



FEAR OF COMMITMENT

Actress Shruti Haasan says there is so much to marriage that she doesn't want to think about it

LEISURE P2



FINISHED IN MINUTES

SpaceX launches its mega rocket Starship, but loses the booster and the spacecraft minutes after the test flight

INTERNATIONAL P10



UNPLEASANT SCENARIO

India stares at the possibility of losing two Asian Para Games gold medals as Neeraj Yadav fails a dope test

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKE

32 Palestinians killed in Israeli bombardment

Gaza: Close on the heels of a fresh warning issued by Israel to the residents of Khan Younis to relocate, at least 32 Palestinians, mostly children, were killed due to an Israeli bombardment of Khan Younis city in south Gaza Saturday, state media reported. According to the Palestinian WAFA news agency, the Israeli aircraft launched several raids on apartments in Khan Younis, which also injured some dozens others. The Israeli army has not commented on the development, reports Xinhua news agency. The latest killings come as Israel issued a new warning to the residents of Khan Younis to relocate. On Friday night, Mark Regev, an advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, told US media: "I know it's not easy for them, but we don't want to see civilians caught up in the crossfire." P10

Open AI CEO Sam Altman sacked

San Francisco: The board of ChatGPT-maker Open AI said it has pushed out its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sam Altman after a review found he was "not consistently candid in his communications" with the board. "The board no longer has confidence in his ability to continue leading OpenAI," the company said in a statement Friday. It has appointed Mira Murati, OpenAI's chief technology officer, to an interim CEO role effective immediately. Several Indian startup founders and CEOs expressed solidarity with ousted OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, who came to India in June this year and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that Boards need to better align with founders. P11



FILIP TO HEALTHCARE: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagging off 349 ambulances at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

(Report P3)

41, not 40, trapped in U'khand tunnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi, Nov 18: As the rescue operation in the partially-collapsed Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand came to a grinding halt owing to a technical snag in the US-made auger machine that was deployed to drill and push in pipes through the rubble, the number of workers trapped inside the tunnel was revised to 41 from 40 Saturday. The 41st person stuck in the tunnel was identified as Deepak Kumar from Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. The NHIDCL, which is constructing the tunnel through Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd, came to know about this discrepancy Friday. According to an earlier list issued by the NHIDCL, 40 workers were trapped inside the tunnel after a part of it collapsed at around 5:30am Sunday. The massive operation to rescue labourers stuck in Silkyara tunnel is on hold since Friday when a US-made auger machine deployed developed a snag. With time running out, officials Saturday began preparations to drill a vertical hole from the top of the hill under which the workers have been trapped. Meanwhile, another high-performance drilling machine airlifted from Indore in Madhya Pradesh arrived in Silkyara Saturday where its three parts will be assembled before it is deployed for drilling, officials on the spot said.

Bandh total in 5 dists

LUKEWARM RESPONSE TO SEPARATE KOSHAL STATE DEMAND IN JHARSUGUDA, DEOGARH AND SUNDARGARH

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, Nov 18: The 12-hour bandh called by Koshal Rajya Milita Kriyanusthan Committee in Western Odisha Saturday over the demand for formation of a separate Koshal state was successful in five districts while it evoked lukewarm response in three other districts.

According to reports, the bandh was total in Bargarh, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Nuapada and Kalahandi districts where government and private offices, educational institutions, banks and financial institutions, shops and markets remained closed while passenger buses remained off roads.

The impact of the bandh was, however, negligible in Jharsuguda and Sundargarh districts. There was no impact of the bandh in Deogarh district too.

The bandh affected normal life in Kuchinda and Rirakhol areas of Sambalpur district but



the district headquarters town of Sambalpur remained largely unaffected. Some supporters of the bandh staged a road blockade at Ainthapali in Sambalpur but police removed them from the spot.

"The bandh passed peacefully and no untoward incident was reported in any parts of western Odisha," ADG (Law and Order) Sanjay Kumar said.

Koshal Rajya Milita Kriyanusthan Committee leader Pramod Mishra claimed that the bandh was successful. "People

from all walks of life including some political groups also extended support to the bandh. We will continue such agitation till the formation of a new state," he said. President of Koshla Mukti Morcha Sagar Charan Das alleged that the state government has always ignored the western Odisha region.

"Though a significant portion of the revenue of Odisha is generated from this region, this region has remained neglected. A separate state is the only solution

₹296cr for 2 water projects in Bolangir

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday approved two Instream Storage Structure projects for Bolangir district by sanctioning ₹296.50 crore. These projects are - Sikuan/Siletkani Instream Storage Structure on Sunagarh River and Kutasingha Instream Storage Structure on Ang River. While ₹49 crore has been sanctioned for Sikuan project, ₹247.50 crore has been granted for Kutasingha project. Worth mentioning, the Chief Minister approved the twin projects as per the wish of the people who gave the proposals to 5T Chairman VK Pandian during his visit to the district.

to address the economic disparities," Das said.

In Sambalpur, however, Hirakhand Samukhya and Sambalpur Bhasa Sanskruti Parishad appealed to the people to refrain from the agitation opposing the word 'Koshal' and 'Koshali'.

INDIA READY FOR TITLE SHOWDOWN

AGENCIES

Ahmedabad, Nov 18: An Indian captain ready to create a legacy of his own will have 10 ruthless professionals and a billion cricket maniacs for support when his team takes on five-time champions Australia in a winner-takes-it-all World Cup final on what promises to be a 'Super Sunday'.

Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin know the feeling of winning the ODI World Cup and Rohit Sharma himself was in the thick of things at the 'Bull Ring' in Johannesburg when India won their maiden T20 World Cup in 2007.

But Sunday's final will be completely different. It won't just be a mere cricket tournament that needs to be won but also caring about the emotions of all those invested in the game.

Rohit and his mates have time and again said that they don't care about the outside noise but it is this outside noise that has made the game and this



team relevant. All the stakeholders - the fans, who treat these players as 'Demi Gods', the broadcasters who spend a bomb buy Indian cricket telecast rights and the sponsors, who support the game - all want the game to thrive and survive.

When Kapil Dev's toothy grin at the Lord's balcony melted fans' hearts in 1983, it was the beginning and no one knew which direction the road ahead will lead us to.

When Dhoni hit that winning six in 2011 World Cup final, it was more about a final reiteration that the 'Mecca of Cricket' has shifted long back and everyone needed to take a bow and accept Indian domination. **MORE P12**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



An Airforce show here and a couple of army tanks at the Aussies' hotel can easily ensure a win

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	31.5°C 31.4°C
TEMP MIN	21.9°C 21.2°C
Humidity	76% 74%
Rainfall	Nil Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky

Govt: DGP SK Bansal to retire December 31

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal will retire December 31, a Home department notification said Saturday.

Bansal was appointed as the state's top cop December 31, 2021. Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers including YB Khurania, B Radhika, AM Prasad, Sudhanshu Sarangi and Arun Sarangi are said to be the top contenders for the coveted post.

According to norm, the state government will send a list of senior IPS officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The central body will shortlist two or three names from the list and recommend the state government to pick one for the coveted post. Notably, 1987-batch Odisha



Senior IPS officers including YB Khurania, B Radhika, AM Prasad, Sudhanshu Sarangi and Arun Sarangi are said to be in the race for the top post

cadre IPS officer SK Bansal was appointed as SP, Mayurbhanj and later sent on Central deputation in 1994 before taking charge as DGP in December 2021.

BALD & BEAUTIFUL

Prince William named sexiest bald man of 2023

AGENCIES

London, Nov 18: In an atypical feat, United Kingdom's Prince William has earned the fame of the "sexiest bald man of 2023" by dethroning last year's winner Vin Diesel, as per a new study based on Google searches.

Marketing agency Reboot conducted the study by analysing how many times the Prince of Wales had been searched for, alongside the words "shirtless" or "naked". They also looked at celebrities' heights, net worth and how shiny their scalps are to come up with a total "sexy" score out of 10. As a result, a list was made in which Prince William topped with a total score of 9.88.

According to the study, Prince William's net worth is close to 100 million dollars. His height is

The British royal dethroned Vin Diesel, last year's winner, who is now in second place followed by Hollywood star Jason Statham

1.91 metre. The royal received 37,200 "shirtless" and "naked" searches yearly. In "vocal attractiveness," Prince William got a score of 9.91 out of 10 and in "shine" factor he got 8.90 out of 10.

The British royal dethroned Vin Diesel, last year's winner, who is now in second place followed by Hollywood star Jason Statham. Samuel L Jackson came fourth and billionaire and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos came fifth, with a total score of 7.12 out of 10. According to Indy100, Mr Bezos' net worth of 1,45,000 million dollars significantly improved his overall score.



In sixth place came former basketball player Michael Jordan, with a total score of 7.05. In the list, WWE superstar Dwayne Johnson, Hollywood star Shemar Moore, basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal and actor Terry

Crews got the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth positions respectively.

Among the sportspersons, Michael Jordan secured the top position as he has a net worth of 2600 million dollars. His height

is 1.98 metre. In vocal attractiveness, the former basketball star received a 9.26 out of 10 and in the shine factor, he got an 8.7 out of 10.

Meanwhile, reacting to the list, social media users dropped all kinds of reactions. "I still can't over Prince William being chosen for sexiest bald man of the year: Stanley Tucci was RIGHT THERE," wrote one user. "Was the study conducted by Prince William asking Prince William who he thought was the sexiest bald man of 2023?" jokingly asked another.

"Prince William definitely is 'The World's Sexiest Bald Man'," said a third X user.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, put your hands together for the World's sexiest bald man of 2023. William just makes it look cool," added another.

leisure

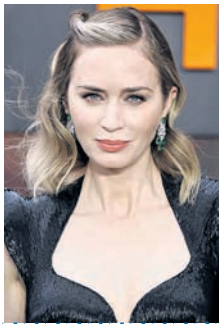


TAYLOR SWIFT DEVASTATED OVER FAN'S DEATH IN BRAZIL

Pop singer-songwriter Taylor Swift's hugely successful Eras Tour has seen a tragic tumble, as her Brazil gig has led to the accidental death of a fan which has left her devastated. Taking to Instagram, the singer penned a long note giving out her condolences to the person's loved ones.

EMILY BLUNT SAYS HER STUTTER AT TIMES TURNS A NIGHTMARE

Hollywood star Emily Blunt compares her stutter to an 'imposter' living inside her which often turns a nightmare. The Mary Poppins Returns actress suffered from a speech impediment in childhood and she admitted she sometimes still struggles to not have her words get 'stuck', particularly when feeling nervous.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will be very logical and rational today, as creativity is put on the back-burner. The situation at your workplace will be full of challenges, but you will take them head-on. Later, all the stress will be mitigated by the soothing touch of your loved ones, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
It will be an optimistic day with its share of day dreaming, says Ganesh. You will be submissive at work, giving in or blindly following the advice of your peers. Things at work may be tense and cause some trouble today afternoon, but they will be much more to your liking by nightfall as you return to the comfort of your beloved and your home.

GEMINI
Today will prove to be an emotional and engaging day for you, predicts Ganesh. Fortune will favour you, though your emotions may cloud your reasoning and slow down your progress. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods to make the best use of your knowledge.

CANCER
Today, you will use money to fulfill your needs. If there is anything that according to you needs changing, you will throw some money to get it changed. Your loved ones will celebrate your financial gains and spend some more of it in the process.

LEO
Maybe it is the weather, or just one of those days, but today, you are extremely prone to wild mood swings, says Ganesh. You must remember that nothing is permanent, except change. So go with the flow and do not get caught in the undercurrent of the changes that are taking place all around you.

VIRGO
Today you will find yourself overflowing with ideas. You have a soothing touch, the hands of a healer, and so you will be able to help many people, says Ganesh. You will be very considerate, and your mind-reading abilities will work wonders both for you and your loved ones.

LIBRA
Love is in the air, and passion lurks right around the corner. So keep your eyes and ears open, because you may soon find yourself entrapped in a passionate love episode. But the price of new love is always steep, and your beloved may burn a hole in your pocket.

SCORPIO
You shall groom yourself all prim and proper today. The thought of how you look dominates your mind today. You are likely to capture the imagination of people—both at work and at social gathering. Cash will exit left, right and centre from your pockets on account of fun and entertainment.

SAGITTARIUS
Dark and gloomy shall be your temperament for most part of the day today. But the afternoon may just see the skies clearing. The apparent mood change, says Ganesh; will mainly be because of good news from abroad and business profits from your partner.

CAPRICORN
Certain revelations about a relationship will draw your attention; you will find it intriguing and will spend a good amount of time trying to solve the mystery, says Ganesh. Besides, your impressive communication power will help dissolve conflicts that may have risen because of mis-interpretation.

AQUARIUS
You have managed to carve a niche for yourself. Today, you may see the tangible benefits of all your past hard work. But business rivals may poke and pinch; even your health may trouble you. However, you will manage to smile and take things in the right spirit, approves Ganesh.

PISCES
You are unlikely to be your calm and lucid self today. You will likely catch yourself worrying unnecessarily and putting in more efforts than required at work. However, some leisure time will come your way in the evening wherein you will regain your usual perspective, says Ganesh.

Shruti scared of marriage

Mumbai: Shruti Haasan is often spotted spending quality time with partner Santanu Hazarika and she has never shied away from discussing their relationship openly. While their bond has often sparked curiosity among the audiences about their marriage, Haasan clarifies that there s "no plans as for now."

"The word marriage scares me a lot. There is so much to it that I really don't want to think about it. I am happy being with him, doing good work in collaboration with him and having great time together," she says and quickly questions, "Isn't it better than most marriages?"

Describing the relationship the two share as "unconventional", she further says, "Santanu and I live a very unconventional life. We don't follow societal norms, we don't care if people are approving or not approving of us not getting married. As long as we are best of friends, good to each other and hold respect for one another, I don't see any problem."

Haasan further shares how the two are there for each other in times of joy and crisis. "We are there for each other and support each other during hard times. It feels better when you have someone while you struggle. It's better than dealing with everything alone. I don't think there is anything better than what we share."

Haasan and Hazarika have also worked together on former's latest song under their production house.

AGENCIES



Kat gets candid at AMA session



Mumbai: Tiger 3 marks the fifth installment of YRF's spy franchise. Helmed by Maneesh Sharma, it was one of the most anticipated films of the year, which opened with great reviews.

Amid this, Katrina Kaif hosted an Ask Me Anything(AMA) session on Instagram. A fan asked her, "What is it like on set with Salman." Katrina shared a photo with the actor and wrote, "As above, im perpetually stressing... and Salman is amused."

When a fan asked her to say something about Virat Kohli, she said, "Superstar, Inspiration... and the most lovely neighbour (sic)."

A fan asked her to share her favourite photo from Tiger 3 set which Katrina did, writing, "Tiger and Zoya in happy times (and a rare photo of Salman smiling)." Another fan asked Katrina where was Salman Khan. The actress replied, "He is at home. It is his parents' anniversary today. He is drinking coffee after having his lunch. He took this selfie to share with you all." The film sees Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif reprising their roles as Avinash and Zoya, respectively. Directed by Maneesh Sharma, Tiger 3 is produced by Aditya Chopra. The film has cameo by Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan. IANS

Beckham's note for 'great man' SRK

Mumbai: Top star Shah Rukh Khan and his family recently turned hosts for the legendary football player David Beckham, who visited India to not only attend the India vs New Zealand semi-finals during the World Cup 2023 but also support UNICEF programmes in the country. Upon meeting SRK, David penned a lovely note and called him a 'great man'.

In a photo shared on his Instagram, David Beckham wrote, "Honoured to have been welcomed into this great man's home. To enjoy a meal with @iamsrk, @gaurikhan, their beautiful children and close friends - what a special way to end my first visit to India... Thank you my friend - you and your family are welcome any time in my home."

David also thanked Anand Ahuja and

Sonam Kapoor Ahuja for turning hosts and making his India visit eventful. "@sonamkapoor and @anandahuja - you hosted me with such warmth and kindness this week, thank you for the amazing evening you created at your home - see you again soon," he added.

Shah Rukh Khan also shared a photo with Beckham and wrote, "Last nite with an icon...and an absolute gentleman.

Have always been a big admirer but meeting him and seeing how he is with kids made me realise that the only thing that out does his football is his kindness and his gentle nature. My love to your family. Be well and happy my friend and get some sleep...@Davidbeckham."

IANS



Shriya to perform IFFI's opening act

Mumbai: As the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) heads off to Goa November 20, actress Shriya Saran is set to perform the opening ceremony of the festival, and later grace the red carpet.

Much of the details about the festival are under wraps, and how it will mark its conclusion is not yet revealed, though Shriya has not hidden her excitement for performing at IFFI, and is thrilled to be the one to perform its opening ceremony.

Talking about the event, the Gautamiputra Satakarni actress said: "Performing for a live audience is always exhilarating and always wonderful. I have shot for Drishyam in Goa, and it's a beautiful place."

She added: "IFFI is a very prestigious platform, so I am greatly honoured. But I cannot say much about the performance because it will take away the charm. But I am greatly looking forward to November 20."

