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3HUBANESWAR | THURSDAY NOVEMBER 23 | 202

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# Single window for resolution of complaints against RBI regulated entities



Complaints not resolved within 30 days or not resolved satisfactorily by Banks/
NBFCs/Credit Information Companies/
Payment System Participants
regulated by RBI, can be lodged with the RBI Ombudsman



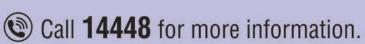
All complaints regarding deficiency in services covered, except those in the exclusion list



Lodge complaints online at https://cms.rbi.org.in or by post to Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre, Reserve Bank of India, Chandigarh - 160017



Track the status of your complaint on Complaint Management System (https://cms.rbi.org.in)



Timings: Weekdays except National Holidays:

- 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM for English and Hindi
- 9:30 AM to 5:15 PM for 10 Regional Languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu)





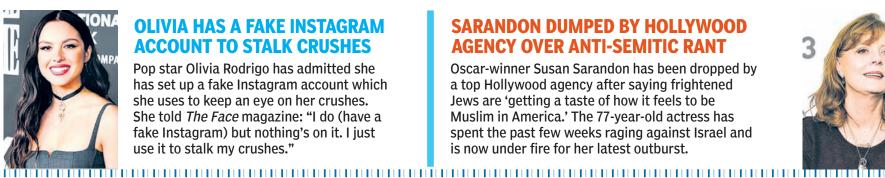
lssued in public interest by
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

www.rbi.org.in

For more details, visit https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/ For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in



# leisure



#### **OLIVIA HAS A FAKE INSTAGRAM** ACCOUNT TO STALK CRUSHES

Pop star Olivia Rodrigo has admitted she has set up a fake Instagram account which she uses to keep an eye on her crushes. She told The Face magazine: "I do (have a fake Instagram) but nothing's on it. I just use it to stalk my crushes."

#### **SARANDON DUMPED BY HOLLYWOOD** AGENCY OVER ANTI-SEMITIC RANT

Oscar-winner Susan Sarandon has been dropped by a top Hollywood agency after saying frightened Jews are 'getting a taste of how it feels to be Muslim in America.' The 77-year-old actress has spent the past few weeks raging against Israel and is now under fire for her latest outburst.





accuracy • reliability • trust

The yogis have finally succeeded in impressing you. Was it a stint in a Art of Living course? Ganesha gives you the thumbs-up and suggests you join that music or dance class you have been wanting to. Generally a nice day, and suc cess is on the cards.

#### **TAURUS**

Today is a day of closure. You may find yourself on the winning side of things, says Ganesha. Pending projects will reach completion and you will achieve satisfaction and success in education. With a little extra effort, you can build a castle ful and colourful day.

#### **GEMINI**

You will think about the issues faced by other people as well as about increasing your social standing and elevating your social esteem. It is an extremely profitable day for those in the retail business and hence make the most of it, says Ganesha

#### **CANCER**

There may not be many opportunities visible on the horizon today. And, chances are that you may end up getting embroiled in some complicated situations, without even a fault of yours. Relax! Given your people skills and lively spirits, you will be able to sail through.

#### LEO

The discomfort similar to the fish-out-of-water syndrome will be a thing of the past, as today you will be quite flexible and would want to remain on the move. says Ganesha. So much so that you may even begin to feel bound by the environment in your office.

### You are quick-witted, sharp

and artistic to the core, says Ganesha, so you may go ahead and enrapture people with your special abilities, perhaps at a social gathering. However, Ganesha says it would be better if you could conserve some of that enthusiasm in order to focus your attention on issues of greater importance.

Ganesha says that to gain future opportunities you may have to rely on past experience. You will tend to become posalso have to deal with unpleasant situations where your integrity is questioned. All said and done your day will go good except for minor issues and your understanding attitude will be praise worth today.

#### **SCORPIO**

It is very likely that the moment of victory is often preceded by a moment of peril; but that is not where the danger ends. In the heat of victory, arrogance and overconfidence can push you away from what you aimed for. So, it is important for you to learn when to stop in victory.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Today will be a day for introspection, says Ganesha, as you try and find the root causes of your problems. But the job is only half-done: the rest will depend on the initiatives you may take to implement possible solutions to your problems. Overall, a day spent pondering.

#### CAPRICORN

You have meticulously planned every aspect of your plan and prepared the check list. The only thing left now to do is execution of that plan. Delays and obstacles, however, will block your path and will leave you disheartened. Don't doubt your abilities though. You have planned properly and have faith as those delays are not permanent, assures Ganesha.

#### AOUARIUS

Don't let your emotions play a spoilsport in the important decisions of your life. The tendency to be sentimental when you need to be rational will become an obstacle in your path. Learn to curb this habit otherwise you may have to pay a heavy price, advises Ganesha.

#### PISCES

Today your professional and love life will cause worry. You will want to be emotionally balanced but you may not find the time to sort things out. Long sightedness and open discussions will help



SRK top on IMDb list

Shah Rukh Khan is leading the pack in the 2023 IMDb top 10 list of most popular Indian stars.

In 2023, SRK gave two major blockbusters, Jawan and Pathaan, which are respectively the No. 2 and 3 biggest Hindi movies ever

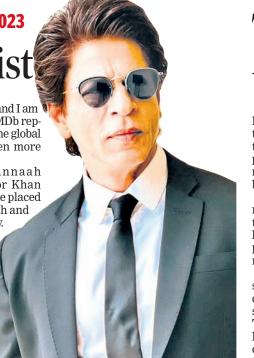
Actress Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone have made it to the number 2 and number

3 spots respectively. In the fourth position is actress Wamiqa Gabbi, who said: "This is my debut on the IMDb Most



Bhatia, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Sobhita Dhulipala are placed on the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth spots respectively. Then comes Khiladi

star Akshay Kumar, who stands ninth. After Akshay, in the tenth spot is star Vijay Sethupathi.



## Theatre man's unique drive to promote plastic-free living

Damanjodi: The use of plastic is a major environmental threat. To lessen the overall impact of plastics on the environment, it is critical to embrace a plastic-free living.

With an objective to promote this lifestyle, eminent theatre practioner Ashok Kar has initiated a unique campaign in this tribal-dominated region of Koraput district.

Kar has used music and street play to reach out to students of nearby villages, girls' schools, and the Nalco Township region. He is also looking for young people who can be decent citizens in the His wife, Manjubala Nanda,

has chipped in to realise his dream, savs Kar.

'Through stories and play, we hope to instill character



Theatre practioner Ashok Kar creating awareness among school students

in children. We are also attempting to educate them about our culture and traditions, as well as to infuse in them the habit of becoming good citizens by assisting others. We named it Bal Sanskar," Nanda adds.

Kar also hopes to foster the evolution of children's theatre by hosting programmes at his home with local children. For the uninitiated, Kar has been involved in Odia theatre as an actor, director, stage and light designer, and coordinator since 1980. In addition, he promotes Indian theatre on social media, which has helped him form bonds with theatregoers across the globe.

### Charu denied a home on rent for her single status

Mumbai: Actress Charu Asopa has taken to Instagram to share a heartfelt post, shedding light on the significant challenges encountered by single women in their quest for suitable housing. In a poignant video, Charu revealed her recent experience of house hunting, expressing the emotional toll of being denied accommodation solely due to her single status. In a video, Charu tearfully disclosed

her recent experience of house hunting, where she was denied accommodation because she is "single. She said, "No matter what a woman

does in our society, how much ever she does, she can never change the thinking of people. Even today, before giving a woman a home, a man's name is attached to her or not, and if not, she is not given to her home. It feels sad to see the condition of the woman of our country. And these people who refuse to give home go out and give big speeches in the name of women empowerment. Today again, I was forbidden from getting a home in a society because I am a single mother. And the thing is that there was only a woman to refuse. This is the condition of women in the country where women are worshipped.

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

2

5

8

3

5 9 5

8

9

3

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

3

6

9

2

6 1

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

5 7

SUDOKU

Mrunal shows her multitasking skills Mumbai: Actress Mrunal off from her shoots in

Thakur has been multitasking between the sets of her upcoming projects, completing the final touches to *Hi* Nanna and also completing the shoot for Family Vijay with Devrakonda. Currently, she is engrossed in the shooting

> Vijay Deverakonda in Hyderabad and Simultaneously, Mrunal has recently promo-

of a film alongside

highly an-

ticipated Hi Nanna

starring superstar Nani. Mrunal has not taken a gle day off in the past ten months, showcasing an unparalleled dedication to her craft. Whatever time she gets

Hyderabad, she flies to Mumbai to complete her commitments to her projects in Hindi cinema, her commitments for her brand work and 1 also promotions of her other films. The actress has been

shuttling between Hyderabad and Mumbai, seamlessly transitioning from film promotions in the bustling city of Mumbai to the film sets in the vibrant film hub of Hyderabad.

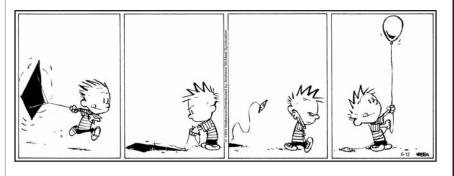
"It's been an incredible journey. Juggling between projects and promotions has been challenging, but the love and response from the audience make it all worthwhile," said Mrunal. She added: "Sita

Ramam catapulted work in south and work here in Hindi film has been happening non-stop This combined with existing commitments of brands. meetings."

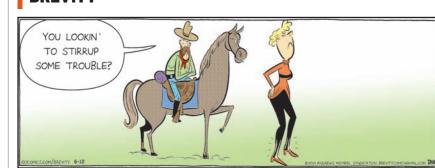
#### **PEANUTS**



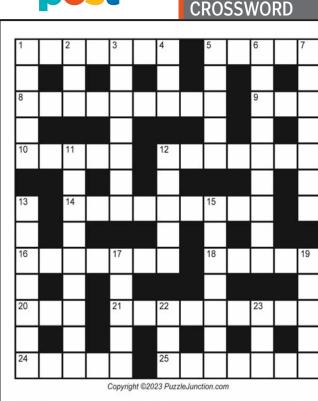
#### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**



#### BREVITY



### FUN



#### Across

- 1 Sea cow 5 Concentrate
- 8 Mélange
- 9 Literary collection
- 10 Even Stephen 12 Colonised
- 14 Medical man
- 16 Exhortation (3,4)

18 Classic theatre

- 2 Safety device
  - 3 Handcart

20 Have a bug

24 Cruel sorts

target

25 Photographer's

21 Apathy

- 4 Musical gift 5 False move
- Syrup flavor
- 15 Drool over 17 Book of maps
  - 19 Indigent

6 Take exception

7 Tabloid topic

11 Like an outcast

Sutherland,

12 Lizard type

13 Dame Joan

22 Plea at sea 23 Bring to bear

e.g.

SUDOKU

3

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

#### TUNNEL MISHAP

# Rescuers close in on workers

AGENCIES

Uttarkashi, Nov 22: Ambulances were on standby and a special ward at a local health centre kept ready as a multi-agency effort to rescue 41 men trapped in the Silkyara tunnel appeared close to success Wednesday evening.

Till 6pm, up to 44 metres of an escape pipe had been inserted into the debris of the collapsed stretch of the tunnel in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district, an official update said in Delhi.

Earlier, officials said the American-made auger machine had to drill through a 57-metre stretch of debris to reach the workers, who were trapped when a portion of the under-construction tunnel collapsed 10 days back. By this count, just 13 metres of debris remained to be drilled through.

Officials had said earlier that the stretch between 40 and 50 metres was the "most crucial" one. Several alternative plans are also in motion if the horizontal drilling from the Silkyara end fails. A National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team was spotted entering the tunnel.

# Truce for hostages

#### 50 HOSTAGES TO GO FREE AS ISRAEL, HAMAS AGREE ON 4-DAY CEASEFIRE

Gaza/Jersualem, Nov 22: Israel and Hamas agreed Wednesday to a ceasefire in Gaza for at least four days, to let in aid and release at least 50 hostages captured by militants in exchange for at least 150 Palestinians jailed in Israel.

The first truce in a brutal near seven-week-old war, reached after mediation by Qatar, was hailed around the world as a sign of progress that could ease the suffering of Gaza's civilians and bring more Israeli hostages home. Israel said the ceasefire could be extended further, as long as more hostages were freed.

Hamas and allied groups captured around 240 hostages when gunmen rampaged through southern Israeli towns October 7. Previously, Hamas had released just four.

RENIAMIN NETANYAHII I ISRAFI I PM



The truce was not expected to begin until Thursday morning, and the start time had yet to be officially announced as of Wednesday afternoon.

A statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said 50 women and children

We are at war and we will continue the war until we achieve all our goals. To destroy Hamas, return all our hostages and

"Israel's government is committed to return all the hostages home. Tonight, it approved the

prisoners who could be freed.

at a rate of at least 10 per day.

