



SETTING EXAMPLE
Sushmita Sen champions sustainable fashion by re-wearing a saree from her appearance on *Koffee With Karan* in 2005 **LEISURE P2**



WAR DEEPENS
Battles around hospitals have forced thousands of Palestinians to flee from some of the last shelters in north Gaza **INTERNATIONAL P10**



GOLD FOR BHAGAT
Ace shuttler Pramod Bhagat bags a gold medal in SL3 singles category at the Hulis Daihatsu Japan Para Badminton Int'l meet **SPORTS P12**

Quack on the run after woman dies due to injection

UTTARKASHI TUNNEL COLLAPSE TWO MORE DAYS TO LIGHT

Kodinga, Nov 13: A woman died Monday after a quack administered an injection to relieve her of headache at Chirma village under Koshagamuda block and Kodinga police limits in Nabarangpur district. The deceased woman was identified as Dayamani Bisoyi, 50, wife of Buxi Bisoyi of Chirma village. The quack identified as Samaru Harijan went absconding after the incident. Sources said that Dayamani experienced severe headache Monday morning. Family members took her to the house of the quack, Samaru Harijan, in Karchamal village to relieve her of the headache, Monday. Samaru, instead of conducting a check-up, administered her with an injection at 10am and prescribed some medicines. However, Dayamani died within five minutes after receiving the injection. Kodinga police rushed to the spot and sent the woman's body for post-mortem after the deceased's brother-in-law Gumanidhi Bisoyi lodged a complaint. Police handed the body over to her family members after a post-mortem and launched a manhunt to nab the absconding quack, Kodinga IIC Jugal Sabar said.



TRAPPED IN TUNNEL: Rescue and relief operations underway Monday after a portion of an under-construction tunnel between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on the Brahmaputra-Yamunotri national highway collapsed trapping 40 workers inside, in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand

5 ODIAS AMONG 40 TRAPPED WORKERS
MULTI-AGENCY RESCUE OPS UNDERWAY

AGENCIES
Uttarkashi (U'khand), Nov 13: All 40 workers, including five from Odisha, who were trapped in an under-construction tunnel on the Char Dham route are safe and being sent food and water, authorities assured Monday but said the rescue operation could take up to two more days. A portion of the tunnel under construction between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on the Brahmaputra-Yamunotri national highway collapsed in the early hours of Sunday. All workers trapped are safe and communicating, officials said Monday as Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited the site. The workers from Odisha were identified as Tapan Mandal and Bhagaban Patra of Nabarangpur district, and Bisweswar Nayak, Raju Naik and Dhiren Nayak of Mayurbhanj district. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik taking to X said he was deeply concerned about the situation in Uttarakhand. While oxygen started being supplied to the trapped labourers through pipe immediately after the launch of rescue operations Sunday, they could only get drinking water and light food after contact was first established with them past midnight. Secretary Disaster Management Ranjit Kumar Sinha who visited the tunnel said the trapped labourers could be rescued by Tuesday night or Wednesday. Rescue efforts led by personnel from multiple agencies, including the National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and the Border Roads Organisation, have been on since Sunday morning. The rescue strategy is now focused on stabilising loose muck by shotcreting (concrete spraying) and pushing in a large diameter steel pipe through the rubble to evacuate trapped workers. Loose muck falling constantly from above clogs the excavated area, slackening the progress of rescuers. So it needs to be stabilised through shotcreting, an official engaged in the operations said. The collapsed area is spread over 30 metres and located 270 metres inside the tunnel from the Silkyara side, an official statement said. The tunnel, supposed to be 4,531 metre-long when ready, is already built 2,340 metres from Silkyara side and 1,750 metres from Barkot side. **MORE P3**



Reports said that healthcare services had been severely affected in the area due to shortage of doctors in the hospitals in Koshagamuda block under Nabarangpur district. As a result, quacks are increasingly taking advantage of the situation and often administering faulty treatment to the gullible villagers. People have been demanding to appoint more doctors in the hospitals and save them from the clutches of quacks.

SHORT TAKES

Braverman out, Cameron back

London: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak sprung a surprise Cabinet reshuffle Monday morning, starting by sacking Indian-origin Home Secretary Suella Braverman and bringing former prime minister David Cameron back into the government as his new Foreign Secretary. "It has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Home Secretary. I will have more to say in due course," Braverman, 43, said in a brief statement, as it was announced that James Cleverly will be replacing her in the Cabinet, making way for Cameron, 54, as the new Foreign Secretary. **P10**

Retail inflation at 4-month low

New Delhi: The retail inflation eased to a four-month low of 4.87 per cent in October, mainly due to cooling prices of food items, government data showed Monday. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation fell to a three-month low of 5.02 per cent in September. The previous low inflation was recorded at 4.87 per cent in June. The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its October meeting, projected CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24, a moderation from 6.7 per cent in 2022-23. **P11**

Govt extends ban on 9 Meitei extremist groups

New Delhi, Nov 13: The government Monday extended a ban by five years on nine Meitei extremist groups and associate organisations, which mostly operate in Manipur, for their anti-national activities and launching fatal attacks on security forces. According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Meitei extremist organisations have declared, as their professed aim, the establishment of an independent nation by the secession of Manipur from India through armed struggle and to incite indigenous people of Manipur for such secession. The groups that have been banned by the ministry for five years are the People's Liberation Army generally known as PLA, and its political wing Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF), the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and its armed wing Manipur Peoples' Army (MPA). The Peoples' Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak

- Outlawed outfits**
- United National Liberation Front (UNLF)
 - Manipur Peoples' Army (MPA)
 - People's Liberation Army (PLA)
 - Revolutionary Peoples' Front (RPF)
 - Kanglei Yawol Kanba Lup (KYKL)
 - People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK)
 - Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP)
 - Coordination Committee (CorCom)
 - Alliance for Socialist Unity, Kangleipak (ASUK)

(PREPAK), the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), the Kanglei Yawol Kanba Lup (KYKL), the Coordination Committee (CorCom) and the Alliance for Socialist Unity Kangleipak (ASUK) have also been banned. All these Meitei extremist groups were last banned by the MHA in

November 2018 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The MHA said it was of the opinion that the Meitei extremist organisations have been engaging in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and integrity of India, employing and engaging in armed means to achieve their secessionist objective, attacking and killing the security forces, the police and civilians in Manipur, indulging in acts of intimidation, extortion and looting of the civilian population for collection of funds for their organisations. They are making contacts with sources abroad to influence public opinion and for securing their assistance by way of arms and training for the purpose of achieving their secessionist objective and maintaining camps in neighbouring countries for sanctuaries, training and clandestine procurement of arms and ammunition, it said. The activities of the Meitei extremist organisations are considered detrimental to the sovereignty and integrity of India and they are unlawful associations, it said.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We are lucky to have had him as our first PM. We can blame him for anything and everything

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	64933.87	↓ 325.58
NIFTY	19443.50	↓ 82.00
DOLLAR	83.32	↓ ₹0.02
EURO	89.12	↑ ₹0.08
GOLD	₹59,517	↓ ₹235
SILVER	₹ 69,238	↓ ₹794

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.1°C	30.0°C
TEMP MIN	21.0°C	21.5°C
Humidity	70%	77%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Dry weather very likely

Salman on screen, fireworks in theatre

Mumbai, Nov 13: Frenzied fans of Bollywood actor Salman Khan burst firecrackers inside a movie theatre during the screening of his latest film 'Tiger 3' in Maharashtra's Nashik district triggering serious safety concerns and prompting the superstar to urge his fans to enjoy the Diwali release without putting people at risk. During a show of the film, a group of fans burst firecrackers inside Mohan Cinema in the Malegaon Chhavni area in Maharashtra's Nashik district Sunday night, causing panic among moviegoers, according to police. Videos of viewers bursting firecrackers inside the movie theatre during the screening of the film went viral on social media triggering concern among netizens.



Salman criticised the incident in a post on X. "I'm hearing about fireworks inside theaters during Tiger3. This is dangerous. Let's enjoy the film without putting ourselves and others at risk. Stay safe," Salman wrote on X. The police are in the process of registering an offence under sections 435 (mischievous by fire or explosive substance with intent to cause damage) and 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), sources said. The identity of the accused

persons is yet to be established, police said. Notably, 'Tiger 3' has earned the superstar the biggest opening day of his career by amassing ₹94 crore worldwide. A Yash Raj Films production, 'Tiger 3' also stars Katrina Kaif and Emraan Hashmi. Directed by Maneesh Sharma, the movie released Sunday on the festive occasion of Diwali in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. In a post on X, YRF said the film had earned ₹94 crore in global gross, making the film the highest earning Diwali release in Hindi cinema. 'Tiger 3' is sequel to the 2017 film 'Tiger Zinda Hai' and a part of the studio's ambitious spy universe that will see characters from Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathaan' and Hrithik Roshan-led 'War' crisscrossing in future stories.

In a first, China, Pak to hold maritime patrols

Karachi, Nov 13: The Chinese and Pakistani navies are holding their largest ever week-long drills in the Arabian Sea during which the two all-weather allies will also conduct joint maritime patrols for the first time, a media report said Monday. The Chinese and Pakistani navies at a naval base in Karachi Saturday kicked off the 'Sea Guardians-3' exercise in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea in drills that include anti-submarine operations, Dawn News reported on the exercises which will end Friday. During the exercise, China and Pakistan will conduct joint maritime patrols for the first time, Senior Colonel Wu Qian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defence, said. The exercises come at a time when China has significantly expanded its maritime presence in the waters of the Indian Ocean. Notably, a number of Chinese surveillance and oceanographic survey ships had been detected in the Indian Ocean over the last year. Earlier this month, a Chinese ocean research ship, the Shi Yan 6, docked in Colombo raising eyebrows in India. With the theme of joint response to maritime security threats, the exercise will include formation movement, VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure), helicopter cross-deck landing, search and rescue, anti-submarine operations. Wu was quoted as saying by China Military News website in a recent report. He said some professional exchanges and mutual visits will also be included as part of the exercises.



leisure



CLARKSON'S RAPID 60-POUND WEIGHT LOSS SCARES FRIENDS

American singer and television personality Kelly Clarkson has reportedly lost 60 pounds in the time spread over some months and her friends are worried about the 41-year-old's drastic diet that they say is taking a toll on her health.

TEIGEN LAUGHS OFF HER WARDROBE MALFUNCTION

Chrissy Teigen, the wife of Grammy-winning musician John Legend does not take herself — or her clothing mishaps — too seriously. She laughed off a wardrobe malfunction at the 2023 Baby2Baby Gala, reports People magazine.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are a touchy one. People will rub you the wrong way today. But remember that getting needlessly annoyed will bring nothing but more complications. Contemplate in seclusion about the root cause of the problem. Ganesh's hint? It is closer than you imagine.

TAURUS
This day, you will be able to express and communicate your ideas and feelings very convincingly, assures Ganesh. All those to who come in contact with you today will be clear, and appreciative about whatever you tell them. At work your superiors are likely to be responsive and helpful.

GEMINI
Your sensitive and emotional nature will prove to be a problem for you. Hence you need to control your emotions. Tread carefully when it comes to personal relationships. You need to wait for a better time before you think of proposing to that special someone, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will be in a joyous mood. You will be de-lighted in whatever task you do. Financial matters will confound you, with even a petty issue causing tension. Ganesh says it will be a colourful day, with happy tidings.

LEO
Talk of being busy! It seems like today, you shall take the cake, and perhaps, be the icing on it as well, says Ganesh. It is likely that the day is going to be very hectic for you in terms of work and business. You may be engaged in official conversations and dealings. Also, don't be surprised to find yourself in meetings as you attempt to take stock of your business situation.

VIRGO
You will spend most of today in the company of family and friends, says Ganesh. Students may focus on upcoming examinations and will learn to balance study and leisure time, in equal measure. It is a good day to buy real estate. Overall, a day to lie low and let your mind run free in its pursuit of pleasure.

LIBRA
Today is the day when you seem to agree with everything that people say, without striking even a note of criticism. It's just one of those days when you are amazed by all things around you. Such an elastic approach will enable you to be reasonable in your views and sensible in your ways. Ganesh wishes you the very best.

SCORPIO
It may have been on the cards for long and finally, you may end up buying a state-of-the-art motor vehicle or a palatial house of your dreams today. In addition, your generous mood may also egg you on to buy an expensive gift for your life partner.

SAGITTARIUS
Round and round they tumble, the wheels of life, smoothly gliding into a routine. You may spend your day in discontent due to the rut of regular activities. Sadly, there is little hope or adventure Ganesh foresees that might make this day worthwhile for you.

CAPRICORN
The day calls for making amends and undoing the damage done to relationships, so you will most likely focus on improving rapport with relatives and peers, says Ganesh. But despite your affable approach, family feud may occur. Keeping obnoxious neighbours at bay will save you some trouble.

AQUARIUS
You may fall in love today! If single, romance colours your day with a rainbow. If married, you may enjoy a quiet but romantic evening with your spouse. Ganesh says that if nothing else, it's a good time to pour over your photo albums and float in nostalgia.

PISCES
You will be treading new ground at work. Exciting as that sounds, it merely means you will have to do a lot of travelling today. You will also find yourself swamped with drafting new business proposals, holding meetings, or otherwise networking over the phone.

Mrunal shares her immersive experience

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur has delved deep into the world of cryptic language to bring authenticity to her role in streaming film *Pippa*, where she portrays a medical student who gets recruited to specialise in cryptography, adept at utilising this unique form of communication in defence operations. She dedicated herself to mastering this skill set, often practicing with close friends, family, and teammates. "I wanted to ensure that my portrayal of being a cryptographer was as accurate and convincing as possible," shared Mrunal. "Learning the intricacies of cryptography in relevance to a war was a fascinating journey, and it allowed me to immerse myself completely into the character's world. The research team spent months getting every element right. I had to study actual symbols, signs, language and their meaning," she said. "It was fascinating because it's so far from a regular civilian life to know any of this. So for me as an actor, it was very immersive to delve into this world," concluded the *Dhamaka* actress. The film is directed by the acclaimed Raja Krishna Menon and produced by Ronnie Screwvala and Siddharth Roy Kapur. Mrunal Thakur shares the screen alongside Ishaan Khatter and Priyanshu Painyuli.



Sushmita champions sustainable fashion

Mumbai: At the glittering Diwali bash hosted by Shilpa Shetty, all eyes were on Sushmita Sen, who made a bold statement on sustainable fashion by re-wearing a breathtaking gold saree from her iconic appearance on the premiere season of the talk show, *Koffee with Karan*, in 2005. The actress graced the star-studded event November 11, radiating elegance in a translucent beige saree adorned with a silver border. The timeless ensemble was expertly paired with a full-sleeved blouse, showcasing Sen's enduring grace and style. The actress complemented her look with tasteful jewellery, adding a touch of sophistication to the Diwali celebration. What set Sen's appearance apart was not just her impeccable fashion sense but her conscious choice to recycle the gold saree she had worn during an earlier episode of *Karan Johar's* talk show, *Koffee With Karan 1*, where she shared the stage with Sanjay Dutt. While making a striking fashion statement, Sushmita Sen continues to make waves with her recent release, *Aarya Season 3*, which premiered on Disney+ Hotstar November 3.



Hollywood couple's India trip Douglas, Zeta-Jones to attend 75 events

Mumbai: Michael Douglas and family to explore India during week-long trip in November-end. He will be here to attend International Film Festival of India in Goa. At the 76th Cannes Film Festival in May, Michael Douglas received an invitation for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, which will be held in November. Now, details of his upcoming India visit were shared in an entertainment portal. During his week-long India trip, the actor and his family, including actor-wife Catherine Zeta-Jones and son Dylan, will explore parts of India and even attend a Bollywood party. Michael's friend, producer Shaileendra Singh, "The emails we received regarding the things he was supposed to do were exhaustive. So, we had to cut down many things and filter it. He will arrive a day prior to his engagements. We are having a fun-filled 24 hours in Goa before his work begins on

November 27. We are hosting an intimate dinner for him that night." Shaileendra will be throwing a bash to celebrate his 25 years in the industry, which will be attended by Michael and several Bollywood celebrities. As per the report, Michael Douglas has committed to 78 engagements during his forthcoming India trip, which include dinners that will be hosted by Pramod Sawant, CM of Goa, and Anurag Thakur, union minister of information and broadcasting.