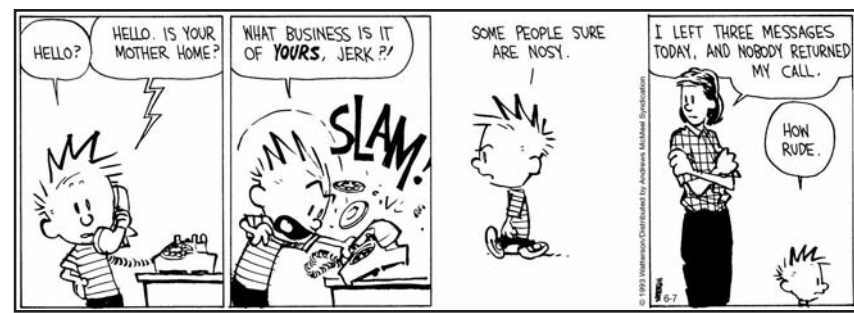
Shriya will be one of the prime openers for the ceremony, joining the roster of fellow stars Pankaj Tripathi, Shahid Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, and Nushratt Bharucha.

IANS

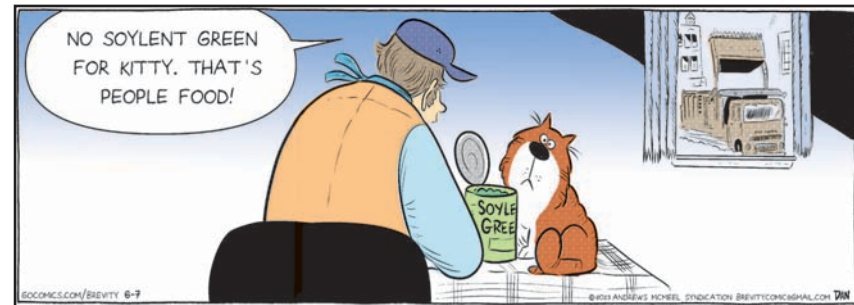
PEANUTS



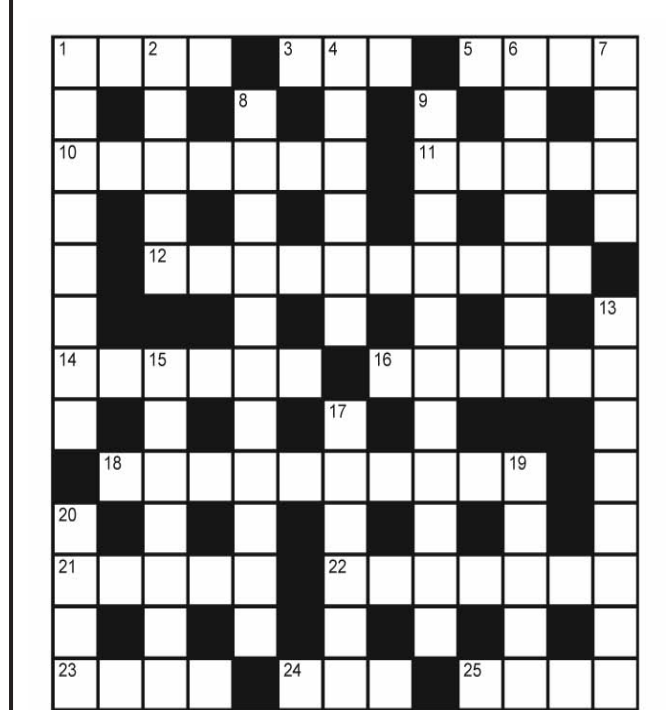
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Cousin of a mandolin
 - 2 Light source
 - 3 Toward the stern
 - 5 Visored cap
 - 10 Passion
 - 11 Saltpetre
 - 12 Shark type
 - 14 Shrewd
 - 16 Pepsin, e.g.
 - 18 Earthquakes' origin points
 - 21 Plato's plaza
 - 22 Play type
 - 23 Sicilian resort
 - 24 Consume
 - 25 Horned goddess
 - 8 Beauty parlour employee
 - 9 Lorelei or Delilah, e.g.
 - 13 Car, bus and wagon, e.g.
 - 15 Extreme weather alert
 - 17 Garden decorations
 - 19 Axes
 - 20 River to the Rhine

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



Traffic cops go tough on errant bikers, seize 80 vehicles

BHUBANESWAR: Cracking whip on errant motorists, the City traffic police Saturday confiscated 74 bikes after the riders were found driving on the wrong side. IIC Traffic, Zone 1, Debendra Biswal said alongside, six more 'noisy' motorcycles were also seized, even as the enforcement drive evoked angry reaction among office goers during morning rush hour. The drive was jointly carried out by the local police and City traffic sleuths. More than 16 teams were formed in two traffic zones of the City to act against traffic offenders. The cops were positioned at various strategic locations on the main arterial roads, including AG square, Raj Mahal square, Sishu Bhawan square and 120 Battalion square, to bring rogue bikers to book.

NAVEEN DEDICATES 349 AMBULANCES

With this, the total strength of 108 ambulance fleet has gone up to 1,366

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday dedicated 349 ambulances to the people of the state for better patient care.

Patnaik flagged off the ambulances at Kalinga Stadium here. Out of the 349 ambulances, 279 will be managed under 108 emergency ambulance service. The rest 70 will be deployed at the medical colleges and hospitals and district headquarters hospitals (DHHs) to facilitate emergency transportation of patients receiving treatment under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) to private hospitals, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), said.

Out of the 70, 30 are Advanced Life Support (ALS) and 40 are Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances.

The government has spent Rs 148.45 crore for launching the new fleet of ambulances in the state, it said. With the addition of new ambulances, the total strength of 108 ambulances in the state has gone up to 1,366. At present, more than 4,000 patients are provided 108 ambulance services across the state on a daily basis. Therefore, the inclusion of new ambulances will further boost the reach and scale of the emergency patient transportation.



Capital Hospital gets modular OT complex

In boost to state's health-care sector, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a modular operation theatre (OT) complex at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) and Capital Hospital here, Saturday.

Dedicating the Rs 16.76 crore state-of-the-art facility, Naveen said the ultramodern complex is a huge step towards ensuring advanced treatment to critically-ill patients.

According to the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department, the complex houses four OTs which can facilitate eight surgeries simultaneously. "With highly-advanced facilities, the modular operation theatre complex will facilitate critical surgeries, contributing to improved patient care," an official of the H&FW department said.

With 4 operation theatres, the complex can facilitate 8 surgeries simultaneously

5T and Naveen Odisha Chairman VK Pandian, H&FW Minister Niranjan Pujari, department Secretary Shalini Pandit and Capital Hospital Director Laxmidhar Sahoo were present during the inauguration.



GREEN WARRIORS: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy with young environmentalists who participated in an interactive session, at the Press Club of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, Saturday. The event is a precursor to the Dharitri Youth Conclave scheduled to be held in the Capital city November 24

Vaishnaw, Pradhan to flag off express train extension Nov 20

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will flag off the extension of an express train at Sambalpur November 20, an official said Saturday.

Vaishnaw and Pradhan will flag off the extension of Banaras-Sambalpur-Banaras bi-weekly express up to Visakhapatnam at Sambalpur railway station November 20 afternoon, the official said.



Sambalpur MP Nitesh Gangadev and MLA Jayanarayan Mishra will grace the occasion while several other MPs will join the event through video conferencing.

Ex-tehsil clerk gets 4-yr RI for bribery

Bhubaneswar: The Vigilance court in Sundargarh Saturday sentenced a former head clerk with a tehsil office in the district to four years rigorous imprisonment (RI) after convicting him in a 2015 bribery case. Additionally, the court also slapped a cash penalty on Md. Sabir Hussain, former head clerk with Balisankara tehsil, for the offence under Sections 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988. Failure to pay the penalty would entail additional two months of RI, the court ruled. The former head clerk was further handed down three years of RI and slapped with a penalty for the offence under Section 7 of PC Act, 1988. The convict would serve two more months of RI in case of failure to pay the amount, the court said, adding that both the sentences would run concurrently.

More women in Odisha enter labour force, many self-employed

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HIGHEST FOR WOMEN WITH GRADUATE LEVEL OF EDUCATION (32.7 PER CENT), FOLLOWED BY POST-GRADUATES (16.3 PER CENT)

ATRI PRASAD ROUT, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: When Sujata was 21, her father married her off after her mother's unfortunate death. The eldest among three children, Sujata, before marriage, would attend to household chores while taking care of her ailing mother. Now, three years later, she works as a labourer at construction sites.



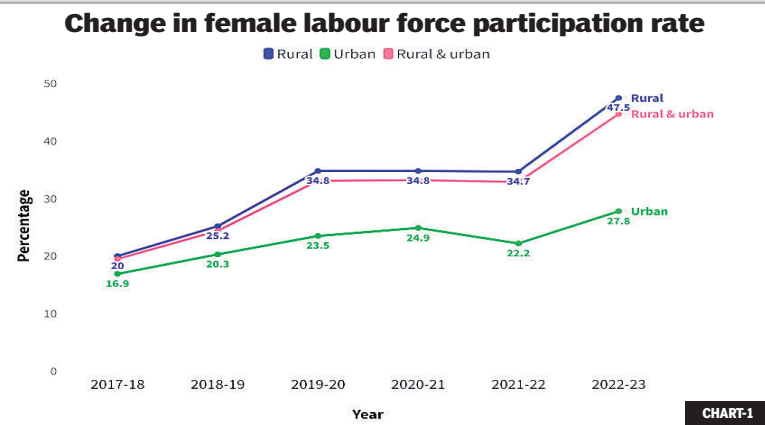
in opportunities in the rural non-farm sector," says Narayan Chandra Nayak, an author of the article and a professor at IIT, Kharagpur.

Seeking security in self
Another reason for a higher rural FLFPR could be the state government's promotion of self-help groups (SHGs) which enable women to start enterprises and market their products.

Data shows, among women participating in the labour force, a large number in Odisha are self-employed, either running their own businesses or helping in household enterprises. Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the share of self-employed women has grown significantly both in urban and rural areas (Chart 2) as the share of salaried women has fallen along with that of casual labourers.

"Improvement in education among women helps them fetch formal employment as well as get self-employed," says Nayak emphasising the role of literacy.

However, though the female unemployment rate in the state has gone

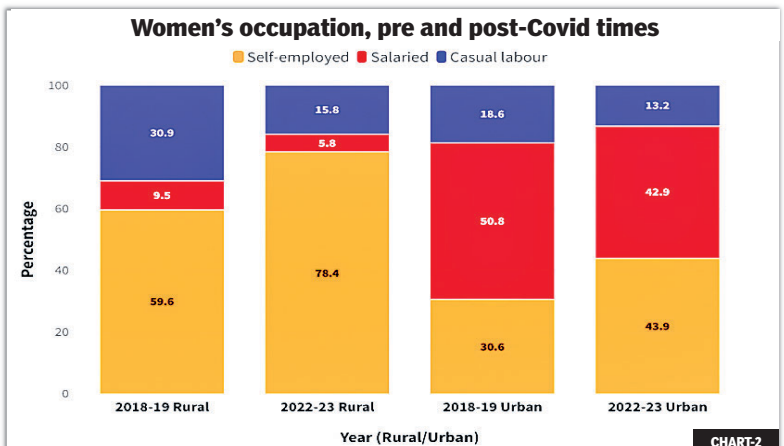


But Sujata is not the only one who has started working in recent years. As per 2022-23 annual report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) for Odisha now stands at a five-year high of 44.7 per cent. In other words, 45 out of 100 women, 15 years or above, are now either working or looking for employment.

In 2017-18, when the survey was first conducted, the FLFPR in the state was around 19 per cent (Chart 1), below the all-India rate of 23.3. But after three years of possible Covid-induced stagnation, it has now gone above the national rate of 37.

This increase in female labour force participation suggests that more women are now actively taking part in public life, a sign of development for the state. But there remain deep urban-rural divides.

A closer look at the data shows that the labour force participation for women in rural areas remains higher than urban areas, a pattern that could be attributed partly to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which mandates one third of



beneficiaries to be women. An article on MGNREGA participation in Odisha published in The Indian Journal of Labour Economics in 2018 had found the scheme to be 'gender sensitive,' with Panchayati Raj Institutions likely prioritising efforts towards households with more female members.

"There is no denying that MGNREGS must have been playing a role. In addition, there can be other reasons too. We may also attribute it to increasing education level among females in rural areas coupled with a rise

down post-Covid (from 4.4 in 2021-22 to 2.4 in 2022-23) it remains higher (6.8) for urban women compared to rural (2).

Furthermore, the rate is highest for women with graduate level of education (32.7 per cent), followed by post-graduates (16.3 per cent), signalling a job market that doesn't have enough well-paying jobs for women with higher-education.

Meanwhile, Sujata, who completed only primary school, is determined to send her daughter to college. "I work to pay for her school. She is our hope for the future," she says.

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8 held so far with crackers in trains

No inflammable objects: ECoR launches awareness drive



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The East Coast Railways (ECoR) has arrested 8 persons and fire crackers worth around 2,4350 were seized even as it intensified drive to make passengers careful against carrying inflammable objects while travelling on trains.

During Diwali, ECoR conducted 619 searches in trains, 427 at stations and 182 at yards, pit lines, and fueling points.

After detection of fire crackers in trains at various locations like New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Jabalpur, and Vijaywada stations, Ministry of Railways issued instructions to Zonal Railways for Drive against carriage of inflammable items across the Railways network.

All Zonal Railways have launched intensive awareness drive for the passengers. Regular announcements are being made at Railway stations making an appeal not to carry inflammable and explosive objects like firecrackers, gas cylinders, acid, petrol, and kerosene in passenger trains during a train journey.

Public Address Systems were also utilized at all the stations to

create awareness among passengers about the dangerous of carrying inflammable items. Apart from this, posters also placed at different public movement areas along with distribution of pamphlets.

Zonal Railways have directed officials concerned to keep a strict vigil on passenger movements while travelling by train. Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel have been alerted. Luggage and parcel items are being scanned thoroughly before loading.

Lease Holders and their Staff, Parcel Staff, Pantry Car Staff, Catering Staff of Stations, Porters/Coolie, OBHS Staff and other outsources Staff along with passengers were also counselled about the dangerous of inflammable items carrying during travelling in trains.

As per Sections 67, 164, and 165 of the Railway Act 1989, carrying flammable and explosive articles on railways constitutes a punishable offence, with penalties of up to Rs 1,000 or imprisonment for up to three years, or both, in addition to being responsible for any loss, injury, or damage caused.

Odia scientist wins ACM Gordon Bell Prize

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: A young Odish scientist recently won the prestigious Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Gordon Bell Prize in SC23 global conference held at Denver, USA.

Gourab Panigrahi, an alumnus of DAV School, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, bagged the prize for the project "Large Scale Materials Modelling at Quantum Accuracy: Ab Initio Simulations of Quasicrystals and Interacting Extended Defects in Metallic Alloys".

He is part of an eight-member team from American and Indian institutions involved in the project. He is a PhD student at the department of Computational and Data Sciences at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

The Prize is awarded each year to recognise outstanding achievement in high-performance computing. The purpose of the award is to track the progress over time of parallel computing, with particular emphasis on rewarding innovation in applying high-performance computing to applications in science, engineering, and large-scale data analytics.

This year's prize-winning team has developed a framework that combines the accuracy provided by Quantum Many-Body (QMB) methods with the efficiency of Density-Functional Theory (DFT) to access larger length scales at quantum accuracy – a goal that existing approaches have not been able to achieve.



CLOSER LOOK: People browsing through paintings at 37th annual Art and Craft Exhibition organised by BK College of Arts and Crafts at Kalinga Art Gallery in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Odisha Day to be observed at IITF today

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Odisha State Day will be celebrated at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) Sunday here. The function will mark several cultural performances and unveiling of Utkal Prasang (Odia) and Odisha Review (English) magazine.

The function will be held at the amphitheatre 1 at IITPO premises here and performances like the classical dance of the state i.e. Odissi by Utkal Sangeet Mohavidyala, Bhubaneswar; the

Birli Dance (Adivasi Dance) by Adarsh Adivasi Nrutya Kala, Sorishapadar, Boipariguda, Koraput, Sambalpur; Dalkhai Folk Dance by Baul Jhupa Sanskritika Anusthan, Bargarh, and the devotional songs by Abhilipsa Panda of 'Har Har Sambhu' fame will mark the occasion, officials said.

Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Forest, Environment & Climate Change and Information & Public Relations minister Pradip Kumar Amat Saturday briefed media here about the

Odisha pavilion and the state day celebration at IITF. He will grace the occasion as chief guest.

The Minister said that the state pavilion having 24 stalls embodies the state's ancient maritime trade and also showcases the noble agricultural products, ethically woven handloom and the artefacts. The vision of the Chief Minister to empower the women has its reflection on the participation of ORMAS and Mission Shakti in the Pavilion. The other participants include the Department of Textiles,

MSME, ST & SC and Tourism, Boyanika (Co-operative of Weavers) and Odisha Millet Mission, Directorate of handicrafts. Odisha Tourism Development Corporation has set-up a Food Stall in the Food Court of the Fair which has been vending delicious Odia cuisines.