Beyond that, the truce could be

extended as long as an additional

ten hostages were freed per day.

lease of Palestinian detainees, but

Israel's justice ministry published

a list of 300 names of Palestinian

It made no mention of the re-

proposed deal as a first stage to achieving this goal," said the government statement.

Hamas said the initial 50 hostages would be released in exchange for 150 Palestinian women and children held in Israeli jails. Hundreds of trucks of humanitarian, medical and fuel supplies would enter Gaza, while Israel would halt all air sorties over southern Gaza and maintain a daily six-hour daytime no-fly window in the north, it said.

Israel has placed Gaza under siege and relentless bombardment since the Hamas attack, which killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli tallies. Since then, more than 14,000 Gazans have been killed, around 40 per cent of them children, according to medical officials in the Hamas-ruled territory, figures deemed reliable by the United Nations.

Both Israel and Hamas, however, said the pause in hostilities would not halt their

RAJOURI ENCOUNTER

## 4 Army personnel killed by terrorists

Bravehearts sacrificed lives to prevent damage to women, kids in J&K op: Army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, Nov 22: Four Army personnel, including two captains, were killed and two others were injured during an encounter between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district Wednesday, officials said.

The fierce gunfight was going on in the area with the induction of more troops to neutralise two terrorists trapped there, they said.

Officials said two captains, a havildar and a jawan have lost their lives during the encounter.

A major and another jawan suffered injuries in the encounter, they said, adding the injured have been shifted to the Army's

Command Hospital in Udhampur. The encounter broke out between terrorists and joint forces of the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Bajimaal area of Dharmsal following a cordon-and-search operation, the police said.

In a post on X, the White Knight Corps of the Army said that based on specific intelligence, joint operations were launched in the Kalakote area of Gulabgarh forest in Rajouri Sunday.

"Contact established 22 Nov and intense firefight ensued. The terrorists have been injured and surrounded and operations are in progress, amidst acts of valour and sacrifice by own bravehearts in trying to prevent collateral damage to women and children in the highest traditions of IndianArmy. #Whiteknightcorps salutes the supreme sacrifice," it said.

Officials said the operation has been intensified with induction of additional troops. Local residents said that a

cordon-and-search operation has been going on in the area since Sunday to track down terrorists operating in the area.

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We are news channels, sensitive only to politically sensitive news

#### **Tribal land issue** rocks Assembly

Bhubaneswar: The Assembly Wednesday witnessed noisy protests by opposition BJP and Congress members over the state government's decision to allow scheduled tribe (ST) people to sell their land to non-tribals. As soon as the members assembled for the Question Hour, the agitating BJP and Congress MLAs trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans demanding immediate withdrawal of the decision leading to several adjournments.

#### e-Visa service for **Canadians starts**

ensure that no entity in Gaza can threaten Israel

New Delhi: India has resumed electronic visa services for Canadian nationals after a nearly two-month pause, sources said Wednesday. Tensions flared between India and Canada in September following PM Justin Trudeau's allegations of the potential involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia. India in 2020. India rejected Trudeau's

had designated Nijjar as a terrorist allegations as absurd.

## 'US foiled plot to kill Pannun, warned India'

Protest to New Delhi was registered after PM Modi was welcomed on a state visit by President Biden in June, as per an FT report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 22: US authorities thwarted a plot to kill a Sikh separatist in the United States and issued a warning to India over concerns the government in New Delhi was involved, the Financial Times reported Wednesday, citing unnamed sources.

The paper identified general counsel for Sikhs for Justice Gurpatwant Singh Pannun as the target of the foiled plot. Pannun, like Nijjar, is a proponent of a decades-long, but now a fringe demand to carve out an independent Sikh homeland from India named Khalistan. The Financial Times said that

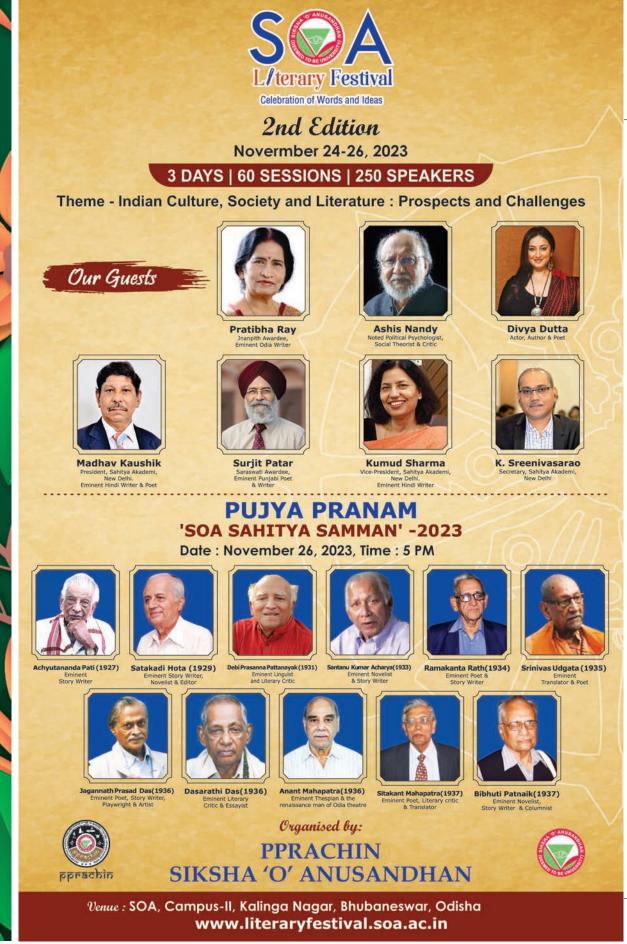
the sources did not say if the protest to India resulted in the plot being abandoned by the plotters, or if it was foiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The report comes two months after Canada said there were "credible" allegations linking Indian agents to the June murder of a Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in a

Vancouver suburb. India has rejected Canada's accusations.

India's foreign ministry issued a statement noting that the US had raised information pertaining to a "nexus between organised criminals, gun runners, terrorists and others" during recent conversations. The statement described the information as a "cause of concern for both countries" and said India takes it seriously.





# Ruckus over tribal land transfer issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: The state Assembly Wednesday witnessed noisy protests by opposition BJP and Congress members over the state government's decision to allow scheduled tribe (ST) people to sell their land to non-tribals.

As soon as the members assembled for the Question Hour, the agitating BJP and Congress MLAs trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans demanding immediate withdrawal of the decision.

The Odisha Cabinet November 14 had decided to amend the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by STs) Regulation, 1956 to allow the ST people to transfer their land to non-tribals in scheduled areas with a written permission from the sub-collector. However, two days later, the government withheld the decision.

Holding banners, the BJP members later staged protest outside the Assembly. "Though the state government makes tall claims that it is of the tribals, for the tribals, and by the tribals, the recent move of the government exposed that it is anti-tribal," BJP chief whip in Assembly Mohan Majhi said.

The decision of the Cabinet is against the provision of the Constitution, he said. "We cannot understand what prompted the government to take such a harsh decision to grab the tribal lands?" Majhi asked.

The Congress chief whip Taraprasad Bahinipati said his party welcomed one of the decisions of the Cabinet but was not in favour of the decision to allow the transfer of ST land to non-tribals.

Rejecting the opposition's



"anti-tribal" slur, Odisha's Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi claimed that the BJD government headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has all along worked for the welfare of tribals.

On the recent Cabinet decision, Marndi said the decision of the cabinet has been withheld as per the direction of the chief minister. However, the Opposition BJP and Congress are playing cheap politics over the issue and stalling the House.

#### No high school in 426 panchayats

BHUBANESWAR: As many as 426 panchayats in Odisha are yet to have high schools, School and Mass Education (S&ME) Minister Sudam Marndi said, Wednesday.

Responding to a query of Narla MLA Bhupinder Singh, the S&ME Minister said 7,998 panchayats in Odisha have 8,099 high schools, as per the UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) 2022-23 data.

"There are no high schools in 426 panchayats of the state," Marndi said.

Quoting the UDISE+ 2023-24 data, Marndi said Odisha has 52,807 primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools under the S&ME department.

"The state government has already initiated measures to fulfil 20,000 junior teacher (schematic) posts for primary and upper primary schools," the S&ME Minister said.

While efforts are on to fulfil 7,540 teacher posts in govern-

ment high schools through Odisha Staff Selection Commission (OSSC), the State Selection Board (SSB) will do the needful to appoint 2,064 teachers for 690 aided high

schools in Odisha, he said.

"The state government has appointed 92 OES officers as headmasters in government high schools this year. In the first phase, appointments have been made through OPSC to fulfil 327 PGT posts in government high schools. These apart, efforts are being taken to fulfil 367 PGT posts in 51 higher secondary schools under composite higher secondary schools," the Minister said.

As many as 1,008 PGT posts in government high schools will also be filled in the third phase, he added. The state government has created 1,543 PGT posts in 226 aided government higher secondary schools. "Process has already started to fulfil 555 of the newly-created PGT posts through SSB," Marndi told the House.

### Ricky Kej: Passionate for music & environment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Threetime Grammy award winner Ricky Kej will not only be the key performer and attraction at the 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2023 -Climate Change: The Path Ahead', to be held at the Rail Auditorium here, November 24, but will also be a star speaker on environment.

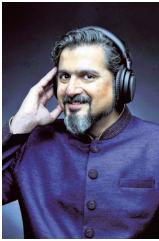
Kej is an internationally acclaimed Indian music composer and environmentalist. He has performed at prestigious venues in over 30 countries and won over 100 music awards across 20 nations. He has also served as the Goodwill Ambassador of UNCCD, a High Profile Supporter for the UNHCR, UNESCO MGIEP Global Ambassador for Kindness, UNICEF Celebrity Supporter and Ambassador for Earth Day Network.

In 2018, Kej released 'My Earth Songs', a set of 27 songs and music for children on environment and sustainability. Each of the songs is based on a United Nations Sustainable Development Goal aimed to create awareness and inspire the younger generation to make a tangible positive impact in their

My music is an extension of my personality and beliefs. **Every piece of music is a** reflection of me. My passion for music and environmental action extends to promoting empowerment and equality for all. It is important to tackle desertification and land degradation while uplifting every member of our global community. I will continue to contribute to these efforts



lives and lives of people around them. Notably, Kej has released these songs in the public do-



main for completely non-commercial purposes.

Kej was also named a UNCCD Land Ambassador at the COP14 to raise public awareness about the challenges of land degradation, desertification and drought.

His vast repertoire of work includes 24 studio albums released internationally, over 3,500 commercials and eight feature films, including the natural history documentary 'Wild Karnataka' narrated by Sir David Attenborough.

Ricky's gallery of awards in-

cludes the United Nations Global Humanitarian Artist award. He was also conferred with the title Youth Icon of India. Real Leaders, a signatory to the United Nations named Ricky Kej as one of the 100 Real Leaders who 'Inspire the Future'. The House of Commons, Parliament of Canada awarded Ricky for his 'Outstanding Musical and Humanitarian Achievement'.

Ricky has been supporting

UNHCR by mentoring and providing opportunities for refugees who are musicians, since 2019. As a global artist and musician, Ricky uses his music to spread the message of kindness and tolerance. In 2022, Ricky won a Grammy at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards for his album 'Divine Tides' in collaboration with Rock & Roll legend Stewart Copeland in the Best New Age Album category. 'Divine Tides' won a second Grammy at the 65th Annual Grammy Awards in the Best Immersive Audio Album category, which took place in Los Angeles in February 2023.

In 2015, he won a Grammy at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards for his album 'Winds of Samsara' in the Best New Age Album category.



FEST AHEAD: A tableau being carried around in Cuttack Baliyatra Ground, Wednesday to spread awareness about the biggest open air trade fair of Asia scheduled to start November 27

#### CLASSIFIED

#### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Balasore on 16.11.2023, I SK. Shavanui Zama, Son of Sk. Samsuj Zama, At: Golapolo Road, P.S.: Sahadevkhunta, Dist.: Balasore, do hereby declared that as per my Aadhaar my Name is Sk. Shayanuj Zama but in my Passport No. M4128904 it has been inadvertently mentioned as Shavan Ui Zama. Sk. Shayanuj Zama & Shayan Uj Zama is the same and one person. This affidavit is sworn to be produced for correction in my passport. Sk. Shayanuj Zama

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Balasore on 14.11.2023, I Sk. Samsuj Zama, Son of Sk. Satar Alli, At: Golapolo Road, P.S.: Sahadevkhunta, P.O./Dist.: Balasore, Odisha do hereby declared that as per my Aadhaar my name is Sk. Samsuj Zama but in my Passport No. L6174585 it has been inadvertently mentioned as Samsujzama Shaik. Sk. Samsuj Zama & Samsujzama Shaik is the same and one person. Hence this affidavit is sworn to be produced for correction in my Passport. Sk. Samsuj Zama

# Slum dwellers' Assembly march stopped midway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Residents Salia Sahi, the largest slum of the Odisha capital Bhubaneswar, Wednesday marched towards the Assembly to press their demand for land rights from the state government. Holding banners and posters, hundreds of slum dwellers took out a rally from Salia Sahi towards the Assembly.