'Sense of being an outsider has gone weaker'

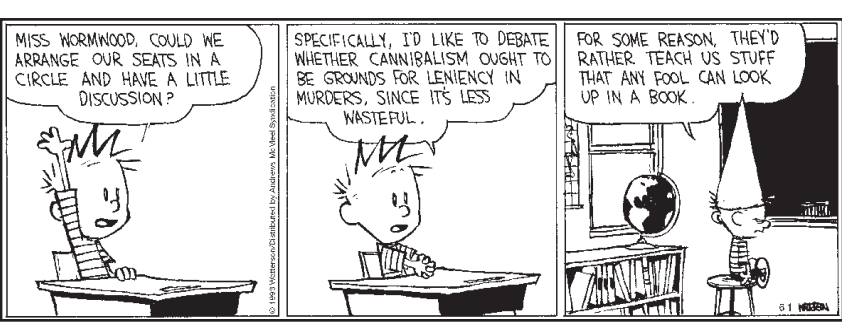
Mumbai: Actor Kirti Kulhari is celebrating 13 years in the film industry. "It feels quite strangely beautiful that I've been around the industry for a good while, which feels like a lifetime. Honestly to me, the way work is today, I still get excited about it, it doesn't feel like 13 years, it feels like yesterday to me," she shares, reflecting on her time in the industry. Talking about the changes in the industry from 13 years ago, to now, Kirti says, "The sense of 'I am an outsider' has gone weaker over the years, because I think I found my place in the industry. I am very comfortable with the position I have created for myself. There are a lot of women-driven stories now, which is a great shift in the industry." Wrapping up she adds, "In the past 13 years, my perspective towards the industry has become more professional. I don't take things and people personally, I go and do my job and try to have a great time while I am at it. I don't expect that feeling of being a team and working together as a family, because you are together for a while and everyone finishes that project and moves on. It has become more professional."



PEANUTS



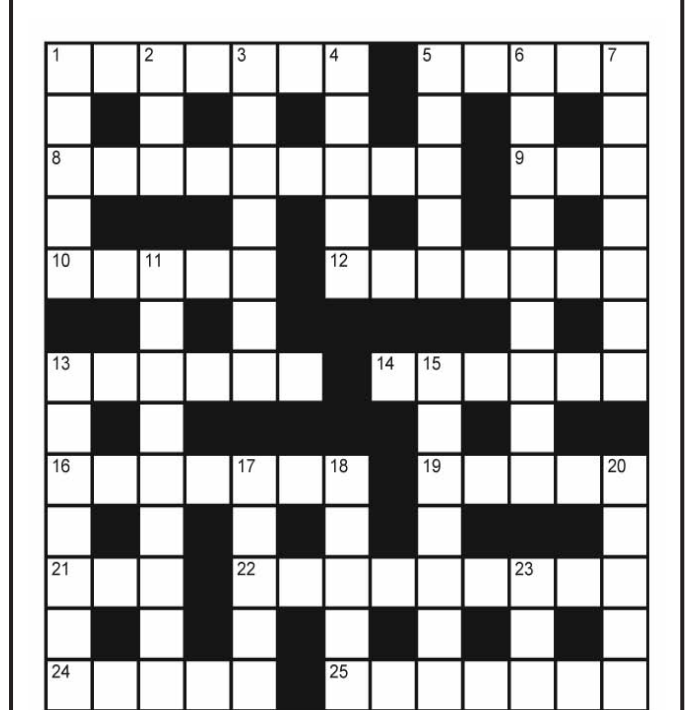
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Kind of penguin
 - 5 Conceals
 - 8 Points out
 - 9 Wise one
 - 10 Astute
 - 12 Motorcycle
 - 13 Withstand
 - 14 Pure
 - 16 Visionary
 - 19 Rock bottom
 - 21 Assist
 - 22 Fanciful narrative (4,5)
 - 24 Beat
 - 25 Hot pepper
 - Down**
 - 1 Theatre signs extra
 - 2 Walk softly
 - 3 Cookbook fillers
 - 4 Marriage and others
 - 5 Pondered
 - 6 Put on display
 - 7 Run up the credit cards
 - 11 Dutch capital
 - 13 Glowing
 - 15 The best policy
 - 17 Words to remember
 - 18 Archaeologist's find
 - 20 Verse
 - 23 Possess

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

DEVINE FEMININE

An ornately decorated tableau of Goddess Kali at a mandap in Saheed Nagar of Bhubaneswar, Monday



Woman killed as car knocks down couple



DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Tragedy struck on Diwali when a middle-aged couple from Digapahandi in Ganjam district were run over by a car near Lingaraj temple in Old Town area here, Sunday.

While Sulochana Mohanty, 51, succumbed to injuries, her husband is undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar where he is stated to be stable.

Officials from the Lingaraj police station said the driver of the vehicle, Krushna Chandra Behera, 32, who ran away from the spot soon after committing the accident, was



Krushna Chandra Behera, 32, was arrested Monday after over 24-hour search. Behera has been booked under Sections 337 and 338 of IPC

rounded up Monday. Behera has been booked under Sections 337 (rash and

negligent act endangering human life) and 338 (causing grievous hurt by rash and negligent act) of the IPC.

Police said the incident took place near Bindu Sagar, when Behera erroneously put the vehicle on reverse gear while taking a turn.

GS Chakrabarty, ACP-Zone-II said the couple had visited Bindu Sagar for performing Shradha rituals of forefathers. Both were standing at the parking spot on Ratha Road when Behera, driving a Hyundai Nios, accidentally pulled the reverse gear.

This caused the vehicle instantly roll backwards, hitting Sulochana, a teacher by profession. Her husband too suffered head injuries in the accident.

Locals rushed Sulochana and her husband to Capital Hospital where doctors declared her 'brought dead'.

Her husband was later shifted to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, Chakrabarty said.

The owner of the vehicle has been identified as Gautam Ray, a resident of Old Town area in Bhubaneswar.

The car is learnt to have been purchased recently.



UP IN SMOKE: Firemen trying to douse a mysterious blaze which swallowed five buses at a garage in Tamando area of Bhubaneswar

OP PHOTO

Over 100 suffer burns on Diwali night

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Over 100 people including women and children were treated at different hospitals in Odisha after suffering burn injuries while celebrating Diwali, as a number of fire incidents caused by crackers and lamps were reported from various parts of the state, officials said.

The casualty department of the state-run Capital Hospital here remained busy all along Sunday night as at least 31 patients including 29 minor boys and girls came for treatment due to burn injuries sustained while bursting crackers, Deputy Superintendent of the facility Dhananjay Das said.

"Many children have suffered burns in mishaps during Diwali celebrations. They were treated by a special team of doctors and paramedics," Das said.

Most of them were released after preliminary treatment as their condition was not serious. Das said one patient was admitted to the Orthopaedics department of the hospital while another was referred to a hospital



THE CASUALTY DEPT OF CAPITAL HOSPITAL IN BHUBANESWAR REMAINED BUSY ALL ALONG SUNDAY NIGHT AS AT LEAST 31 PATIENTS INCLUDING 29 MINOR BOYS AND GIRLS CAME FOR TREATMENT DUE TO BURN INJURIES SUSTAINED WHILE BURSTING CRACKERS

IN JAIPUR, SIX PEOPLE INCLUDING THREE CHILDREN AND A WOMAN SUFFERED BURN INJURIES WHILE BURSTING FIRECRACKERS AT VYASANAGAR AND KOREI AREAS

A FIRE BROKE OUT IN A TWO-STORY BUILDING AT KOEL NAGAR IN ROURKELA WHERE A WOMAN AND HER DAUGHTER WERE TRAPPED FOR SOME TIME IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MONDAY

in Cuttack. Similar reports were also received from Cuttack and other district headquarters hospitals across the state, a health department official said.

Fire incidents also occurred in various parts of the state.

A report from Rourkela said that a fire broke out in a two-storey building at Koel Nagar where a woman and her daughter were trapped for some time in the early hours of Monday. Fire services officials said

that the source of the blaze was a 'diya' (earthen lamp) which was lit Sunday night on the occasion of Diwali.

A similar fire mishap was reported on the third floor of a residential building at Khetrajpur in Sambalpur town.

A gunny godown in the area was also reduced to ashes as sparks from crackers caused a fire on Diwali night. A house at Santoshimandirpada area in Nuapada district was also gutted due to bursting of crackers.

Similarly, a report from Baripada in Mayurbhanj district said that a fire broke out at a tent house godown at Kali Mandir Sahi Sunday evening. The fire, suspected to have been caused by a sky lantern, damaged items worth lakhs of rupees, the police said.

In Jajpur, six people, including three children and a woman, also suffered burn injuries while bursting firecrackers at Vyasaganar and Korei areas. Two houses in a slum near Dala overbridge under Vyasaganar municipality also caught fire in a cracker mishap Sunday evening, police said.

Spl train between Puri, Patna for Chhath Puja

Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECOR) will run a special train between Puri and Bihar capital Patna in view of the festive rush ahead of Chhath Puja, an official said Monday. 08449 Puri-Patna Special train will leave Puri at 11:30pm Monday and Wednesday, he said. On the return journey, the 08450 Patna-Puri Special will leave Patna at 6pm Tuesday and Thursday, he added. Rituals for Chhath Puja will begin November 17, and continue till November 20.

CM prays for safety of trapped workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday said he was deeply concerned about the situation in Uttarakhand where several workers, including some from the state, are trapped inside an under-construction tunnel that collapsed Sunday.

Among the 40 workers trapped in the tunnel in Uttarkashi, five are from the state, officials said.

The workers from the state were identified as Tapan Mandal and Bhagaban Batra

of Nabarangpur; and Bisweswar Nayak, Raju Naik and Dhiren of Mayurbhanj, they said.

"Deeply concerned to know that several workers, including workers from Odisha, have been trapped following collapse of an under-construction tunnel in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. Praying for the safe and speedy rescue of all the workers," Patnaik said.

A portion of the tunnel being built between Silkyara and Dandagaon on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri National Highway caved in Sunday morning.



COURTESY CALL: Representatives of various associations call on 5T and Naveen Odisha Chairman VK Pandian at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Monday

TRAVEL HEALTH CLINIC OPENS AT CITY AIIMS

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: A travel health clinic, the first-of-its-kind in Odisha and among the very few in the country, was inaugurated at AIIMS Bhubaneswar Monday, an official said.

The new clinic will provide travel related health advice to people who will undertake international journeys in the near future, he said.

It will function twice a week and provide imminent travellers essential vaccination services, including some country specific vaccines like yellow fever vaccine and provide advice about healthy

behaviour during foreign travel. It will also guide such travellers to assemble a customised medical kit for use in emergencies and about the dos and don'ts during the period.

Inaugurating the clinic along with medical superintendent Dilip Kumar Parida, AIIMS Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas asked international travellers from the state to seek travel related health advice before embarking on their journeys to avoid contracting and transmitting illnesses beyond national frontiers.

This clinic will help prevent the spread of foreign infectious

agents through passengers who are not aware of their existence, said Biswaranjan Dash, the Bhubaneswar airport public health officer.

The clinic, set up by the community and family medicine department of the hospital, will help a lot of people with proper travel advice, state immunisation officer Tapas Patra said.

Sonu Hangma Subba, head of the department of Community and Family Medicine, AIIMS Bhubaneswar welcomed the guests and congratulated her team for taking up this novel and timely initiative in travel health.

Ensure fishermen stay off sea, Collectors told

Bhubaneswar: The state government Monday directed the Collectors of seven coastal districts to ensure no fishermen venture into the sea as a low-pressure area was brewing over the Bay of Bengal (BoB). In a letter to Collectors of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda and Ganjam, SRC Satyabrata Sahoo said fishermen are advised not to venture into sea from November 15 onwards and they must return to the shore. A likely low-pressure area over southeast BoB in the next 24 hours may trigger rain in the state. Besides coastal districts, the system may trigger rains in the interior parts of the state as well.

WORLD DIABETES DAY TODAY

Prevalence of diabetes is rapidly increasing in India. According to ICMR-IN- DIAB national study, there are currently 101 million people with diabetes and 136 million people with prediabetes in India today. These numbers are expected to further increase in the years to come.

It is known that there are marked urban rural differences in the prevalence of diabetes with urban areas having much higher prevalence rates.

Till now, it was believed that the higher prevalence in urban areas was due to greater affluence which led to unhealthier diets higher in calories, decreased physical activity and probably the stress associated with urban living.

However, the recent CARRS study done at Chennai and Delhi funded by NIH, has found a new link to Type-2 diabetes through an unexpected source - air pollution. It was seen that even after correcting for all the known

Air pollution behind rising diabetes cases

confounders like family history of diabetes, obesity, diet and physical activity, air pollution was associated with new onset type 2 diabetes both at Delhi and Chennai.

It is now known that a fifth of the burden of Type-2 diabetes (T2D) worldwide may be attributable to air pollution, with a larger share coming from ambient PM 2.5 and the rest from household air pollution.

With the growing socio-economic development worldwide, the detrimental health effects of air pollutants are receiving increased attention. Air pollutants are broadly classified into gaseous pollutants and atmospheric particulates.

Gaseous pollutants include sulphur compounds, nitrogen compounds, carbon oxides, hydrocarbons, and halogen compounds and atmospheric particulates include total suspended particulates, inhalable particles (PM10), fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and ultrafine particulate matter:



Type 2 diabetes mellitus and air pollution are critical public health concerns worldwide.

Existing evidence supports an association between the risk of T2D and ambient air pollution exposure, especially for fine particulate matter pollution (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2).

The biological mechanisms underlying this association include immune activation, endoplasmic reticulum stress, central nervous system inflammation, and oxidative stress.

The recent study in India as-

sessed the association of PM2.5 exposure, glycemic markers and incidence of Type 2 diabetes in two urban cities, viz., Delhi and Chennai and provides evidence linking short-term, medium-term and long-term exposure to PM2.5 and incident T2D.

The study assessed PM2.5 from locally developed high-resolution spatiotemporal models and showed a clear association between PM2.5 and incident diabetes.

The evidence offers guidance for developing and implement-

THE ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR

It is now known that air pollution can act as an endocrine disruptor. Thus, it can interfere with both insulin secretion from the pancreas as well as its action in the liver and muscle, the very defects which lead to diabetes, in the first place.

ing population and region-specific policies aimed at lowering ambient air pollution in order to combat the high prevalence of diabetes.

So what can we do to prevent diabetes knowing the link between air pollution and diabetes?

We should try to reduce pollution. Wearing a mask as we did when we had Covid-19 is a very good way to prevent particulate matter entering our bodies through the nose or mouth. **WAS**

Odia actress arrested for misbehaving with writer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Police Monday arrested Odia actress Mousumi Nayak for allegedly demanding money and misbehaving with writer Banasmita Pati.

Infocity police in Bhubaneswar arrested the 39-year-old actress on the basis of a complaint lodged by the writer; Bhubaneswar DCP's office said in a statement.

Nayak had earlier lodged a complaint against Pati with Infocity police alleging that the writer had failed to repay her Rs 5.08 lakh, police added.

Subsequently, the actress withdrew her complaint after signing a compromise petition with undertakings from both sides. The writer even returned the money to Nayak and the latter assured that she will not take any steps to tarnish the image of the for-

mer, police said. However, even after receiving her money back, the actress made statements against the writer and her family members before the media and also lodged a 'false case' in Chandaka police station against Pati, police said.

Nayak also allegedly sent 'life threatening' messages to the writer and her family members, the statement added.

During interrogation, the actress admitted to the offences following which she was arrested under Sections 385 (Put a person under fear in order to commit extortion), 294 (obscene act in any public place), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 507 (criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication) of IPC, it said.

Nayak was produced before a local court here that remanded her to judicial custody.

19 mines in Odisha to go under hammer Nov 15



ing up for the launch of the eighth round of auctions for commercial coal mines on November 15, 2023 marking further significant leap in the Coal sector and taking a step forward, towards making India Atmanirbhar in coal," the ministry said.

Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi will be the chief guest at the launch of the next round of auctions, as per the statement.

The Centre's progressive policies have amounted in faster allocation of mines to the private sector and the upcoming auctions are likely to have participation of more new players, it added.

The Ministry of Coal has, so far, conducted seven rounds of commercial coal mining auctions, and 91 mines have been auctioned, with peak rated capacity of 221 million ton per annum.

A total of 35 coal mines will be offered in the upcoming round, comprising 11 under the CM (SP) Act 2015 and 24 under the MMDR Act 1957. Among these, 14 coal mines are Fully Explored, while 21 are Partially Explored. Additionally, 4 coal mines are being offered under the 2nd Attempt of round 7 of Commercial Coal that includes one CMSP coal mine and three MMDR coal mines. Of these, one is Fully Explored, and three are partially explored.

more new players from the industry.

Pursuant to the launch of the first tranche of commercial coal mine auction by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2020, a total of 91 coal mines in seven tranches have been put on sale.