The officials said that footfall of 40 thousand is recorded till date and the volume of visitors will be tangibly huge this year as the arena of Odisha pavilion comprises of 550 sqm mtr. The approximate footfall last year was 2.75 lakh.

Three-day wellness workshop at ODM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: To promote holistic wellness among students, ODM Public School here organized a three-day 'Health and Wellness Workshop' on 'World Naturopathy Day' Saturday with participation of renowned naturopathy center Healthville.



Healthville chairman Satyabrata Minaketan and the chief physician and naturopathic expert Milind Parashar informed the nearly 300 people in the audience on concepts, methods and techniques of naturopathy. Minaketan encouraged the audience about how to live a healthy, wholesome life with help of natural healing principles by balancing and streamlining today's unbalanced and chaotic, environment, diet and lifestyle. He emphasized the relevance of natural healing methods to nature's human beings. Parashar, chief medical officer of Healthville, spoke to the audience about the natural healing process and answered their queries.

PLF 2nd edition kicks off in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: The second edition of the two-day Parichaya Literary Festival (PLF) kicked off here, Saturday. The event is supported by Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The first day of the event began with recital of 'Bande Utkala Janani' followed by classical dance performances by Saswat Joshi and his team. In addition, a team of 'Lasyakala' did an ethnic fashion walk with the theme 'Akshyara - A Tribute to Indian Literature and Upanyasa'.

PRAYAS founder Priyadarshi Mishra and Parichaya Literary Festival chairperson Rosalin

Patsani graced the occasion with their presence.

The dignitaries present in the event were Kendra Sahitya Akademi president Madhab Koushik, Kendra Sahitya Akademi Secretary K Sreenivas Rao, Jnanpith Awardee Sitakanta Mohapatra, Padma Shri Debiprasanna Pattanaik, Editor of Odia daily 'Samaj' Pramod Kumar Mahapatra, Sahitya Akademi Awardee and renowned critic Prafulla Kumar Mohanty, Marathi poet Sanjaya Borude and Tamil poet and translator G Moorthy. The literary programme is an initiative to foster the growth and development of Odia language.

Bhub MP writes to CM on Padmakesharpur violence

Bhubaneswar: Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi wrote a letter to the Chief Minister Saturday seeking immediate restoration of normalcy in Padmakesharpur village of North Bhubaneswar. In her letter, Sarangi said that after hearing about the acute law and order problem in Padmakesharpur village, she visited the village and met the residents there. She said, "To my dismay, the village was completely dark and deserted. Very few women and children, whom I met, were found to be in great panic and fear. About 150 persons have been arrested by police and are in jail for the past three months. Money lending matters, subsequent fights and police action these reasons were brought to my knowledge." "Police action might have been necessary however, it was all the more required on part of the state government to get at the root cause of the problems and form peace committee immediately," she added.

Mother's Public School celebrates Annual Day

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Mother's Public School celebrated its annual day 'Ankurum' at Utkal Mandap, Saturday. The event was centered on the theme 'vision for a better tomorrow'.

The chief guest of the event was the Regional Head of CBSE T Mate. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Sahodaya Schools Complex chairman, Colonel Balu Bharat and vice chairman, Satyabrata Minaketan.

Chairman and Principal of Mother's Group of Institutions Poly Patnaik read the annual report highlighting the achievements of the academic year 2022-23.

Patnaik told that Mother's Public School started working on the agenda of sustainable development goals (SDGs) since 2022 that include goals of 'zero hunger', 'quality education', and



'life under water'.

"Several outreach programs were conducted for promoting the local arts and artisans like the Pattachitra painters and the handmade diya vendors," she informed.

Mother's public School MD Sreejeet Patnaik said, "The primary objective of 'Ankurum' is to convey messages on how to preserve the climate for future generations. The theme centers on the 17 SDGs outlined by CBSE Guidelines, with each goal being systematically described in order to emphasize strategies for pre-

serving the climate for future generations".

Prashanta Behera, a vegetable vendor at Unit-1 market was felicitated at the function for saying a strict 'No' to the use of polythene.

Several students and teachers were also felicitated in the function for their and outstanding performance. The programme 'Panchabhoota' was the main attraction of the event in which children, through their dance, conveyed the message on Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN.

Malnutrition linked with global rise in antibiotic resistance

Researchers at the University of British Columbia have in a mice study uncovered startling connections between micronutrient deficiencies and the composition of gut microbiomes in early life that could help explain why resistance to antibiotics has been rising across the globe



The 'hidden hunger' of micronutrient deficiencies could be an important factor for the global rise in antibiotic resistance, which is often attributed to overuse and misuse of antibiotics, according to an alarming study.

Researchers at the University of British Columbia have in a mice study uncovered startling connections between micronutrient deficiencies and the composition of gut microbiomes in early life that could help explain why resistance to antibiotics has been rising across the globe.

"Globally, around 340 million

children under five suffer from multiple micronutrient deficiencies, which not only affect their growth but also significantly alter their gut microbiomes," said Dr Paula Littlejohn, a postdoctoral research fellow with UBC's department of medical genetics and department of paediatrics.

"Our findings are particularly concerning as these children are often prescribed antibiotics for malnutrition-related illnesses. Ironically, their gut microbiome may be primed for antibiotic resistance due to the underlying micronutrient deficiencies," she

added.

The study, published in the journal Nature Microbiology, investigated how deficiencies in crucial micronutrients such as vitamin A, B12, folate, iron, and zinc affected the community of bacteria, viruses, fungi and other microbes that live in the digestive system.

The team discovered that these deficiencies led to significant shifts in the gut microbiome of mice -- most notably an alarming expansion of bacteria and fungi known to be opportunistic pathogens.

Importantly, mice with micronutrient deficiencies also exhibited a higher enrichment of

Globally, around 340 million children under five suffer from multiple micronutrient deficiencies, which not only affect their growth but also significantly alter their gut microbiomes."

PAULA LITTLEJOHN | POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

genes that have been linked to antibiotic resistance.

"Micronutrient deficiency has been an overlooked factor in the conversation about global antibiotic resistance," said Dr. Littlejohn.

"This is a significant discovery, as it suggests that nutrient deficiencies can make the gut environment more conducive to the development of antibiotic resistance, which is a major global health concern,"

she added.

Bacteria naturally possess these genes as a defence mechanism. Certain circumstances, such as antibiotic pressure or nutrient stress, cause an increase in these mechanisms.

This poses a threat that could render many potent antibiotics ineffective and lead to a future where common infections could become deadly.

The study offers critical insights into the far-reaching consequences of micronutrient deficiencies in early life.

It underscores the need for comprehensive strategies to address undernutrition and its ripple effects on health. Addressing micronutrient deficiencies is about more than overcoming malnutrition, it may also be a critical step in fighting the global scourge of antibiotic resistance.

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FIR over vulgar post on Goddess Samaleswari

Sambalpur: In yet another incident after the dispute in Odia film industry, Bajrang Dal members here registered a complaint Saturday at the Town police station against a person for making an obscene post on social media using foul language in the name of Maa Samaleswari, the presiding deity of western Odisha. The accused who uploaded the obscene post has been identified as Bikram Rout. Due to his post, the sentiments of the devotees have been hurt, alleged the western Odisha regional co-ordinator of Bajrang Dal Sudhir Ranjan Bohidar. Tension ran high in the area and locals demanded strict action against the wrongdoer.

Man missing in Brahmani

Pattamunda: A man went missing during bath in Brahmani river near Andara village under Pattamunda block in Kendrapara district Saturday. The missing person has been identified as Bikrant Malik aka Bitu, 47, a native of the village. As per report, Bikrant went to a ghat near Matamath for a bath in Brahmani Saturday morning. However, when he did not return home for long, family members started searching for him. His motorcycle and a pair of sandals were found on the river bank. Informed, fire personnel reached the spot and even after a frantic search till 5pm in nearby areas and in the river could not trace Bikrant.

Merger of schools misfires, forces students to drop out

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 18: The state government's move to merge schools in proximity has backfired and consequent closure of several of them has forced students to drop out from studies.

Notably, the per-capita expense made on students studying in government primary schools of the state has reached ₹25,041 in 2021-22 FY.

However, guardians are unable to repose faith on the state-run schools and hesitate to admit their wards for studies. Several schools have been shut down in past owing to merger of schools, an initiative undertaken by the state government.

As a result, many students have been deprived of their educational rights and forced to abandon their studies. This has led to an increase in number of dropouts instead, a report said Saturday.

As many as six schools have been shut in this district due to the mergers while the concerned guardians have written to the authorities of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) demanding re-opening of the closed schools.

According to Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) plus report,

dropout rate is on an increase among students from Class-III to Class-X in Jajpur district.

As many as 31,836 students were admitted to Class-II in 2021-22 FY. However, out of them 202 students (0.63 per cent) dropped out in Class-III. Similarly, 567 students in Class-IV, 443 students in Class-V, 772 students in Class-VI, 715 in Class-VII, 991 in Class-VIII, 1,371 in Class-IX and 2,207 students in Class-X left their studies.

Observers said the reason behind the rising dropout rate is the merger of some primary and upper primary schools with their nearest schools in rural areas.

Sources said that the primary school in Sabo village under Barchana block is lying closed following its merger with its nearest school in the neighbouring village situated six to seven km away. With two rivers flowing on both sides of the village, more than 35 students are faced a harrowing time to turn up at the school and have been deprived of primary education.

Villagers Chimanaya Kumar Dalai and others demanded to reopen the school and start classes in their village which will be of benefit to scores of students.

Similarly, the school in



Akhadadiha village in Balia panchayat of Bari block was shut after its merger. Students in this village are unable to attend classes as the nearest school is about two km from their village. As a result, children have stopped studying and are wandering aimlessly. Villagers Mahendra Das, Sunakar Jena, Mamata Das, Basant Kumar Das, Nabaghana Das and Narendra Das have demanded to reopen the Akhadadiha Project Primary School.

The primary school at Uttarkhajira village in Barundi panchayat of Korei block is lying

closed for the past two years. Villagers Srikant Kumar Sahu, Narayan Swain, Minati Sahu have demanded to reopen the school in the greater interest of the students.

The primary school at Abhayapur village established in 1961 under Dharماسala block has 105 students on its roll. However, students completing Class-V have to travel three km to attend classes in the nearest school to continue their studies. As a result, many students fail to enroll in Class-VI and subsequently give up studies.

Samiti member Surekha Rout, villagers Abhimanyu Rana, Manoj Rana, Arun

As many as six schools have been shut in Jajpur district due to the mergers. Closure of schools has led to an increase in dropout rates among students.

Wife, paramour held for cook's murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 18: Police Saturday cracked the murder mystery of a man working as cook at a dhaba as it arrested his wife and her paramour under Chandili police limits on the outskirts of Rayagada town.

The murder took place over the extra marital affair of the deceased's wife with the other accused, SDPO Rashmi Ranjan Senapati said at a presser held here Saturday.



The victim was identified as Binay Pal, a dhaba cook by profession residing at Saipriya Nagar on the outskirts of Rayagada town. Chandili police arrested his accused wife Sunita Pal and her paramour G Kartik. The accused were produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody, the SDPO said.

According to the SDPO, Binaya was brutally killed November 15 night. The deceased's father Rajanikant Pal lodged a complaint at Chandili police station. Police registered a case and found Sunita to have killed Binay in assistance with Kartik, her paramour. The duo had an extramarital affair going on for the last several days, the SDPO said.

Police registered a case under Sections 302, 201, 120(B), and 34 of the IPC. An eight-month-old kid of Sunita and Binaya was also remanded to judicial custody along with her mother.

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TRIBAL CHARM: Artistes perform a tribal dance at the zone level Synergy Lok Sanskritik Mahotsav organised by Rourkela Steel Plant at Sona Parbat village under Lathikata block in Sundargarh district

Leopard sighted; video goes viral

PNN & AGENCIES

Ghashipura, Nov 18: A leopard was seen roaming on a field near Panchupalli village under this police limit in Anandapur block of Keonjhar district. Forest officials said Saturday.

A video of the animal roaming near the Baitarani river at Panchupalli went viral on social media platforms. Forest officials Saturday examined the pugmarks found on the farmland and suspected it to be that of an adult leopard, DFO Abhaya Kumar Dalei said.

The matter came to the light after a video of the animal walking on a farmland near the Baitarani river went viral on social media platforms, Friday

The development has



sparked panic in the village prompting forest officials to take stock of the situation and conduct an awareness drive to sensitise the villagers. They have asked the villagers not to venture

outside alone and to put on lights outside their houses. In case of urgency, they have been told to go out in groups at night.

Forest officials suspect that the animal may have trespassed into the area from Hadagarh wildlife division.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda said the leopard came from Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary and there is no need to panic as the animal will again return to the sanctuary at the night.

Forest department officials are keeping a vigil on the movement of the leopard, he said, adding, "This is a normal phenomena and the leopard will definitely return to the sanctuary. I appeal to the people not to assemble to watch the leopard."

Rourkela Science Park to open Feb

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 18: The District Centre-cum-Science Park and Planetarium, which is being constructed at Chhend here, will be completed by the end of February next year, a minister said Saturday.

During a visit to the construction site, Minister for Science and Technology Ashok Panda informed that the park will be completed by February next year. Work on the park began April 29 in 2021 and was supposed to be finished last year. Built at an initial cost of ₹16.81

crore, the project has been delayed by more than a year and four months.

Interestingly, the date of completion on the project declaration board has been blurred, probably to hide it from public view during the minister's visit.

However, a closer look revealed that the project was to be over in July, 2022. Panda also informed that another ₹4 crore will be spent on the project taking the total cost of the project to ₹20 crore.

Initially, a big public park was planned as Chhend has more than 15,000 households.

Initially, a big public park was planned as Chhend has more than 15,000 households.

Rayagada pilots delivery of drugs through drones

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 18: On an experimental basis, delivery of medicines through drone was launched Friday at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) at Barijohla and the office of the Assistant Engineer, Public Health Sub-Division, Rayagada.

Under the programme, Redwing's electric hybrid drones will deliver medicines and medical equipment to tribal-dominated areas in Rayagada district that face hurdles in accessing healthcare services.

The service got underway under the direct supervision of USAID and Redwing. In the first phase, medicines were delivered at Kalyansinghpur and Gudari hospitals through drones. After its success, medicines will be delivered to various hospitals situated in remote areas of the district.



As per reports, the drones will be operated by a trained person in the District Headquarters Hospital. The drones will deliver all kinds of essential medicines for the patients to various hospitals.

Notably, all types of medicines have been stored and the drone will be utilised at the time of any emergency.

DMF Keonjhar stall turns heads at IITF

PLACED IN HALL-5 OF THE MINING PAVILION AT IITF, THE STALL FEATURES A DYNAMIC EXHIBITION OF VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS EXECUTED BY THE DMF IN KEONJHAR



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 18: As a top performing DMF district, Keonjhar has been selected by the Ministry of Mines to open a stall at the prestigious India International Trade Fair (IITF) held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from Nov 14 to 27. This recognition underscores the impactful development work undertaken by DMF Keonjhar across the various sectors of social development.

The stall, situated in Hall-5 of the Mining Pavilion at IITF, features a dynamic exhibition of various development projects executed by the DMF Keonjhar. Utilising cutting-edge technology, the stall offers visitors a unique experience through Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual

Reality (VR), providing a vivid 3D view of project sites.

The stall is displaying video documentaries showcasing the breadth and impact of DMF Keonjhar's work on an LED screen. Sector-specific leaflets are also being distributed, offering comprehensive insights into the positive outcomes achieved through DMF initiatives.

In addition to these engaging exhibits, the stall is proud to present Tusser Silk Products from Bhagamunda, Paper Mesh items, Millet biscuits and cookies, and Millet seeds, which are also available for purchase. These locally sourced products have garnered significant attention, drawing visitors with their unique appeal. Officials from the dis-

trict administration and six members of the Mission Shakti Self-Help Group (SHG) from the district will be present in three phases to showcase various works under DMF and to manage the sale of these products respectively. The inaugural day witnessed the esteemed presence of VL Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines who lauded the commendable projects funded by DMF Keonjhar across various sectors in the district.

Many Central government officials and dignitaries visiting the stall expressed admiration for the transformative impact of DMF Keonjhar's initiatives. The millet products, in particular, have captured the hearts of many visitors. Due to overwhelming demand, additional products have been sent in the second phase to meet the growing interest.

DMF Keonjhar through its innovative and strategic implementation of projects, continues to positively transform and touch the lives of people in mining-affected areas. The theme of IITF for this year is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - United By Trade'.

The tagline of the Mining Pavilion, 'Connecting Beyond Mining', complements the broader vision and impact of Keonjhar district's efforts in fostering sustainable development.

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(Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

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 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 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 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.