The police said the agitators were stopped midway near Biju Patnaik College and detained them as they did not have permission to hold the procession.



The slum dwellers are demanding land patta from the state government under its Jaga Mission. They also demand conversion of forest land on which the slum was built to revenue land

Jaga Mission aims at trans-

forming slums into liveable habitats with all civic infrastructure and services at par with the better-off areas within the same urban local body.

"Though all slums of Odisha have been covered under the Jaga Mission, Salia Sahi has been excluded. We poor people have been staying here for decades. But, the government is not looking towards us," said a protecting slum dweller.

a protesting slum dweller.
Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek
Singh said, "We have prevented
them from holding the protest
rally as they did not take permission from the police for it."

### 'Restricting screen time key to children's visual health'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: ENTOD Pharmaceuticals, in collaboration with Matanand Foundation, is observing National Myopia Week. Starting from November 20, the campaign is set to continue till November 26.

It is an initiative led by Matanand Foundation in collaboration with the Strabismus and Paediatric Ophthalmological Society of India (SPOSI), aiming to enhance awareness of myopia as a significant eye health concern

Chandra Sekhar Sahoo, MS (Ophthalmology), Dr Agarwals Eye Hospital, Bhubaneswar said, "Approximately 35 per cent of children attending eye checkups report issues like blurred vision and headaches, signaling the onset of high myopia. To address these concerns, promoting a balanced diet, outdoor play, and restricting screen time are crucial preventive measures for safeguarding the visual health of the younger generation."

ENTOD Pharmaceuticals CEO Nikkhil said, "Our collaboration with Matanand Foundation underscores our commitment to safeguarding children's vision. By empowering parents, educators, and healthcare professionals with knowledge and resources, we aspire to create a future where myopia is a manageable condition."

## Sujata Karthikeyan Cuttack: Senior IAS officer

**Addl responsibility for** 

Cuttack: Senior IAS officer Sujata R Karthikeyan has been given the additional charge of the Commissioner-

cum-Secretary to the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, an official said, Wednesday. Sujata is currently nosted as the Commissioner Secretary to Mission Shakti department. The appointment has been welcomed by a cross section of intelligentsia. "She (Sujata) is an able administrator. As Commissioner-cum-Secretary to the Mission Shakti department, she has helped transform lives of numerous women through self-help groups (SHGs). The Odia Language, Literature and Culture department will definitely benefit with her

appointment," Utkal Sahitya

Kumar Patnaik said.

Parishad general secretary Sanjit

## Vigilance cuffs cop over graft Tribal poets' state-level meet in City

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: Vigilance sleuths arrested a Police Sub Inspector (PSI) for allegedly accepting bribe from a person for the release of his seized motorcycle in Boudh district, officials said Wednesday.

PSI Bikram Kumar Dehury is a resident of Puruna Katak in Boudh and is currently posted at Baunsuni police station of the same district. The anti corruption sleuths nabbed Bikram for receiving ₹15,000 from the complainant over digital mode (PhonePe) Tuesday.

The complainant, Karunakar Nayak's bike was seized in connection with a case registered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. 1985.

ct, 1985. The court November 9 directed the police to return the seized vehicle to Karunakar.

'Though the Sessions Judge

Boudh had directed the Inspector In-Charge of Baunsuni Police station to release the seized motorcycle, PSI Bikram demanded a bribe of ₹15,000 from Karunakar and asked him to deposit the amount in an account for the same," said Vigilance sources. The complainant thereafter approached Vigilance officials over illegal demand made by the public servant. The sleuths caught Bikram following the transfer of bribe amount to the latter's PhonePe account.

latter's PhonePe account.
Subsequently, the officials carried out house searches at Bikram's native village and his rest room in Baunsuni police station. The accused was produced before the court Wednesday for remand.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: For the first time in Odisha, a two-day tribal poets' meet was organised with participation of 48 poets from different tribes at the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, ST &SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department and Law Minister Jagannath Saraka said, "It is a matter of pride for all of us to present the glorious history and cultural heritage through poetry on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas. This is the first time that a state-level meet of the tribal poets is being organized."

ised."
"Through the Odisha Tribal



Empowerment and Livelihood Program (OTELP), emphasis is being given to the development of 30 backward blocks in the districts of Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Rayagada," he added.

Das Benhur, Editor of Sargiful, said literature cannot be created without compassion. "Every poet must have sensitivity, sympathy, empathy and emotion. The emergence of poetry is from

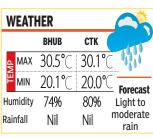
nature, so the birth of poem is from the people of nature i.e. tribals," he added.

SCSTRTI director Indramani Tripathy said famous poets from various tribal communities including Binjhal, Desia, Gadaba, Kisan, Koya, Kui, Saora, Munda, Bhumija, juang, Santhali and Ho will recite poems. All the poems presented here will be published in a special edition.

On the first day, 24 poets recited their poems. They included 2 poets from Binjhal tribe, 3 from Koya, 10 from Kui, 3 from Saora and one poet each from Paraja, Lanjia, Gond, Kuvi, Gadaba and Desia tribes.

Samarendra Bhutia, OSD, SC-STRTI conducted the programme while deputy director Santosh Rath welcomed the guests and assistant director Madhusmita Sahoo offered vote of thanks.





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**OrissaPOST** 

# **Prawn gherries recipe** for ecological disaster



Kendrapara, Nov 22: Promotion of fish farming by the state government has led to mushrooming of prawn gherries on over 15,000 hectare of land in Kendrapara district that have posed a serious threat to Bhitarkanika wetland. The fear is not unfounded as the toxic chemicals discharged by these gherries flows straight down into sea and destroys the green cover and habitat of wildlife in Bhitarkanika wetland

As per reports, marine creatures and their habitats are the first casualty after the toxic effluents flows down into the sea.

The Orissa High Court has expressed displeasure over the mushrooming prawn gherries and directed the district administration to remove the illegal gherries by identifying them with the help of drones.

Reports said export demand for Odisha's saline fish has increased to 747 per cent during last 10 vears. Over 11,460 tonne marine fish were exported in financial year (FY) 2011-12 while the demand shot up to 97,125 tonne in FY 2022-23. The demand for marine fish from Odisha is so high that the area of cultivation has now reached 17,780 hectare as against 5.860 hectare earlier.

The entire scenario has changed after the state government asked people to take up fish cultivation as a means of livelihood and promoted it through various incentives. As part of this programme, women SHGs, local fish farmers, cooperative societies, women cooperative bodies and unemployed youths were encouraged to take up fish cultivation.

However, farmers are more interested in prawn cultivation than freshwater fish cultivation with the district having a wellmarked coastline. An estimated 10,000 farmers are into prawn cultivation on over 17, 780 hectare

Export value and high profit

margin have prompted the farmers to attach priority on prawn cultivation. They are using the seawater and other toxic chemicals to raise prawn which when discharged flows down into the sea and harms the marine ecosystem as well as the wildlife in

Bhitarkanika wetland. Environmentalists Hemant Kumar Rout, Ashok Kumar Swain, Prabhu Prasad Mohapatra have expressed concern over the consequences of mushrooming prawn gherries. They alleged that the prawn gherries are destroying the environment of Bhitarkanika.

They said that the prawn gherries approved by the state government has to close down first to save the Bhitarkanika wetland. Many farmers are also putting up illegal gherries due to the promotion and protection of the government approved gheries.

Amar Kumar Pradhan, president of Maa Matia Mangala Prawn Farmers' Federation said that state government has launched various schemes as part of self-employment and income generation programmes.

Pradhan said, more than 10,000 youths have got employment in prawn cultivation as it is a profitable business. The cultivation is being done as per the government guidelines and not done near river, government land or forest land. He warned that the economic growth will take a beating if all the gherries are termed illegal and demolished.

When contacted, district fisheries extension officer Shashank Sekhar Sahu said that all the gherries in the district are not illegal as many farmers and selfhelp groups have received permission from the Fisheries department. He said that his office has received hundreds of applications to set up prawn gherries but they are yet to be approved.

He said that the district Collector has directed the tehsildar concerned to identify the illegal gherries and de-

### Not making any false advt: Patanjali Ayurved

New Delhi/Haridwar, Nov 22: Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved Wednesday said it is not making any "false advertisements or propaganda" regarding its products, and said it would not object if the Supreme Court were to impose a fine or 'even give us a death sentence' if found making misleading

A day after the apex court cautioned the company against making 'false' and 'misleading' claims in advertisements about its medicines as cure of several diseases, Patanjali Ayurved said it has "database with more than one crore people, with real world evidence, preclinical and clinical evidence"

Further, the company said it humbly respects the court and "if we make false advertisements or propaganda, we would not have any objections if honourable court imposes a fine of crores or even give us a death sentence.' Addressing a presser at

court should have listened to their side also. Ramdev said if he is given an opportunity, he himself is ready

to present all facts, clinical evi-

Haridwar, Ramdev said the apex

at Patanjali Research Institute in Haridwar dence and scientific research papers before the court in support of his claims. Ramdev also said that he sticks to his claims of curing serious diseases through

Acharya Balkrishna, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Patanjali Ayurved Limited,

Patanjali, Food and Herbal park, Divya Pharmacy, Patanjali Organic Research

Institute & Chairman of Patanjali Foods Limited and Anita Nayyar, COO-Media,

Branding & Communications, Patanjali Ayurved Limited addressing the media

Tuesday, a bench comprising Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra orally observed while hearing a plea of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), "All such false and misleading advertisements of Patanjali Ayurveda have to stop immediately. The court will take any such infraction very seriously...

Yoga and Avurveda.

The top court, August 23, 2022, had issued notices to the Union health ministry and Ministry of Ayush and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd, on the plea of the IMA alleging a smear campaign by Ramdev against the vaccination drive and modern medicines.

In its statement, Patanjali said, 'We would like to emphasise that we are not spreading any false propaganda. Hundreds of therapies of Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy, Panchakarma, Shatkarma, fasting and with the integrated treatment of system. we have made thousands of people free from several diseases like BP, sugar, thyroid, asthma, arthritis, obesity, liver and kidney failure, and cancer.

# Moral edu brings positive changes in society: Prez



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sambalpur, Nov 22: President Droupadi Murmu Wednesday said moral education helps in building life and brings positive changes in society.

Murmu, who is on the concluding day of her three-day visit to Odisha, said this while launching an education campaign 'New Education for New India' of Brahma Kumaris.

"Moral education makes us aware of the life values of compassion, kindness, friendship and fraternity," the President said, adding that the campaign is envisaged to inculcate values and uplift the consciousness of students.

Stating that education has always played an important and transformative role in society building, Murmu said, "Moral and human values like service. equality and sympathy are the foundation of our culture and youth should be familiar with these great ideals.'

Suggesting the younger generation to take care of their elderly parents and people from the deprived sections of society, Murmu said that positive attitude towards these values should be created in the minds of children through education.

'Positive changes can occur in an individual having qualities such as compassion, kindness, friendship and fraternity. Positive changes in an individual can result a better society,'

She also lauded the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya for making the path to happiness, peace and joy accessible through character-building, self-realisation and divine experience.

Malkangiri, Nov 22: Odisha

The seized items include six landmines weighing 40kg, 150 gelatin sticks, a countrymade gun, IEDs, ammunition and other articles, police said. Acting on specific information, Odisha Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) and District Voluntary Force (DVF) conducted a search operation in Mathili area, resulting in the unearthing of the Maoist dump near a forest between Tulasi and Kirimiti villages around

"This is a major jolt to the subversive and anti-national design



COURTESY CALL: Dharitri and Orissa POST's Sales and Marketing national head Hitesh Jain presenting a copy of **Dharitri** to Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev at Patanjali Research Institute in Haridwar

# Maoist weapons dump unearthed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Police unearthed a Maoist dump near a forest in this district bordering Chhattisgarh and recovered a huge cache of explosives, officials said Wednesday.

4:30pm Tuesday, police said.

of Maoists in this area. We sus-

# pect that these explosives belong

to the Maoist cadres of Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) and they were intended to be used against civilians and security forces," a statement by Malkangiri police said. Further combing and search operations are continuing in the area, said Malkangiri SP Nitish Wadhwani.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Auction Catalogue No.: Prkng-KUR-23-53

Station & Location : Jajpur Keonjha Road MIX (2 wheeler-cum-4 Wheeler

Auction Start Date & Time: 01.12.2023

E-AUCTION FOR PAY & USE TOILETS

Auction Catalogue No.: PnU-T-KUR-23-27

Station & Location (1) Bhubaneswa

#### Man charred to death in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chikiti, Nov 22: A 60-year-old man was charred to death after a house at Chandpur under Chikiti block in Ganjam district caught fire late Tuesday night. The deceased was identified as Kalu Das of Chandpur village. Kalu was asleep in one of the rooms while his daughter and wife were in another. However, the house caught fire

due to some unknown reasons engulfing Kalu. The family members screamed for help following which some villagers rushed to the spot and informed the fire personnel who rushed to the spot. However, by then Kalu had already died. Nuapada outpost police handed over the charred body to the family members after conducting a post-mortem, OIC Sisirkanta Sahani said. A case was registered and an investigation launched to ascertain the reason behind the inferno, the OIC added.