"A total of 35 coal mines will be offered in the upcoming round comprising 11 under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and 24 under the MMDR Act 1957... Additionally, four coal mines are being offered under the second attempt of round seven of commercial coal auction," the coal ministry said in a statement.

The launch of the eighth round of commercial coal mining auctions is a significant step towards promoting private sector participation in the coal mining industry and increasing coal production. The Ministry of Coal's progressive policies have resulted in faster allocation of mines to the private sector and the upcoming auctions are expected to have participations of



CAPTIVATING MOVE: Artistes perform during 2nd Padmavati Utsav organised by Sunaina Charitable Trust at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Cong seeks white paper on Parikrama project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: The state Congress Monday demanded a white paper from the state government, seeking details of 'Srimandir Parikrama' or the Puri Heritage Corridor project.

The white paper with all information about the project being executed around the Srimandir, including its objective, implementation and cost should be published, Odisha Pradesh



Congress Committee (OPCC) former president Prasad Harichandan said.

"The Odisha government has announced that it will dedicate the project to the people January

17, 2024... We demand all details about the project for our future generations," he told reporters here.

The Congress leader also said as a part of its proposed 'Tulsi Yatra', basil leaves will be collected from houses across 314 blocks of the state and offered to Lord Jagannath at the temple, in protest against "mismanagement" at the 12th-century shrine.

The yatra will create mass awareness among devotees, and the state government will be

forced to open all four gates of the temple as well as its 'Ratna Bhandar' (inner chamber of the treasury), which has been closed since 1978, Harichandan said.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das had earlier stated that three gates of the shrine are closed due to the heritage project work.

OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak also appealed to people of the state to actively take part in the 'Tulsi Yatra'.

Diwali celebrated with sky lanterns

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: In an initiative aimed at fostering environmental consciousness, Odia Connect and Ama Dumuduma joined to organise Odisha's first-ever Green Diwali community programme. Around 100 sky lanterns, marking a significant step towards a cracker-free, pollution-free festival of lights were released on this occasion.

Odia Connect, a leading social media channel dedicated to showcasing the distinctive culture of Odisha, spearheaded the innovative programme. The event attracted participants not only from Dumuduma but also from various parts of the City.

The night sky was adorned with 100 sky lanterns, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness. The spectacle served as a powerful message, reinforcing the importance of celebrating Diwali in an eco-friendly manner.

Odia Connect continues its mission to bring Odisha closer to audiences by consistently presenting unique and culturally rich content.

The Green Diwali event aligns with their commitment to creating awareness and appreciation for Odisha's traditions.

The motive behind the event was to encourage a green Diwali, emphasising a celebration that is free from crackers and pollution. The sky lanterns, each carrying the collective hope for a cleaner environment, exemplified the community's commitment to sustainable festivities.



FOR A CAUSE: Kalinga Terriers conducted a tree plantation drive at Bhubaneswar Military Station, in a series of build up event to Army Day 2024, Monday

₹45cr for minority community centres

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday sanctioned ₹ 45 crore for construction of 150 multi-purpose 'cultural-cum-community centres' for the state's minority communities. The CM said that the community centres will go a long way in preserving the culture and heritage of these communities.

The 150 community centres, spread across 22 districts of the state, will include community centres for people of Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Sikh communities.

"This will create space for the minority communities to organise various community-based activities," said a government official.



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

WODC to organise Enterprise Odisha

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 13: To empower self-help groups (SHGs) transform into small and medium enterprises (SMEs), Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) is going to organise Enterprise Odisha-2023 conference for the first time in Jharsuguda from December 15 to 17.

The conference aims to give an opportunity for growth to small and medium entrepreneurs of Western Odisha by promoting commercial enterprises like agriculture, cattle rearing, animal husbandry, and horticulture. The conference will connect successful entrepreneurs from different parts of the country with youths of Western Odisha.

WODC chairman Asit Tripathy held a preparatory meeting in this regard Monday. Speaking at the meeting, Tripathy said, "Mission Shakti



women have emerged as successful entrepreneurs of our state. Enterprise Odisha-2023 will help in providing them a great opportunity. Young entrepreneurs will understand the use of new technologies and get suggestion from other successful entrepreneurs. For the first time, a three-day entrepreneur conference is going to be organized in Western Odisha."

Hemant Sharma, principal secretary of Industries Department and BS Poonia, MD of IPICOL were present along with members of CII in the preparatory meeting.

Global treaty need of the hour to solve plastic pollution

The UN Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution is focusing to develop legally binding agreement, finalised in 2024, to address the full life cycle of plastics – including their production, design and disposal.

Involving 175 nations, the treaty aims to transform plastic waste management, paving the way for new technologies and industries. The problem of plastic pollution is too big for any one nation to handle. That's why we need a global approach. It's worked before with the ozone layer and acid rain and it can work again with plastic. How we repaired the ozone layer

Multilateral agreements have helped create significant change in the past. The Montreal Protocol shaped environmental and industrial landscapes globally. Enacted in 1987, the proto-

col's objective was to phase out substances causing ozone depletion.

The protocol is widely recognised for its global ratification – everyone got on board. And countries continued to adhere to the changes. This ongoing work has not only contributed to the tangible recovery of the ozone layer, but also prevented millions of potential cases of skin cancers and cataracts.

The protocol also sparked chemical industry innovation. Industries had to transition away from ozone-depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs to more environmentally friendly alternatives.

The earliest replacements – hydrofluorocarbons or HFCs – were quickly recognised as a potent greenhouse gas, resulting in the 2016 Kigali Amendment to the protocol to phase them out too



Involving 175 nations, the global treaty aims to transform plastic waste management, paving the way for new technologies and industries

and use climate-friendly alternatives. Global legislation can deliver real change

Acid rain became a prominent environmental concern in the latter half of the 20th century. It happens when sulphur diox-

The global plastic treaty will address the pervasive challenge of plastic pollution, which affects our oceans, marine life and carbon footprint

ide (SO2) and nitrogen oxides are released into the atmosphere, typically from industrial processes and the burning of fossil fuels.

Once in the atmosphere, these pollutants react with water

vapour to form sulphuric acid and nitric acid. As they fall to the ground mixed with rain or snow, the high acidity harms aquatic ecosystems, forests and even human-made structures.

In response, various countries enacted clean air legislation. For instance, the United States Clean Air Act of 1963, amended several times in the following decades, motivated change in industrial and automotive sectors.

How multilateral agreements can force change Regulatory tools such as multilateral agreements introduce restrictions. Instead of doing business as usual, these restrictions foster cleaner and more sustainable practices. They blend environmental responsibility with business imperatives. As a result, the regulatory changes open up new market opportunities.

Additionally, global collabo-

rations driven by these agreements often encourage the transfer of technologies across borders. This speeds up the adoption of cleaner technologies.

Now for the UN plastic treaty will address the pervasive challenge of plastic pollution, which affects our oceans, marine life and carbon footprint. It is expected to usher in transformative regulations on waste management, reduce the use of single-use plastics and advocate for the circular economy principles of eliminating waste and keeping materials circulating in use.

To reduce single-use plastics, the packaging industry is transitioning towards reduction, reuse and recyclability. Advanced recycling technologies and better bio-derived plastics are expected to emerge as industry standards.

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Officials take farmers for a ride

Demand for cut money against loans sanctioned rampant in parts of Jajpur district



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 13: Severe irregularities have been alleged in sanction of loans to farmers by the primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) affiliated to Cuttack Central Cooperative Bank (CCCB) under Dasarathpur block in Jajpur district, sources said Monday. They alleged that officials of the cooperative societies and the bank are working hand-in-glove to create problems for the farmers. It has been reported that they are allegedly demanding 10% of the amounts sanctioned as loans.

The role played by 13 primary agricultural cooperative societies under Dasarathpur block affiliated to CCCB is a case in point. The PACS at Akarpada, Taliha, Katikata, Kuanpur, Nandipur, Dasarathpur, Chhatrapada, Chasakhanda, Ahiyas, Palatpur, Mangalpur, Mohampur and Kamardihi are affiliated to the CCCB branch at Dasarathpur.

Over 30,000 farmers are registered members of these PACS. A loan amount target of ₹80 crore for disbursement was fixed for the FY 2023-24 kharif crop season.

According to details available, loans over ₹82.72 crore have been disbursed to 13,245 farmers by September 30. Moreover, 77 newly-registered farmers have been given loans of ₹23.79 lakh. Also ₹7.11 crore has been sanctioned for 1,434 farmers for the ensuing rabi season.

Sources informed that the PACS are allegedly deducting 10 per cent from the loan amount sanctioned to each farmer under the pretext of subscription to meet the expenses borne by the bank and cooperative societies. A farmer alleged that the PACS are deducting ₹2,000 for a loan of ₹20,000. The stark reality is that farmers are unaware about the loan amount sanctioned. This is because the pass books and cheque books are being held back by PACS employees and not being given to the farmers.

Sources pointed out loans of over ₹90 crore has been sanctioned to the farmers. If one takes into account that alleged 10 per cent that is being deducted an amount of ₹9 crore has allegedly been embezzled by PACS officials.

Sources said that the Odisha government has launched various schemes for benefit of the farmers. However, farmers have failed to reap the benefits of many of the schemes due to the unholy nexus between bank officials and elected office-bearers of PACS.

The Odisha government has launched facilities like interest-free loans from cooperative societies or banks for farmers, providing financial aid and transferring amounts straight to the bank accounts of farmers under the state-sponsored KALIA and BALIA schemes. It is also providing various schemes through which farmers can buy agricultural equipment at subsidised rates. However, due to some corrupt officials, farmers are suffering, sources pointed out.

When contacted, Prasant Kumar Mallick, branch manager of CCCB's Dasarathpur branch said he will conduct a probe into the allegations. Moreover, farmers will be sensitized to directly take loans from the bank, he added.



VYING FOR SUPREMACY: Footballers of Odisha (in red) and Meghalaya fight for the ball during their match of the 28th Senior Women's National Football Championships played Monday at the Sundargarh stadium. Odisha won the match 3-1. OP PHOTO

Kamakhyanager trader murder: 2 more held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyanager, Nov 13: Police arrested late Sunday night, two contract killers allegedly involved in the murder of a trader in minerals, Nirakar Sahu, officials said here Monday. The two have been identified as Radhe alias Rakesh Nath and his asso-

ciate Rupa alias Deba Braja from Badampahad of Mayurbhanj district. Nirakar was allegedly shot dead here, September 27.

Dhenkanal SP Gyanaranjan Mohapatra informed that a squad comprising of district police personnel and members of the special task force (STF) raided a place in Badampahad locality

leading to the arrest of the two accused. "Others involved in the crime will be nabbed soon," the SP said at a press conference here.

The prime accused in the case, Dibyadarshan Mohanta had been arrested October 26. It has been alleged that Dibyadarshan had hired the contract killers to eliminate Nirakar as the latter was

involved in the murder of Dibyadarshan's dad.

Initially the murder of Nirakar had left the police in the lurch as there were no leads. However, police continued the investigations studiously and unearthed the plot. Police had recovered Nirakar's body from the Malabandha canal here.

Girl student found dead in hostel, kin alleges murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jatni, Nov 13: A girl student of a private engineering college at Taraboi locality here was found dead under mysterious circumstances Monday. The deceased identified as Sara Sampurna Mohanty, daughter of Sandip Mohanty of Kakatpur locality in Puri district, was reportedly found hanging in her hostel room. It has been suspected that Sara died by suicide. However, her family has alleged foul play.

College officials said that Sara was found hanging in her hostel room. She was rushed to the district headquarters hospital where doctors pronounced her dead on arrival.

However, the victim's father Sandip rubbished the suicide claims. "We had spoken to Sara yesterday (Sunday) and even talked over a video call today (Monday). She was normal. We think she was murdered as there were injury marks on her neck and legs," Sandip said.

2 dead in bike accident

Atabira: In a tragic incident two persons on a motorcycle were crushed to death by a coal-laden trailer truck on NH-53 at Debahal under this police limits in Bargarh district late Sunday night. The deceased were identified as Kamalesh Sahoo (24) of Dandeipali locality under Sambalpur Sadar police limits and Suman Debnath (34) of Siddheshwar Berna area under Dhanupali police limits in Sambalpur district. Both the deceased were working in a private insurance company. They had gone to Bargarh to distribute gifts to the other agents of the insurance company on the occasion of Diwali. The mishap took place while the duo was returning home.

Trailer mows down 1 in Biramitrapur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 13: An irate mob interrupted vehicular movement and staged a roadblock on NH-149, near Biramitrapur Sunday night as one person was run over by a tractor-trailer and died on the spot.

The deceased has been identified as Budhu Jaipuria (36). He was a contractual staff of Biramitrapur Municipality. Police said Monday, that they are trying to nab the driver who fled the

spot after the accident.

Police said Jaipuria was walking to the local market to buy household items when the accident occurred. As the roads were empty, the driver of the speeding trailer lost control of the vehicle and mowed down Jaipuria who died on the spot.

Locals then got into the act demanding punishment of the driver and compensation for the family of the deceased. Despite traffic being sparse due to Diwali cele-

brations, more than 100 trucks got stranded on both sides of the highway due to the protests, a witness to the entire incident, said.

Locals said the road blockade continued for more than four hours and went on till around 10.00pm in the night. However, Biramitrapur IIC Ashish Kumar Jena contradicted the news. "The road blockade lasted for just an hour. We persuaded the crowd to end the protests and have also told them we are on the lookout for

the absconding driver," Jena said.

The NH-149 passes through the border town of Biramitrapur. However, portions of the highway are in precarious condition. Locals said Monday that accidents occur regularly due to the pitiable condition of the road. They added that despite repeated complaints to the concerned authorities nothing has been done to repair the damaged portions of the highway. Accidents are due to the road condition they asserted.

Rourkela to get state's 1st velodrome



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 13: Rourkela will be getting the first velodrome in Odisha, Minister for Labour and ES, Sarada Nayak stated here recently. The construction of the velodrome is in the final stages of approval, Nayak had said. The minister gave the information while attending the 26th Vedvyas Sangeet Nrutotsav-2023 in this city. He said that the construction of the velodrome is being looked into personally by chairman 5T and Nabin Odisha, VK Pandian.

"The need for a velodrome here was conveyed to the 5T chairman because there is huge pool of cycling talents available in Sundargarh district. After hearing to each and every point in detail, he has agreed for the construc-

tion of a velodrome here," Nayak said. "If everything goes according to plan we will soon have an official announcement on this matter. Rourkela is very close to CM Naveen Patnaik's heart. We have got a world class hockey stadium and now we will also have a velodrome," Nayak added.

A velodrome is a cycling track with steeply banked curves. It is built in such a manner that it can host all types of cycle races.

Meanwhile, former international cyclist Sushil Das, who now is busy in producing some of the best talents in the country, expressed his happiness at the development. "If a velodrome is built, we will have many champions from Odisha itself," Das stated.

Sundargarh district in the last couple of years have produced very good cyclists who have got both national and international recognition. Among them are Swati Singh, Rohit Kumar Hembram, Dinesh Kumar, Varsa Rani Barik and Soumik Pahi. Amongst the present crop, Swati, Rohit and Varsa have been trained by Das.

Due to the absence of a proper training facility, most of the cyclists train at the ring road in this city. Cycling became a popular sport in the district when Chandrasekhar Jena gained national fame in the 1960s. After that he trained a number of other cyclists who also earned national acclaim. Cycling got a major boost when Minati Mohapatra was honoured with the Arjuna.

Ray letter sets rumour mills rolling

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 13: Speculation is rife over former lawmaker Dilip Ray's letter to Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia seeking development for the airport here.

Ray's latest letter on public issues has the rumour mills rolling. The last time he wrote a letter on public issues was in 2014 after which he contested the Assembly elections in the state and won on a BJP ticket. Hence people are contemplating as to whether the former Union Minister will again return to politics.

Ray, who owns a hotel chain, had the latest branch opening November 7 in Jharsuguda. All the eminent politicians cutting across party lines attended the function. The programme which went on for three days attracted a lot of attention. The main topic of discussion since then has been whether Ray is contemplating a return to politics.



Ray had defeated BJD heavyweight Sarada Nayak when he last contested the Assembly elections in 2014. However, this time the BJD workers here are not worried in case Ray decides to contest on a BJP ticket. They asserted that this time the BJD is ready for Ray and he will be in for a huge shock if he contests again.