BARGARH BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property	Demand/Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
Borrower: Mr. Vivekananda Mishra, S/o: Mr. Bhairab Mishra, Resident of 1) Flat No.: 403, 4th Floor, Sainath Villa, N.H-6, Near Over Bridge, Bargarh Town, Bargarh, Odisha, PIN-768028, 2) At: Sountapur, P.O.: Gudesira, Dist.: Bargarh, Odisha, PIN-768028	All that part and parcel of the Flat No.: 403, 4th Floor, Block-A, Sainath Villa, Near Over Bridge, Bargarh Town, developed on Khata No.: 1976, Plot No.: 933(P), Area: Ac.0.05Dec., Mouza: Tora, Dist.: Bargarh, Within Bargarh Municipality, Bounded by North: Open Space & Flat No.: 405, South: Staircase, East: Corridor & Flat No.: 405, West: Open Space in the name of Mr. Vivekananda Mishra, S/o.Mr. Bhairab Mishra,	04.09.2023 / 17.11.2023	₹16, 54,138/- as on 04.09.2023 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrower: Mr. Kumar Sahu, S/o: Late Judhistir Sahu, At: Ward No.: 3, College Road, Lecture Colony, P.O./Dist.: Bargarh-768028, Odisha	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 8261/14319, Khata No.: 2542/2051, Mouza: Bargarh, Tahasil/P.S.: Bargarh, Dist.: Bargarh, Area: Ac.0.05 dec., in the name of Mr. Kumar Sahu, S/o: Late Judhistir Sahu, Bounded by North: Vacant Land, South: House of Ananta Charan Dash, East: Road, West: House of Jibardhan Sahu	05.09.2023 / 17.11.2023	₹15,12,758.57 as on 04.09.2023 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
Borrowers: 1) Akil Ahmed Mohammad, S/o: Badru Rahman Mohammad, 2) Gazala Parween, W/o: Akil Ahammad Mohammad, Both Residing at Flat No.: 404, 4th Floor, Sainath Villa, N.H-6, Near Over Bridge, Bargarh Town, Dist.: Bargarh-768028, Odisha	All that part and parcel of the Flat No.: 404, 4th Floor, Block-A, Sainath Villa, Near Over Bridge, Bargarh Town, developed on Khata No.: 1976, Plot No.: 933(P), Area: Ac.0.05Dec., Mouza: Tora, Dist.: Bargarh, Odisha, Within Bargarh Municipality, Bounded by North:Open Space & Flat No.: 405, South: Stair Case, East: Corridor & Flat No.: 405, West: Open Space, in the name of Akil Ahmed Mohammad, S/o: Badru Rahman Mohammad	04.09.2023 / 17.11.2023	₹12,46,028/- as on 04.09.2023 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Place: Sambalpur
Date : 18.11.2023

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

CLIMATE-LED HEALTH CRISIS



As climate change worsens, its effects on our physical and mental health are no longer hypothetical

Our continued dependence on fossil fuels is damaging our health and pushing global temperatures to record levels. The interlinked climate calamities of the past few years — extreme weather events, food insecurity, water scarcity, and worsening air pollution — are a direct result of greenhouse-gas emissions. But the adverse effects we are experiencing today could be just a preview of the catastrophes that await us.

That is the key finding of the latest Lancet Countdown report on climate change and health, authored by a group of leading health and climate scientists that I led. Undoubtedly, this grim conclusion will not come as a shock to the millions of people suffering from climate-related health issues and their loved ones. Most of us, wherever we live, are directly or indirectly affected by this crisis.

As climate change worsens, its effects on our physical and mental health are no longer hypothetical. Our research finds that, compared with 1981-2010, the increasing frequency of heatwaves and droughts over the past few years has exposed 127 million more people to moderate or severe food insecurity in 2021. Meanwhile, outdoor air pollution from the combustion of dirty fuels claims 1.9 million lives annually, and infectious diseases like dengue are expanding to new regions.

Yet, despite 27 years of annual climate-change negotiations, world leaders still refuse to acknowledge the urgent need to phase out fossil fuels. Despite overwhelming evidence that fossil-fuel combustion is the primary driver of the current health crisis, a draft statement on climate change and health, set to be released during the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, omits any reference to the issue.

With many countries and com-

panies backtracking on their climate commitments, the world is moving in the wrong direction. At the current rate of GHG emissions, we are heading for a global temperature increase of nearly 3 degree Celsius by 2100, far above the 1.5°C target established by the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

The consequences could be catastrophic. Even with a global mean temperature increase of just under 2°C, annual heat-related deaths are projected to increase by 370% by mid-century. The most vulnerable groups, the elderly and children, are now exposed to twice as many heatwave days as they were 30 years ago. And with heatwaves becoming increasingly frequent, the number of people suffering from moderate or severe food insecurity could increase by roughly 525 million by mid-century.

Beyond these direct effects, the climate crisis undermines individual well-being and the socioeconomic conditions necessary for a healthy population. In 2022, extreme heatwaves resulted in a loss of 490 billion working hours worldwide. Even if we manage to limit global warming to just below 2°C, heat-related labour loss is projected to increase by 50%. The regions that have contributed the least to climate change — Africa, South and Central America, Asia, and small island developing states

— often bear the brunt of climate-related health risks.

Given the urgency of the threat we face, the current pace of global efforts to reduce emissions is insufficient, falling far short of the Paris agreement's targets. Energy-based emissions hit an all-time high in 2022, while renewables still account for only 9.5% of the world's electricity. Households around the world still rely on dirty fuels. In the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, families rely on polluting fuels for 92% of their domestic energy, subjecting residents to toxic air inside their own homes. While policymakers are tempted to address this crisis incrementally, solving one problem at a time or focusing on adaptation alone is insufficient. Without significant emissions reductions, adaptation will be futile. The climate-fueled health crisis cannot be solved without urgently shifting away from fossil fuels. By focusing on climate policies that enhance public health and well-being, governments could prevent premature deaths, build a more resilient population and a stronger workforce, and bolster their domestic economies.

How can this be achieved? Our report outlines 11 concrete measures across five priority areas. First and foremost, to ensure that climate hazards re-

main within the adaptive capacity of our health systems, we must reduce GHG emissions in accordance with the Paris agreement. This requires a concerted effort to phase out fossil fuels through a just energy transition that mitigates the health effects of air pollution and expands access to clean, renewable energy, especially in the world's most underserved regions, where energy poverty remains a challenge.

At the same time, we must accelerate adaptation efforts to protect communities already suffering from the health consequences of climate change by bolstering cooperation between the health sector, environmental organisations, and meteorological services. And by eliminating all subsidies, lending, and investment in fossil fuels, we can create space for climate financing and resource allocation to support adaptation efforts in vulnerable countries.

The health sector must lead this transition. Strengthening health adaptation is critical to ensuring that our health systems can protect us amid escalating climate disruptions. Crucially, we must implement public-health measures that reduce air pollution, advocate healthier low-carbon diets, encourage active lifestyles, and enforce regulations on polluting industries.

COP28 is a test of world leaders' commitment to tackle this crisis. A genuine focus on health could catalyse a rapid and sustained shift away from fossil fuels and facilitate adaptation efforts. Failing to do so will result in a conference that does little more than pay lip service to health concerns and validate our collective inaction. Climate-related deaths will continue to increase, and a livable future will drift further beyond reach.

The writer is Executive Director of the Lancet Countdown.
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Marina Romanello

WITH MANY COUNTRIES AND COMPANIES BACKTRACKING ON THEIR CLIMATE COMMITMENTS, THE WORLD IS MOVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION



Aakar Patel

Modi himself weighed in against Aadhaar, saying that the money spent on it was wasted, that the NREGA was meant to line the pockets of the Congress and that the RTI was useless

The principle of Yoga is the turning of one or of all powers of our human existence into a means of reaching divine Being.

SRI AUROBINDO



Polishing Coinage

When Congressman Shashi Tharoor complained in a tweet once that the BJP had merely changed the names of 23 Congress schemes, and said that Modi's was a "name-changing" government and not a "game-changing one", his claim was put to the test. It was found that he was right about 19 schemes. It turned out that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana was the UPA's Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account; Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana was the same as the National Girl Child Day programme; Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana was the Rajiv Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana; Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation was the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission renamed; the BJP's neem-coated urea was the same as Congress's neem-coated urea; the Soil Health Card scheme was the National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility; the Atal Pension Yojana was the Swavalamban Yojana; and even Modi's flagship Make in India was merely the National Manufacturing Policy (NMP) under a new name.

And it was not mere renaming; the entire policy framework in many cases was also a copy-paste job, as a comparison of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade's Press Note (2011) and the Make in India website page on national manufacturing showed. The UPA's NMP scheme spoke of "enhancing the share of manufacturing in GDP to 25 per cent within a decade and creating 100 million jobs."

Make in India seeks "an increase in the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP to 25 per cent" and to "create 100 million additional jobs by 2022 in manufacturing." The UPA's NMP says it will "increase manufacturing sector growth to 12-14 per cent over the medium term." Make in India says it will "increase in manufacturing sector growth to 12-14 per cent over the medium term." The NMP says the policy needs "creation of appropriate skill sets among the rural migrant and urban poor to make growth inclusive." Make in India says it needs "creation of appropriate skill sets among rural migrants and the urban poor for inclusive growth."

The UPA NMP policy says it will "increase domestic value addition and technological depth in manufacturing." Make in India says it will "increase domestic value addition and technological depth." In fact, the Make in India website not only reflected the Congress scheme but a broken download link also unsuccessfully directed readers to a 2011 document of the older policy.

Elsewhere, Digital India was the same as the earlier National eGovernance Plan; Skill India the same as the National Skill Development Programme; Mission Indradhanush was the Universal Immunisation Programme; and PAHAL the earlier Direct Benefits Transfer for LPG. BharatNet was the National Optic Fibre Network approved on 25 October 2011, aiming to provide broadband connectivity to all panchayats. When the Rajiv Awaas Yojana was renamed the Sardar Patel National Urban Housing Mission, it came with a claim from the then minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Venkaiah Naidu, that housing for all would come by 2022. A parliamentary committee, headed by Biju Janata Dal member Pinaki Mishra, asked the government how merely changing the name could accelerate implementation. This went largely unreported.

The reality is that the UPA's schemes had anodyne and unmemorable names even though they may have had the same aims. Modi's schemes have catchier names because he spends so much effort personally polishing coinage.

A friend observed that Modi's schemes targeted at the wealthy had English names — Digital India, Skill India, Start-up India, Make in India — signalling aspiration. However the schemes for the poor were in Hindi — Ujjwala Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Padhao Beti Bachao, Jan Dhan, Garib Kalyan, PM Kisan, Mudra Yojana — reflecting the branding priority.

Not as much effort on implementation though: Make in India's target was shifted from 2022 to 2025 as manufacturing collapsed in India, and instead of going from 16 per cent in 2014 to 25 per cent in 2022 in fact dropped to 13 per cent and remaining at 13 per cent in 2023. Make in India has a nice logo though.

Tharoor's good-natured acceptance that such things represented continuity (Manmohan Singh did not say a thing about the renaming) sat in contrast with the BJP's contempt for the very schemes they appropriated. Particular hostility was reserved for the UPA's unique identity scheme, Aadhaar. During the 2014 election campaign, The Times of India ran a headline on 12 March 2014: "Aadhaar a 'fraud', will review it if voted to power: BJP". The party alleged that Aadhaar was a criminal programme and that it would have the CBI investigate it. "This is a dangerous programme to regularise the stay of illegal immigrants in the country. Is Bharat Mata so open to illegal immigrants? The Aadhaar is also in contravention of Supreme Court directives," Meenakshi Lekhi said in Bangalore while campaigning against the Congressman and Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani. "The entire biometric data of people enrolled has been stored outside the country," she added. Nilekani's opponent, Ananth Kumar (who would eventually win), said: "Aadhaar is the biggest fraud on the country."

The next month, Ananth Kumar said the BJP would scrap Aadhaar. Modi himself weighed in against Aadhaar, saying that the money spent on it was wasted, that the NREGA was meant to line the pockets of the Congress and that the Right to Information Act (RTI) was useless.

As it turned out, the BJP under Modi would not only embrace Aadhaar, it would also force it upon all Indians, willing or unwilling, as the NDA expanded India's social welfare schemes, many of which they had inherited and renamed to pretend they were their own.

SPECTRUM PERSONAL FINANCE

The doctor & pharmacist conundrum



Sourajeet Pradhani

THE MANNER IN WHICH BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ARE EXPANDING, THE PRESSURE ON WEALTH MANAGERS IS IMMENSE

In the world of financial investment, there's a peculiar analogy that often comes to mind—the "doctor & pharmacist conundrum." This analogy explores the relationship between investors and financial advisors, drawing parallels with the medical profession. Just as patients trust doctors to prescribe the right treatment, investors rely on financial professionals to prescribe the right investment strategy. However, the analogy goes a step further, likening the "pharmacists" to platforms, tools, fund houses, etc. utilised by investors who self-manage their portfolios. There are many people who possess the innate apprehension and scepticism regarding the credibility as well as the trustworthiness of the financial advisors.

Just as doctors specialise in various fields, financial advisors come with expertise in diverse investment avenues such as stocks, bonds, real estate, and more. They possess knowledge and experience to design a well-rounded investment portfolio. The whole trend of self investing took a major fillip during the COVID phase, wherein people sitting at home started investing with a click of a button. There was mushrooming of digital platforms gaining traction as well as momentum.

The growth of such platforms was so visible that they became sponsors of major sports events.

The millennials, in their early twenties, started to put their surplus income in financial products rather than going for traditional products like FDs and gold. Technology can be a "two edged" sword. These millennials do a lot of research before taking any decision. Be it buying a phone or everything and anything. Hence, there are people who can actually plant information out there, which would eventually subconsciously manipulate their decisions.

Post 2020, came a phase of "algo trading." It implies that technology and artificial intelligence will decide when to buy and sell a particular stock. This segment of tech savvy retail investors easily get convinced with the investment strategies since such strategies are backed by technology and AI. But the inherent discrepancy here is that nobody is aware of the underlying mechanism that drives this technology and AI. The doctor & pharmacist conundrum raises important questions about the merits and demerits of both approaches in financial investment. The doctor (financial advisor) brings expertise and professional guid-

ance, potentially leading to more informed and strategic investment decisions. The pharmacist relies on personal research and analysis, which can be empowering but may also result in sub-optimal decisions due to a lack of professional knowledge.

The major issue in today's era regarding the financial advisor is the paucity of trust. The manner in which banks and other financial institutions are expanding, the pressure on wealth managers is immense. This may lead to "mis-selling." Certain products will offer higher benefits while selling those products. More trust, more accountability, regulations may lead to better transparency within the system.

While the doctor & pharmacist conundrum highlights the contrasting approaches to financial investment, it is not necessarily a binary choice. Many investors find success by adopting a hybrid approach. Investors can seek the expertise of a financial advisor for an initial consultation and education. This provides them with a foundation of knowledge and a customised investment plan.

With guidance from a financial advisor, investors can actively manage their portfolios while continuously learning about fi-

ancial markets and investment strategies. Regular check-ins with a financial advisor can provide valuable insights and adjustments to an investment strategy, ensuring it remains aligned with changing goals and market conditions. Investors may choose passive investment strategies like index funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which require less active management but still benefit from professional diversification.

The conundrum in financial investment encapsulates the age-old debate between seeking professional guidance and self-reliance. Ultimately, the right approach to financial investment depends on individual preferences, goals, and expertise. Investors must carefully evaluate their needs and consider a hybrid approach that combines the best of both worlds. Regardless of the path chosen, the key is to remain informed, proactive, and adaptable, as the financial landscape continues to evolve. In the end, the goal remains the same: financial health and security for future.

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

WISDOM CORNER

- In a day when you don't come across any problems, you can be sure that you are travelling in a wrong path. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA
- Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. ALBERT SCHWEITZER
- You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view - until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it. HARPER LEE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1703: The man in the iron mask, a political prisoner famous in French history and legend, died in the Bastille.
- 1969: Brazilian football legend Pelé scored his 1,000th career goal.
- 1977: After the Arab-Israeli war of 1973-74, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat began to work toward peace, and on this day in 1977 he began his historic visit to Israel, during which he offered a peace plan to its parliament.

Intricate challenge

Sir, This refers to the editorial "AI Armageddon" (Orissa Post, November 17). The convergence of AI and nuclear weapons presents a multifaceted and intricate challenge that demands careful analysis and proactive measures. At the core of this issue lies the potential for AI to exacerbate the already unacceptably high risks associated with nuclear weaponry. AI's incorporation into the realm of nuclear arms introduces a layer of complexity that extends beyond the traditional concerns of proliferation, deterrence, and disarmament. The deployment of AI in nuclear systems raises the spectre of unintended consequences and unpredictable outcomes. Machine learning algorithms, if not thoroughly understood and controlled, could lead to scenarios where automated decision-making processes in nuclear arsenals might escalate conflicts inadvertently. Moreover, the susceptibility of AI systems to cyber threats introduces the possibility of unauthorised access or manipulation, adding an element of vulnerability to these highly sensitive technologies. To address these challenges, it is imperative for policymakers to recognise the unique risks associated with the intersection of AI and nuclear weapons. Strict regulations, international agreements, and transparency measures are essential to govern the development and deployment of AI in this context. Establishing clear guidelines for responsible AI use in nuclear systems is paramount to prevent unintended consequences and maintain control over decision-making processes. Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Prevent overcrowding

Sir, The Surat railway station stampede should serve as a warning to the authorities. Jostling crowd and hapless police are a common sight at any railway station in India during major festivals. It is common sense that when there is a massive crowd there has to be sufficient police personnel. A frequent train traveller will easily decipher the lack of a strong sense of disaster-anticipation at stations. The railway authorities have to have a renewed system in place to prevent overcrowding. Special trains are not the only answer: The stampede at Surat occurred when passengers were trying to enter reserved sleeper classes. So the question arises as to how and why a stampede-like situation arose despite most of the travellers possessing bona fide tickets. It only means unreserved passengers were pushing through to get into reserved bogies. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Corruption in NRC: Hajela skips court summons

A report by the CAG of India hinted at large-scale anomalies over the NRC exercise when Hajela was the coordinator

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Nov 18: Former Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) coordinator Prateek Hajela skipped court summons in a case related to corruption in NRC updation process in the state.