### Two killed, 3 hurt in Ganjam hit-and-run

POST NEWS NETWORK

Digapahandi/Patapur, Nov 22: Two persons were killed while three others, including two women, were injured after a speeding car ran over them outside the passenger rest shed at Podamari bus stand under Patapur police limits in Ganjam district late Tuesday night.

The injured were identified as Niranjan Mohanty alias Nira of P Ramachandrapur village under Sanakhemundi block and Seemanchal Pradhan of Podamari village. Amir Nayak of Padmapur village near Podamari sustained critical injuries in the mishap while the two injured women were yet to be identified.

Niranjan, Seemanchal and Amir were waiting to board a bus for Bhuhaneswar when a Mohana bound Tata Safari (OD 07AK-9974) from Digapahandi



came at high speed and hit them. On being informed, fire personnel from Sanakhemundi reached the spot and rushed the injured to Digapahandi community health centre. There the doctors pronounced Niranjan and Seemanchal dead.

Amir was administered preliminary treatment and shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur as his condition worsened. The two women with minor injuries were discharged after primary treatment. Patapur police registered a case and started an investigation into the incident. A manhunt is on to nab the abscond-

Wednesday morning. In the first instance, the deceased was identified as Kanak Das, 55, of Bisalakana village under Agarpada police limits. Sources said after alighting from a bus at Banta Chhak. Kanak was walking while another bus coming from Anandpur to Bhadrak ran over her. Locals rushed her to Bhadrak district headquar ters hospital where the doctors declared her dead on arrival. In the second incident, Madhabananda Das of Sureswarapur village under Basudevpur municipality died after an iron laden truck ran over him in front of the blood bank near the hospital situated at Basudevpur main market Wednesday morning.

2 die in separate mishaps in Bhadrak

Bhadrak: A woman died after a bus ran over her at Banta Chhak while an iron laden

truck mowed down a 50-year-old man at Basudeypur main market in Bhadrak district

#### Woman constable dies by suicide

Boudh: A woman constable of Boudh district reportedly died by hanging herself in her official quarters at Butupalli Police Colony, Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Chand Meher, Sources said Chand hanged herself from the ceiling fan using her scarf after sending her two sons to school Wednesday morning. Her husband had also left home to open his shop at Butupalli. Informed. Boudh police reached the spot and seized the body. Police sent the body to Boudh for postmortem after registering a case of unnatural death, said Boudh IIC Sharada Prasanna Das. While the reason behind her death is not clear, police have detained her husband.

#### AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE

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**Date and Venue:** 

Friday, 24th November, 2023; 7:00 pm onwards. at Hotel Harjit Residency, Dayal Towers, VSS Marg, Sambalpur, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Indranil Bose, Mobile: 91231 47315.

Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 6:30 pm. No walk-ins will be allowed.



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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

### Bull gores elderly woman to death, injures another

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Nov 22: An elderly woman died a lady teacher sustained injuries after being attacked by a stray bull near Happyhome School at Charampa in Bhadrak district Wednesday morning.

The deceased was identified as Shantilata Panda, 75, and the injured lady as Saiprasanna Das, 48, a teacher at Pallishree High school, Kodabaruan.



Both are from Patharaadi Sahi in the

Sources said the stray bull attacked Shantilata and thrashed her on the ground while she was plucking flowers. The bull gored the elderly woman repeatedly and trampled her, leading to her death on the spot. Similarly, the bull attacked Saiprasanna while she was going to temple. Locals rescued her and rushed her to district headquarters hospital, Bhadrak. Notably, Saiprasanna is the sister of Bhadrak dis-

trict Congress president Ashok Das. Informed, Bhadrak rural police reached the spot and made an announcement through mike not to step out. Later, a fire brigade team reached the spot and captured the bull with the help of locals. Police sent Shantilata's body to the DHH for post-mortem.



REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH: SAMBALPUR POSSESSION NOTICE 1ST FLOOR, G.M. COLLEGE CHOWK,

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

(Immovable Property) **CHRISTIAN PARA, SAMBALPUR-768001** 

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 til 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.

SAMBALPUR MAIN BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors		Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
Borrower: 1) Mr. Rajesh Kumar Dash,	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land		₹10,89,748.80
S/o.: Mr. Durga Prasad Dash, 2) Mr. Suresh	and Building situated at Khata No.: 88/69, Plot No.: 56/		as on <b>31.08.2023</b>
Kumar Dash, S/o.: Mr. Durga Prasad Dash,	361, Area: Ac.0.05 Dec, Mouza: Majhipali, P.S.: Sason	02.09.2023	+ further interest
3) Mr. Ramesh Kumar Dash, S/o.: Mr.	No.: 12, Tahasil: Rengali, Dist.: Sambalpur, standing in	1	thereon at contractual
Durga Prasad Dash & 4) Mr Durga Prasad	the name of Mr. Durga Prasad Dash, S/o.: Mr. Jogeshwar	20.11.2023	rate plus costs,
Dash, S/o.: Mr Jogeshwar Dash /	Dash, Bounded by North: Plot No 56(P), South: Road 10		charges and expenses
Guarantor: Mrs. Jaya Kumari Dash,	feet, East: Plot No 56(P), West: Plot No 56(P)		till date of payment
W/o.: Mr. Durga Prasad Dash, All are residents of C/o.: Eagle Video Home, Modipara (Near Pani Tanki) Sambalpur, PIN-768002			
Place: Sambalpur, Date: 22.11.2023 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda			



Towards North side gate near Relianc

Store). (2) Bhubaneswar (in Circulating area PF-1 side). (3) Jajpur Keonjhar Road (Pre-Fabricated) (in Circulating Auction Start Date & Time: 01.12.2023 Auction End Date & Time: 01.12.2023

at 1230 hrs. (for sl. no. 1), 1240 Hrs. (for sl. no. 2) & 1250 Hrs. (for sl. no. 3). Note: Prospective bidders are advised to isit the https://www.ireps.gov.in and check the upcoming e-auctions leasing tab

get all required information regarding nis e-auction. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager R-798/O/23-24 Khurda Road PR-798/O/23-24

EAST COAST RAILWAY (1) E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-42 Dated: 08.11.2023 NAME OF THE WORK : UPDATION Tender Value : ₹28,66,535/-, Bi

(2) E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2023-43 Dated: 14.11.2023 NAME OF THE WORK : ANNUA REPAIRING CONTRACT OF UNIVERSAL FAIL SAFE BLOCK INTERFACE SYSTEM (UFSBI) OF DELTRON MAKE INSTALLED IN 22 STATIONS IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR

THE PERIOD OF 03 (THREE) YEARS. ender Value : ₹48,17,599.20, Bi Security: ₹ 96,400/ender Closing Date and Time: At 1100 Irs. of 01.12.2023 (for SI. No. 1) and A 1100 Hrs. of 06.12.2023 (for SI. No. 2).

lo manual offers sent by Post/Courie ax or in person shall be accepted again he e-tenders even if these are submitte on firm's letter head and receipt in time All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including -tender documents of -tender is available in website

http://www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenderers an
advised to revisit the website 15 days before he date of closing of tender to note an changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)

PR-797/O/23-24



True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become

**SRI AUROBINDO** 



Chris Bataille &

Gernot Wagner

Decarbonising the

next generation of

plants will require

a different kind of

government push

to enable large

new capital

investments

iron and steel

### **Decarbonise Steel**

nowledge of the basic chemical process to make iron is older than the periodic table: iron ore + coal = iron + carbon dioxide. That last part – CO2 – has put the iron and steel industry under the spotlight for its contribution to climate change. Steel (an iron-carbon alloy) alone accounts for some 8% of annual global CO2 emissions, and well over 10% if one includes the industry's emissions from electricity generation and coal mining.

Fortunately, it is both technically possible and economically feasible to eliminate almost all the CO2 from iron- and steel-making by mid-century. Getting there, however, will require a targeted policy

The key is first to identify the primary source of emissions. Over 80% result from the initial step: digging up iron ore, which is largely made up of iron and oxygen, and chemically separating the oxygen. The main ingredient used to achieve this "reduction" is coal, which of course generates massive amounts of CO2. At this point, turning iron into steel becomes a comparatively low-carbon process.

One way to cut the industry's emissions, then, is to avoid that first step altogether by recycling more iron and steel products than we cur-

rently do. While the iron and steel recycling rate hovers around 80-90% in the United States, and over 80% globally, the fact remains that steel is 100% recyclable. To recycle all of it means pushing designers to make products that are easier to disassemble, to more easily remove copper wiring and other

Another important factor is basic material efficiency: using less steel in the first place, with architects and structural engineers minimising its use in their designs. Governments, the largest buyer of infrastructure, have an obvious role to play here. But so, too, do the architecture and engineering professions, as well as car manu-

Steel could become the poster child of the circular economy, but only if governments introduce policies targeting each step in the steel supply chain. Recycling and material efficiency both add physical, logistical, and managerial complexities, which implies that industries will not adopt them automatically, even if they ultimately reduce costs. That means improving building and vehicle manufacturing codes (while being mindful of larger trade-offs with other ma-

production.

terials, including glass, cement, and metals like aluminum), and compelling steel consumers to recycle all scrap. Decarbonising the next generation of iron and steel plants will require a different kind of government push to enable large new capital investments. This is no small task. We must replace the blast furnace of yore and the basic oxygen furnace as the workhorses of iron and steel

When it comes to turning iron into steel, electric arc furnaces are an effective solution, and now account for over 70% of steel production in the US, up from 15% in 1970 and just under 50% in 2000. To replace blast furnaces that use coal, there are currently two options: furnaces that rely on low-carbon hydrogen to strip oxygen from iron ore; and novel electrochemical processes that can do so with electricity.

Variations of the hydrogen-based option (first developed in the 1970s) currently account for 5% of global steel production, but they are currently still more expensive than traditional blast furnaces. The added costs amount to around \$200-300 per tonne of avoided CO2, which is 2-3 times the prevailing carbon price in Europe, and significantly higher than carbon prices almost anywhere else. Though such prices may well be justified from a climate perspective, it will take policy interventions to bring markets along.

But while steel decarbonisation would benefit from sustained high carbon prices, what it really needs is a policy strategy that is both large and more focused. The immediate task is to get the first wave of nearzero-emissions plants built so that they can become the new standard.

The world's first full-size, clean-hydrogen steel plant is being built by H2 Green Steel in Boden, just south of the Arctic Circle in Sweden, which has near-perfect policy conditions for it. Not only are Sweden's energy and steel sectors covered by the European Union's emissionstrading system; but, thanks to large, legacy hydropower plants and new wind farms, northern Scandinavia has abundant low-carbon electricity. It is also cheap, allowing for a long-term power purchase agreement with Norwegian Statkraft to supply power at below \$0.03 per kilowatt-

Electricity prices of below \$0.03, feasible with most electricity coming from wind and (especially) solar, would allow the Colorado-based start-up Electra to break even with its electrochemical approach to traditional iron production. The company is currently funded with \$85 million from venture capitalists, who are willing to bear more risks than

Policymakers can and must step in to help technologies like H2 Green Steel's and Electra's get off the ground. They should go beyond basic economy-wide climate policies to focus on providing low-cost, low-carbon electricity, and on driving down capital costs for new technologies. The US Inflation Reduction Act helps accomplish the former; but it, too, falls short of supporting revolutionary iron-making technologies directly. If anything, it could hurt, as it subsidises hydrogen research and carbon capture instead of low-emissions iron and steel-making more broadly. Once private finance becomes familiar with the new technologies, the extra costs will be manageable. But first-of-their-kind projects are inherently risky and need support. To that end, a production tax credit specifically for low-emissions iron would go a long way.

Time is of the essence. Asia's large fleet of high-carbon legacy blast furnaces accounts for 75% of global iron production, and is due for costly relining maintenance in the decade starting in 2025. Since relining costs as much as 80% of building a blast furnace from scratch, there is a big opportunity to invest in newer, better technologies. Europe and America can help with the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and US Inflation Reduction Act subsidies, respectively. But, to demonstrate the new technologies' worth, governments need to provide more, and more direct, investments in them - and soon.

Chris Bataille is an adjunct research fellow at the Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy. Gernot Wagner is a climate economist at Columbia Business School.

WISDOM CORNER

The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself.

Change is the healthiest way to survive.