However, the matter does not end there. There is also speculation that he may return to the BJD and contest from the Kendrapara Lok Sabha seat. Political analysts are not ruling out such a development. "It is highly unlikely that he will contest the Assembly elections in the state. The Kendrapara Lok Sabha constituency looks suitable for him given his stature in national-level politics," said an analyst who has followed Ray's career closely. However, all this is pure conjecture at the moment as Ray always keeps cards close to his chest and never reveals his plans, sources added.

In his letter to the Aviation Minister, Ray has sought the installations of the instrument landing system (ILS), the very high-frequency omnidirectional range (VOR) and elevating Rourkela airport's status from 2-C to 3-C. He has pointed out that 'in the absence of the ILS and VOR system', modern aircraft find it very difficult to land at the airport.

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors/Legal Heirs to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Legal Heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Legal Heirs in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Legal Heirs	Description of the Immovable Property	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
RENGALI BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) Bharat Chandra Mishra Since deceased represented through his Legal Heir Mr. Nimisha Mishra (son), 2) Mrs. Sanjukta Panda, W/o: Late Bharat Chandra Mishra & 3) Mr. Shiba Prasad Mishra, S/o: Late Dasrath Mishra since deceased represented through his legal heirs a) Mrs. Pramodini Mishra (Wife), b) Bharat Chandra Mishra (Son) since deceased represented through his legal heirs, c) Mr. Nimisha Mishra, S/o: Late Bharat Chandra Mishra, d) Mrs. Sanjukta Panda, W/o: Late Bharat Chandra Mishra, All are residents of Puruna Basti, At/P.O: Rengali, P.S.: Katarbaga, Dist.: Sambalpur / Guarantor: Mr. Narendra Prasad Mishra, S/o: Late Brusabhanu Mishra, At: Laripali, P.O: Rengali, P.S.: Katarbaga, Dist.: Sambalpur	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Rengali, Tahasil: Rengali, P.S.: Katarbaga, Dist.: Sambalpur, Khata No.: 174, Plot No.: 2457, Area: Ac. 0.030 Dec., in the name Mr. Shiba Prasad Mishra, S/o: Late Dasrath Mishra, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2458, South: Plot No.: 2367, East: Plot No.: 2341, West: Plot No.: 1896	15.11.2017 / 09.11.2023	₹22,94,066/- as on 31.10.2023 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Place: Sambalpur, Date : 13.11.2023
Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

SURYO FOODS & INDUSTRIES LIMITED
CIN: L05004OR1989PLC002264

Extract Of Financial Results For The Quarter Ended On Sep. 30, 2023

Key numbers of Financial Results (Rs. in Thousands)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Half Year Ended		Year Ended 31.03.2023 Audited
		30.09.2023 (Un-Audited)	30.06.2023 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2022 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2023 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2022 (Un-Audited)	
1	Total Revenue from Operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Net Profit / (Loss) (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1,632	9,371	122	11,003	(2,401)	(1,614)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1,632	9,371	122	11,003	(2,401)	(1,614)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1,632	9,371	122	11,003	(2,401)	(1,604)
5	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit / (Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax]	1,632	9,371	122	11,003	(2,401)	(1,604)
6	Equity Share Capital	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600	39,600
7	Earnings per share (of Rs. 10/- Basic & Diluted (Rs.))	0.41	2.37	0.03	2.78	(0.61)	(0.41)

Notes:
a) The above financial results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended Sept. 30, 2023 have been audited and recommended by the audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company in their respective meetings held on 13th November, 2023. These results are being published in accordance with Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on Sept. 30, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Statement of Audited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended on 30th Sept. 2023 are available on the website of the Stock Exchanges - www.bseindia.com as well as on the website of the Company - www.suryofoods.com.

By order of the Board
For Suryo Foods & Industries Limited
Sd./-
Amarendra Dash
(Chairman Cum Managing Director)
DIN - 00583036

Date : 13th November, 2023
Place: Bhubaneswar

Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.

THE MOTHER



Farming & Fossil Fuel

The miseries afflicting Delhi due to smog caused by, among other factors, stubble burning are no isolated development. One of our era's great and unpalatable truths is that global food production and the climate emergency are integrally connected. Drought, flood and other extreme weather events are threatening farming across the globe. Yet, the irony is greenhouse gas emission from agriculture is also a major contributing factor for global heating. This is going to be one of the top items in the agenda of the COP28 to be held in Dubai later this month.

A third of the world's food production is in danger due to the climate crisis, but at the same time our food production systems are one of the key contributors to climate breakdown. Researchers have come out with startling revelations about greenhouse gas emissions from farming and the accompanying land use change that happens too often. For example, clearing forests and drying out wetlands to make room for crops and livestock have led to more than a fifth of global carbon output, according to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Unfortunately, however, discussions of the world's food systems, their vulnerability and their impacts take place only in the sidelines of the annual UN climate change negotiations and given minimal attention.

This year may hold out some promise in this regard. For the first time there will be a dedicated Food Day and agriculture, water and food will be the focus of at least 22 major events during the fortnight of COP28 talks from 30 November to 13 December, presided over by the United Arab Emirates. There will also be a dedicated Food4Climate pavilion in ExpoCity where the talks will be held.

For the first time, too, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) will outline how food systems must change for the world so as to stay within the globally agreed goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels. As experts have been warning the governments if the limit is exceeded the impact of the climate crisis on food systems will become catastrophic.

This research stresses that animal farming, for meat and dairy, must be held in check all over the world if targets to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050 are to be met. COPs have, by and large, acknowledged recognising farming both as a major contributor to global climate change and a potential solution to climate change.

Experts are drawing the attention of policymakers across the world to the fact that for many wealthy countries significant reductions in meat and dairy consumption should be part of the commitments of the nations to address the climate crisis. At the same time for poorer nations, where rates of per capita meat and dairy consumption are often very low, the main policy is geared towards ensuring food security, nutrition, adaptation and resilience. The COP28 needs to address this dichotomy in its proposed declaration.

It is interesting to note that Sultan Al Jaber, who wears three hats as the UAE's minister for advanced technology, the chief executive of its national oil company, Adnoc, and the COP president designate, takes a keen interest in food issues. He has told the media it is not enough to focus on the emissions from fossil fuels, but emissions from all sectors, including agriculture and land use change must be taken into account. He uses statistics to build his case that too much emphasis is being laid on controlling use of fossil fuel. It is true that 30 per cent of carbon emission comes from industry and another 30 per cent from agriculture.

Food experts, however, warn the world against the pernicious effect of Western diets and their impact, in terms of methane from livestock production for food and dairy and the waste and careless over-use of resources involved.

It is hoped the deliberations later this month in Dubai will seriously take up the issue of the potential threat to the climate by farming.

FREE FOOD & POLL PROMISES

FOCUS NATION

Earlier this month, at an election rally, the Prime Minister made an important announcement. That the free food scheme, known as the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) would be extended by five years. This scheme in its current form would have ended by December 2023 as per the last Cabinet decision. The PM's announcement, surely to be endorsed by a Cabinet decision will now extend it beyond December by five years. The scheme provides five kilos of free ration per person per month to 81.4 crore of India's population. PMGKAY was born during the pandemic to provide emergency relief to distressed families facing food insecurity. It was dovetailed to the pre-existing Food Security law (the National Food Security Act) passed in 2013, which provided highly subsidised foodgrain to eligible households, covering two-third of rural India and one-half of urban India.



Ajit Ranade

IT IS THE FREE FOODGRAIN WHICH HAS GIVEN A LARGE NUMBER OF FAMILIES PROTECTION FROM HIGH FOOD INFLATION

The NFSA was passed in Parliament after more than a decade-long campaign of food security activists, who were alarmed at mounting stocks of grain in government granaries (thanks to monopoly procurement) coexisting with starvation and hunger. During COVID the government doubled the entitlement under NFSA and made the doubled allocation completely free. So instead of being "highly subsidised" (i.e. rice wheat and coarse cereal at rupees 3, 2 and 1 per kilo respectively), the grain became completely free to the beneficiaries. To that extent the incremental fiscal burden to the government was less, since grain was anyway being highly subsidised. It is the free foodgrain which has given a large number of families protection from high food inflation. If instead a fixed rupee amount was given as direct benefit transfer, then the rising cost of food grain would make them increasingly unaffordable.

After extending PMGKAY (which is the name of NFSA



Using a multi-dimensional approach, the Niti Aayog estimates that poverty has fallen below 15%. Why then are 58% of Indians getting free food?

plus equal allocation necessitated by COVID), several times in four phases, the government decided to discontinue the additional component (which had doubled the entitlement), and now gives only the component guaranteed by the NFSA law. But instead of pricing it at rupees 3, 2 or 1, it has become completely free. And the NFSA has been renamed (perhaps unofficially) as PMGKAY. And because of the PM's announcement during an election rally, it has acquired the image of being an electoral promise to be fulfilled. But if the cabinet was anyway going to extend the "free" scheme by five years, why not wait till the model code of conduct was over? Otherwise, it appears to give the ruling party an undue advantage in claiming credit for such a scheme which would have been passed by the cabinet soon enough.

There are several related issues which need to be discussed and addressed. Firstly, the decision commits at least 11 trillion rupees of future revenues of the country. Is this fiscally sustainable? Instead of free, can the prices of grain not be tweaked bit higher? Even the NFSA envisaged revision of prices upward. During 2015 to 2022 average food price index has gone up by 45%, and the individual spike in wheat prices might be higher. The government will have to manage

annual procurements of close to 100 million tonnes to meet various commitments. Such a huge monopolistic intervention on the buy side of the grain market is highly distortionary. Not to speak of the burden of storage and distribution. And the burden of the Minimum Support Price for wheat and rice will keep rising. Can procurement be decentralised and passed on to the states? Can some of the schemes be replaced by direct transfer of cash?

The second issue is about hunger and malnutrition. Indian authorities bristle at the poor rank India gets in the annual Global Hunger Index ranking. They complain that the index gives undue weight to children wasting and stunting and that India has a malnutrition problem, not a hunger problem. Leaving aside the semantics, then surely the policy should focus on not grain alone, but micronutrients, balanced intake of proteins in the form of milk, eggs or meat and strengthening the mid-day meals programme. The Niti Aayog estimates using a multi-dimensional approach, that poverty has fallen below 15%. Why then are 58% of Indians getting free food? Or even if their food security needs have to be addressed, would this be better served by direct benefit transfers?

The third issue is whether we need to go back to a targeted

approach as far as food and nutrition security is concerned. The NFSA is implemented through the Public Distribution System of ration shops and has become universal. In fact, in the first version the NFSA was meant to be implemented only in the 100 most backward districts. It was extended to the whole country as an electoral gimmick. The original PDS in place from the 1960's was sought to be reformed by replacing it with the Targeted PDS in the mid 1990's. But that needs the hard political decisions of favouring some (backward) regions of the country, using the resources of the Union government. Since backwardness is more predominant in the northern states and the Hindi belt, such a targeted approach raises the thorny issues of inter-state fairness, and how to navigate federalism in a cooperative and fair manner. But some sort of reform to the universal NFSA is needed.

The fourth issue is whether it is time for a comprehensive overhaul of the food security system. The monopoly procurement system aims to meet three objectives: adequate price paid to the farmer (through MSP revised upward from time to time), food security to poor households (through their ration entitlement) and food price stability (through periodic bulk sales into the market to put downward pressure on prices). One instrument, but three objectives. It leads to multiple distortions. Such as intensive chemical farming in Punjab, indirectly linked to stubble burning. High storage costs and consequent leakages. Tendency of round tripping, where traders have the incentive to buy cheap and re-sell to the government at high procurement prices. In the decades since 1990's with technology and greater intrusive vigilance, some problems have been solved. But it remains an unwieldy monster which needs a rehaul.

The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

WISDOM CORNER

- I am convinced that knowledge is power - to overcome the past, to change our own situations, to fight new obstacles, to make better decisions. BEN CARSON
- Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway. EARL NIGHTINGALE
- Be strong, but not rude; Be kind, but not weak; Be bold, but not bully; Be humble, but not timid; Be proud, but not arrogant. ZIG ZIGLAR

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1851: Moby Dick makes its debut in the United States. The epic novel by Herman Melville about Captain Ahab's quest to find and kill Moby Dick, a white whale had released in the UK in October under the name The Whale. Considered to be one of the best fictional works written in recent history, the book did not sell many copies after its launch or during Melville's lifetime.
- 1960: Six-year-old Ruby Bridges began attending William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, becoming the youngest of a group of African American students to integrate schools in the American South.
- 1969: Apollo 12 launched. The crew of the NASA's second manned mission to the Moon included Commander Charles Conrad, Jr. Richard F. Gordon, Jr. and Alan L. Bean. It landed on the Moon on November 19 and was the first spacecraft to take a color TV camera to the Moon.
- 1971: First spacecraft to orbit a planet. NASA's Mariner 9 entered Mars' orbit after 167 days in space. Despite it being in Mars' orbit within 15 minutes, a dust storm on the planet made it impossible for Mariner 9 to take pictures of Mars until January.

SPECTRUM HEALTHCARE

To prevent pandemics, follow science



Marisa Peyre & Justin Vaisse

TRUST IN SCIENCE AND EXPERTISE HAS BEEN AND REMAINS VITAL FOR IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE CONTROL MEASURES

Science is crucial to improving pandemic preparedness and prevention. It not only deepens our understanding of pathogen transmission and containment but also provides us with the flexibility required to adapt to changing circumstances. Relying on scientific evidence enables us to contain risks at the local level, minimise the delay between early warning and action, ensure the effectiveness and reliability of control measures, and expedite the development and deployment of safe treatments, thereby safeguarding public health.

COVID-19 underscored the critical role of science-based policies in addressing global health crises. It taught us the importance of establishing robust early warning systems, basing decisions on data, and fostering multidisciplinary collaboration. It has also highlighted the need for flexible strategies, equitable health care, widespread vaccination access, and mental health support.

Trust in science and expertise has been and remains vital for implementing effective control measures. Policymakers must heed the lessons of COVID and

focus on building resilience and fostering international cooperation in preparation for future pandemics while maintaining public confidence in science and experts through clear communication. Recognising social, economic, and geopolitical contexts has proven to be just as essential to the management of public-health crises as understanding biological factors. Therefore, adopting a holistic approach that aligns with the One Health approach is critical to devising preventive policies.

Effective prevention, preparedness, and response require continuous collaboration and coordination among scientists, policymakers, health-care professionals, and the general public. To mitigate the impact of pandemics, we must remain committed to science-based decision-making, regularly reviewing and adapting our strategies. This requires a multi-faceted approach that bridges the gap between science and policy and engages all relevant stakeholders. We must ensure that scientific research and data are transparent and accessible to policymakers.

To implement such a strategy,

policymakers should focus on seven key priorities. First, they must promote an evidence-based culture that roots decisions in scientific research and data, and encourages policymakers to consult scientific experts and consider their recommendations.

Second, participatory approaches are crucial for garnering and sustaining public support for science-based policies. By creating platforms and promoting methodologies that encourage open dialogue, scientists can build bridges between policymakers, civil society, and the broader scientific community.

Third, it is essential to organise regular briefings and meetings where scientists can update policymakers on the latest research findings and emerging threats. These briefings should be concise and focus on actionable insights. Fourth, experts should focus on improving scientific literacy among policymakers. This could be facilitated through training programmes, workshops, and educational materials designed to simplify complex concepts.

Fifth, scientific modeling and scenario planning can help policymakers understand the po-

tential implications of different decisions. These models could provide a basis for formulating effective strategies and optimizing resource allocation.

Sixth, it is crucial to conduct regular risk assessments based on scientific evidence to identify potential pandemic threats. These assessments should consider biological, social, economic, and geopolitical factors.

Lastly, policymakers must recognise the complexity of today's emerging threats. With public-health risks becoming increasingly intertwined with climate, environmental, and social crises, the multidisciplinary and multisectoral One Health approach holds the key to tackling interconnected emergencies.

Incorporating science-based solutions into decision-making is an ongoing process that requires collaboration, trust, and a steadfast commitment to using the best available evidence to shape policies and actions.

Marisa Peyre is Co-founder of PREZODE. Justin Vaisse is Founder of the Paris Peace Forum. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

LOL



SETTLING A CASE

A big-city lawyer was representing the railroad in a lawsuit filed by an old rancher. The rancher's prize bull was missing from the section through which the railroad passed. The rancher only wanted to be paid the fair value of the bull. The case was scheduled to be tried before the justice of the peace in the back room of the general store. The attorney for the railroad immediately cornered the rancher and tried to get him to settle out of court. The lawyer did his best selling job, and finally the rancher agreed to take half of what he was asking.