Hajela was directed by a court in Guwahati to appear Friday. However, he claimed not to have received the summons letter.

The magistrate has ordered to publish the court summons order in the newspapers of Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

The 1995-batch IAS officer Prateek Hajela was transferred to Madhya Pradesh through a Supreme Court order in 2019 following threats to his life for the corruption allegation against him during the NRC updating exercise.

However, after the completion of three years of deputation, he

was again transferred to Assam, but Hajela applied for VRS instead of returning to the state.

The IAS officer was given VRS by the Assam government on some conditions, and his pension benefits are kept in abeyance.

Also, as an investigation is going on against Hajela, at any time, departmental procedures may be initiated against him depending on the outcome of the inquiry.

A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India hinted at large-scale anomalies over the NRC exercise when Hajela was the coordinator.

His successor Hitesh Dev Sarma alleged that Hajela included the names of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the NRC.

"Prateek Hajela is a traitor, and he included the names of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the NRC through wrongful means, which is a huge crime. It is a threat to national security," he added.

Meanwhile, one Luit Kumar Barman filed a case in Guwahati alleging that the state government has not taken any action against Hajela even after the CAG report hinted about anomalies. His advocate told reporters Saturday that if the former NRC coordinator does not appear in court even after the publication of the advertisement in the newspaper, the hearing of the case against him will continue unilaterally.



Camel herders during the annual Pushkar Fair in Pushkar, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Drug abuse takes centre stage in Ganganagar

In the Rajasthan district, many through the deaddiction centres in the hope of recovery, having fallen prey to the drugs being brought into the district from across the border



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ganganagar, Nov 18: Ramesh Kumar started injecting heroin while working in Bikaner and remained hooked to the needle for five years, before he decided to go cold turkey.

He battled the worst of pangs when he could not get his fix, at times spiralling into a debilitating despondence. Kumar is now on a steady yet precarious road to sobriety having seen the abyssal depths of heroin addiction. In Ganganagar, there are many like Kumar, who through its deaddiction centres in the hope of recovery, having fallen prey to the drugs being brought into the district from across the border.

With Assembly poll in the offing, locals in Ganganagar district, situated close to the India-Pakistan border, are pressing for a permanent solution to the drug menace. Kumar, who is

undergoing treatment at a rehabilitation centre, urged the government to proactively work to end the drug abuse in the district. "I was addicted to heroin. I used to do job in Bikaner and my friends made me try it there. Initially, I tried out of curiosity but later I got addicted. I couldn't stop myself and when I did, I used to get headache, stomach pain, nausea. There was no urge to go to work or do anything else, and ultimately, I quit my job," Kumar told PTI.

"Just like the doctors here set up awareness camps for educating people about the drug issues in this area, government too should contribute in that," said Kumar, who is on the verge of completing his treatment. Sindhu, 26, recently admit-

ted her husband to a rehabilitation centre. The rampant drug use in the district doesn't surprise her anymore. "The drug issue is huge in this area. From children to youngsters to aged people, I have seen everyone becoming an addict. We want the government to resolve this problem permanently. It's breaking families," Sindhu told PTI.

She said every election, politicians visit door-to-door with the promise to end drug menace in the region but "never pay attention" to it once voted to power. "Once we elect them, they forget about us. Cases of addiction are only rising, nothing else," she said. While the Congress candidate from the Ganganagar assembly constituency refused to speak on the

matter, the BJP and Independent candidates vowed to fix the issue once and for all.

Manish Bagla, a doctor at a government-licensed rehabilitation centre in Ganganagar, said 250 to 300 patients visit his centre in a month but only 15 of them are admitted at a time due to limited number of beds.

He said that though many addicts come from the neighbouring states, a majority of them are from Rajasthan's Ganganagar and Hanumangarh districts - particularly from the Indo-Pak border areas.

"We receive 8 to 10 patients every day and around 250 to 300 patients in a month. But we only prioritise those patients who have the will to quit," Bagla, a psychologist and in-charge of Jan Sewa hospital's rehabilitation centre, told PTI.

While Congress candidate Ankur Manglani refused to speak on the matter, Naresh Sethia, a local party leader, claimed that drug menace in Ganganagar is a "national issue."

"This is a national issue involving cross-border smuggling. This matter should be looked into by the Centre and the Indian Army. However, we are completely against those who are involved in this. Political parties are distributing liquor ahead of elections and taking advantage of this issue as well," Sethia claimed.

40 police shootout cases in Assam in 5 yrs: NHRC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 18: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has received over 40 cases of police shootouts of accused persons in custody in Assam over the last five years, its chairperson Justice Arun Kumar Mishra said here Friday.

Addressing a press conference after concluding a two-day camp here to hear cases from the northeastern region, Justice Mishra said a total of 56 cases were heard from the eight states.

"We have received more than 40 cases in the last five years," he said when asked about the large number of police shootouts of accused persons in custody in Assam during the last two-and-a-half years. According to the law, every such incident has to be reported to the NHRC, Justice Mishra said. "We are examining each and every case. Wherever we find violation of guidelines, we order compensation to victims or the families," he added.

Justice Mishra, however, did not provide any details on the number of cases that have been disposed of by ordering to pay compensation to the victims.

Along with Justice Mishra, NHRC Members Dr Dnyaneshwar



We are examining each and every case. Wherever we find violation of guidelines, we order compensation to victims or the families

JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR MISHRA | NHRC CHAIRPERSON

Manohar Mulay and Rajiv Jain, secretary general Bharat Lal, registrar (Law) Surajit Dey and senior officers also attended the camp. "The commission heard 56 cases in the presence of officers concerned from the northeastern states and the complainants. With the intervention of the commission, a compensation of ₹3.56 crore has been asked to be paid by the states," the chairperson said.

Some of the cases include alleged arbitrary and unlawful division or partition of land of the Chakmas in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh and alleged rape of a 16-year-old tribal girl in Kokrajhar of Assam, he added. "We also took up the case of erosion of two backward tribal Buddhist villages along Burhi Dihing river in Assam's Tinsukia district. We ordered the government to pay compensation and asked them to take steps to prevent erosion in future," Justice Mishra said.

The commission also held a meeting with the chief secretaries and DGPs of eight states and asked them to submit action-taken reports on various advisories by the NHRC.

No alliance for 2024 between BJP, Bodo People's Front: CM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Nov 18: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the state's ruling BJP will not forge an alliance with the Bodo People's Front (BPF) for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Thursday, a day after holding a meeting with BJP allies Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL), the Chief Minister told reporters: "Although (BPF chief) Hagrama Mohilary supported us in the Rajya Sabha polls, the BPF is not included in our alliance."

In the 2021 state Assembly polls, the BJP had teamed up with the UPPL in Bodoland to fight the polls.

At the time, the BPF was in an alliance with the Congress and had struggled to get a good number of seats in Bodoland.

This resulted in Mohilary abandoning the alliance with Congress. In recent days, he held meetings with some key RSS members and speculations were rife that he may join the BJP.

Assam BJP president Bhabesh Kalita had also hinted that the BPF may find a place in the BJP-led NDA. In the past, Mohilary and Sarma had shared a good equation, with the latter being the key person when the BPF first forged an alliance with the Congress in the run-up to the 2006 Assembly polls.

Erstwhile royals make a mark on political map

RAJASTHAN WAS CREATED BY MERGING 22 STATES FOLLOWING THE FORMATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH HEERA LAL SHASTRI AS THE FIRST CM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Nov 18: Numerous members of erstwhile royal families have embraced politics ever since India achieved Independence.

After being forced to relinquish their thrones, the princes were clueless about how to stay in public domain, and hence, a few of them got attached to the country's new political system. In fact, even in the forthcoming polls, many erstwhile members of the royal families from Rajasthan are in the fray. Among these are Diya Kumar, Rajsamand MP who has now been fielded from Vidyanagar Assembly in Jaipur.

Diya Kumari is a sitting member of the Lok Sabha from Rajsamand who first won the 2013 Assembly election from Sawai Madhopur and was part of the Opposition when the Congress was ruling the state.

She is one of the seven MPs to have been fielded by the BJP this



time. Her father, the late Brig Bhawani Singh, a decorated hero of the 1971 war, contested the Lok Sabha polls from Jaipur in 1987 on a Congress ticket but lost to Girdhari Lal Bhargav of the BJP.

"Being a disciplined soldier of the BJP, I am contesting Assembly election on the party's directions. The orders of the BJP are supreme for me and the development of Vidyanagar, which is a new township in Jaipur, will be my first priority."

Mahendra Singh, the eldest son of Bhagwat Singh, who in fact is son of the former ruler of Udaipur; won the Lok Sabha elections from Chittorgarh in 1989, though he lost when he contested for the second time. This time, his son Vishvaraj Singh is contesting from the holy city of Nathdwara against veteran congress leader and Assembly speaker Dr C.P.



Joshi, who was a Cabinet minister in the Manmohan Singh government. "I have blessings of my people and my father, who is the head of the erstwhile Mewar royals. I have joined politics after much thought. If elected, I shall work for the development of the holy city of Nathdwara, which has been attracting lakhs of pilgrims," Vishvaraj says.

Another scion of Bharatpur royal family, Vishvendra Singh has been in Janata Dal and BJP as a Lok Sabha MP, who switched to the Congress after Bharatpur became a reserved Lok Sabha constituency. Currently, the state's tourism minister, his political lineage also includes his uncles raja Man Singh and his younger brother Raja Bachhu Singh, MLA and MP respectively.

1952-84, died in 1985 in police firing along with two of his supporters when he attempted to damage the helicopter of chief minister Shiv Charan Mathur.

This incident led to the resignation of Mathur in the midst of Assembly elections, and Heera Lal Deopura was made chief minister. The case was investigated by the CBI, and 11 persons were convicted.

Man Singh's daughter Krishwendra Kaur Deepa, 66, was later elected from Nadbai, and she is again contesting as a BJP nominee from the same constituency. She was also a minister in Vasundhara Raje's cabinet from 2013-18.

Siddhi Kumari, scion of the Bikaner royal family and granddaughter of late Dr Karni Singh, is a three-time MLA from Bikaner who was first elected from Bikaner East in 2003 and is contesting again from her old domain as a BJP candidate.

Another member of the Royal family, Kalpana Devi, a scion of the Kota royal family, was elected from Ladpura in Kota district in 2018, and she has now been fielded once again by the BJP.

Her husband Iyraj Singh is a former member of the Lok Sabha who won on a Congress ticket from Kota.

Incidentally, Kalpana Devi's father Brijraj Singh, a former ruler of Kota, was thrice a member of the Lok Sabha from Jhalawar as a nominee of Jan Singh.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER KHARIAR (R&B) DIVISION, KHARIAR DIST. NUAPADA, ODISHA
E-mail: eeroads.khr@rediffmail.com

Letter No. 5514 Date 14.11.2023

CANCELLATION OF BID
No.B-1288- The bid for the work "Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) Survey of the proposed Airfield area for Gotma Airstrip, in the District of Nuapada" (Tender ID: 2023_EICCL_96427_I invited vide Bid Identification No.SER&BKHR-19/2023-24) bearing letter No. 5296 Dated: 01.11.2023 is hereby cancelled. Sd./ Executive Engineer, Khariar (R&B) Division

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
At-PWD Colony, Po-Kalimandir Road, Dist-Jharsuguda, Pin-768202
E-mail-eejhsg@gmail.com

TENDER CALL NOTICE TO BID INVITATION NO. E.E (NH) -1/2023-24/JHARSUGUDA
Letter No. Dated.

No. b-50:- The Executive Engineer, N.H.Division, Jharsuguda on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of road works as detailed in table below:-

1	Nature of the work	Road Works
2	Total Nos. of the work	01 (One) No.
3	Estimated cost	Rs.63.43 Lakhs (Appx.) (Excluding GST) as per work
4	Period of Completion	04 (Four months)
5	Cost of Bid Document	Rs. 10,000/-
6	Bid Security	As per column no.06 of IFB
7	Class of contractor	"B"
8	Date & Time of Availability of Bid Document in the portal	From 11.00 hours of dt.20.11.2023 to 17.00 hours of dated 04.12.2023
9	Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	17.00 hours of dated 04.12.2023
10	Opening dates of Bid	11.00 hours of dated 05.12.2023
11	Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA, At-PWD Colony, Po-Kalimandir Road, Dist-Jharsuguda, Pin- 768202

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd./ Executive Engineer N.H. Division, Jharsuguda

OIPR-34020/11/0001/2324



Civic workers spray chemicals to clear toxic foam on the Yamuna river, at Okhla Barrage in New Delhi



People buy bananas at a fruit market for 'Chhath Puja' celebrations in Patna



President Droupadi Murmu during the international conference cum exhibition on 'Aerospace & Aviation in 2047', organised by the Aeronautical Society of India to commemorate its 75th anniversary, in New Delhi



Passengers of the foreign luxury liner 'Celebrity Edge' being welcomed upon their arrival in Kochi



A Sikh devotee shows his skills during 'Nagar Kirtan' procession in Patna



Members of All Bengal Students' Struggle Committee burn an effigy during a protest march to express their solidarity with Palestinians in Kolkata



Women carry offerings during a cultural festival parade in the village of Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia



Devotees take part in a religious procession as part of the 'Soorasamharam' festival, near Subrahmanya Temple, at Thiruvannur in Kozhikode

national

of the day quote

The BJP knows it cannot defeat the AAP in Delhi and that is why it is hatching conspiracies and putting AAP leaders in jail. Modi ji, you cannot defeat the AAP in Delhi in this lifetime! To defeat the AAP, you will have to be reborn. Even if I am put behind bars, the AAP will win in Delhi

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

The unprecedented rate of toilet construction under the Swachh Bharat Mission helped achieve the goal of open defecation free (ODF) urban areas in the country

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

India is committed to seek reforms in global governance structures to make them more responsive to contemporary realities and challenges

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

'Midhili' weakens into depression

Agartala/Aizawl/Canning: With cyclone 'Midhili' weakening into a depression, Tripura and Mizoram, which were battered by heavy rain the previous day, did not experience showers Saturday, officials said. According to the latest IMD (India Meteorological Department) update, the cyclonic storm, after crossing the Bangladesh coast, weakened into a deep depression, and later into a depression, and lay 50 km east-southeast of Tripura's capital Agartala. Skies remained clear in Mizoram, while overcast conditions prevailed in Tripura but neither of the northeastern states received any fresh rain since the early hours of Saturday. No damages have been reported so far.

Gyanvapi report: ASI gets more time

Varanasi (UP): The Varanasi district court on Saturday gave 10 more days to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to submit its scientific survey report of the Gyanvapi mosque complex. The ASI was earlier given time till November 17 to submit the report but on Friday, its counsel sought 15 more days from the court. According to the counsel for the Hindu side Madan Mohan Yadav, the ASI sought more time due to non-availability of the technical report. While hearing the matter on Saturday, District Judge A K Vishvesh asked the ASI to submit its report by November 28.

Garud Commando commits suicide

Bhuj: A 'Garud Commando' of the Indian Air Force (IAF) allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service pistol while on duty at the Air Force Station near Bhuj in Gujarat's Kutch district, police said Saturday. The incident occurred in the early hours of November 16 when the deceased was posted on night duty, they said.

Woman beaten up

Thane: Police have registered an offence against a man and his two relatives at Digha in Navi Mumbai for allegedly beating up his wife as they were against her wearing fashionable bangles, an official said Saturday. The Rabale MIDC police filed the case based on a complaint lodged by the 23-year-old woman, he said. As per the complaint, the victim's husband Pradeep Arkade (30) was against her wearing fashionable bangles and argued with her over the issue.



The Prime Minister is warning the country now of deepfakes. This is exactly what we have been saying since May 2014

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

SC HEARING NOV 20

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Monday two petitions, including one alleging a delay on the Centre's part in clearing the names recommended by the collegium for appointment and transfer of judges



TN Assembly re-adopts 10 Bills returned by Guv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 18: Days after Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi returned 10 Bills passed by the State Assembly, the House Saturday met for a special sitting and re-adopted all of them, even as Chief Minister M K Stalin slammed the Governor for withholding the Bills due to his "whims and fancies."