KARL LAGERFELD

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what

**GEORGE ORWELL** 

FOCUS ECONOMY

# **ALL THAT GLITTERS**



Shivaji Sarkar

**FESTIVITY SALES ARE RISING EVERY** YEAR DESPITE THE RISE IN **INFLATION AND MODERATE JOB SCENARIO** 

<sup>-</sup>ndia's imports are growing and exports are slowing, but domestic sales during Diwali touched a record Rs 3.75 trillion, according to the Confederation of Association of Traders (CAIT). Besides, with some more regional festivities such as Chhath Puja it may add another Rs 50,000 crore sales. The All-India Jewellers and Goldsmiths Federation says that on Dhanteras, about 41 tonnes of gold and about 400 tonnes of silver jewellery and coins were sold in the country. In value terms, the total turnover of gold, silver and other items was Rs 30,000 crore.

Even passenger vehicle sales have gone up by about 21% on the back of deregistration of fine working personal cars though these don't add to pollution. Maruti alone is stated to have sold over 55,000 vehicles. So did the tractors, suggesting a new-look agriculture. This is despite the rising food prices, posing threat to the RBI's commitment to align headline inflation with the 4% target as stated in its 'State of the Economy' report.

One particular aspect which is troublesome is the vegetable inflation averaging 5.7% from fiscal year 2020 till now (2023) compared to a virtual zero between 2016 and 2019. Occasional rises have been much higher. While this phenomenon along with some external developments are pushing the rupee down visa-vis the dollar, it has added to another problem of shrinking exports for the seventh time in August while imports surged to hit the highest level since March this year. At \$58.6 billion imports were 5.2% below last year's level but exports fell higher by 6.9% leading to \$24.2 billion trade deficit, the widest since October 2022.

But India may be doing better when compared to other countries. A German govern-



It has been observed that from around 70% as a share of GDP, the share of private consumption expenditure has gone down to 58.5%

ment report says a rapidly growing India became more important for Germany. Goods to the value of 8.7 billion euros, 1.7% higher were imported from India to Germany from January to July 2023. Accounting for 1.1% of total imports, India ranked 23rd among Germany's major suppliers of goods. Among the non-EU countries, India ranked

Goods exports are down 11.9% and imports dipped by 12.1%. In short, this affects foreign currency earning, which remains at a level of Rs 83 or below. This makes imports more expensive and pushes up inflation the RBI struggles to keep in check.

Services exports and imports too were hit. In September, services exports witnessed a year-onyear decline of 2.7% at \$28.42 billion. Services imports decreased by a sharper 10.3% at \$ 14.59 billion. This is an indication of the economy at the domestic front. Shrinking services exports imply that their ability to bridge the goods trade deficit will be restricted. This could lead to wider current account

This can impinge on the budgetary process that begins at this point of time. This will be significant for an election year provisional central budget. The 2023-24 budget allocated, like the previous year, higher infrastructure expenditure hoping faster growth. It will be challenging for the economy. Not all expenses may be justified like demolitions of many office buildings, which could have stood the test of time. World over traditionally such buildings are refurbished and maintained. Iconic structures like the National Museum are also

being axed.

It appears that the domestic purchasers would be greasing the economy instead of external sales. This year's domestic figure at Rs 3.75 trillion is far higher than the retail business of Diwali 2022 at Rs 1.5 trillion. Gold sales spiked by 20% almost like the last year. The peculiar factors of the economy need to be decoded. Festivity sales are rising every year despite the rise in inflation and moderate job scenario. This vear overall many farmers dealing in potato and other vegetables had less income even as onion, tomato, cereal, and pulses prices surged. The RBI is watching keenly the November and December market trends.

Despite inflationary situa tion the rise of sales of goods and commodities suggest that even the not so affluent keep the wheels of economy moving Festive sales are seasonal but whether such trends would sustain the economy or not is yet to be proven. This definitely gives a boost to the entire economic sector, including travel transport and hotels. Large movements generate enormous

An increase in inflation rate leads to a decrease in the household consumption as per the traditional theory. The credit card sales have also gone up 17% in October and a bit more in November. Overall estimates show credit card sales of Rs 29,000 crore. There is a catch. It may be part of the total purchases by consumers. But the sales surge also has another blue. It has been observed that credit card defaults too increased.

It has been observed that from around 70% as a share of GDP, the share of private consumption expenditure (PFCE) has gone down to 58.5%. Aniket Dani, director, research, CRISIL Market Intelligence, says the self-employed witnessed degrowth of 3% in their income during the last one year. Inflation during this period remained at 6%, suggesting loss in income. The low-income group bore the

The growth in sales may not encompass all sections. At the macro level slowdown is evident. Chief Economist, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Nikhil Gupta says that when saving continues to fall, income growth lags consumption growth. So, all that glitters may not be gold. Diwali sales may have boosted a large part of the market but its general impact on the economy is yet to be observed.

#### SPECTRUM CRICKET

# Of pitch, pummelling & politics



Satya Narayan Misra

**POLITICISING** CRICKET, **HANDPICKING VENUES BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CLOUT MUST BE AVOIDED** 

the World Cup final. Travis was no Ponting, pummelling India out of the 2003 WC final, nor was he a buccaneer like Gilchrist demolishing Sri Lanka in WC final of 2007. More importantly, India had blazed through the tournament with a Nadia Comaneci type perfect 10 to the finals. It had superb pace bowling trio, an incredible batting line-up till number 5, KL Rahul, and a match winning spinner in Kuldeep Yadav. It had few skeletons to hide like Mohammed Siraj's sloppy fielding and Suryakumar Yadav's 360 degree hitting in the 50 over format. The team had also beaten Australia in the opening match. With 1.3 lakh crowd braying for Australia's scalp and Narendra Modi leaving no stone unturned to fly Kiran aircraft over the ground, it was a surreal combination of commotion and smoke, hyper nationalism with military pride. Yet when Pat Cummins chose to bowl on winning the toss, many eyebrows were raised! But Pat was aware that the pitch was un-watered and dry as dust. He was also aware that as the night will de-

ven the most cynical critic scend the dew drops will dull Bumrah and Mohammed Shami World Cup, but to prepare for the ✓ of cricket would have shed our spinners and take the bite out ⊿a few drops of tear, the way of them. He also hoped that Travis Head swept India out of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazelwood and himself can spoil the party for the famed batting quintet. He could not have conjured a better script as overhyped Subhuman Gill scooped an easy catch off Starc. He looked like a cat caught in closet. Rohit, on the other hand, was like a Prince on an Arabian horse's back, sure footed, on a mission to send the hapless pacers to the stands. Hayden rated him to be the match-winner, the way he treated every bowler with his scimitar. He had the similar sangfroid and insouciance of Clive Lloyd in the WC final 1975 against the dreaded trio of Dennis Lillee, Jeff Thomson and Gary Gilmour. Srevs Iver's weakness against lifting delivery was exposed. Kohli played with his usual grit but was undone by a Cummins special. He did not look infallible, unlike Rahul, who got out to a real unplayable out-swinger. SKY looked like a cat on a hot tin roof and was the biggest disaster of Indian batting. Even Kuldeep batted better. Quite clearly the pace trio of Australia studied the pitch and diffident Indian batsmen better. The Indian bowling duo of Jasprit

way Steve Smith left without reviewing an LBW appeal off a slower from Jasprit raised the visions of Aussies folding up. Sadly, the dead pitch combined with dew did not allow Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep to get any deviation or purchase from the wicket. Recall, how Kuldeep bowled the befuddled Butler with 4.4-degree turner. Raideep Sardesai has peddled the conspiracy theory that the pitch was manipulated to help Indian batsmen to plunder runs. Sadly. bereft of watering and greenery, Indian bowlers were easy fodder for Travis and stodgy Marnus Labuschagne, who reminded of Rohan Kanhai giving support to bellicose Lloyd in 1975, when they were precariously perched. In case there is any sliver of truth in this conspiracy theory, it deserves scathing condemnation and probe by an independent agency. It must, however, be admitted that Australia looked the better side in all departments, including spectacular fielding. Indian fielding looked mediocre. Rahul's keeping was also shoddy. This is not the time to wallow

in the thought of a retiring Rohit and Virat in the next

bowled like stung bees and the next five years. We had left out quite a few promising spinners like Ravi Bishnoi, Yuzvendra Chahal and Ravichandran Ashwin from the World Cup team. We also need to give more opportunity to Ruturaj Gaikwad and Yashasvi Jasaswi to open the innings and cut our obsession with Gill. Tilak Varma is also a good prospect. Ishan Kishan should keep wickets. In our quest for unlimited thrill, we need to eschew excessive commercialisation and be more professional. Politicising cricket. handpicking venues because of political clout must be avoided. Cricket, like cinema, is one of the few areas which celebrate our pristine secular culture, multi-culturalism and brotherhood as enshrined in our Constitution. A Rohit chairing Shami after his stupendous performance in semifinal or a Kohli defending Shami when he is accused of sub-par performance against Pakistan are high watermarks of humanism. We must save our cricket from the looming spectre of political intrigue, manipulation and machination.

The writer is a cricket enthusiast.

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST (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

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

#### Avoid knee-jerk reaction

Sir, Maldives has categorically asked India to withdraw its "military presence" from Maldivian shores President Mohamed Muizzu is obviously playing into the hands of Chinese President Xi Jinping; his party won riding on an "India out" campaign specifically at the insistence of China. His acknowledgment of India's sanguine intentions in offering military equipment and personnel as humanitarian gestures, but putting the onus on the "democratic will" of Maldivian people says a lot while saying nothing at all. At least for the time being, President Muizzu seems keen to be at the beck and call of President Xi Jinping. It is felt that Muizzu himself may be aiming to play a deft game to balance Male's power equations with both New Delhi and Beijing. Therefore, it is in the fitness of things that India has avoided knee jerk reaction to President Muizzu's statements. Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

#### Rejoinder to Governor

Sir, The Supreme Court took note of the Tamil Nadu government's argument that the Constitution does not provide Governor RN Ravi "discretion" to withhold the 10 Bills re-passed by the State Legislative Assembly. Once they have been re-passed, these Bills are put on the same footing as Money Bills. Then no one can reject them. The top court remark is a landmark and a rejoinder to the Governor. The court was reacting to the arguments raised by the state government, represented by advocates and that the first provision of Article 200 states that if the Bill is passed again by the House or Houses with or without amendment and presented to the Governor for assent, the Governor shall not withhold assent therefrom. This has come as a great relief to the Tamil Nadu government. But, at one point, the Chief Justice asked whether the Governor had to mandatorily send the Bills back to the House for reconsideration after withholding the assent. Thus the deadlock has been well and truly cleared and it is a direct hit on the wisdom of the Governor holding the re-passed Bills.

CK Subramaniam, CHENNAI



# TWOSTATES





THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 23 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

# Manipur clash 'political problem'

4.000 LOOTED ARMS STILL IN OPEN: LT GEN RP KALITA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 22: Terming the ethnic clashes in Manipur as a 'political problem', Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Rana Pratap Kalita said incidents of violence will continue unless around 4,000 weapons, which were looted from security forces, are recovered from common people.

The Eastern Command General Officer Commanding-in-Chief also said India is giving shelter to anyone from Myanmar seeking refuge, including common villagers, army or police, in Mizoram and Manipur, but not armed cadres of militant groups or drug traffickers. "Our efforts have been to con-

tain the violence and motivate both sides of the conflict to come for a peaceful resolution of the political problem. Because ultimately, there has to be a political resolution to the problem,' Kalita told reporters at an interaction organised by the Gauhati Press Club Tuesday.

As far as the ground situa tion was concerned, the Indian Army's aim initially was to carry out rescue and relief operations for the people who were displaced from their houses, he

"Thereafter, we are trying to contain the violence, which we

have been largely successful. But because of the polarisation between the two communities. Meiteis and Kukis, some sporadic incidents keep taking place here and there," Kalita said.

Asked why normalcy has not returned to Manipur even after more than six-and-half months of beginning of the clashes, he said there has been some legacy issues between the three communities that live in the state -- Meitei, Kuki and Naga.

The Lieutenant General pointed out that earlier also there had been conflicts between the Kukis and Nagas in the 1990s when almost 1,000 people were

"What has happened now is that both the communities have completely got polarised. Though the level of violence has come down, more than 5,000 weapons were taken away from various police stations and other places. Out of that, only about 1,500 weapons have been recovered. So, around 4,000 weapons are still out. Till the time these weapons are out in society, this sort of sporadic violent activities will continue, he added

Kalita, however, said weapon smuggling along with drugs through the Indo-Myanmar border has been checked, although some isolated incidents may be there.



already out in the open, I think there is no requirement of weapons to come from outside. he stressed

More than 180 people lost their lives and several hundreds were injured since ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur May 3, after a 'Tribal Solidarity March'

was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley Tribals - Nagas and Kukis -- constitute little over 40 per cent and reside in the hill dis-

On the refugee crisis from Myanmar, Lt Gen Kalita said, "Anv instabilitv in our neigh bourhood is not in our interest. It definitely impacts us as we share the common border. The problem of the Indo-Myanmar border gets accentuated because of the difficult geography and terrain conditions, and lack of de-

He further said as the border is porous and people are from the same ethnicity on both sides of the border, a lot of free movements take place, and it becomes difficult for the forces managing the borders to identify who are the people from India and who are from Myanmar. 'We are giving shelter to any-

body who is seeking refuge, whether it is a common villager or Myanmar Army or Myanmar Police. There is a due process that is followed. Whenever they want to come in, the weapons are separated obviously. Thereafter there is a proper identification, which is carried out so that the undesirable elements are segregated. We get in touch with the MEA and (Myanmar) Embassy. Generally, all these Myanmar Army personnel will be taken to Moreh (in Manipur) and then handed over to the (Myanmar) force." Kalita said.