After the rancher had signed the release and took the check, the young lawyer couldn't resist gloating a little over his success, telling the rancher, "You know, I hate to tell you this, old man, but I put one over on you in there. I couldn't have won the case. The engineer was asleep and the fireman was in the caboose when the train went through your ranch that morning. I didn't have one witness to put on the stand. I bluffed you!" The old rancher replied, "Well, I'll tell you, young feller, I was a little worried about winning that case myself, because that durned bull came home this morning."

Unveiling challenges

Sir, Diabetes, often termed the "silent killer," presents a major global health concern, particularly pronounced in India, the world's diabetes capital with around 10.1 crore affected individuals as per the June 2023 ICMR-INDIAB study. The concerning surge in Type 2 diabetes cases among young adults aged 20-40 in India over the last decade is fueled by lifestyle changes, genetic factors, urbanisation, and sedentary behaviours. This uptick raises substantial long-term health challenges, notably for the cardiovascular system and kidneys. World Diabetes Day, commemorated on November 14, serves as a vital awareness platform, this year focusing on the theme "Access to Diabetes Care." This emphasises the significance of comprehending risk factors for Type 2 diabetes to enable early intervention and prevention. The blue circle, recognised globally as a symbol of diabetes awareness, signifies unity in addressing the pandemic. The historical significance of November 14, marking the birthday of Dr. Frederick G. Banting, the co-discoverer of insulin in 1921, adds a poignant note to this global initiative. Advances in diabetes research have yielded transformative technologies and medicines, underscoring the perpetual need for awareness, preventive measures, and accessible care in the ongoing global battle against diabetes. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Trapped labourers

Sir, Our thoughts and prayers are with the forty labourers trapped in an under-construction tunnel in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district. The state disaster relief force inserted an oxygen pipe into the collapsed tunnel to help those trapped breathe smoothly. About 160 rescuers are trying to reach the trapped labourers with the help of drilling equipment and excavators. We hope that the operation will be successful with no fatalities. NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Help fishermen

Sir, This refers to "80 Indian fishermen released by Pak handed over to BSF at Wagah border," (Orissa Post, November 12). It is no doubt a good gesture of the Pakistan government to release the hapless fishermen. But the question arises why it took so much time to release the fishermen who had to languish in Pakistan jails unnecessarily? The Indian government must ensure that fishermen with the help of new technology can ascertain their precise location. Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Telangana turning out to be BJP's OBC laboratory

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 13: To take on the Opposition's poll strategy of demanding OBC-based caste census and reservation for the community, the BJP's strategy is to make Telangana its OBC politics laboratory which if successful will be implemented in other states.

OBCs and Dalits collectively constitute 68 per cent (51 per cent and 17 per cent respectively) of Telangana's total population and the BJP is trying to woo both of them. To counter Opposition's caste census demand, the BJP is planning to conduct OBC survey in the entire country. Too woo OBCs, the BJP is making a spree of announcements and trying to prove that Congress and BRS are anti-OBC.

October 27, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing a rally in Suryapet, had announced that if BJP is voted to power in the state Assembly polls, then the chief minister will be made from the OBC community.



Attacking the Congress, the BJP said that the grand-old party, which has been raking up population based rights issue, gave tickets to only 23 people from the community of the total 114 candidates announced for the state assembly polls.

Attacking the Congress, the BJP said by giving only 20 per cent representation to OBCs which constitute 51 per cent of the state population, the grand-old party has 'cheated' them.

After facing defeat in the Karnataka assembly polls, the BJP wants to win the Telangana assembly polls at all costs and that's the reason it has started to woo the electorate based on their

castes. The BJP is of the view that winning the Telangana assembly polls can give an impetus to its 'mission South' benefitting the party in states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

By wooing Dalits and OBCs, the BJP is trying to create a solid support base for it in the state.

Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing a rally in Secunderabad, organised by Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS), tried to woo Madigas who constitute 60 per cent of the Dalit population of the state. He said that the Centre would soon form a committee which would address their three-decade long pending demand of categorisation of Scheduled Castes.

When the Prime Minister said that he supports the samiti and its aims, Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi leader Manda Krishna Madiga burst into tears.

A video in which the Prime Minister is consoling Manda Krishna Madiga also went viral Saturday.

Female voters outnumber males in Telangana

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE NUMBER OF FEMALE VOTERS HAS EXCEEDED MALE VOTERS IN THE STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 13: Female voters have surpassed male electors in Telangana, where Assembly elections are scheduled to be held November 30.

The electoral gender ratio, which was 998 last month and 992 January 5 this year, has now improved to 1000.2.

As per the electoral roll finalised by the Chief Electoral Officer, the state has 3,26,18,205 voters, comprising 1,62,98,418 males and 1,63,01,705 females.

This is the first time that the number of female voters has exceeded male voters in the state. A total of 2,676 voters belong to the third gender.

To make the elections inclusive, the Election Commission focussed on third gender by conducting enrolment camps for them in all districts. Meetings were also held with association of third gender persons. The number of persons willing to identify as third gender increased from 1,952 January 5, 2023 to 2,556 October 4, 2023, and to 2,676 as on November 10, 2023.

The number of voters in the 18-19 age group is 9,99,667, which is 3.06 per cent of total electors.



This is also the highest ever number in this age group.

The gender ratio in this age group has improved from 707 to 753.

There has been a net increase of 8.75 per cent in the number of voters since January 2023. There are 4,40,371 voters who are above 80 years of age and 5,06,921 PwD (persons with disability) voters.

According to Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj, the state has 15,406 service electors and 2,944 overseas electors. He said 9.48 lakh dead, duplicate, and shifted voters were deleted in 2023. Similarly, corrections in entries were carried out for 8.94 lakh voters in 2023.

In the process of finalisation of electoral rolls for Assembly

elections, form 6 (new voter enrolment) and form 8 (shifting of electors) applications received up to October 31 and form 7 (deletion) and form 8 (correction of details) applications received up to October 8 have been disposed of.

Consequently 35.73 lakh additions, 9.48 lakh deletions, and 16.29 lakh shifting and modification were carried out in the electoral roll.

The CEO made it clear no further applications can be processed for assembly elections 2023. The distribution of voter Information slips (VIS) will commence shortly. He requested the citizens to check the details of their polling station by logging into electoralsearch.eci.gov.in or through Voter Helpline App (VHA). Meanwhile, the process of collection of Postal Ballot applications (Form 12Ds) from absentee voters like senior citizens, PwD and essential services voters was completed on November 8. So far 31,551 Form 12Ds have been received.

Highest number of applications (757) were received from Siddipet Assembly constituency and least (5) from Makthal Assembly constituency.

BRS determined to defeat rabble-rouser Raja Singh

The ruling party leaders are concerned over the impact Raja Singh's hate speeches can have on communal harmony

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Nov 13: Goshamahal was the only Assembly seat won by the BJP in 2018 and it has been in the news due to the controversies created by MLA T Raja Singh with his hate speeches.

Raja Singh has entered the fray in a bid for a third consecutive victory from this constituency in central Hyderabad.

This time the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is going all out to defeat Raja Singh as the party leaders see his anti-Muslim utterances as a 'blot' on Hyderabad and Telangana's secular image under BRS rule.

The BRS, which is looking for a third consecutive term in power, has been projecting communal harmony and peace as its main achievements during the last 10 years. It showcases Hyderabad as the best model of 'Ganga Jamuna Tehzeeb' with people belonging to various faiths living in harmony.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath interacts with the public during 'Janta Darshan' at Gorakhnath Temple, in Gorakhpur, Monday

PTI PHOTO

Too much construction, too many vehicles add to Lucknow's AQI woes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 13: A house and a car is everyone's dream, but too many houses and too many cars can also turn into a nightmare. And this is what is happening in Uttar Pradesh.

Cities in Uttar Pradesh — apart from Kanpur which was once the industrial hub of the state — have largely been known to be clean and peaceful, with pollution being at acceptable levels.

However, in the last 15 years air pollution has emerged as a major concern and the problem is intensifying by the day.

Environmentalist Professor Venkatesh Dutta said if air pollution control measures are not taken with immediate effect, then air quality will soon turn from 'poor' to 'severe.'

It has ranged in the 'poor' category in major cities of the state since the last one week and in the showcase cities of Noida and Greater Noida it has been in the 'severe' category for over a week.

A retired IAS officer, who headed the urban development department at one time, spoke to IANS on condition of anonymity. "Reckless and rapid development in cities is largely responsible for the prevailing situation where pollution is concerned. Mayawati, as chief minister, started rapid development and the others have followed suit. Wherever you go there is construction activity going on. Bungalows are being broken down and the high-rise culture has become a fad," he said.

He pointed out that during the Covid-enforced lockdown when construction activity came to a halt, the air became much cleaner.

"Take the case of Lucknow — gardens have shrunk and memorials made of stone have come up. The state capital is

growing vertically and the green cover is depleting. In outer city areas like Sitapur Road, Sultanpur Road and Rae Bareilly Road, the level of construction is so intense that temperatures in these areas are also higher than elsewhere in the city," he added.

Architect SV Agarwal, who specialises in urban planning, said, "It is ironical that, on one hand, the government is happily bulldozing buildings and, on the other, it is allowing construction. Both activities add to air pollution. It would be better if disputed buildings are used for other purposes instead of being demolished. Besides, there should be some kind of restrictions on the method of construction to prevent pollution. The use of view cutters is negligible in UP."

Private vehicles, especially cars are another major source of pollution.

According to a recent study, 52 per cent people admit that vehicles are the main source of air pollution, followed by industries (30.5 per cent) and pollutants in the air at home or in the office (1.5 per cent).

Another official admitted that the increase in vehicular traffic was a major problem since 55,000 to 70,000 new cars were being added to the roads in Lucknow.

"The roads of Lucknow, for instance, cannot cope with the increase in vehicular traffic, particularly cars, and this leads to traffic jams. People keep the engines on during a jam and at traffic signals, which increases emissions and adds to air pollution during peak hours," the official said.

He suggested limiting the number of cars in a family. "Earlier one family had one car, but today every member in a family has a car," he said.

Vehicle scrapping policy fails to take off in UP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 13: The unchecked informal vehicle scrapping industry in Uttar Pradesh is encroaching on the business of registered centres.

Many Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) in UP are grappling with low volumes of business, putting their investments at risk.

The state has liberally issued RVSF licenses without adequate research, leading to an oversaturation of scrapping centres, particularly in cities like Agra.

The Voluntary Vehicle-Fleet Modernisation Programme (V-VMP), also known as the 'Vehicle Scrapping Policy,' aims to create

an eco-friendly system for phasing out unfit and polluting vehicles.

The policy targets the voluntary scrapping of unfit commercial and passenger vehicles based on their fitness, regardless of age. Vehicles are tested by Automatic Testing Stations (ATS), and those found unfit during the fitness test are recommended for scrapping.

Unlike the National Capital Region (NCR), where older diesel and petrol vehicles were mandated for deregistration, the country lacks a policy for the retirement of private vehicles.

This lack of clarity has led to misconceptions among entrepreneurs, resulting in significant investments in RVSFs without the expected returns, and increased emissions as well.

While the Vehicle Scrapping Policy aims to promote eco-friendly practices, traditional scrapping facilities continue to contribute to air pollution.

Several UP government departments auction their unfit vehicles to roadside scrappers. These scrappers dismantle vehicles in an unscientific and unhygienic manner.

For example, approximately 1,340 unclaimed vehicles from various police stations in Agra were recently auctioned to local 'kabadis,' leading to environmental concerns.

Currently, there are approximately 1.13 lakh government vehicles in UP, with over 5,000 being police vehicles, more than 5,000 belonging to local authorities, and over 7,000 owned by Central government departments.

Minister of State for Transport (Independent Charge), Daya Shankar Singh, acknowledged the challenges faced by RVSF owners.

He mentioned plans to install Automated Testing Stations (ATS) in every district to check vehicle fitness, which would identify more vehicles exceeding their useful life for scrapping. He also expressed hope that the Central government would establish a retirement age for private vehicles in the future.



The ruling party leaders are concerned over the impact Raja Singh's hate speeches can have on communal harmony. BRS working president KT Rama Rao is confident that the party will wrest Goshamahal.

Notorious for his hate speeches, the BJP MLA had made certain derogatory comments last year about Prophet Muhammad, triggering massive protests.

The BJP had suspended Raja Singh from the party over his comments. He was arrested by the Hyderabad police but on the same day a city court had granted him bail.

Amid the continuing protests, he was again arrested and sent to jail on August 25 after the Hyderabad police commissioner invoked the Preventive Detention (PD) Act.

According to the police, Raja Singh, a rowdy sheeter of Mangalhat police station, has been habitually delivering provocative and inflammatory speeches and driving a wedge between communities, leading to public disorder.

As per the order issued by the police, a total of 101 criminal cases have been registered against him since 2004.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, Nov 13: A 63-year-old man from Agra fought a battle for more than five years and attended 45 hearings to get a sum of Rs 440 from the Railways.

He finally won the battle when the Agra District Consumer Forum court ruled in his favour, ordering the Railways to hand over the amount along with a 7 per cent annual interest.

The court said that if the payment was delayed beyond 45 days, the interest would increase to 9 per cent.

Railway officials were further asked to pay an extra Rs 8,000 for causing financial and mental distress, alongside the legal fees, to the complainant.

This saga began back in 2017, when Munnalal Agarwal bought a 2nd AC ticket through 'Tatkal' quota to travel from Banda junction to Agra Cantt station in the Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express for Rs 1,570.

However, when the train arrived, it had no 2nd AC coach attached to it.

"I sprinted across the platform, and jumped into any coach I could," he said.

Once the train started moving, instead of the comfort he paid for, the TTE allotted him a seat in the 3rd AC coach, an option cheaper by Rs 440.

"It was a chaotic scene," Munnalal recounted.

"In the 3rd AC coach, I discovered that the seat I was as-



signed to someone else had already occupied," he said.

He voiced his objections, but the TTE shrugged them off.

The ordeal worsened his health, he said.

Despite Munnalal's efforts, the extra money he shelled out was never returned.

After not getting any response to complaints filed online and through letters, Munnalal issued a legal notice to the North Central Railways November 28, 2017.

He got a response after five months April 10, 2018, with the railways not recognising the grievance as genuine.

After fruitless attempts through complaints and legal notices, Munnalal decided to take the Railways to the Agra District Consumer Forum in September 2018.

The Railways tried to dodge the case, saying the complaint should

be handled by a railway claims tribunal, but Munnalal and his team cited Supreme Court precedents to prove their point.

Munnalal, a former retailer of sweets and biscuits, saw this as a fight for every passenger who had to bear a similar plight.

"Several other passengers who had booked the ticket for the 2nd AC coach had to suffer. Following my troublesome experience, I decided to fix accountability with the Railways. This was always about a fight for consumer rights. Not acting against wrongdoing paves the way for corruption and injustice on a larger scale. It was a long, tiring legal battle, and I am delighted to have achieved my purpose," he added.



'Nihang' Sikhs display their horse riding skills during the religious procession of 'Fateh Divas' or 'Victory Day' celebration, a day after Diwali in Amritsar



INS Sumedha during Indian Navy's mission-based deployment to West Africa and Atlantic makes a port call at Walvis Bay, Namibia



Palestinians line up for food during the ongoing Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Rafah



Firefighters attempt to douse a blaze that broke out in boats at Gangolli Port in Udupi district, Karnataka



Ethnic Inntha women demonstrate their leg-rowing techniques during a ceremony to mark Inntha National Day Monday in Inle Lake, southern Shan State, Myanmar



Farmers wash radishes in a pond after harvesting at a village on the outskirts of Jammu



Sri Krishna, claimed to be as India's tallest bull, being brought for its participation in the Sadar Utsav, a festival of bulls, in Hyderabad



Tribals raise slogans during a protest in front of the State Secretariat demanding title deeds and clear demarcation of land in the possession of 'adivasis', in Thiruvananthapuram

national

of the day quote

The accused in the Kanhaiya Lal murder case are BJP people. They had been caught by police two-three days before the incident over some altercation and the BJP leaders had got them out from police detention

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

The Congress had formed government in MP (after the 2018 polls) and the moment it started working for farmers by waiving loans of 27 lakh cultivators, the BJP, in collusion with big industrialists, stole your government of farmers, labourers and small shop owners and came back to power

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Don't spend money. If the BJP government is formed in Madhya Pradesh, it will gradually arrange for darshan of Lord Ram in Ayodhya for people of the state one-by-one

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Centre notifies new criteria

New Delhi: The Centre has notified new norms for the appointment of directors of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), making it mandatory for applicants to have first class degrees in both Bachelor's and Master's, along with a PhD or equivalent from a reputed institute. Also, the President will now be a "Visitor" to the prestigious B-schools with powers to appoint chairperson of the board of governors, appointment and removal of directors and dissolving the board for not performing duties or complying with visitor's directions.