Opposition AIADMK, which staged a walkout, asked why a special meeting to readopt the Bills was being held when the government has already taken the matter to the Supreme Court. The BJP, which has 4 MLAs, also walked out.

The Bills, covering different departments including Law, Agriculture and Higher Education, were passed in the wake of Ravi returning them on November 13. The re-adopted Bills were later sent to the Governor for his assent.

Earlier, Stalin moved a resolution to take up for reconsideration, the 10 bills. While 2 bills each were adopted by the House in 2020 and 2023, six others were passed last year. Without giving any reasons, Ravi had returned the Bills, mentioning "I withhold Assent" to them, Stalin said. Under the proviso to Article 200 of the Constitution, if they were passed again and presented to the Governor for assent, he "shall not withhold assent therefrom." The CM also made a stinging attack on Ravi, alleging the Governor was keen to block the govern-



■ Leader of Opposition, Edappadi K Palaniswami demanded to know about the reason for a special meeting to re-adopt the Bills when the government had already moved the Apex Court on the matter

■ The Bills, covering different departments including Law, Agriculture and Higher Education, were passed in the wake of Ravi returning them on November 13

ment's initiatives. He alleged non-BJP ruled states were being targeted through Governors, apparently by the Centre. Stalin said if a "power" that can stop the House from enacting a legislation emerges, it will severely hamper democracy and that this was his apprehension. It was the duty of a Governor to give assent to Bills passed by a House that has an elected government. "He can seek legal or administrative clarification

from the government if required and the government has to give it," he said, adding such clarifications have been given in the past.

"At no instances have such clarifications been not given. In such a situation, him (governor) not giving assent to the Bills passed by the Assembly due to his whims and fancies and returning them amounts to insulting the people of Tamil Nadu and this House," Stalin said. Those who could not stomach his government coming out with pioneering initiatives were trying to "scuttle the administration" and "want to do politics using the high post of Governor," he alleged.

The government has taken up with the President and Prime Minister, the issues regarding the Governor, seeking solution, "and we had to knock on the doors of the Supreme Court only after these efforts bore no fruit," Stalin added.

Mumbai cops book Aaditya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 18: Mumbai Police registered a case against Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray and a few others Saturday for allegedly 'inaugurating' a part of a bridge in Lower Parel area of the city without the civic body's permission, an official said.

Thackeray, a former Maharashtra minister, claimed that the construction of the bridge was completed two weeks ago but it was not opened to the public as Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had no time to inaugurate it. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Thackeray based on a complaint lodged by a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) official.

A police official said that as per the complaint, Aaditya Thackeray, Sena (UBT)'s members of legislative council Sachin Ahir and Sunil Shinde, former mayors Kishori Pednekar and Snehal Ambekar, and 15 to 20 others inaugurated the second carriageway of Delisle Bridge on Thursday night without the BMC administrator's permission.

The bridge is located in Thackeray's Worli constituency. The Mumbai municipal commissioner currently acts as a state government-appointed administrator as the term of the BMC's general body has expired.



Deepfake: Govt to meet social media platforms

Deepfakes refer to synthetic or doctored media that is digitally manipulated and altered to convincingly misrepresent or impersonate someone, using a form of artificial intelligence



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Amid serious concerns over 'deepfake' videos, the government is all set to meet social media platforms on the issue, with IT Minister Anshu Vaish Saturday asserting that safe harbour immunity clause will not apply if platforms do not take adequate steps to remove deepfakes.

Vaishnav told reporters that the government had recently issued notices to companies on the deepfake issue, and while the platforms have responded, companies will have to be "more aggressive" in taking action on such content.

"They are taking steps...But we think that many more steps will have to be taken. And we are very soon going to have a meeting of all the platforms... 'Maybe in the next 3-4 days, we'll call them for brainstorming on that and make sure that platforms make adequate efforts for preventing it (deepfakes), and for cleaning up their platforms," Vaishnav said on the sidelines of a conference.

Asked if big platforms like Meta and Google would be called for the meeting, the minister

replied in the affirmative. Vaishnav also made it clear that the 'safe harbour immunity' which platforms currently enjoy under the Information Technology (IT) Act will not be applicable unless they move swiftly to take firm action.

"The safe harbour clause, which most social media platforms have been enjoying...That does not apply if they do not take adequate steps for removing deepfakes from their platforms," he said. Internet platforms and social media platforms - the likes of Google, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and others - fall within the ambit of an intermediary. The safe harbour clause - under India's Information Technology framework - protects intermediaries from legal action on them for content posted online by their users.

Recently, several 'deepfake' videos targeting leading actors went viral, sparking public outrage and raising concerns over the misuse of technology and tools for creating doctored content and fake narratives.

On Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned that deepfakes created by artificial intelligence can lead to a big crisis and stoke discontent in society, as he urged the media to raise awareness about its misuse and educate people.

Air pollution in Delhi: Stringent curbs revoked



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Centre Saturday removed stringent curbs, including a ban on construction work related to linear projects and the entry of polluting trucks into Delhi, following an improvement in air quality due to an increase in the wind speed and a change in the wind direction.

These measures constitute the final stage, Stage IV, of the Centre's air pollution control plan called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), a statutory body responsible for formulating strategies to combat pollution in the region, asked Delhi and NCR states to revoke all emergency measures, under which only CNG, electric and BS VI-compliant vehicles from other states are allowed to enter Delhi, with

exemptions granted to those involved in essential services.

All medium and heavy goods vehicles not engaged in essential services were also banned in the capital under Stage IV of GRAP, according to the latest CAQM order. The pollution control body said all other curbs under stages I, II and III of GRAP, including a ban on non-essential construction work, mining, stone crushers and diesel generators will continue.

The city's 24-hour average AQI, recorded at 4 pm every day, improved from 405 on Friday to 319 on Saturday. It was 419 on Thursday, 401 on Wednesday, 397 on Tuesday, 358 on Monday, 218 on Sunday, 220 on Saturday and 279 on Friday.

Neighbouring Ghaziabad (276), Gurugram (322), Greater Noida (228), Noida (265) and Faridabad (309) also recorded "very poor" air quality. 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".

The air quality forecasts by the India Meteorological Department/Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology do not indicate any steep degradation in the overall air quality of Delhi-NCR in the coming days, the CAQM said.



Devotees during the portal closing ceremony of the Badrinath Dham in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand

UP bans sale of halal-certified products

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 18: The Uttar Pradesh government Saturday banned the production, storage, distribution and sale of food products with halal certification with immediate effect while exempting products manufactured for export.

In a statement, the state government alleged "malicious attempts" to discourage the use of products lacking a halal certificate not only seek "unfair financial benefits" but also form part of a "pre-planned strategy to sow class hatred, create divisions in society, and weaken the country" by "anti-national elements".

Strict legal measures will be taken against any individual or firm engaged in the production, storage, distribution, buying, and selling of halal-certified medicines, medical devices, and cosmetics within Uttar Pradesh, the statement said.

"Unrestrained propaganda is being disseminated within a particular section of society to discourage the use of products lacking a halal certificate," the statement said. This harms the business interests of other communities, it added.

In 2+2 dialogue, India, Aus to focus on boosting strategic ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: India and Australia are expected to focus on ramping up their overall defence ties and boost strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific at the second edition of the 2+2 ministerial dialogue here on November 20.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and their Australian counterparts Richard Marles and Penny Wong will hold the talks to further advance cooperation under the India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Announcing India's hosting of the dialogue, it said Saturday

that the ministers are expected to discuss a wide range of strategic, defence and security issues. The situation in West Asia in view of the Hamas-Israel conflict, China's increasing military muscle flexing in the Indo-Pacific and issues relating to regional security are expected to figure in the talks, people familiar with the preparation for the dialogue said.

The MEA said the discussions would cover bilateral, regional and global matters of mutual interest to further advance cooperation under the India-Australia comprehensive strategic partnership. "Both sides will also exchange views on shared priorities for strengthening ministerial and multilateral cooperation," it said.



The inaugural '2+2' ministerial dialogue between India and Australia had taken place in September 2021. The bilateral defence and strategic ties between India and Australia are on an upward trajectory in the last few years

and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," the MEA said in a statement.

Earlier, the defence ministry said Marles will pay a two-day visit to India from November 19-20. It said he will also attend the Cricket World Cup final between India and Australia on Sunday.

"Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles will visit India from November 19 to 20 to co-chair the second India-Australia 2+2 ministerial dialogue with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh," it said in a statement.

It said India and Australia are pursuing a comprehensive strategic partnership and the

visit of Minister Marles is expected to give further impetus to the bilateral defence cooperation. "The two countries are expected to discuss wide-ranging issues of mutual interest during the 2+2 dialogue and the bilateral defence ministers' meeting," it said.

In June 2020, India and Australia elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership and signed a landmark deal for reciprocal access to military bases for logistics support. The Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) allows the militaries of the two countries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies, besides facilitating scaling up of overall defence cooperation.

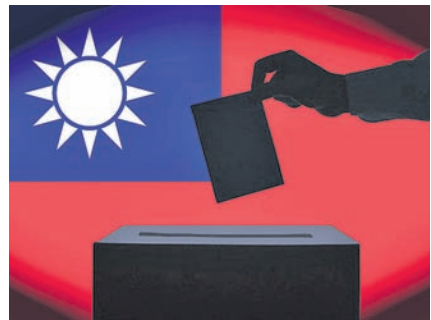
international



It is absolutely shameful that American business leaders, including executives from some of the nation's largest corporations—Apple, Black Rock, Boeing and Pfizer, among others—gave not one, but two standing ovations in a banquet in San Francisco for Xi Jinping

ROW OVER TAIWAN PRESIDENTIAL POLL

Taiwan's two main opposition parties have failed to agree on a joint candidate for president, once again throwing into doubt their ability to unseat the ruling party in January's election



of the day quote

We need NATO because the border with Serbia is very long and the Serbian army has been recently strengthening its capacities and they have a lot of military equipment from both the Russian Federation and China

ALBIN KURTI | PM, Kosovo

We want to further deepen our strong economic and cultural relationship with India as part of our renewed Asia Pacific strategy

MICHEAL MARTIN | DEPUTY, PM IRELAND

Our most immediate concern is that violent extremists, individuals or small groups, will draw inspiration from the events of the Middle East and carry out attacks against Americans going about their daily lives

CHRISTOPHER WRAY | DIRECTOR, FBI

MALDIVES ASKS INDIA TO WITHDRAW TROOPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, Nov 18: Less than 24 hours after taking oath as the President of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu Saturday formally requested the Government of India to "withdraw" its military personnel from his country, saying the Maldivian people have given a "strong mandate" to make this request to New Delhi.

Engineer-turned-politician, Muizzu, 45, took oath Friday as the eighth president of the strate-

gically-located archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean. Underscoring India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy', Rijiju represented the country at Muizzu's inauguration ceremony. A close associate of former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen, who forged close ties with China during his Presidency from 2013 to 2018, Muizzu defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September. Muizzu had



indicated during the election campaign that the withdrawal of Indian military troops from the island nation is among the issues that need to be resolved by the two countries.

Soon after the oath-taking Friday, Muizzu asserted that he was firmly committed to ensuring that his country remains "free" of any "foreign military presence" to preserve its independence and sovereignty. However, he did not name any country in his inaugural ad-

dress. "At the meeting, President Muizzu formally requested the Government of India to withdraw its military personnel from the Maldives."

"The President noted that at the Presidential Election held in September, the Maldivian people had given him a strong mandate to make the request to India and expressed the hope that India will honour the democratic will of the people of the Maldives," the statement from the President's Office said here.

Canadian security forum honours people of Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halifax (Nova Scotia), Nov 18: A Canadian security forum on Saturday presented an award to the people of Israel for 75 years of democracy, following the Hamas incursion into the country that left some 1,200 people dead and 240 abducted.

The Halifax International Security Forum presents the award annually in honor of U.S. Sen. John McCain, who died in 2018, to "individuals from any country who have demonstrated uncommon leadership in the pursuit of human justice."

The forum attracts military officials, United States senators, diplomats and scholars.

"On the 75th anniversary of Israel's creation, and in the aftermath of the October 7 attack that resulted in the greatest loss of life to the Jewish people since the Holocaust, it is fitting to present an award that bears Senator McCain's name to: 'The People of Israel,'" the statement read.

McCain was a regular at the forum and his wife, Cindy, was present this year and sat in the front row. Peter Van Praagh, President of the Halifax International Security Forum, presented the award to Lital Leshem, a representative of Brothers in Arms.

The group started as a protest movement of military veterans who opposed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's judicial overhaul, but transformed itself into the largest nongovernmental aid agency in Israel to help those affected by the latest Israel-Hamas war. It now organises volunteer activities to assist victims and families who were evacuated from border communities. It provides counseling and transportation and arranges volunteers to work on farms where the former workers either fled or were killed or kidnapped.

Leaders from democratic nations — including former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak — participated in a discussion Saturday on global security.

APEC SUMMIT

Harris holds conversations with leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

San Francisco, Nov 18: Vice President Kamala Harris held critical conversations with world leaders at the APEC Summit here primarily focusing on women's economic empowerment, inclusive growth, and strengthening bilateral ties.

After President Joe Biden, she has emerged as the most influential foreign policy voice of the United States and her conversations are focused on humane voices, the White House said.

Addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council meeting, Harris, 59, announced more than \$ 900 million in public and private sector investment towards an innovative initiative to bolster women's economic empowerment around the world, it said.



This week's events followed her 14th foreign trip as she has visited 20 countries to strengthen America's alliances and partnerships.

Speaking at the Women's Economic Participation in the Industries of the Future event, Harris launched the Women in the Sustainable Economy Initiative. As part of this launch, she announced more than \$ 900 million in commitments by governments, private sector companies, foundations, and civil society to bolster women's economic participation.

This innovative programme will bolster women's economic empowerment globally by expanding access to employment, training, leadership roles, and financial resources in the industries critical to our future and the future of our planet, it said.

The announcements in Accra, Ghana of \$1 billion in public and private sector commitments will help close the digital gender divide. In the last eight months, her leadership has generated more than \$ 2.4 billion to empower women economically around the world, the White House said.

Mass evacuation at hosp

Israel vowed to annihilate the Hamas militant group that controls the Gaza Strip after its October 7 rampage into Israel in which its fighters killed 1,200 people and dragged 240 hostages into the enclave, according to Israeli tallies

AGENCIES

Khan Younis (Gaza Strip), Nov 18: Patients, staff and displaced people left Gaza's largest hospital Saturday, health officials said, leaving behind only a skeleton crew to care for those too sick to move and Israeli forces in control of the facility.

The exodus from Shifa Hospital in Gaza City came the same day internet and phone service was restored to the Gaza Strip, ending a telecommunications blackout that forced the United Nations to shut down critical humanitarian aid deliveries because it was unable to coordinate its convoys.

Israel continued to expand its offensive in Gaza City, with the military warning in a social media post in Arabic that residents of two neighbourhoods in the east and north and the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya must evacuate for their safety.

It said military activities would be paused briefly to allow them to leave.

Earlier in the week, the Israeli defence minister had said troops had completed operations in the west of Gaza City.

Attacks also continued in the south of the Gaza Strip, with an



MOST PATIENTS, STAFF FORCED BY ISRAELI MILITARY TO EVACUATE GAZA'S AL SHIFA HOSPITAL, CAUSING 'CATASTROPHIC SITUATION, AGAINST ALL HUMANITY'; PALESTINIAN HEALTH MINISTER SAYS ISRAELI MILITARY SAYS EVACUATIONS ARE VOLUNTARY AND ARRANGED BY AGREEMENT OF AL SHIFA'S DIRECTOR

Israeli airstrike hitting a residential building on the outskirts of the town of Khan Younis, killing at least 26 Palestinians, according to a doctor at the hospital where the bodies were taken.

Israel's military has been searching Shifa Hospital for traces of a Hamas command centre that it alleges was located under the building — a claim Hamas and the hospital staff deny — and urging the several thousand people still there to leave.

On Saturday, the military said it had been asked by the hospital's director to help those who

would like to leave do so by a secure route.

The military said it did not order any evacuation, and that medical personnel were

being allowed to remain in the hospital to support patients who cannot be moved. But Medhat Abbas, a spokesman for the Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, said the military had ordered the facility cleared, giving the hospital an hour to get people out.

After it appeared the evacuation was mostly complete, Dr. Ahmed Mokhallalati, a Shifa physician, said on social media that there were some 120 patients remaining who were un-

SHORT TAKES

Pak, Russia discuss terrorism threats

Islamabad: Underling the complexity of the terrorism landscape and the need for continued vigilance, Pakistan and Russia have jointly discussed global and regional terrorist threats, with a particular focus on the situations in their neighbourhood. Senior officials of the two countries discussed the issue of combating terrorism at the 10th meeting of the Russia-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and Other Challenges to Security held here November 16.

Liberian President concedes defeat

Monrovia (Liberia): Liberian President George Weah conceded defeat late Friday after provisional results from this week's runoff vote showed challenger Joseph Boakai beating him by just over a percentage point. Elections officials said that with 99.58 per cent of ballots counted from Tuesday's election, Boakai was in the lead, with 50.89 per cent to Weah's 49.11 per cent.