### 15 soldiers, 25 terrorists killed in Jammu this yr

**OFFICIALS ASCRIBE UPTICK IN VIOLENCE TO 'DESPERATE ATTEMPTS FROM ACROSS THE BORDER'** TO REVIVE MILITANCY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 22: Forty-seven people, including 15 security personnel and 25 terrorists, were killed in three districts of Jammu this year officials said Wednesday ascribing the uptick in violence to "desperate attempts from across the border" to revive militancy in the region.

The dead included four Army officers, including two captains, who lost their lives in an ongoing anti-terrorist operation in Bajimaal area of Rajouri district.

Two earlier ambushes in Mendhar area of Poonch and Kandi forest of Rajouri April 20 and May 5, respectively had claimed the lives of 10 soldiers, including five commandos.

According to officials, 47 deaths have been recorded in militancy-related violence since January this year in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and nearby Reasi district. While 24 people, including seven terrorists and 10 security personnel, have been killed in Rajouri this year, 15 terrorists and five security personnel have been killed in Poonch district. Three terrorists were killed in Reasi district.

Most of the terrorists were killed while attempting to sneak into this side of the border, the officials said. The officials said the uptick in the encounters was a result of massive counter-terrorist operations by security agencies to scuttle repeated attempts from across the border to revive militancy in the Jammu region, and to ease pressure on the terrorists operating in Kashmir Valley.

This year, 121 people, in cluding 81 terrorists and 27 security personnel, have been killed in militancy-related violence in Jammu and Kashmir The dead includes an Army colonel and a deputy superintendent of police (DSP) who lost their lives in a week-long operation in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The latest encounter in Rajouri comes close on the heels of another gunfight in Behrote in Budhal area November 17, in which one terrorist was killed.

Two earlier ambushes in the Mendhar area of Poonch and Kandi forest of Rajouri on April 20 and May 5 respectively had claimed the lives of 10 soldiers

#### 4 govt employees sacked for terror links in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Nov 22: The Jammu and Kashmir administration Wednesday sacked four more government employees, including a doctor and a policeman, for their alleged terror links in Territory, Union officials said

Assistant Professor (Medicine), SMHS Hospital Srinagar, Nisarul-Hassan, Constable Abdul Majeed Bhat, Laboratory bearer in Higher Education Department Abdul Salam Rather, and teacher in Education Department Farooq Ahmad Mir were dismissed in terms of Article 11 of the Constitution of India, they said.

In the last three years, the Union Territory administration has invoked 311 (2)(c) of the Constitution to sack more than 50 employees, who were allegedly operating in shadows within the government and drawing a salary from the public exchequer, officials said.



In 2022, the govt formed a panel that was empowered to investigate allegations of employees' involvement in anti-national activities

However, they were helping Pakistani terror outfits, providing logistics to terrorists. propagating terrorists' ideology raising terror finances and furthering secessionist agenda, they said.

"The dismissal of these government employees follows their involvement with the forces those work against India by spreading malicious propaganda,' officials said.

The process of dismissal of government employees was started in J&K in 2022 when the UT government formed a committee that was empowered to investigate allegations of government employees' involvement in anti-national activities.

The committee was empower ered to recommend the dismissal of such employees from government service.

So far, 50 government employees, against whom the committee found sufficient evidence. have been sacked.

## ₹5cr given to women victims' fund: Manipur to SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Manipur government has told the Supreme Court that an amount of ₹5 crore has been credited in Women Victims' Compensation Fund for disbursement of compensation to women victims or survivors of the sectarian strife. It said that this amount has

been credited in a dedicated bank account which is being operated by the Member Secretary of Manipur State Legal Services Authority. The state government told the

apex court that the Home Department in June this year asked all the Deputy Commissioners to open special Aadhaar camps to generate Aadhaar cards which had been lost or burnt in the ongoing violence in the state.

"It is stated that so far, 3,928 (three thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight) Aadhaar cards



have been recreated for people staying in relief camps by opening special Aadhaar camps," said the status report filed before the Supreme Court.

It may be recalled that the Supreme Court had ordered that the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and

Manipur government, after due verification, will provide copies of Aadhaar cards to people displaced in the ethnic strife.

The status report added that out of 1,915 reported cases of lost passbooks, 873 passbooks have been prepared and

Further, it added that the High Court Bar Association, Manipur has given comments that "no lawyer is denied access to court proceedings.

In September, it was claimed before the apex court that lawyers from a particular community were unable to attend court proceedings in the northeastern

The Supreme Court had asked the President of Manipur High Court Bar Association to provide a compilation of sample orders indicating that lawyers from all communities have appeared before the High Court.

It had said that it only asked for tabular information to satisfy the 'conscience of the court' to ensure that no community is excluded from access to justice.

Also, it had ordered Manipur's Advocate General to make sure that video conferencing facilities are operationalised in all 16 court complexes of the state within a period of one week.



## Cold wave sweeps Kashmir

Srinagar, Nov 22: Srinagar city recorded the coldest night of this season as the minimum temperature settled below the freezing point across Kashmir, officials said here Wednesday. Fog engulfed the valley in the

morning hours, disrupting incoming air traffic to Srinagar international airport However, normal flight oper-

ations resumed soon as the fog dissipated due to increase in temperature.

The dense fog cover in the mornings is due to the intensifying cold wave conditions in the valley.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius compared to minus 1.2 degrees Celsius a night earlier. the officials said adding it was the coldest night in the city this

Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in Kashmir as the minimum settled at minus 3.3 degrees Celsius while Pulwama recorded a low of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius Tuesday night, they said.

Qazigund, the gateway town to Kashmir, recorded a low of 1.0 degrees Celsius while Kupwara recorded a low of minus 1.4 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg ski resort in north Kashmir and Kokernag in South Kashmir were the only places where the minimum settled above the freezing point on Tuesday night. Gulmarg recorded minimum temperature of 0.6 degrees Celsius while Kokernag recorded 0.3 degrees Celsius, they said.



#### **Admin considering vacation for schools**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is "seriously" considering winter vacation for schools in the valley in view of the minimum temperatures dropping below the freezing point over the last three days, a senior official said Wednesday.

"I cannot say anything definitely till a formal announcement is made but we are seriously considering it (winter vacations). A proposal has been submitted in this regard (to the administration)," Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bhiduri told reporters here.

Bhiduri said while it is easy for the administration to announce winter vacations, it also has to ensure that the students do not suffer academi-

"We have to balance both things. The academic session of schools is planned and we have to figure in several things, including board examinations. The way the weather has changed, the government is considering this issue (winter vacation). A formal announcement will be made in a day or two," he said.

The officials said schools are likely to be closed in a phased manner according to past prac-

"We may not close all the classes in one go. Maybe primary classes will be closed in the beginning, then middle level and later senior secondary classes. In all likelihood, the primary classes will continue only till the end of this week,'

#### Debarred from exam, **MBBS** students protest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, Nov 22: Thirty-three MBBS students of the Churachandpur Medical College (CMC) protested as they are debarred from appearing in their first year examination which

commenced Tuesday. Of the 33 MBBS students, 27 are displaced due the ethnic riot and six non-displaced.

In their memorandum addressed to the Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey and submitted through the Churachandpur Additional Deputy Commissioner Thangboi Gangte, the 27 displaced tribal MBBS students have said that they filled up their examination forms and deposited their due examination fees and maintained other formalities



The memorandum said they were informed that their admit cards and other examination materials were sent only to six MBBS students and the rest of the displaced students' were excluded.

The students became very upset as their fellow displaced students from Churachandpur Medical College were allowed to continue their studies in Imphal's Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) uninterrupted but no such steps were taken against them.

The students urged the Governor to intervene in their matter so that they can sit in the phase-1 MBBS examination.

#### **Government of Odisha** "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.TENDER ONLINE SBPR-10 OF 23-24

No.5871, dated 20.11.2023 e-mail ld: rw\_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in, Phone No.0663-2401850 Road & Building Works as per

Name of the Work DTCN available in the website.

Total No. of Work

Period of Completion

in the portal for bidding

Period and time of availability of bid document

of Tender

www.tendersodisha.gov.in

23 (Twenty-Three) Nos. Varies from Rs. 1.68 lakhs to

01 (One) Calendar Months

28.11.2023 at 11.00 AM to 07.12.23 upto 5.00 PM

08.12.2023 at 11.00 AM

Date and Time of opening Name and address of the S.E.R.W. Divn. Sambalpur

Officer Inviting Bid (1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders

ailable in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in (2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www nderodisha.gov.in.

Sd./-Superintending Engineer OIPR-25076/11/0016/2324 Rural Works Division, Sambalpur



e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No.10 /2023-24 OLIC (BAM) / Dt. 15.11.2023

No. CAD-2981:- The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division Berhampur on behalf of OLIC invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover system to be received in online Mode only for the work "Installation and Energisation of LIPs in Ganjam District" as detailed in the table below. The Bid should be submitted by the eligible class of contractors as mentioned below registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade / class registered with Central Government / M.E.S. / Railways / C.P.W.D. for execution of Civil Works with valid Electrical (H.T) License issued by ELBO Odisha as a single or having joint venture with proper registration through On-Line in the Govt,

website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with own digital signature certificate 1. Numbers of Package 52 Numbers Rs.13.80 lakhs to 43.46 lakhs Estimated Cost As per DTCN Tender Cost As per DTCN
Dt. 21.11.2023 from 11.00 Noon.
Dt. 30.11.2023 at 17.00 hrs. Class of Contractor

Date & time of publication

Date & time of closing

Date & time of opening of bid Dt. 01.12.2023 at 12.00 Noon. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender if any, can be seen in the

said website Sd./- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER OIPR-32442/11/0014/2324



Indian Armed Forces contingent before departing for Australia to participate in the second edition of joint military exercise 'Austra Hind 2023', to be conducted in Perth from November 22 to December 6



Mitzi Jonelle Tan, of the Philippines, center, participates in a *Fridays for Future* protest calling for money for climate action at the COP27 UN Climate Summit, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt



Farmers shout slogans as they block a National highway during a protest demanding an increase in sugarcane prices among other demands, in Jalandhar, Punjab



Foreign tourists with a participant of the 'longest moustache' competition, in Pushkar, Rajasthan



A camel herder during the Pushkar Camel Fair, in Pushkar. The annual Pushkar Fair is attended by tourists from all over the world, who experience the glimpse of the Rajasthan culture and civilization



Candidates participate in a run during physical examination for recruitment in the Indian Armed Forces under the Agniveer scheme, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



From left, Britain's Queen Camilla, King Charles III, President of South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife Kim Keon Hee ahead of the State Banquet, for the state visit to the UK by President of South Korea, at Buckingham Palace, London

# national

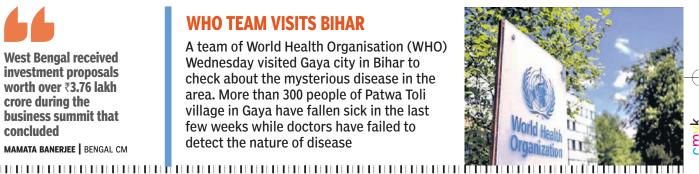


**West Bengal received** investment proposals worth over ₹3.76 lakh crore during the business summit that concluded

MAMATA BANERJEE | BENGAL CM

#### **WHO TEAM VISITS BIHAR**

A team of World Health Organisation (WHO) Wednesday visited Gaya city in Bihar to check about the mysterious disease in the area. More than 300 people of Patwa Toli village in Gaya have fallen sick in the last few weeks while doctors have failed to detect the nature of disease





Modi and Shah thought of closing such a newspaper which was the voice of the people. Their thinking was that if

Nehru ji's paper National Herald is closed, then the people in Telangana will fear and vote for the BJP and KCR

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | AICC PRESIDENT

Those who are corrupt and sinful are scared of Modiji and such people can think in that way about Modiji but for the common people of India, he is a messiah, protector of the country,

and a Prime Minister who is taking DEVENDRA FADNAVIS MAHADEPUTY CM

My request to the farmer unions is do not turn common people against you by blocking roads over every issue



#### Heavy rains lash Kerala

SHORT **TAKES** 

Thiruvananthapuram: As heavy rains continued to lash several parts of Kerala, the India Meteorological Department Wednesday issued a red alert for Pathanamthitta district of the state. The IMD also issued an orange alert for the day in the districts of Thiruvananthapuram and Idukki. It also issued a yellow alert in all the remaining districts, except Kannur and Kasaragod, of the state.