Woman gangraped

Agra: A woman working in a homestay here has allegedly been gangraped and five persons, including a woman, have been arrested for it, police said Sunday. The victim, who is around 25 years of age, said that an objectionable video of her was made earlier and she was blackmailed over it, they said. The woman was also forced to drink alcohol and a glass bottle was broken on her head, they said. Police said a purported video of the woman crying for help has also surfaced.

CBI arrests Delhi Police SI

New Delhi: The CBI arrested a Delhi Police sub-inspector Monday for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 4.5 lakh from an employee of Pearls Group founder Nirmal Singh Bhangoo, an accused in a Rs 45,000-crore Ponzi scam, for not implicating his daughter and son-in-law, a spokesperson said.

DELHI CRACKERS BAN GOES UP IN SMOKE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Squandering the relief due to rain, Delhi recorded a jump in pollution levels and a smoky haze returned Monday morning after people flouted the ban on firecrackers on Diwali night.

According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air quality monitoring, Delhi was the most polluted city in the world on Monday, followed by Lahore and Karachi in Pakistan. Mumbai and Kolkata ranked fifth and sixth among the most polluted cities in the world.

Delhi recorded its best air quality on Diwali day in eight years on Sunday, with its 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 218 at 4 pm. However, bursting of firecrackers till late Sunday night led to a spike in pollution levels amid low temperatures.

The AQI stood at 275 at 7 am on Monday and gradually rose to 358 by 4 pm. An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'.

"It's evident that the spike in pollution levels post Diwali is due to two factors - firecracker bursting and farm fires - with fireworks being the predominant reason in this case," an official of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), a statutory body responsible for formulation of strategies to reduce pollution in Delhi-NCR, said.

In the 24 hours ending at 4 pm Monday, the AQI rose from 186 to 349 in Ghaziabad, from 193 to 349 in Gurugram, from 189 to 363 in Noida, from 165 to 342 in Greater Noida, and from 172 to 370 in Faridabad with intense firecracker bursting being reported in these places



HAZE RETURNS

According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, cities across India saw a rapid rise in air pollution levels the day after Diwali

In the 24 hours ending at 4 pm Monday, the AQI rose from 186 to 349 in Ghaziabad, from 193 to 349 in Gurugram, from 189 to 363 in Noida, from 165 to 342 in Greater Noida, and from 172 to 370 in Faridabad with intense firecracker bursting being reported in these places

363 in Noida, from 165 to 342 in Greater Noida, and from 172 to 370 in Faridabad with intense firecracker bursting being reported in these places.

Within Delhi, pollution levels reached the 'severe' category in some areas, including RK Puram (402), Jahangirpuri (419), Bawana (407) and Mundka (403).

The concentration of PM2.5, fine particulate matter that can penetrate deep into the respiratory system and trigger res-

Young Indians aspired for jobs, but in return got a 45-year-high unemployment rate. They wanted economic empowerment, but in return the BJP gave a backbreaking price rise, which has reduced their savings to a 47-year low

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

Trinamool gives new role to Moitra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 13: Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, currently facing recommendations for expulsion from Lok Sabha in a cash-for-query row, was tasked with strengthening the party's organisation in West Bengal's Nadia district ahead of the 2024 general elections, in a clear message of support from the TMC.

On Monday, the TMC announced a revised list of 35 district presidents for the state's 35 organisational districts. Moitra, who was the district president in Krishnanagar a few years ago before being removed in a prior reshuffle, has now been reinstated as the district president of Krishnanagar (Nadia North) organisational district.



Expressing her gratitude on social media, Moitra stated, "Thank you @MamataOfficial and @AITCofficial for appointing me District President of Krishnanagar (Nadia North). Will always work with the party for the people of Krishnanagar."

The Lok Sabha Ethics Committee, headed by Chairman Vinod Kumar Sonkar, submitted its report on the 'cash-for-query' allegation against Moitra to Speaker Om Birla's office last Friday. The report, adopted by a majority in the Committee, recommended Moitra's expulsion from the House, accusing her of accepting "illegal gratifications" to raise questions in Parliament at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani.

Oppn calls criminal bills a copy, opposes Hindi names

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: The opposition MPs in a parliamentary panel who gave dissent notes on the three criminal bills said they were "largely a copy and paste" of the existing laws and opposed their Hindi names, saying the move was objectionable, unconstitutional and an affront to the non-Hindi speaking people.

Some of them also flagged a lack of consultation before finalising the reports. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs adopted its reports on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam bills earlier this month and submitted them to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar.

At least eight opposition members in the panel - Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Ravneet Singh, P Chidambaram, Derek O'Brien, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Dayanidhi Maran, Digvijaya Singh and N R Elango - have filed separate dissent notes opposing various provisions of the bills.

The three bills seek to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Evidence Act. In his dissent note, Chowdhury, leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, said, "The law is vastly the same. Only renumbered and re-arranged."

On the alleged "imposition of Hindi", he said "using language which is deliberately exclusionary for the title cannot be justified." Congress' Digvijaya Singh said there was an "urgent need" to call eminent lawyers and judges to depose before the committee. "But it appeared the chairman was in a tearing hurry to submit the report," he said.

TMC's O'Brien said the fact

In his dissent note, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, said, "The law is vastly the same. Only renumbered and re-arranged"

Congress' Digvijaya Singh said there was an 'urgent need' to call eminent lawyers and judges to depose before the committee. 'But it appeared the chairman was in a tearing hurry to submit the report,' he said

that approximately 93 per cent of the existing criminal law remains unaltered, 18 out of 22 chapters have been copied and pasted implying that the pre-existing legislation could have been effortlessly modified to incorporate these specific changes. He also alleged "glaring gaps" in the methodology of drafting the report.

"The current process lacked inclusivity in stakeholder consultations required for legislation of such magnitude," he said.

P Chidambaram, a former Union home minister, pointed out that under Article 348 of the Constitution, all acts shall be in the English language which is also the language of the Supreme Court and the high courts.

"To have a Hindi only name to the Bill irrespective of the language of the Bill is highly objectionable, unconstitutional, an affront to the non-Hindi speaking people (e.g. Tamils, Gujaratis or Bengalis) and opposed to federalism," he wrote in his dissent note.

9 dead in Hyd building fire



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 13: Nine people belonging to two families died of "asphyxiation" and another person was injured in a major fire in a residential building in the Nampally area here on Monday, police and fire department officials said.

The nine were found in an unconscious condition after inhaling smoke that spread over the building along with the flames and rescue teams shifted them to a state-run hospital where they were declared brought dead.

Fire personnel, who took up the operation and rescue efforts, said a fire call was received by the Fire Control Room at 9.34 am and fire tenders were immediately rushed to the area and extinguished the blaze.

According to police, the fire erupted in the stilt area of the

apartment complex after some drums containing inflammable chemicals caught fire and it spread towards the upper portion of the building. The complex has ground and four upper floors.

On the cause of the fire, based on preliminary investigation, a senior police official citing some eye-witnesses, who stayed in the neighbourhood, said sparks from firecrackers burst by some children in the area fell on the drums, triggering the fire. However, the exact cause would be known after investigation, he said.

Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and Chief Minister K Chandrababoo Naidu expressed grief over the deaths. Rao announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased.

A total of 21 people trapped on the different floors of the building were rescued through staircase and an extension ladder from the windows, a senior Fire department official said. TV visuals showed fire personnel evacuating people, including children, through the windows of the building. The officials further said apart from those rescued, 10 people were found unconscious and they were shifted to a hospital.



People hurl stones as they take part in 'Pathar Ka Mela', celebrated every year on the day following Diwali, at Dhami near Shimla

PTI PHOTO

REEL OFFERS REALITY, POLITICS SELLS DREAMS!

Politics is pragmatic, films create fantasy. One rarely bargains for a role reversal and yet it happened. The reel was offering reality and politics stood pestered to dream selling. After years, with mixed feelings, one walked into a movie hall to watch a film, 'Twelfth Fail' and emerged from it both shaken and stirred. Shaken, because it was the re-creation of the real life story of a village youth from the one-time dacoit infested Chambal region and his poverty riddled struggle to become an Indian Police service (IPS) officer. Stirred, for it brought alive to me in striking detail my bitter battle to become a journalist in the India of the sixties. Nothing new, many of my generation have done so too.

The movie mirrors the struggle of millions of Indian youth who survive in sub-human, sardine tin packed conditions in cities for years chasing a

dream. A few make it, the rest are crushed in the melting pot of their own desires. This one, Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma who made it and is a serving senior IPS officer posted in Mumbai, represents hope for a struggling multitude. A book by Anurag Pathak on him resonated with film maker Vidhu Vinod Chopra and became a film. But this is less about the film and more about the contrast that it offers to the reality of politics playing out around the Indian environment.

If the young are moving heaven and earth chasing a personal dream that ultimately helps to build a stronger country, watch our political entities chasing theirs as they plumb new depths every passing poll. Watch them in their regal finery (sans clothes) as the country is in the midst of elections to five states of the country and they go preening around like peacocks.



These elections in Rajasthan, MP, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram will set the tone for the general elections in 2024 where the Narendra Modi led BJP wants a third stint and the 'combined' opposition seeks to provide an alternative.

The struggling mass of young at one end of the spectrum and the dream seller politician at the other, falling over each other offering 'revadis', chocolates, pastries, puddings and pies. You name it and its on offer, almost as if bidding in an auction, each determined

to raise the stakes higher.

Is there any law for the lawmaker? Laws have been framed from time to time. Take the case of the anti-defection law. It was designed to stop people-elected governments from being pulled down. Has it succeeded? Quite simply not because the very people who enacted these laws are using their power perch to by-pass them. Watch the proceedings in the Maharashtra defection case unfolding in the Supreme Court. It says it all.

Interestingly according to a report by ADR and the New Election Watch (NEW) titled, Analysis of Sitting MPs from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha of India 2023, released on September 12, 40 per cent of the sitting MPs have declared criminal cases against themselves. The information has been culled from the self-sworn affidavits filed by them before contesting elections. The

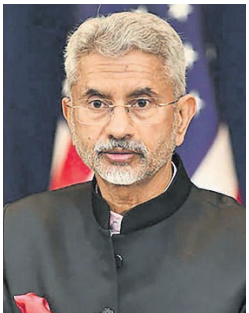
report also found that 194 of these sitting MPs (25 per cent) have serious criminal cases including kidnapping, murder, attempt to murder, crimes against women etc. against them.

The Supreme Court struck the nail on the head when it said last week that criminal cases pending against MPs and MLAs "have a direct bearing on our political democracy" and asked High Courts to set up special benches to monitor trials in over 5000 cases for their speedy disposal. Issuing directions to trial courts as well the 3 judge bench led by the CJI asked for fast tracking of cases against MPs and MLAs with criminal cases 'punishable with death or life imprisonment' be given priority and trial should not be adjourned except for rare and compelling reasons. One has no words to thank our judiciary but what have our young done to deserve such politicians!

TMC leader killed, assailant lynched

Joynagar (WB): A local Trinamool Congress leader was shot dead at Joynagar in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district Monday morning, which led to the lynching of an alleged assailant by a mob, police said. Saifuddin Laskar (47), TMC area president of Bamungachi area in Joynagar was shot dead from close range near his house by miscreants when he went out to offer prayers in the morning, the police said. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. Enraged supporters of Laskar, whose wife is a panchayat pradhan, caught two of the alleged assailants and lynched one of them. Another was rescued and arrested by the police, which rushed to the spot. A large police contingent was deployed in the area after the incident. Local MLA Biswanath Das claimed that goons supported by the CPI-M and BJP were behind the murder.

international



Blessed to visit the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, London on Deepavali. Prayed for the peace, harmony and prosperity of our community around the world
S JAISHANKAR | EAM OF INDIA

NEPAL GOVT BANS TIKTOK
The Nepal government Monday decided to ban the Chinese-owned social network platform Tiktok, citing its negative effects on social harmony



of the day quote

There was never an acceptance of the job, but only an agreement to continue the reflection and finalise it depending on the decision that the president would take

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

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

Thousands flee Gaza hospital

Israeli tanks took up positions at the gates of Gaza City's main hospital, the primary target in their battle to seize control of the northern half of the Gaza Strip, where medics said patients including newborns were dying for lack of fuel



Newborns are placed in bed after being taken off incubators in Gaza's Al Shifa hospital after power outage, amid the ongoing conflict

Deir al-Balah, Nov 13: Battles around hospitals have forced thousands of Palestinians to flee from some of the last shelters in northern Gaza while stranding critically wounded patients, including newborns, and their caregivers with dwindling supplies and no electricity, health officials said Monday.

The Israeli military has urged Palestinians to flee south on foot through what it calls safe corridors. But its purported drive to separate civilians from Hamas militants has come at a heavy cost, with more than two thirds of the territory's population of 2.3 million having already fled their homes.

As Israeli troops encircled Gaza's Shifa Hospital over the weekend, thousands fled, while hundreds of patients and displaced people remained, according to officials. World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Shifa "is not functioning as a hospital anymore". For Palestinians, Shifa evokes the suffering of civilians. Doctors running low on supplies perform surgery there on war-wounded patients, in-

Another hospital in Gaza City, Al-Quds, was forced to shut down Sunday because it ran out of fuel

The Palestinian Red Crescent, which operates the facility, said Israeli forces are stationed nearby and that preparations are being made to evacuate some 6,000 patients, medics and displaced people.

cluding children, without anaesthesia. One medic shared a photo showing nine premature babies in a shared crib. Israel says Hamas shields itself among civilians and the hospital, Gaza's largest, is a prime example of that, claiming that the militants have a command centre in and beneath the medical compound.

Israel has not provided photos or videos to back up the Shifa claims, though it has shared footage of militants operating in residential neighbourhoods and positioning rockets and weapons near schools and mosques.

Both Hamas and the hospital staff at Shifa deny the Israeli allegations. A UN health official

said many displaced families and patients with moderate injuries fled the hospital over the weekend. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief reporters, said most of the remaining patients could only be relocated with ambulances and other special procedures.

Mohammed Zaqut, the director of hospitals in Gaza, said those who remain include about 650 patients, 500 medical staff and around 2,500 displaced Palestinians sheltering inside hospital buildings. That's down from more than 20,000 people reported to be at the hospital Saturday by the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza.

EU nations condemn Hamas

Brussels: The 27 European Union nations have jointly condemned Hamas for what they described as the use of hospitals and civilians as "human shields" in the war against Israel. EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell said Monday that at the same time the bloc asked Israel "for maximum restraint in targeting in order to avoid human casualties".

The ministry said 32 patients, including three babies, have died since the hospital's emergency generator ran out of fuel on Saturday. It said 36 babies, as well as other patients, are at risk of dying because there is no way to power life-saving medical equipment.

Medical Aid for Palestinians, a UK-based charity that has supported Shifa's neonatal intensive care unit, said transferring critically ill infants is complex. "With ambulances unable to reach the hospital...And no hospital with capacity to receive them, there is no indication of how this can be done safely," CEO Melanie Ward said. She said the only option was to pause the fighting and allow in fuel.

The military said it placed 300 liters (79 gallons) of fuel near the hospital, but that Hamas militants had prevented staff from reaching it.

The US has pushed for temporary pauses that would allow for wider distribution of badly needed aid. Israel has only agreed to daily windows during which civilians can flee ground combat in northern Gaza along two main roads, while continuing to strike what it says are militant targets across the territory, often killing women and children.

SURPRISE RETURN Cameron gets Cabinet role in big political comeback

London, Nov 13: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Monday sacked controversial Indian-origin Home Secretary Suella Braverman and appointed former premier David Cameron back into the frontline government as his new Foreign Secretary, in a dramatic reshuffle of his Cabinet ahead of general elections next year.

Braverman, a Goan-origin Cabinet minister, repeatedly courted controversy in her senior UK Cabinet role, most recently by accusing the Met Police of "playing favourites" when tackling with aggressive Israel-Gaza protests in an article in "The Times".

"The King has been pleased to approve the following government appointments: Rt Hon James Cleverly MP as Secretary of State for the Home Department; Rt Hon David Cameron as Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs," a Downing Street statement said.

"It has been the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Home Secretary. I will have more to say in due course," Braverman, 43, said in a brief statement.

The reshuffle came at a time when outgoing foreign secretary Cleverly was scheduled for bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is in the UK for a five-day official visit during which he held tea-time talks with Sunak at 10 Downing Street Sunday.