38 hurt in hosp fire

Seoul: At least 38 people were injured after a fire ripped through a hospital in South Korea, authorities said Saturday. The fire broke out at around 8:10 a.m. at a six-storey hospital in Gumi, some 200 km southeast of the capital Seoul, reports Xinhua news agency.

Oz criticises China

Sydney: Australia's government said Saturday it had expressed serious concerns to China after an "unsafe and unprofessional" interaction between an Australian navy vessel and Chinese warship left Australian military divers injured. Defence Minister Richard Marles said the HMAS Toowoomba - a long-range frigate - was conducting a diving operation in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone Nov. 14 to clear fishing nets from its propellers when the incident occurred.

Gunman kills 1

Concord (New Hampshire): An armed individual fatally shot one person before being shot and killed by a state trooper in the lobby of a New Hampshire psychiatric hospital on Friday, officials said. One patient was taken on Friday to Concord Hospital for treatment, said Dawn Beers, public affairs manager. The patient's condition wasn't provided.

SNIPPETS

White House slams Elon Musk

San Francisco: The White House has slammed tech entrepreneur and billionaire Elon Musk for his "abhorrent" promotion of antisemitism and racist hate, while several top American companies like Apple have pulled out ads from his social media platform X. Musk, 52, Wednesday endorsed a post on X that falsely claimed Jewish people were stoking hatred against white people, saying the user who referenced the "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory was speaking "the actual truth." The antisemitic conspiracy theory — which posits that Jews want to bring undocumented minority populations into Western countries to reduce White majorities in those nations — is often espoused by hate groups.

IMF revises Pak's foreign loan requirement to \$25 bn: Report

Islamabad: The IMF has revised down Pakistan's foreign loan requirements to \$25 billion for the ongoing fiscal year -- reducing it by \$3.4 billion in a

big relief for its cash-starved economy, according to a media report Saturday. The Washington-based global lender also lowered the economic growth projection to just 2 per cent, turning down the government's external as well as macroeconomic forecasts, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

Biggest protest in Spain

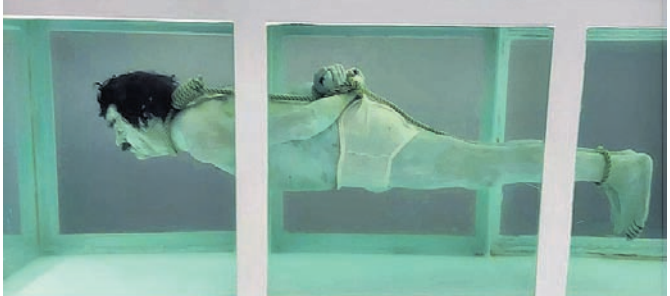
Madrid: Waving Spanish flags, about 1.70,000 people marched through Madrid Saturday in the largest protest yet against an amnesty law which Spain's Socialists agreed over Catalonia's 2017 separatist bid in order to form a government. The demonstration, the latest in a series of protests in cities across Spain against the amnesty, took place two days after Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez won a four-year term with the backing of Catalan and Basque nationalist parties in return for agreeing to the law. Holding signs that read "Sanchez traitor" and "Don't sell Spain", protesters demonstrated against the law which four judicial associations, opposition political parties and business leaders said threatens the rule of law and the separation of powers. Authorities put the number of demonstrators at 1,70,000.

Spain's new museum of forbidden art

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona (Spain), Nov 18: A drawing of a nude Donald Trump. A punching bag sculpture shaped like a woman's torso. A display of women's party shoes standing proudly on prayer rugs. All are pieces of contemporary art that have provoked debate and, sometimes, violent reactions.

These pieces and dozens more that were subjected to some sort of censorship have found a home in Spain at Barcelona's Museum of Forbidden Art, or "Museu de l'Art Prohibit" in Catalan. The collection of over 200 works, including ones by well-known creators such as American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and Spain's own Pablo Picasso, is intended to challenge visitors and question the limits imposed on artists in an increasingly polarised world. Director Rosa Rodrigo said



the museum is the only one in the world dedicated exclusively to art that faced petitions — often successful ones — for their removal from public view on moral, political, religious, sexual or commercial grounds.

In March, a Hong Kong department store took down a digital artwork that contained hidden references to jailed dissidents. The same month on the other side of the world, a Florida charter school principal was forced to resign after a

parent complained about a lesson on Renaissance art that included Michelangelo's David sculpture.

Barcelona's new museum features well-known works of contention, including "Piss Christ" by Andres Serrano, a photo of a crucifix plunged into a vat of the artist's urine; as well as Mapplethorpe's "X Portfolio", photos of sadomasochism that were challenged in court for obscenity. The physical abuse of women is captured by Kazakh artist

Zoya Falkova in Evermust, a leather sculpture of a woman's torso as a boxer's punching bag. It was one of six works removed from a museum in Kyrgyzstan when an exhibition of feminist art came under fire from officials who said it went against traditional values.

While most of the works are from the 21st century, Goya, Picasso and Klimt all have their place in the halls of the elegant modernist mansion that houses the museum. Goya had to sell his late-1790s "Los Caprichos" prints to the Spanish crown when he feared they could come under the scrutiny of the Inquisition, while Picasso saw his "Suite 347" of erotic drawings displayed in a private room in 1960s Paris.

Although censorship has taken many forms, the museum shows that the drive to silence artists who make challenging works is alive and kicking.

SpaceX Starship launch failed minutes after reaching space



REUTERS

Washington, Nov 18: SpaceX's uncrewed spacecraft Starship, developed to carry astronauts to the Moon and beyond, was presumed to have failed in space minutes after lifting off on Saturday during its second test, after its first attempt ended in an explosion.

The two-stage rocketship blasted off from the Elon Musk-owned company's Starbase launch site near Boca Chica in Texas, boosting the Starship spacecraft roughly 55 miles (90 km) above ground on a planned 90-minute flight into space.

But the rocket's Super Heavy first stage booster, though it appeared to achieve a crucial maneuver to separate with its core Starship stage, exploded over the Gulf of Mexico shortly after detaching, a SpaceX webcast showed.

Meanwhile, the core Starship booster carried further toward space, but a few minutes later a company broadcaster said that SpaceX mission control suddenly lost contact with the vehicle. "We have lost the data from the second stage... we think we may have lost the second stage," SpaceX's livestream host

John Insprucker said. About eight minutes into the test mission, a camera view tracking the Starship booster appeared to show an explosion that would suggest the vehicle failed at that time. The rocket's altitude was 91 miles (148 km).

The launch was the second attempt to fly Starship mounted atop its towering Super Heavy rocket booster, following an April attempt that ended in explosive failure about four minutes after lift-off. The US Federal Aviation Administration, which oversees commercial launch sites, confirmed a mishap occurred that "resulted in a loss of the vehicle," adding no injuries or property damage have been reported. The agency said it will oversee a SpaceX-led investigation into the testing failure and will need to approve SpaceX's plan to prevent it from happening again. The mission's objective was to get Starship off the ground in Texas and into space just shy of reaching orbit, then plunge through Earth's atmosphere for a splashdown off Hawaii's coast.

The launch had been scheduled for Friday but was pushed back by a day for a last-minute swap of flight-control hardware.



India can become the biggest market for Hyundai globally in the near future as demand for automobiles is expected to remain strong
UNSOO KIM | MD AND CEO, HML

WOMEN-LED STARTUPS' FUNDING PLUMMETS

Funding in women-led startups in India decreased from 183 startups in 2014 to a mere 7 this year to date, according to a new report. The funding landscape for women-led companies showed a significant surge in the number of rounds, rising from 171 in 2014 to 460 in 2022. However, there was a sharp decline in 2023, with the number of rounds dropping to 185



of the day quote

India's demand for semiconductors is valued at \$24 billion today, and this is likely to emerge as a \$110 billion opportunity by 2030. This explains the initiatives by global semiconductor companies to enter the Indian market

India is keen to collaborate with countries of the global south, including for knowledge sharing, technology transfer, joint R&D activities, and development of human capabilities to name just a few areas

There is not enough scope for altering the substantially concluded texts through the domestic consultation of legal scrutiny processes, yet India may keep few critical issues in mind while finalising the agreements

SHORT TAKES

AI focus: Amazon lays off in India

New Delhi: Amazon has announced to lay off "several hundred employees" from its Alexa division, including in India, amid a renewed focus on artificial intelligence (AI). The number of employees being impacted by the decision in India could not be ascertained yet. The e-commerce giant will "communicate with impacted colleagues in India next week". In a memo sent to employees, Daniel Rausch, vice president of Alexa and Fire TV team, said that the company is eliminating "several hundred roles".

Qatar slaps tax penalty on L&T

Mumbai: India's construction and engineering giant Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has been slapped with two penalties of ₹111.31 crore and ₹127.64 crore by Qatar's income tax authorities for alleged variation in the income declared by the company compared with the assessment of the authority, the company said in a stock exchange filing Friday. The penalties, which add up to ₹238.9 crore, have been imposed for the tax assessment period between April 2016 to March 2017 and April 2017 to March 2018. "An appeal has been filed against the levy of this penalty as the company believes it is arbitrary and unjustified," L&T said.

AI poster boy shown the door

The unexpected and unceremonious ouster of Sam Altman from OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, has left many unanswered questions as to why the company, which is undoubtedly leading the massive AI momentum globally, had to get rid of the most influential AI figure at a crucial juncture

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 18: The board of the company behind ChatGPT Friday fired OpenAI CEO Sam Altman - to many, the human face of generative AI - sending shock waves across the tech industry. OpenAI's Chief Technology Officer Mira Murati will serve as interim CEO, the company said, adding that it will conduct a formal search for a permanent CEO. "Altman's departure follows a deliberative review process by the board, which concluded that he was not consistently candid in his communications with the board, hindering its ability to exercise its responsibilities," OpenAI said in the blog without elaborating. "The board no longer has confidence in his ability to continue leading OpenAI," it added. Greg Brockman, OpenAI president and co-founder, who stepped down from the board as chairman as part of the management shuffle, quit the company, he announced on messaging platform X late Friday. "Based on today's news, I quit,"

BANKRUPTCY FEARS

OpenAI is also not doing well financially, and is burning a lot of cash. Reports surfaced earlier this year that the ChatGPT maker is likely to go bankrupt by the end of 2024 if it doesn't get more funding soon. ChatGPT reportedly costs a whopping \$700,000 (Rs 5.80 crore) per day to operate. Even Altman had admitted in a tweet that "compute costs are eye-watering"

Today was a weird experience in many ways, but one unexpected one is that it has been sorta like reading your own eulogy while you're still alive. The outpouring of love is awesome. If I start going off, the OpenAI board should go after me for the full value of my shares

SAM ALTMAN

ment, Brockman said. "We too are still trying to figure out exactly what happened," he posted on X, formerly Twitter, adding, "We will be fine. Greater things coming soon." The now four-person board consists of three independent directors holding no equity in OpenAI and its Chief

he wrote. There are also reports that he was removed from the board over a "quick" call on Google Meet. The departures blindsided many employees who discovered the abrupt management change from an internal message and the company's public facing blog. It came as a surprise to Altman and Brockman as well, who learned the board's decision within minutes of the announce-



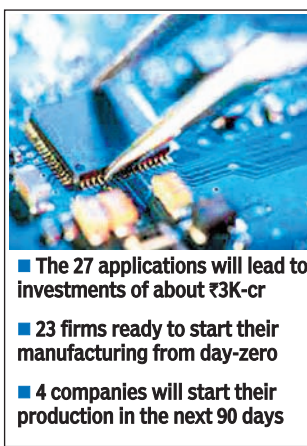
27 IT firms get Make-in-India nod

In a major fillip to domestic IT manufacturing, Dell, HP, Foxconn, Flextronics among 27 companies granted approval under IT hardware PLI scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: The government Saturday said 27 companies, including Dell, HP, Flextronics, and Foxconn, have been granted approval under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware. The scheme, which covers laptops, tablets, PCs, servers and ultra-small form factor devices, is expected to fuel incremental investments of about ₹3,000 crore. The nod to the applicants comes at a time when India is wooing IT hardware players with policy sweeteners and incentive schemes, making a determined push to position itself as a global powerhouse for hi-tech manufacturing. "I am happy to announce that 27 companies have been approved for the PLI IT hardware scheme. About 95 per cent of these...23 companies are ready to start their manufacturing from day-zero," Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnav said at a briefing. Four companies will start their production in the next 90 days. "These 27 applications will lead to investments of about ₹3,000 crore...The most impor-

'REVOLUTIONARY LEAP'



- The 27 applications will lead to investments of about ₹3K-cr
- 23 firms ready to start their manufacturing from day-zero
- 4 companies will start their production in the next 90 days

The approvals will position India as a big force in manufacturing of IT hardware, encompassing PCs, servers, laptops, and tablets

ASHWINI VAISHNAV | MINISTER FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

Mega Networks, Panache Digilife, and ITI Ltd, among others. To a question on the absence of certain large names from the list, the minister said that some are evaluating and making their plans and "it is just the question of time". He, however, did not take specific names. The scheme will lead to additional production of ₹3.5 lakh crore and create direct employment for 50,000 people and indirect employment for 1.5 lakh people, the minister said. The PLI scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware was approved by the Union Cabinet May 17, 2023, with an aim to enhance India's manufacturing prowess and spur export. The scheme aims to bolster the manufacturing of laptops, tablets, personal computers, servers and Ultra Small Form Factor (USFF) devices.

tant thing is that the value chain is shifting to India," he said. As 27 companies received approval under production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware, industry body MAIT said that India is poised for a revolutionary leap in IT hardware manufacturing. Among the big names that have been granted approval under the IT hardware scheme are Dell, Foxconn, HP, Flextronics, VVDN, and Optiemus. Other applicants that have received the green signal include Padget Electronics, SOJO Manufacturing Services, Goodworth, Neolync, Syrma SGS,

Santaan expands presence in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 18: Santaan, a leading fertility clinic in Odisha, has expanded its presence with the inauguration of a cutting-edge fertility centre in Bhubaneswar. National award-winning actress Anu Chaudhary joined as chief guest in the inauguration ceremony, adding a touch of glamour and credibility with her role as the brand ambassador for a new, bigger and better experience facility.



Expressing his enthusiasm, Raghav Prasad Panda, CEO & Founder said that, "We are thrilled to expand our footprint in Bhubaneswar, and the inauguration of this new location is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing top-tier fertility and women care services. We are honored to have Anu Chaudhary join us on this special day, and her association with Santaan reflects our shared commitment to the well-being and development of children."

Maruti to fully acquire Suzuki Motor Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: Maruti Suzuki India Saturday said its shareholders have approved the proposal to issue shares on a preferential basis to Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) as consideration for a related party transaction for the acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Suzuki Motor Gujarat. The company had sought approval from its shareholders through a postal ballot on two special resolutions for the purpose of fully acquiring Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG) last month. Resolutions as set out in the postal ballot pertaining to approval of related party transaction, and create, offer, issue and allot equity shares on a preferential basis for consideration other than cash have been approved by the members of the company with requisite majority. Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. The first special resolution of related party transaction was approved with 98.21 per cent in favour and 1.79 per cent against. The second special resolution to create, offer, and allot equity shares on a preferential basis other than cash consideration to SMC received 98.91 per cent votes in favour and 1.09 per cent



against, it added. Last month, the company's board approved the acquisition of SMG for a total purchase consideration of ₹12,841.1 crore. It was envisaged to be discharged by way of issue and allotment of over 1.23 crore equity shares of the company having a face value of ₹5 each to SMC, at a price of ₹10,420.85 per equity share. In August this year, Maruti Suzuki India's board approved the issue of shares on a preferential basis to SMC as consideration for the acquisition of a 100 per cent stake in SMG. The transaction will enhance SMC's stake in the company to 58.28 per cent from 56.4 per cent currently. Post the acquisition, SMG will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Maruti Suzuki India. MSI board, in its meeting held July 31, 2023, had approved the termination of the contract manufacturing agreement with SMG and the acquisition of its shares by SMC at a price to be determined in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

New aviation milestone for Indigo

THE AIRLINE SOARS HIGH WITH OVER 2K DAILY FLIGHTS, MAKING IT THE FIRST INDIAN FIRM TO TOUCH THIS HEIGHT IN AVIATION HISTORY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



New Delhi, Nov 18: IndiGo has achieved a historic landmark by surpassing the milestone of over 2,000 planned flights a day, making it the first airline in the country and marks a significant leap in operational capacity. According to the latest Official Airline Guide (OAG) Data for October 2023, IndiGo is among the top 10 airlines globally in both frequency and by seat capacity, further validating this achievement and showcasing the airline's continued growth trajectory on both domestic and international stages. "IndiGo now has 2000+ scheduled daily flights which

This milestone is more than a numerical feat; it's a strategic leap positioning us for enhanced connectivity and a redefined passenger experience. Our commitment to giving wings to the nation is palpable in our mission to connect people and aspirations across India

PIETER ELBERS | CEO, INDIGO

spokesperson. Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive Officer of IndiGo, said: "As we celebrate this remarkable milestone of surpassing 2,000 scheduled daily flights, we reflect on IndiGo's journey of reshaping the Indian aviation landscape. "This milestone is more than a numerical feat; it's a strategic leap positioning us for enhanced connectivity and a redefined passenger experience. Our commitment to giving wings to the nation is palpable in our mission to connect people and aspirations across India," Elbers said.