#### **Atishi submits fresh** report to Delhi CM

New Delhi: Delhi Vigilance Minister Atishi Wednesday submitted a supplementary report to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over a land acquisition deal in the Bamnoli area. claiming that Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar tried to save an official in the matter, government sources said. In the fresh report, Atishi reiterated her recommendation for suspension of the chief secretary who is due to retire by the end of this month. The report also urges the lieutenant governor to review his position vis-a-vis his refusal to consider an earlier (preliminary) report in the matter, they said.

#### NIA raids 14 places in Puniab. Harvana

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday carried out raids at 14 locations in Punjab and Haryana in connection with its probe into attacks on the Indian Consulate in San Francisco in the US earlier this year, an official spokesperson said. The spokesperson said these places located in north India were raided to unravel the complete conspiracy behind the attacks March 19 and July 2, involving criminal trespass, vandalism, damage to public property and attempts to cause hurt to the consulate officials and set the building on fire through acts of arson.

#### 7 killed in three road accidents

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Manendragarh/Mahasamund: Seven persons, including a married couple, were killed in three separate road accidents in Chhattisgarh, police said Wednesday. While two accidents took place under Nagpur police chowki in Manendragarh Chirmiri-Bharatpur district, the third one occurred in Mahasamund district, they said. Three persons, including a brother-sister duo, were killed and two others injured Wednesday when a speeding car hit two motorcycles coming from the opposite direction. In the third accident, a middle-aged married couple was killed when a coal-laden truck hit their scooter.

## 'PANAUTI' BJP moves EC

# against Rahul, Kharge

Rahul Gandhi, in a poll speech in Rajasthan, had used the 'panauti' barb against Modi as he had attended the World Cup cricket final which India lost to Australia after 10 consecutive wins in the tournament



New Delhi, Nov 22: The BJP Wednesday demanded action by the Election Commission against Rahul Gandhi for his 'panauti' and 'pickpocket' jibes at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and recalled Indira Gandhi's "insult" of the Indian hockey team in the 1982 Asian Games final while praising its leader's encouragement to cricket players after their World Cup final loss.

A party delegation, which included its general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal and another functionary Om Pathak, also sought the poll watchdog's action against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, accusing him of falsely claiming that Modi's caste was included in Gujarat's OBC list when he was the state Chief Minister.

The Ghanchi caste, a community traditionally employed in oil pressing, was included in the OBC list in 1999 while Modi became Chief Minister in 2001, Pathak said.

"The remarks of Kharge and Gandhi, who are indulging in spreading a web of lies and are habitual offenders, call for initiating criminal proceedings against these offenders and strict action as they have no respect for moral values in their conduct and even for the electoral laws as well as the Model Code of Conduct guidelines," the party said in its memorandum to the EC

After visiting the EC, Agarwal launched a stinging attack on Gandhi and described him as a "senseless, uneducated and valueless" person of "ghatia" (inferior) mindset for making insulting remarks against a "globally respected" leader out of "jealousy"

The BJP leader said the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Home Minister Buta Singh had gone to watch the 1982 Asiad hockey final in the national capital which India lost to Pakistan 7-1. They had left the match midway after India began

trailing, he alleged. It was an insult to the team and Indira Gandhi's conduct broke the players'morale, he claimed, adding that it was also a reason behind the public humiliation of Indian goalkeeper Mir Ranjan Negi.Negi was forced to retire and was rehabilitated as a goalkeeping coach in 1998 when the BJP was in power at the Centre and India won the Asian Games gold, Agarwal said. Negi later

The BJP referred to the former Congress president's 'pickpocket' Madhya Pradesh November 22 in diverts people's attention while industrialist Gautam Adani picks

#### Raj Cong gets EC notice

he Election Commission Wednesday issued a show-cause notice to the president of Rajasthan Congress for allegedly camouflaging political advertisements in newspapers as "news items". It asked state Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra to respond to the notice by 3 pm Thursday.

went on to become the goalkeeping coach of the Indian women's hockey team which won the 2002 Commonwealth

Games gold. The BJP leader recalled the superhit Hindi movie Chak De India and said nobody used an insulting remark like

'panauti'for Indira Gandhi. "Sports should not be used for politics as Modi met every cricket player to boost their morale and praise their overall

performance," he added. Modi is respected by global leaders while his policies have helped the poor, women and farmers, he said. "It is shameful that a senseless and immature person like Rahul Gandhi calls

him a panauti," he added. The BJP in its submission to the EC said, "We request the Election Commission to intervene urgently by taking appropriate legal action against Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi for their continued fraudulent, baseless and abusive practice and to pass a prohibitory order against them, the BJP delegation said in its communication to the EC. Otherwise, it will spoil the electoral environment, where "abusing, usage of objectionable and offensive language to defame respectable individuals and spreading false news will become inevitable", it added.

dig at Modi during a poll speech in which he alleged the Prime Minister people's pockets

The remarks of Kharge and Gandhi, who are indulging in spreading a web of lies and are habitual offenders, call for initiating criminal proceedings against these offenders and strict action as they have no respect for moral values in their conduct and even for the electoral laws as well as the Model Code of Conduct guidelines," the party said in its memorandum to the EC

#### CBI busts major cybercrime module



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The CBI has busted a major cybercrime module targeting citizens of foreign nations, including that of the USA, through fake call centres during its searches at 24 locations in which Rs 2.2 crore were seized, officials said Wednesday.

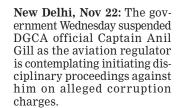
The searches at 24 locations spread across Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, and Gujarat resulted in the seizure of a trove of digital evidence, Rs 2.2 crore in cash, documents related to properties and cryptocurrency, they said.

The group, allegedly run by one Sushil Sachdeva and associates, was targeting gullible foreigners through fraudulent schemes such as tech support and had made "millions of calls" through call centres to cheat them, officials said.

# Govt suspends DGCA official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A young man performs an acrobatic flip at Ramakrishna beach in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh



Amid the graft allegations, a preliminary enquiry against him was completed and the report was submitted to the civil aviation ministry recently.

According to a notification issued by the ministry, Gill has been suspended under Section 10 of central civil services rules under which the appointing authority may place a government official under suspension in cases where a disciplinary proceeding against the person is contemplated or is pending.

Currently, Gill is a director posted in the Directorate of Aerosports at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

"There is zero tolerance to malpractices. Any such issue will always be dealt with the strictest measures in accordance



**Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said:** "There is zero tolerance to malpractices. Any such issue will be dealt with the strictest measures in accordance with the law"

with the law," Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said in a statement.

During the period of suspension, Gill should be in the national capital, the order said.

The preliminary enquiry was conducted as per the Central

Vigilance Commission (CVC) norms. As per reports, corruption al-

the DGCA department that was handling flying training organisations. In the wake of the graft allegations, the DGCA has also

legations pertain to his stint at

started carrying out a reshuffle of duties of various officials, and transferring them to different centres. Incidentally in 2021 also

DCGA's chief vigilance officer (CVO) had probed complaints of Gill accepting aircraft as a bribe. While at that time the complaints were investigated. nothing substantial is learnt to have been found then.

#### **SNIPPETS**

#### 35 injured, 17 of them serious in bee attack

Mandya, (Karnataka): More than 35 people were injured, with 17 of them in serious condition, following a honey bee attack at a religious fair in Mandva district of Karnataka Wednesday. The mishap occurred during the observation of the Tottilamadu annual religious fair at the historic temple town of Melukote in Pandavapura taluk. Thousands of devotees had gathered to witness Astha Theerthodbhava Wednesday when suddenly, honey bees started attacking devotees who had come with their families. Authorities have stated that more than 35 people were rushed to hospital. Among them, the condition of 17 is serious, and they have been shifted to the Mysuru Hospital for further treatment.

#### **NEET-UG syllabus shortened**

New Delh: The syllabus for medical entrance exam NEET-UG has been reduced to align it with the curriculum rationalised by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and other school boards, according to the National Testing Agency (NTA). The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), which is the country's largest exam for medical admissions, will be conducted May 5 next year.

#### Minor stripped, beaten up for ₹300

Thane (Maharashtra): In a shocking incident, a 17-year old boy was stripped fully naked, forced to go on a road and assaulted by two persons with a belt for not repaying a ₹300-loan and allegedly 'flicking' a Bluetooth headphone, police said here Wednesday. The incident happened Tuesday afternoon in full public view near the Jama Masjid in Kalwa suburb of Thane, which happens to be the home-town of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

#### Delhi to restrict entry of other state buses

New Delhi: The Delhi government has notified that the entry of buses, barring CNG, BSVI diesel and electric ones, will be automatically banned in the city whenever restrictions under the final stage of the Centre's air pollution control plan are invoked. Stage IV is the final stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), Delhi Transport

Minister Kailash Gahlot shared the notification on microblogging site X.

# Spouse with earning capacity can't sit idle: HC

The high court made the observation while reducing the amount of monthly maintenance

from 30,000 to 21,000 to be paid by a man to his estranged wife under the Hindu Marriage Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Delhi High Court has observed that a spouse who has a reasonable capacity to earn but chooses to remain unemployed and idle without sufficient explanation should not be permitted to saddle the other partner with the one-sided

responsibility of meeting expenses by providing maintenance.

The high court made the observation while reducing the amount of monthly maintenance from ₹30,000 to ₹21,000 to be paid by a man to his estranged wife under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA).

It said the woman claimed to have no independent source of income but has a reasonable educational background being

a graduate from Delhi University. "She appears to have volun-



chooses to remain unemployed and idle without any sufficient explanation or indicating sincere efforts to gain employment should not be permitted to saddle the other party with onesided responsibility of meetcision but to give relief to the spouse who is unable to maintain and support during the pendency of proceedings and to ensure that the party should not suffer due to paucity of source of income.

It said the provision for maintenance under the HMA is gender neutral and sections 24 and 25 of the Act provide for the rights, liabilities and obligations arising from marriage between the parties.

The high court was hearing an appeal by the man chalhim to pay ₹21,000 monthly to the woman but it was later enhanced to ₹30,000 without any change in circumstances

The man said he was getting ₹47,000 in-hand salary and had to support his family and it would not be possible for him to pay ₹30,000 per month.

The man claimed that the woman was working in a hospital here and was earning ₹25,000 monthly.

The woman, however, said she was merely working as a social worker and was not

#### **ED RAIDS ON EX CRICKETERS**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 22: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said Wednesday that it carried out searches at nine locations in Telangana linked to Gaddam Vinod, and former India cricketers Shivlal Yadav and Arshad Ayub, who served as the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA), respectively, in connection with a money laundering probe.

Vinod is the brother of Congress leader G Vivekanand, who is contesting the November 30 Assembly elections from Chennur in Mancherial district,

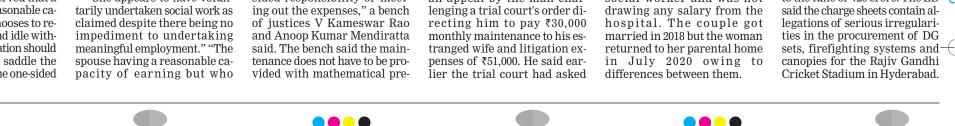
The ED said in a statement said that it carried out searches under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at nine locations on Tuesday, including the residences of Vinod, Yadav and Ayub.

"Searches were also conducted at the office premises of SS Consultants Pvt Ltd and the residential premises of its MD, Satyanarayana," the ED said.

