terminate the



General Secretary. Thus, this termination has no constitutional validity and approval of the Executive Committee."

Prabhakaran termed it as a conspiracy against him. "I must

say that there must be some conspiracy behind this decision, which I am not able to understand. You, as elected member's does have the responsibility to ask the right questions to the

chair, not for me but for the good of the game," he wrote in the letter.

"I must say, this is a totally irresponsible decision at a time when AIFF governance matter is still under discussion and scrutiny across. In the end, we have forgotten our struggles and pains to reach these far.

"I have worked with 100% honesty, and I have not made any decision that was bad for football in India, and it is the fact that I didn't interfere in the decision of the Judicial Bodies for which I was pressurised."

AIFF vice-president NA Haris, however, told PTI that the AIFF executive committee members were also not happy with the way Prabhakaran worked.