X warns suit against media watchdog

APPLE, OTHER MAJOR FIRMS PULL ADVERTISEMENTS FROM X AFTER CLAIMS THAT MUSK IS PROMOTING ANTISEMITIC POSTS

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 18: X Corp, formerly known as Twitter, will file a lawsuit against Media Matters and those who attacked social media platform X, Elon Musk said Saturday in a post on the platform, soon after major US companies paused their advertisements on the site. "The split second court opens on Monday, X Corp will be filing a thermonuclear lawsuit against Media Matters and all those who colluded in this fraudulent attack on our company," Musk wrote in a post on X, without naming any other parties. Liberal media watchdog group Media Matters for America earlier this week said it found that corporate advertisements by IBM, Apple, Oracle and Comcast's Xfinity were being placed alongside antisemitic content. IBM Thursday said it immediately suspended all advertising on Musk-owned X after the watchdog found its ads were placed



next to content promoting Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party. Apple, Disney, Warner Bros Discovery and Comcast, Lions Gate Entertainment and Paramount Global said Friday they were also pausing their ads on X. Musk Wednesday endorsed an antisemitic post on X that falsely claimed members of the Jewish community were stoking hatred against white people. "This week Media Matters for America posted a story that completely misrepresented the real

experience on X, in another attempt to undermine freedom of speech and mislead advertisers," a statement posted by Musk said. "Media Matters created an alternate account and curated the posts and advertising appearing on the account's timeline to misinform advertisers about the placement of their posts." Non-profit organisation Media Matters drew attention to the subject, saying as Musk continues his descent into white nationalist and antisemitic conspiracy theories, his social media platform has been placing ads for major brands like Apple, Bravo (NBCUniversal), IBM, Oracle, and Xfinity (Comcast) next to content that supports Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party. "X has also reinstated numerous accounts of bigots and paid far-right extremists, apparently including a pro-Hitler and Holocaust denier account, as part of its creator ad revenue sharing programme," Media Matters said in a report.

GLORY: MIRAGE OR REALITY!

SUPER SUNDAY SET FOR TITLE SHOWDOWN AS RAMPAGING INDIA READY FOR DATE WITH HISTORY, 5-TIME CHAMPIONS AUSTRALIA

HEAD-TO-HEAD

150 Encounters between India and Australia in ODIs, with the Kangaroos having the edge with 83 wins compared to the Men in Blue's 57

3 Encounters between India and Australia in ODIs at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, with the Men in Blue having the edge with 2 wins compared to the Kangaroos' 1. The two sides have also faced different teams at the venue, where Australia have a 4-2 (win-loss) record, while India have 11-8 record

MOST RUNS (active players)
Rohit Sharma (IND, 2332)
Steve Smith (AUS, 1306)

MOST WICKETS (active players)
Ravindra Jadeja (IND, 37)
Adam Zampa (AUS, 34)

AT ODI WORLD CUPS

13 Encounters between India and Australia in ODI World Cups, with the Kangaroos having the edge with 8 wins compared to the Men in Blue's 5

74.04 Australia's win percentage (77 wins in 104 matches), while India's winning percentage being 67.02 having the record of 63 wins in 94 matches

MOST RUNS (active players)
Virat Kohli (IND, 1741)
David Warner (AUS, 1520)

MOST WICKETS (active players)
Mohammed Shami (IND, 54)
Mitchell Starc (AUS, 62)

2023 WORLD CUP

The two sides played once – in the league stage – in the ongoing edition with India coming out victorious

MOST RUNS
Virat Kohli (IND, 711)
David Warner (AUS, 528)

MOST WICKETS
Mohammed Shami (IND, 23)
Adam Zampa (AUS, 22)

PRIZE MONEY

The tournament has a USD 10 million pot. The winners will take home USD 4mn, while the runners-up will bag USD 2mn. Participating teams also collected USD 40,000 for every group stage win.

“This is the biggest moment in our careers and it is important to stay calm and composed because that is where you can execute your plans better. I have grown up watching 50-over World Cups, so for me, it'll be the biggest occasion. We know what the outside environment is, the expectations and pressure. It's important to stick to our game”

ROHIT SHARMA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Nov 18: India and Australia – the two best teams of the 2023 ODI World Cup – have duly made their way to the final, promising a series of fascinating individual battles between the fierce rivals.

India, the only unbeaten side in the tournament, have hardly put a foot wrong while Australia have never looked back after recovering from back-to-back losses in the beginning of the competition. As a unit, India have performed better than Australia and are favourites to lift the coveted trophy at home after 12 long years.

On the other hand, Australia are not used to coming second when a global trophy is at stake and five titles in seven final appearances are a testament to their envious record.

Let's take a look at the matchups that could potentially decide the winners...

Rohit vs Starc & Hazlewood

India captain Rohit Sharma has walked the talk by taking on the bowlers in the opening powerplay throughout the tournament. His high-risk game has released the pressure of the other batters and allowed the likes of Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill to build their innings.

The big question is can he pull it off against Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc in the opening powerplay Sunday. While batting first or chasing, India will rely heavily on Rohit, who was trapped in front by Hazlewood in the league game against Australia in Chennai.

Hazlewood will continue to ask questions with his seam movement while Starc will be looking for a banana inswinger that has troubled Rohit in the past.



“It (being champions) would be huge. We were all kids not too long ago, watching some of those great teams win the 1999, 2003, 2007 World Cups. That's the opportunity ahead of us tomorrow (Sunday), which is really exciting. To be captain would be an absolute privilege to lift the trophy with this great bunch of blokes”

PAT CUMMINS

THE SQUADS

INDIA

Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (vc & wk), Suryakumar Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Ishan Kishan & Prasad Krishna.

AUSTRALIA

Pat Cummins (C), David Warner, Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh, Steve Smith, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Starc, Adam Zampa, Josh Hazlewood, Cameron Green, Josh Inglis (wk), Alex Carey (wk) & Sean Abbott.

MATCH OFFICIALS

On-field umpires: Richard Illingworth & Richard Kettleborough
3rd umpire: Joel Wilson
4th umpire: Chris Gaffaney
Match referee: Andy Pycroft

Shami vs left-hand batters

With 23 wickets in six games, Mohammed Shami is having a tournament to remember. No batter has found a way to negotiate the movement generated with an impeccable seam position.

Bowling from around the wicket, the skillful Indian pacer has especially rattled the left-hand batters. In his back-to-back overs in the powerplay of the semifinal, Shami removed the dangerous opening duo of Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra.

His performance against lefties make a strong case for Shami to open the bowling alongside Jasprit Bumrah against the rampaging David Warner and Travis Head.

Kohli vs Zampa

Kohli has often struggled against left-arm spinners in the recent past but leg-spinner Adam Zampa too has troubled him and has got the special wicket of the Indian superstar as many as eight times. The battle between tournament's leading run-getter and

the most successful spinner will be the one to watch out for:

Kuldeep vs Maxwell

It is a testament to Kuldeep's sublime skills that barring Daryl Mitchell, no batter has went for the offence against the left-arm wrist-spinner. Mitchell targeted the straight boundary against Kuldeep in Dharamsala but a freak like Maxwell has a lot more shots in his repertoire and some of them he only can pull off. If Maxwell manages to hang around Sunday, it would be the toughest test for Kuldeep. He also has the ability to disturb Kuldeep's rhythm by going for the breathtaking reverse hits when the ball lands outside the off-stump. If that happens, Kuldeep will have to think out of the box to fox the Australian.

Warner vs Bumrah

Bumrah, who has taken 18 wickets in 10 games with an incredible economy rate of 3.98, is yet to dismiss Warner in

ODIs in 14 games. Warner has managed to collect 117 runs off the 130 balls he has faced from Bumrah.

Since coming back from an injury, Bumrah has added a deadly outswinger in his already envious range and that could trouble an in-form Warner:

EN ROUTE TO FINAL

NOT IN FIXTURE ORDER	INDIA		AUSTRALIA	
	RESULT	MARGIN	RESULT	MARGIN
Semifinals	Win (vs NZ)	70 runs	Win (vs SA)	3 wickets
India	-----	-----	Loss	6 wickets
Australia	Win	6 wickets	-----	-----
New Zealand	Win	4 wickets	Win	5 runs
South Africa	Win	243 runs	Loss	134 runs
Pakistan	Win	7 wickets	Win	62 runs
Afghanistan	Win	8 wickets	Win	3 wickets
England	Win	100 runs	Win	33 runs
Bangladesh	Win	7 wickets	Win	8 wickets
Sri Lanka	Win	302 runs	Win	5 wickets
Netherlands	Win	160 runs	Win	309 runs

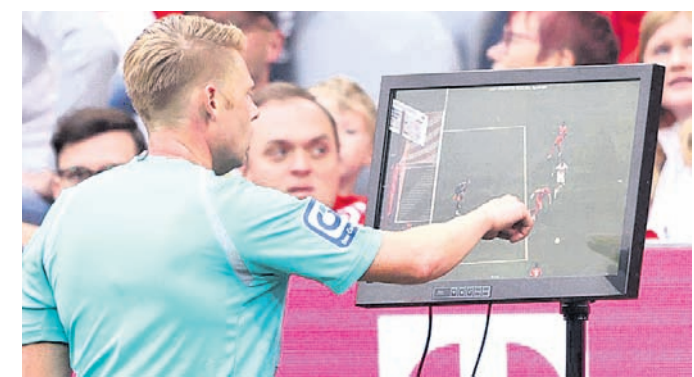
PAT CUMMINS CLICKS PHOTOS OF MATCH STRIP

Ahmedabad: Inspecting the pitch before a match is routine but clicking pictures of the track, for possible dressing room discussion and strategy building, is a bit unusual. That's exactly what happened this morning when Australia skipper Pat Cummins came to have a look at the 22-yard-strip which will be used for Sunday's final. Probably the pitch is playing on Australians' mind before the big match. Cummins was guarded in his response when asked about his assessment of the pitch, which has already been used for the marquee India-Pakistan match. "Just had a look," Cummins replied when asked about the track. So what do you make of it? He was probed further. "I'm not a great pitch reader, but it looked pretty firm. They've only just watered it, so yeah, give it another 24 hours and have a look, but it looks like a pretty good wicket. I think Pakistan played someone there," he said without taking India's name.

PITCH & CONDITIONS

This is the same track that was used for the India-Pakistan match in the second week of the World Cup, but that doesn't necessarily mean that it's going to be a low-scoring match. There may be some dew to contend with, however. With there being an early winter nip in the air in the evenings, the dropping of temperature after sunset may make for a soggy ball, though there is also a chemical sprayed on the grass to mitigate the dew's effects. There is no rain forecast. The temperature will be in the low 30 degrees celsius range in the hottest parts of the day.

VAR likely in 2025-26 domestic competitions



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) is set to become a reality in domestic club competitions from the 2025-26 season, heralding a game-changing advantage for both Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League teams, All India Football Federation (AIFF) acting secretary general M Satyanarayan said Saturday.

The VAR technology, which was first used in FIFA events in 2016-17, supports the decision-making process of the referee in four game-changing situations: goals and offences leading up to a goal, penalty decisions and offences leading up to a penalty, direct red card incidents, and mistaken identity.

Many countries across the globe used VAR in their domestic club competitions after it was first introduced in Australia and the United States.

"There will be a big decision on the introduction of VAR very soon. We are doing a study on that," AIFF acting secretary general M Satyanarayan told this agency in an interview.

"Introducing it next season might be difficult for the simple reason that FIFA has to approve the technology, there is a process. More than just getting

the equipment, training of personnel takes a lot of time.

"It can be 2025-2026 season, but you never know. Even if we start now (the process), it will take a minimum of 18 to 20 months (to complete it)," added Satyanarayan, who became the acting secretary general on November 9 after the removal of Shaji Prabhakaran on "breach of trust".

Implementing VAR technology will incur significant costs for the AIFF, but Satyanarayan emphasised the potential benefits for the Indian clubs. "We have to see where the money is going to come from. But ultimately, it's the clubs of the ISL and I-League (which are going to benefit). The margins of victory or loss are sometimes 5 to 8 per cent, so we can get better results (with the use of VAR)," he said.

Technically, the VAR has made its debut in a domestic tournament in March this year during the Santosh Trophy third-place classification match between Services and Punjab at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The VAR technology was used on Indian soil on two occasions earlier – during the AFC Women's Asian Cup in January-February 2022 from the quarterfinal stage and the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in October last year.

Neeraj fails dope test, may lose Para Asiad gold medals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 18: India stares at the unpleasant possibility of losing two gold medals it won during the recent Hangzhou Asian Para Games as Neeraj Yadav failed a dope test conducted by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) a few days before the continental showpiece.

It is learnt that Yadav has tested positive for anabolic steroids in an out-of-competition test conducted in Bengaluru just "six days" before his departure for Hangzhou.

If he is found to have committed a doping offence by the NADA panel, India is expected to lose the two gold medals Yadav won in the F55 javelin and discus throw events in the October 22-28 event.

It could also see India dropping one place down to sixth from

the original fifth. In that case, Indonesia, which had won 29 gold, 30 silver and 36 bronze, will rise one place to fifth. India had won 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze but its yellow metal count may now be reduced to 27 if Yadav is found guilty of doping.

"We have written to the NADA that the sample in question might not have been his. Or otherwise, the sample could have been contaminated," Paralympic Committee of India's (PCI) athletics head coach S Satyanarayanan told PTI from Bangalore.

"We got to know of the ADRV (Anti-Doping Rule Violation) November 13 and he has seven days to represent his case. So, his case will be heard November 21," he added.

The 39-year-old Yadav could not be reached despite repeated attempts as he did not respond to calls. Satyanarayanan, how-



ever, admitted that India will lose the two gold medals Yadav won in Hangzhou if the para athlete is found guilty of doping by the NADA panel.

"Yes, we will lose the two gold

medals if the NADA panel does not accept our contention. It does not matter whether it is an ADRV in a domestic sample or collected by an international agency or body, his results will

be annulled since the test was done prior to the Asian Para Games," he said.

"But why we are saying his sample could have been misplaced or contaminated is that he was tested twice in Hangzhou and so far we have not heard of any doping offence from the Asian Para Games samples."

Satyanarayanan said the PCI will wait for results from the two dope samples given by Yadav in Hangzhou. "If he returns positive in Hangzhou tests, then he is guilty of doping and we have no case. If he comes clean in the two tests in Hangzhou, there is no way he will have an ADRV in the NADA sample because steroids remain for a long time in the body system," he added.

According to Satyanarayan, the NADA has not provisionally suspended Yadav even though he has returned positive for anabolic steroids.

Italy a point away from Euro 2024



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rome, Nov 18: Federico Chiesa scored two first-half goals and defending champion Italy beat North Macedonia 5-2 to gain a measure of revenge and move closer to qualifying for the European Championship. Italy now need only a draw against Ukraine

Monday to secure a spot at next year's tournament in Germany.

North Macedonia kept Italy from qualifying for last year's World Cup with a 1-0 playoff win over the Azzurri in Palermo. This time, however, the Azzurri quickly took control when full-back Matteo Darmian scored 17 minutes in with a header.

Chiesa scored his first by using one touch to launch in a long shot. Then he scored another with a looping effort in first-half added time. Substitute Jani Atanasov pulled one back for North Macedonia with a header early in the second half and then scored again with a shot that deflected in off Italy defender Francesco Acerbi.

But Giacomo Raspadori finished off a counterattack for Italy in the 81st and Stephan El Shaarawy added another in stoppage time to restore the three-goal advantage.

Italy and Ukraine now each have 13 points but Italy hold the advantage after beating Ukraine 2-1 in September. England, who beat Malta 2-0 and have 19 points, won the group. North Macedonia trail in fourth place with seven points and Malta has zero.

Bhullar zooms ahead to 7-shot lead in Indonesia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta (Indonesia), Nov 18: Gaganjeet Bhullar strung together his second card of 63 in three days despite a late bogey to take a considerable seven-shot lead with one more round left in the Indonesian Masters, here Saturday.

Bhullar began the day with a three-shot lead, carded 8-under 63 and moved to 20-under and seven shots ahead of the young Spaniard David Puig (62), who moved to 13-under with his amazing effort. A four-time winner in Indonesia, the 35-year-old Bhullar took a decisive step towards his fifth win in the country.

Bhullar has always been a strong front-runner — three of his



10 wins have been start-to-finish — and he gets closer to a fourth win in a similar style. Of his four wins in Indonesia, three have been in the country's national open, in 2013, 2016 and in August last year, which was Bhullar's most recent win on the Asian Tour. Bhullar first tasted victory on Indonesian soil at the President Invitational, 14 years ago.