It now remains to be seen how his further meetings will unfold



Former PM's shock return divides party
Braverman's exit follows her criticism of London police
PM Sunak trying to appease traditional supporters

BRAVERMAN CRITICISED POLICE OVER PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTESTS

and if he will be meeting Cameron as his new UK counterpart in place of Cleverly. "Though I may have disagreed with some individual decisions, it is clear to me that Rishi Sunak is a strong and capable Prime Minister, who is showing exemplary leadership at a difficult time," Cameron posted in a statement on X. "I want to help him to deliver the security and prosperity our country needs and be part of the strongest possible team that serves the United Kingdom and that can be presented to the country when the General Election is held," he said.

Cameron served as the UK Prime Minister from 2010 to 2016 and Leader of the Conservative Party from 2005 to 2016.

SHORT TAKES

12 killed in Pak road accidents

Lahore: Twelve people, including women and children, were killed in two separate road accidents in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Monday. In the first incident, six members of a family died in a fatal collision between two cars in Lahore's posh area - Defence Housing Authority (DHA) - Sunday evening. In the other incident, six people, five of them of a family, were killed during a collision between a car and a bus in Sheikhpura, some 50kms from Lahore, Monday.

Emirates opens Dubai Air Show

Dubai: Long-haul carrier Emirates opened the Dubai Air Show with a \$52 billion purchase of Boeing Co aircraft, showing how aviation has bounced back after the groundings of the coronavirus pandemic, even as Israel's war with Hamas clouds regional security. Its low-cost sister airline, FlyDubai, followed up with an order of 30 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, the first wide-body aircraft in its fleet. Both sales together marked a significant win for the Virginia-based Boeing Co out of the gates on the first day of the air show, as airlines appear poised for even more billion-dollar deals this year.

Lanka President presents budget

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe Monday presented his government's 2024 budget, emphasising the need for tough reforms until the full recovery of the cash-strapped island nation's economy. Although Sri Lanka has managed to control its hyperinflation in the ongoing economic crisis, its economy is far from being fully recovered. "We have been able to put back on the rails the derailed economy. Still, people undergo suffering," Wickremesinghe, who is also the Finance Minister, said.

Airstrikes in Syria

Washington: The Pentagon and US officials say US fighter aircraft conducted airstrikes on locations in eastern Syria involving Iranian-backed groups, likely causing casualties and destroying weapons stored at the two targets that were struck - a training facility and a safe house. A defense official said that the training facility also served as a weapons storage and that the safe house, located in the Bulbul district of Mayadin, functioned as a headquarters for Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-affiliated groups in the area.



An aerial view of a house in the middle of a flooded area in Ouve-Wirquin as the Aa river overflows near Saint-Omer after days of heavy rain causing flooding in northern France

SNIPPETS

Poland PM resigns

Warsaw: Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki offered his conservative government's resignation Monday as required as the newly elected parliament met for the first time in a transition of power following an election last month. An alliance of pro-European Union parties vowing to restore democratic standards won a parliamentary majority in the October 15 election and are expected to take power, but they will still have to wait, perhaps up to four weeks.

Risk of volcanic eruption in Iceland remains high

Copenhagen: Seismic activity in southwestern Iceland decreased in size and intensity Monday, but the risk of a volcanic eruption remained significant, authorities said, after earthquakes and evidence of magma spreading underground in recent weeks. Almost 4,000 people were evacuated over the weekend as authorities feared that molten rock would rise to the surface of the earth and potentially hit a coastal town and a geothermal power station. Located between the Eurasian and the North American tectonic plates, among the largest on the planet, Iceland is a seismic and volcanic hot spot as the two plates move in opposite directions.

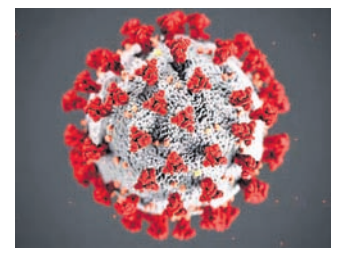
Nikki to launch \$10Mn ad campaign

New York: Nikki Haley's presidential campaign will reserve \$10 million in television, radio and digital advertising across Iowa and New Hampshire beginning in the first week of December, a massive investment designed to give the former United Nations ambassador an advantage over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis at a critical moment in the GOP nomination fight. Details of the advertising plans, which represent the Haley campaign's first official advertising reservation, were obtained by The Associated Press ahead of a public announcement expected Monday.

China on alert for Cov relapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 13: Chinese experts have sounded an alert about the relapse of Covid-19 infections during the current winter season and asked elderly and vulnerable populations to get vaccinated. The Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Chinese CDC) shows that a total of 209 new severe Covid-19 cases and 24 deaths caused by Covid-19 were reported across the country in October, with the prevalent strains all being XBB variants, official media reported Monday.



China's top respiratory disease expert Zhong Nanshan warned of a small Covid-19 spike in the winter and reminded the elderly and vulnerable populations to get vaccinated as soon as possible, state-run *Global Times* reported.

The virus is undergoing mutations, while the general population's ability to fight off the disease is declining because their antibody levels are lowering as time passes, Lu Hongzhou, head of the Third People's Hospital of Shenzhen, told the Daily.

According to Lu, there may be a rise in Covid-19 cases during the winter seasons. Also, autumn and winter are known for high influenza rates, so people should also be cautious of potential co-infections, according to Lu.

While it is still necessary to continue implementing prevention and control measures in the winter season, there is no need to be overly concerned about it, said Lu.

The coronavirus which first emerged in Wuhan towards the end of 2019 had spiralled into a massive pandemic in which millions of people died all over the world while it affected the health of millions more.

New challenge for Myanmar army

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Nov 13: Myanmar's military government faced a fresh challenge Monday when one of the armed ethnic groups in an alliance that recently gained strategic territory in the country's northeast launched attacks in the western state of Rakhine. The Arakan Army launched surprise assaults on two outposts of the Border Guard Police, a paramilitary force, in Rakhine's Rathedaung township, according to independent online media and area residents. The attacks took place despite a year-long cease-fire with Myanmar's military government.

Khaing Thukha, a spokesperson for the Arakan Army, told *The Associated Press* that two military security outposts in Rathedaung were seized by his group and more than 20 police officers from a station in another township, Kyauktaw, had laid down their weapons.

NKOREA'S NUCLEAR THREAT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Nov 13: The United States and South Korea Monday updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

The move followed high-level military talks in Seoul, where the allies also discussed enhancing three-way defense exercises with Japan and improving information-sharing on North Korean missile launches.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Seoul for annual security talks with South Korean military officials, including Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, which were focused on boosting nuclear deterrence against North Korea.

They also talked about how the allies could coordinate over broader geopolitical issues, in-

US, SK sharpen deterrence plans

Tensions between the Koreas are at their highest point in years as the pace of both North Korea's weapons tests and South Korea's combined military exercises with the United States have intensified in a cycle of tit-for-tat



cluding Russia's war on Ukraine and China's regional assertiveness, Austin said.

During their Security Consultative Meeting, Austin and Shin signed a new version of their countries' Tailored Deterrence Strategy agreement, which was revised for the first time in a decade to address the growing threat of the North's military nuclear program. Shin said the new document spells

remains ironclad - that includes a full range of our nuclear, conventional and missile defense capabilities," Austin said at a news conference, referring to South Korea's formal name, the Republic of Korea.

Austin said the US deployments of major military assets to South Korea in recent months, which included a US nuclear ballistic missile submarine, a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber and aircraft carriers, demonstrated the US Commitment to defense of the South. He said another US aircraft carrier battle group will travel to the region soon in a further show of force.

Shin said the allies, after conducting their largest-ever live-fire training this year, will continue to further expand their combined military exercises to deter and respond to North Korean threats.



There are definite very good recovery signs, which actually I am seeing. The festive season which is coming in, should augur very well for us going forward in the future. So I am very hopeful

MOHIT MALHOTRA | CEO, DABUR

FESTIVE BOYCOTT OF CHINESE GOODS

Retail markets across India registered a record trade of Rs 3.75 lakh crore during this festive season so far, traders' body CAIT said Monday. CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said Chinese goods lost a trade of worth over Rs 1 lakh crore during the Diwali festive season. "Notably, almost only Indian products were sold and purchased this Diwali, which is remarkable," it stated



of the day quote

We have achieved pre-sales (sales bookings) of Rs 1,861 crore in the first six months of this fiscal year, which is 38 per cent higher than the year-ago period

PRADEEP AGGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, SIGNATURE GLOBAL

Our survey highlights that nearly 70 per cent of organisations are actively planning to leverage Gen AI in their cybersecurity strategies, underlining the critical need for proactive and effective defence measures

SIVARAMA KRISHNAN | PARTNER & LEADER (RISK CONSULTING), PWC INDIA

The tremendous growth in our user base is a testament to their aspirations and our commitment to nurturing their talents

NIRMIT PARIKH | FOUNDER AND CEO, APNA.CO

FOUR-MONTH LOW Retail inflation eases

Retail inflation has been on the decline after it touched a high of 7.44% in July in current fiscal



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Continuing the downward trend, retail inflation slipped to a four-month low of 4.87 per cent in October, mainly due to easing food prices and inched towards the Reserve Bank's target of 4 per cent, according to government data released Monday.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation fell to a three-month low of 5.02 per cent in September.

The inflation was recorded at 4.87 per cent in June.

The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in its October meeting, projected CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24, a moderation from 6.7 per cent in 2022-23.

The government has tasked the RBI to ensure the CPI inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The central bank mainly factors in the retail inflation while

We expect the MPC to maintain a hawkish tone amidst a status quo on the rates and stance in its upcoming policy meeting. We see the earliest likelihood of a rate cut in August 2024, when a shallow rate cut cycle of 50-75 bps could commence

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST AT ICRA

arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.

As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the inflation in the food basket was 6.61 per cent, marginally down from 6.62 per cent in September and 7 per cent in the year-ago month.

The inflation in the 'oil and fat' segment declined by 13.73 per cent, while it remained subdued in the case of vegetables, meat and fish, and 'light and fuel'.

Among states, the inflation was above 6 per cent in Odisha,

Among states, the inflation was above 6% in Odisha, Rajasthan and Haryana.

Rajasthan and Haryana. Inflation in states like Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab ruled above the national average of 4.87 per cent.

The lowest inflation was witnessed in Chhattisgarh and Delhi.

On a national level, the retail inflation was 5.12 per cent in rural areas and 4.62 per cent in urban India. Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said the moderation in inflation provides some relief, especially as the core inflation has remained comfortable. "However, we expect the trend of sub-5 per cent headline inflation to remain brief, with most of FY24 ahead likely to remain above 5 per cent. Overall, we continue to expect the MPC to remain on an extended pause phase in rates with liquidity being used as a more frequent tool to manage the stance," Bhardwaj said.

The price data are collected from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states/UTs through personal visits by field staff of the Field Operations Division of NSO, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), on a weekly roster.

During October 2023, NSO collected prices from 99.8 per cent villages and 98.6 per cent urban markets.

₹ dips to new low of 83.33 against \$

Earlier, the currency's lowest closing level was recorded at 83.32 versus the dollar September 18 this year

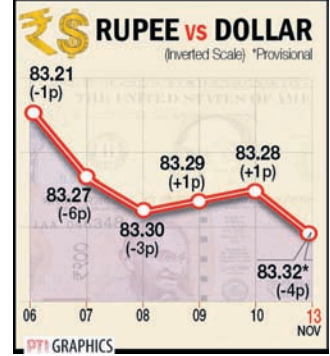
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 13: The rupee declined by 5 paise to settle at its all-time low of 83.33 against the US dollar Monday, tracking a negative trend in domestic equities.

Persistent foreign fund outflows also weighed on the local unit, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.31 and settled at its lifetime low level of 83.33 against the dollar, registering a fall of 5 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee settled at 83.28 against the American currency.

"India's manufacturing and production data released Friday were short of forecasts," said Praveen Singh, Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and



Commodities, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

The forex market will be closed Tuesday on account of Diwali Balipratipada.

On the domestic equity market front, Sensex fell 325.58 points or 0.50 per cent to settle at 64,933.87 points. The Nifty declined 82.00 points or 0.42 per cent to 19,443.55 points.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market Monday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,244.44 crore, according to exchange data.

Goldman Sachs upgrades Indian shares

Bangalore: Goldman Sachs upgraded Indian shares to "overweight" from "marketweight", citing strong economic growth prospects, steady domestic mutual fund inflows and a potential supply chain shift from China. Indian markets will continue to gain in 2024, supported by steady earnings growth and macroeconomic stability in what would otherwise be a "tricky" period in the Asia Pacific region, Goldman Sachs analysts led by Timothy Moe wrote in a note. "We believe India has the best structural growth prospects in the Asia Pacific region and offers mid-term earnings growth over the next two years," Moe said in a note. The Wall Street brokerage expects India's real economic growth to be 6.5% in 2023 and 6.3% in 2024 - the highest among large economies in the region, but slightly below the Indian central bank's target of 6.5% for fiscal 2024. The benchmark Nifty 50 jumped about 31% between March 2021 and October 2023, a period during which domestic investors remained net buyers each month, helping tide over sustained sales by foreign investors. Goldman also raised Thailand to "overweight", while lowering Hong Kong-listed China shares to "marketweight".

SHORT TAKES

Infra cost overruns

New Delhi: As many as 417 infrastructure projects, each entailing an investment of Rs 150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns of more than Rs 4.77 lakh crore in September this year, an official report said. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above, out of 1,763 projects, 417 reported cost overruns and as many as 842 projects were delayed. "Total original cost of implementation of the 1,763 projects was Rs 24,86,402.70 crore and their anticipated completion cost is likely to be Rs 29,64,345.13 crore, which reflects overall cost overruns of Rs 4,77,942.43 crore (19.22 per cent of original cost)," the ministry's latest report for September 2023 said.

GAIL shows the way

New Delhi: India's top gas firm GAIL has done the world's first ship-to-ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) transfer to save on shipping costs and cut emissions as the state-owned entity looks at innovative ways as a pivot to boost business, company officials said. GAIL has contracted 5.8 million tonnes per annum of LNG (natural gas super-cooled to liquid form) from the US. The company brings this volume to India via LNG ships. The ship typically travels a distance of about 19,554 nautical miles for a round trip to transport LNG from Sabine Pass in the US to India via the Suez Canal and Gibraltar. This journey takes approximately 54 days and emits about 15,600 tonnes of CO2.

ONGC's deep-sea project to kick off

New Delhi: State-controlled Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will kick off oil production from its much-delayed flagship deep-sea project in Krishna Godavari basin in Bay of Bengal this month, helping reverse years of decline in output, a senior company official said. "We plan to start producing from the Cluster-2 project in KG-DWN-98/2 block this month and slowly ramp up," ONGC Director (Production) Pankaj Kumar told PTI here. A floating production unit, called FPSO, which will be used to produce oil, is already in the block. After several missed deadlines, ONGC has told Shapoorji Pallonji Oil & Gas (SPOG) that its floating production, storage and offloading vessel (FPSO) Armada Sterling-V should prepare to receive the first oil this month.

2022-23 OIL YEAR Low duty pushes vegoils import

INDIA'S VEGETABLE OILS IMPORT UP 16% AT 167.1 LAKH TONNE IN OIL YEAR THAT ENDED OCTOBER 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

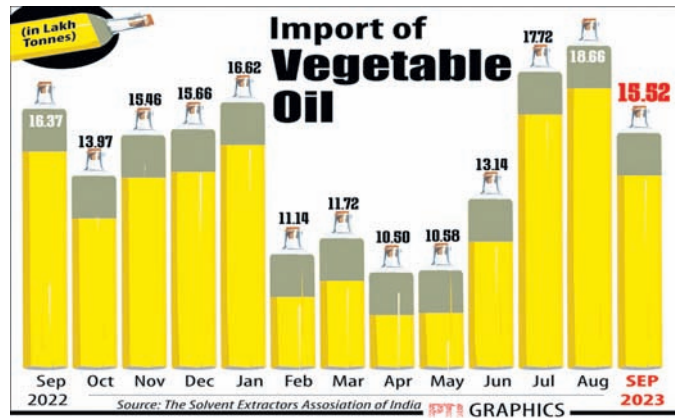
New Delhi, Nov 13: India's vegetable oils import rose 16 per cent to 167.1 lakh tonne in the current oil year that ended in October 2023, driven by lower duty on certain edible oils, industry body SEA said Monday.

The country had imported 144.1 lakh tonne of vegetable oils in the previous 2021-22 oil year (November-October).

Out of the total vegetable oils, much of the imports were edible oils at 164.7 lakh tonne, while non-edible oils were only 2.4 lakh tonne during 2022-23 oil year.

India is a leading vegetable oil buyer in the world. According to Mumbai-based Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA), "Import of edible oils during the 2022-23 oil year has surged to 164.7 lakh tonne. This increase of 24.4 lakh tonne from previous year is driven by the current low of 5.5 per cent duty on crude palm oil, soybean oil and sunflower oil."

This influx of imports has transformed India into a prime destination for excess oil supplies, it said in a statement.



Notably, RBD Palmolein imports constitute over 25 per cent of the total palm oil imports, significantly impacting the domestic refining industry, which is grappling with a significant underutilization of its installed capacity, it noted.

As November 1, SEA estimated stocks at ports to be approximately 33.0 lakh tonne, down by about 3 lakh tonne from previous month, due to lesser import and higher consumption in festival season.

The country's import has gradually increased during the first

In value terms, SEA said the country's edible oil imports were worth ₹1.38 lakh crores in 2022-23, lower than ₹1.57 lakh crores in 2021-22 and 1.17 lakh crores in 2020-21

products increased sharply due to price parity during the 2022-23 oil year, and thus increasing the share of palm oil to 59 per cent from 56 per cent.

Among soft oils, import of sunflower oil increased to 30 lakh tonnes during 2022-23 oil year, from 19.4 lakh tonnes in the previous year due to zero import duty till June 15. This led to reduction in import of soybean oil to 36.8 lakh tonnes from 41.7 lakh tonnes in the previous year.

India imports palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia and a small quantity of crude soft oil, including soybean, from Argentina. Sunflower oil is imported from Ukraine and Russia.

NET OUTFLOW Inflow in MFs drops in Q2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: The mutual fund industry continued with the positive momentum in the September quarter, attracting Rs 34,765 crore, although it was a massive reduction as against the Rs 1.85 lakh crore inflow in the preceding quarter, primarily due to withdrawal from debt segment.

Most of the asset classes saw net inflows during the July-September period of the current financial year barring the fixed-income or debt segment, which witnessed net outflows.

Overall, flows started on a strong note during the quarter under review, with net inflows of Rs 82,467 crore in July, which dipped to Rs 16,180 crore in August and ended with a disappointing Rs 63,882 crore of net outflows in September, according to a report by Morningstar India.

"Net flows over the last few years over each quarter have been patchy. The flows seen in the June quarter were the highest in four years," it noted. The assets under management



of the industry ended at Rs 46.22 lakh crore as of September, up 5 per cent since the previous quarter.

With regard to equity segments, inflow has been positive for the asset class over the past 10 quarters, though the momentum of flows has been patchy.

In the September quarter, net flows increased to Rs 41,962 crore, up significantly from the last quarter, when it saw net inflows of Rs 18,358 crore.

On the other hand, the asset class experienced net outflows of Rs 65,944 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal. This came after the first quarter saw a net inflow of Rs 1.38 lakh crore - the first net inflow after six consecutive quarters of net outflows.

Excitement, worry as stock options trading booms in India

SEBI HAS SO FAR NOT STEPPED IN TO CURTAIL THE TRADING BUT HAS ISSUED WARNINGS AND SAID IT IS AWARE OF THE RISKS

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 13: A sudden explosive growth in stock options trading in India this year has got the country's retail traders excited and regulators worried about the risks such speculative fervour could spawn.

The boom in derivatives trading in the country's historically conservative markets, where some products such as stock futures are still too expensive, has come after stock exchanges changed some options contracts

to facilitate quicker and cheaper bets and as online retail trading platforms mushroomed.

Data from exchanges, which are big winners of this surge in demand, shows the daily average value of assets underlying these stock options more than doubled between March and October to ₹4.2 trillion. The ratio of the notional value of derivatives to cash trading is the highest in the world.

The surge in options activity is more speculative than for hedging purposes, said Mihir Vora, chief investment officer at Trust Mutual Fund. "This can magnify any sharp falls in the market and act as a potential risk," he said.

Analysts point to historic examples of rookie retail investors being hurt by derivatives trading, notably in South Korea in the early 2000s when regulators had to enforce barriers to retail participation.



Zerodha, one of India's largest discount trading platforms, says more than 65% of its users are first-time investors and over 60% of new accounts come from small towns. The average age of users that joined in the last year is 29

Moreover, India's more nascent derivatives markets lack guard rails. Regulators have so far not mandated any minimum

net worth or investor qualifications for those trading stock options, and the stock markets almost always rise each year - both

Trade in derivatives by retail investors should be avoided because of the high risk involved. Be a long-term player

ASHISH CHAUHAN | HEAD, NSE

recipes for higher risk-taking and complacency.

Dozens of digital trading platforms such as Zerodha, Groww and AngelOne, have become the top brokerage firms in the past couple of years, as a fintech boom and the stay-home environment from the pandemic drives small investors seeking a quick return towards robo-trading and other low-cost platforms.

Axis Mutual Fund estimates there are 4 million active derivatives traders in the country. The traders are mostly small players, according to SEBI data.

Axis said in a report there is as much as 500 times leverage on some options, meaning a Rs 2,000

(₹24.01) bet gives the option holder Rs 1 million worth exposure, and often retail investors were holding these bets for just 30 minutes on average.

RETAIL FRENZY

The total number of derivative contracts traded on the National Stock Exchange - which accounts for a bulk of options trading volumes - was 39.85 billion between April and September, almost near the 41.76 billion traded in the financial year that ended in March 2023.

As much as 99% of these are options contracts, which allow holders to bet on a stock or index rising or falling by paying a fraction of the value of the shares.

The "stark" increase in daily options trading turnover raises issues of investor protection, said Ajay Tyagi, former SEBI chief. "There is froth in the market and retail investors are looking to make easy money with limited understanding."

RAHUL brings stability to team



MISTER RELIABLE: KL Rahul goes inside out en route to his century against the Netherlands, Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Nov 13: In the run-up to the ongoing World Cup, KL Rahul was the pet troll of social media rabble-rousers. An often-fragile fitness, a propensity to start slow in T20s etc made him an easy target of the troll gangs.

For many, his failure was predestined but his contribution to India's semifinal entry, in front and behind the stumps, in the showpiece has transformed the narrative around him.

While coming at No.5, Rahul's role as a batter is not easy — he either has very few overs to make an impact after a top-order mayhem or he has to consolidate after a top-order malfunction. The Bangalore man had to do both the jobs in the World Cup and excelled in them too, bringing in that much-needed stability in the middle-order.

It is all the more important because India no longer have the luxury of all-rounder Hardik Pandya coming in at No.6. Here are some samples of Rahul's work. At Chennai against Australia, Rahul came to the crease when India were two for three after the departure of Ishan Kishan, Rohit Sharma and Shreyas Iyer.

He repaired the tattered innings in the company of Virat Kohli (85) while making an unbeaten 97 for himself off 115 balls. He faced a similar situation against England at Lucknow while coming in at 40/3 and stabilised the innings while scoring 39 off 58 balls and shared a 91-run partnership with captain Rohit Sharma.

Rahul was left with the job of steering the ship to the port against Bangladesh after the top-order fired in unison while chasing 257, and he remained unbeaten on 34. The match against the Netherlands Sunday, perhaps, was the first time Rahul got a chance to express himself

without any riders attached. He exploited it brilliantly, hammering a 64-ball 102 to T-bone Netherlands, a knock laced with shots more glittering than Diwali fireworks. Check that swat-flick six off pacer Paul van Meekeren.

Of course, the Dutch attack was limited and the pitch at the Chinnaswamy Stadium was not the toughest one around, but the alacrity Rahul showed to seize an opportunity in front of him was delightful. He now has 347 runs averaging 69.40 and at a strike-rate of 93.53, and that is quite precious for his position.

Former Pakistan all-rounder Shoaib Malik, himself familiar with the challenges of batting in the middle-order, summed up the significance of Rahul's presence at No.5.

"If India loses two or three wickets early, he is someone who can play according to the situation. He can finish the match, can improvise, and can play with a good strike-rate. He is good against spinners as well as the pacers. He picks the gaps and plays the field," said Malik.

Samuel Jayaraj, Rahul's childhood coach, is not one bit surprised. "Everyone knows his skill level as a batsman. But what often people do not see is his mental clarity. Throw him into any situation, he can tackle it. He has been that way from his formative days.

"It does not matter for him — where he bats, whom he bats with, the opposition, all he sees is situations. He reacts to them nicely and that mindset makes him such a dangerous player. I can tell you the team will not lose a match until Rahul is out there," said Jayaraj.

It makes total sense when one checks this piece of astounding stat. In the long history of ODIs, Rahul is among only four batsmen who have scored more than 1000 runs while playing at No.5 and No.4 at an over-50 average.

Djoko secures year-end top ranking for 8th time

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turin, Nov 13: Novak Djokovic patted his chest, crouched down, placed his right hand on the court and looked inward. It was clearly a moment to cherish for the 24-time Grand Slam champion after securing the year-end No.1 ranking for a record-extending eighth time.

Djokovic needed only one match win at the ATP Finals to be sure of keeping the top spot and he did it in his opener, beating Holger Rune 7-6(7-4), 6-7(1-7), 6-3 in a match spanning more than three hours on Sunday and into Monday morning.

The 36-year-old Djokovic had already moved ahead of previous record holder Pete Sampras (six years at No.1) two years ago. Carlos Alcaraz took the honours last year. But Djokovic bounced back this year by winning three of the four major titles and finishing runner-up to Alcaraz at Wimbledon.

After this tournament, Djokovic will become the first player to hold the No.1 ranking for 400 weeks, with Roger Federer at 310 the only other man to eclipse the 300-week mark. If Djokovic raises the trophy next weekend, he'll break a tie with Federer and capture a record seventh title at the tour finals.

Djokovic has won 19 straight matches since his five-set loss to Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final in July. Earlier in the same group, Jannik Sinner beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4.

Djokovic ended a close first set with a blazing forehand return winner — then flexed his right biceps and held the pose for a few moments before unleashing an authoritative fist pump.

The 20-year-old Rune was making his debut at the season-ending tournament for the year's top eight players, and he took a set off Djokovic for the fourth time in five career meetings. Djokovic also beat Rune in three tight sets at the Paris Masters this month.

After Djokovic gave up an early break in the third, he broke two rackets with his foot before sitting down for the changeover. But he quickly regained his composure — and the lead — before finishing the match off shortly after midnight.

It always has been a huge objective and huge goal of mine to be No.1 in the world. Other than Grand Slams, that's what counts the most. To finish off the year as No. 1 at this stage of my life and career is something really amazing
NOVAK DJOKOVIC



Lewa leads Barcelona comeback in 2-1 win



JUST THE USUAL: Robert Lewandowski reacts after scoring against Alaves, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Nov 13: Robert Lewandowski came to the rescue of Barcelona, scoring twice as the Catalan club rallied to beat Alaves and keep pace with Real Madrid and Girona in the Spanish league.

The 2-1 home victory Sunday moved Barcelona back within two points of second-placed Madrid, who routed Valencia 5-1 Saturday. Barcelona are four points behind fellow Catalan club Girona, the surprise leader that came from behind to win 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano, also Saturday.

Barcelona stayed two points in front of Atletico Madrid, which came from behind to defeat Villarreal 3-1 with a goal and an assist by Antoine Griezmann. It was the 15th straight league home win for Atletico, surpassing the run of 14 victories in a row at the Vicente Calderon Stadium between May 2012 and February 2013.

Alaves took the lead in a breakaway in the very first minute in Montjuic after Barcelona midfielder Ilkay Gundogan lost possession near midfield, but Lewandowski helped the hosts rebound with a header in the 53th and a penalty kick in the 78th.

Lewandowski, who was sidelined recently with an injury, hadn't scored in six matches since getting a double in the 3-2 win against Celta Vigo in September.

Barcelona were coming off a 0-1 loss at Shakhtar Donetsk in

City-Liverpool Premier League battle on

Guardiola's men play out entertaining draw against Chelsea in 8-goal thriller, while Salah brace fashions Reds victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Nov 13: One of the Premier League's most enduring rivalries looks set to be revived as Manchester City and Liverpool lead the way once again. Just one point separates the two teams at the top of the standings after first-place City was held to a thrilling 4-4 draw at Chelsea Sunday.

Earlier in the day, Mohamed Salah scored twice in Liverpool's 3-0 win against Brentford, which briefly saw the Merseyside club move level on points with Pep Guardiola's defending champions. It sets up a tantalizing clash between City and Liverpool November 25 after the international break.

Last season's runners-up Arsenal are also a point behind City and in third place on goal difference. Tottenham are fourth, two points off City, after back-to-back losses.

A disappointing 2022-23 campaign saw the 19-time champions fail to qualify for the Champions League and raise questions over whether they would be able to

challenge City again as star players like Sadio Mane departed. Klopp's new-look team is answering all of those doubts, while Salah remains their talisman, with the Egyptian international scoring a landmark 200th goal in English football against Brentford. Salah put Liverpool on course to extend its 100% home record this season with goals in each half at Anfield. Diogo Jota added a third.

The win saw Liverpool move above Arsenal and it was then over to City to see if they could open up a three-point lead going into the international break. And when Rodri scored with a deflected shot in the 86th, it looked like Guardiola's team had overcome a major test at Chelsea.

Instead, Cole Palmer, who only left City in September, came back to haunt his former team by converting a penalty in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time. Erling Haaland had put City in front from the penalty spot, but Thiago Silva equalized and Raheem Sterling gave Chelsea the lead.

Manuel Akanji evened the score again before halftime and Haaland made it 3-2 to City just after the break. Nicolas Jackson pulled it back to 3-3 before Rodri and Palmer's goals.



IMPRESSIVE OUTINGS: Man City's Erling Haaland (L) and Mohamed Salah of Liverpool celebrate their goals in their respective matches, Sunday

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Morkel resigns as Pak bowling coach post poor WC show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Nov 13: Former South African pacer Morne Morkel Monday resigned as the Pakistan cricket team's bowling coach two days after the team's elimination from the World Cup in India.

The Babar Azam-led Pakistan lost five of the nine matches in the ODI showpiece event, losing the last match to England by 93 runs in Kolkata.

Morkel had joined the team on a six-month contract in June this year after finishing his assignment with IPL side Lucknow Super Giants. His first assignment with the Pakistan team was their tour of Sri Lanka for a two-Test series.

Pakistan failed to qualify for the semifinals after finishing fifth, which led to several former cricketers demanding wholesale changes in the side, including the removal of Babar Azam as skipper. Pakistan suffered losses against India, Australia, South Africa, England and a shock defeat at the hands of Afghanistan.

Prannoy returns to action



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kumamoto (Japan), Nov 13: India's No.1 shuttler HS Prannoy will make his much-anticipated return from a back injury, while Lakshya Sen will look to find

his rhythm in the Japan Masters Super 500 tournament beginning here Tuesday.

Prannoy had pulled out of the Denmark and French Open due to a back injury that troubled him during his historic bronze medal-

winning performance at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last month. The 31-year-old, his back heavily taped, had secured India's first medal in men's singles in 41 years at the Hangzhou showpiece.

Returning to action after four weeks, the World Championships bronze medalist will like to take it "slowly" as he will be up against unseeded Lee Cheuk Yui of Hong Kong.

If Prannoy overcomes his opponents in the first two rounds, his first big challenge could be against second-seeded Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia in the quarterfinals.

The tournament will also offer opportunities to Sen and Kidambi Srikanth to earn ranking points as the Olympic qualification period has already begun May 1 and will run until April 28 next year. The world's top 16 during the period will make the cut for Paris.

BHAGAT BAGS GOLD AT HULIC DAIHATSU JAPAN TOURNAMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 13: Para Asian Games gold medallist shuttler Pramod Bhagat continued his good run, bagging a gold medal in SL3 singles category at the just-concluded Hulic Daihatsu Japan Para Badminton International tournament in Tokyo.

Bhagat Sunday defeated compatriot Manoj Sarkar 21-16, 21-19 in the title clash that lasted 38 minutes. In mixed doubles, Bhagat and Manisha Ramdass went down to Chinese pair of Yang Jianyuan and Yang Qiu Xia 21-14, 15-21, 21-16.

Nehal Gupta and Naveen Sivakumar also secured a gold medal for India in men's doubles SL3-SL4 category beating compatriots Deep Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar 21-19, 18-21, 21-



Deep Ranjan Bisoyee & Pramod Bhagat

17 in the final. Manasi Joshi and Thulasimathi Murugesan teamed up to win a gold in women's doubles SL3-SU5 category, beating the Indonesian pair of Leani Ratri Oktika Khalimatus Sadiyah 21-16, 21-11 in the final.