The agency said the searches resulted in the recovery and seizure of digital devices, incriminating documents and

₹10.39 lakh unaccounted cash. The ED said that it had reg-

istered a case on the basis of three FIRs filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Hyderabad, and the corresponding charge sheets filed by the ACB relating to criminal misappropriation of funds of the Hyderabad Cricket Association to the tune of ₹20 crore. The ED



# international

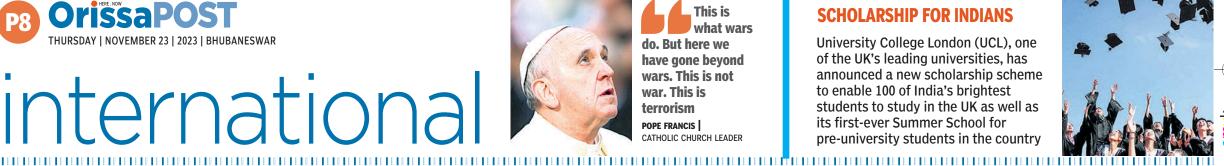


have gone beyond wars. This is not war. This is POPE FRANCIS

#### **SCHOLARSHIP FOR INDIANS**

University College London (UCL), one of the UK's leading universities, has announced a new scholarship scheme to enable 100 of India's brightest students to study in the UK as well as its first-ever Summer School for pre-university students in the country





The collective punishment of Palestinian civilians through the unlawful use of force by Israel is a war



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA PRESIDENT, SOUTH AFRICA

Now that inflation is halved and our growth is stronger meaning revenues are higher — we can begin the next phase





The Chinese government is consolidating mosques as it claims, but closing many down in violation of religious freedom



MAYA WANG ACTING CHINA DIRECTOR

#### SHORT **TAKES**

#### Russia's new nuke in Kaluga region

Moscow: Russia has deployed a new Yars intercontinental ballistic missile at the Kozelsk base in the Kaluga region, southwest of Moscow, the RIA news agency cited the defence ministry as saying Wednesday. Russia has described the Yars missile, developed in the 2000s and capable of carrying multiple thermonuclear warheads, as one of its newer weapons capable of piercing the missile shield used by the United States and its allies. The Kozelsk regiment, where the new missile was loaded into a silo, was the first one in Russia's Strategic Missile Forces to start upgrading to silo-based Yars missiles,

#### **US aircraft strikes Hezbollah targets**

Washington: US fighter aircraft struck two Hezbollah operations centers in Iraq in response to attacks on US bases that have escalated alongside Israel's operations against Hamas in Gaza, two defense officials said. They said attacks on US bases included the first use of a short-range ballistic missile against US troops, which happened Tuesday. The US fighter jets struck Kataib Hezhollah operations center and a Kataib Hezbollah Command and Control node near Al Anbar and Jurf al Sagr, south of Baghdad, Tuesday, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity to provide additional sensitive details of the attacks.

**Qatar** announces Israel-Hamas truce-for-hostages deal that would pause Gaza fighting, bring more aid after seven-weeks of war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tel Aviv, Nov 22: Israel and Hamas have agreed to a fourday halt in their devastating war in exchange for the release of dozens of hostages taken captive by militants October 7, when Israeli communities were overrun and some 240 people ab-

The agreement will bring the first respite to war-weary Palestinians in Gaza, where more than 11,000 people, many women and children, have been killed, according to health authorities. It could also offer a glimmer of hope to the agonised families of those abducted weeks ago.

The deal, brokered by Qatar, the US and Egypt, was announced as fighting intensified in central neighbourhoods of Gaza City. It caps weeks of fitful indirect negotiations and sets the stage for a tense period that could determine the course of the war, already in its seventh week.

Israel, Hamas and Qatar have released different details of the agreement, but those details do not appear to contradict each

WHAT'S IN THE DEAL?

Qatar announced Wednesday that Hamas will release 50 hostages in exchange for what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Those released by both

# Sliver of hope for Gaza



The hostages would be released in bursts throughout the four-day cease-fire. Once the first batch is released, Israel is expected to free the first group of Palestinian prisoners.

Those up for release include many teen-age boys detained during a wave of violence in the West Bank in 2022 or 2023 and charged with offenses such as stone-throwing or disturbing public order, according to a list of eligible prisoners published by Israel's Justice Ministry on Wednesday. Israel currently holds nearly 7,000 Palestinians accused or convicted of security offenses. Israel said the truce would be

ditional hostages released. WHAT'S BEEN LEFT OUT?

extended by a day for every 10 ad-

While several families will be

#### **DEATH TOLL**

n weeks of Israeli airstrikes and a ground invasion, more than 11.000 Palestinians have been killed, two-thirds of them women and minors, and more than 2,700 others are missing and believed to be buried under rubble. The Health Ministry in the West Bank last reported a toll of 13,300 but stopped providing its own count.

thrilled to have their loved ones back, a significant number of hostages remain in Hamas captivity, including men, women, older people and foreign nationals. The families who are not included in the current deal are likely to keep up the pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to try to se-

cure their own loved ones' release with a future deal.

According to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, under the deal, the International Committee of the Red Cross will visit remaining hostages and provide them with medicines they may need. Neither Hamas nor Israel confirmed that detail. While the cease-fire will grant Palestinians in Gaza a brief calm, the hundreds of thousands who have fled the combat zone and headed south are not expected to be able to head back. Israeli troops are expected to remain in their positions in northern Gaza and are not withdrawing.

#### WHAT ARE THE DEAL'S **POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS?**

The deal offers only a short break in the fighting. Israel, Hamas and saving the captives its war goals, is expected to continue where it left off once the four days wrap up. Netanyahu said Tuesday that

the cease-fire will allow the army to prepare for the continued fighting and will not harm its war effort. Once the cease-fire ends airstrikes will likely resume and troops will continue their push throughout northern Gaza before their expected foray into the south at an unknown time. Gaza residents will have to brace for a resumption of hostilities.

The deal also appears to bolster Hamas. A break in fighting would grant it time to strategise, shift around militant positions and perhaps regroup after Israel claimed it had killed large numbers of Hamas fighters and destroyed many of the group's military assets.

The staggered nature of the deal also opens the door for Hamas to up its demands on the fly, on the assumption that Israel will make even more concessions to release more hostages.

Yehya Sinwar, the Hamas leader in Gaza and presumed mastermind of the October 7 attack, could also try to turn a four-day pause in fighting into a longer cease-fire by offering to release more hostages. A longer cease-fire would make it harder for Israel to restart the war, both operationally and in the eyes of global public opinion. The Israeli government would face growing domestic pressure to secure the release of more hostages. Families left out of the current deal will only become more determined to see their loved ones freed once they've seen the first

#### **RECORD HIGH**

#### Amid war, Russia raises its defence spending by 25%



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Nov 22: Russia's parliament approved a federal budget Wednesday that increases spending by around 25 per cent in 2024-2026 and devotes a record amount to defence The budget was passed unan-

imously by the Federation Council — the upper chamber of the Russian parliament — and will be sent to President Vladimir Putin to sign it into law. The budget for 2024-2026 was

developed specifically to fund the Russian military and to mitigate the impact of "17.500 sanctions" on Russia. State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Volodin said after the lower chamber approved it November 17. Under the budget, the country's

largest, defence expenditure is expected to overtake social spending next year for the first time in modern Russian history. It comes as the Kremlin is eager to shore up support for President Vladimir Putin before a March presidential election.

Record low unemployment, higher wages and targeted social spending should help the Kremlin ride out the domestic impact of pivoting the economy to a war footing but could pose a problem in the long term, ana-

ages of US military installations

at Guam, and that the satellite

would only begin reconnais-

sance December 1, in a radio in-

it takes a considerable time to

carry out normal reconnaissance.

Kim Jong Un was so happy that he

seemed to go a little too far....

Taking photos of Guam cannot be

done on the first day, if you have

any knowledge of satellites," Shin

said, according to Yonhap. The

pact between North and South

known as the

'Even if it enters normal orbit,

terview Wednesday.

Korea,

### **Dutch election: Wilders'** far-right party may win

The election is set to replace the longest-serving leader of the Netherlands

Amsterdam, Nov 22: Dutch voters cast their ballots Wednesday in a nail-biting election in which opinion polls show at least three parties - including the far right - could hope for the top spot. A weighted poll published on

the eve of the vote showed anti-Islam firebrand Geert Wilders' Freedom Party (PVV) tied for the lead with the conservative People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) of outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte.

"I hope I don't wake up tomorrow and we have Wilders as a prime minister. That's a nightmare," said Amsterdam resident Arie van der Neut, an architect, after he cast his ballot for the pro-European, center-left Volt party.

Only one thing is certain: the



It's been enough now. The Netherlands can't take it anymore. We have to think about our own people first now. Borders closed. **Zero asylum seekers** 

GEERT WILDERS | MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE NETHERLANDS

Netherlands will get its first new prime minister in over a decade. after Rutte resigned in July as his fourth coalition government collapsed, ending a 13-year tenure.

No party is on track to take more than 20% of the vote and with late polls showing Labour leader Frans Timmermans and Wilders making gains, and a large number of Dutch still undecided ahead of the vote, many scenarios are possible.

#### New turn in Koreas' spy satellite saga South Korea partially suspends inter-Korean agreement after

North says it put spy satellite in orbit

Seoul. Nov 22: South Korea Wednesday suspended part of a North Korea after it defied warnings from the United States and launched a spy satellite.

The suspension of a clause in the agreement will see South Korea step up military surveillance along the heavily fortified border with the North. North Korea said it placed its first spy satellite in orbit Tuesday. Photographs in state media showed what appeared to be leader Kim Jong Un watching the fiery

launch of a rocket from a base. Kim was later briefed on the satellite's operations at the control centre of the space agency in Pyongyang and viewed images taken above the US Pacific



territory of Guam of US military installations, including the Andersen Air Force Base, the

North's KCNA news agency said. Kim stressed the need for more reconnaissance satellites on different orbits to give his armed forces "abundant valuable realtime information about the enemy and further promote their responsive posture", it said.

The satellite would begin its reconnaissance mission December 1, after adjustments, KCNA said.

South Korea's military said

briefed on satellite

aunch condemned by US and allies

South to suspend part of a military pact with the North

IS submarine. 🗾 aircraft carrie in South Korea in

North Korea's military recon-

naissance satellite was believed

to have entered orbit, but it would

take time to assess whether it was

US military was assessing

whether the launch was a suc-

cess. US National Security

Council spokesperson Adrienne

Watson called the launch "a

brazen violation of multiple UN

Security Council resolutions".

However, South Korea's

Defence Minister Shin Won-sik

said the North "exaggerated"

Earlier, the Pentagon said the

operating normally.

Comprehensive Military Agreement and aimed at de-escalating tension between them, was signed at a 2018 summit between then South Korean President Moon Jae-in and the North's Kim.

Critics have said the pact weakened South Korea's ability to monitor the North's near the border while North Korea had violated the agreement.

South Korea said it was suspending a clause in the agreement and resuming aerial surveillance near the border.

## Indians 3rd largest illegal immigrants in US Pak SC accepts Khan's bail plea

WHILE THE NUMBER OF UNAUTHORISED IMMIGRANTS FROM MEXICO LIVING IN THE **US -- 4.1 MILLION IN 2021 -- WAS THE LOWEST SINCE THE 1990S, EL SALVADOR -- 800,000 -- AND INDIA WITH 725,000 IMMIGRANTS SAW AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBERS** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 22: There were about 725,000 Indian illegal immigrants in the US -- the third largest population of unauthorised immigrants after Mexico and El Salvador, according to new Pew Research Centre estimates.

As of 2021, the country's 10.5 million unauthorised immigrants represented about three per cent of the total US population and 22 per cent of the foreign-born population, the Washington-based think tank said.

Almost every region in the world had a notable increase in the number of unauthorised immigrants in the US from 2007 to

2021, with the largest increase from Central America (240,000) and South and East Asia (180,000).

Among countries with the largest numbers of US unauthorised immigrants, India, Brazil, Canada and former Soviet Union countries all experienced growth from 2017 to 2021, the report said.

The six states with the largest unauthorised immigrant populations in 2021 were: California (1.9 million), Texas (1.6 million), Florida (900,000), New York (600,000), New Jersey (450,000) and Illinois (400,000), the report said.

In 2021, the population of unauthorised immigrants from other countries was 6.4 million, up by 900,000 from 2017, the report said.



Other countries which accounted for most unauthorised immigrants were Guatemala

(700,000) and Honduras (525,000). The report said India, Guatemala and Honduras all saw increases from 2017 with the unauthorised immigrant population in the US reaching 10.5 million in 2021, according to new Pew Research Centre estimates.

There were increases in unauthorised immigrants from nearly every other region of the world – Central America, the Caribbean, South America, Asia, Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

Meanwhile, the lawful immigrant population grew by more than 8 million, a 29 per cent increase, and the number of naturalised US citizens grew by 49 per cent. In 2021, naturalised citizens accounted for about half (49) per cent) of all immigrants in the country, the report said.

Islamabad, Nov 22: Pakistan's Supreme Court accepted Wednesday a bail application from detained former Prime Minister Imran Khan, his lawyer said, a day after another court declared illegal his trial on charges of leaking state secrets.

The former cricket star is fighting various legal battles in the hope of securing release from jail and leading his party in a campaign for a February 8 general election, which his arch rival, another former prime minister, is hoping to win.

The 71-year-old was jailed August 5 for three years jail for unlawfully selling state gifts during his tenure as prime minister from 2018 to 2022. His lawyer said the Supreme Court had accepted the bid for bail.

No date had been set for the that the Supreme Court would on the application. Khan has been at the centre of

protracted political turmoil in nu-

clear-armed Pakistan that has

hearing, the lawyer said, adding seek input from the government



shown a spotlight on the powerful military's influence over civilian politics.

He was forced from office in 2022 after losing a no-confidence vote in parliament, saying at the time the military was trying to sideline him after he fell out with the generals over top se-

curity appointments. Even though Khan cannot

run in the February election because of his conviction, his party will face off against the party of Nawaz Sharif, a former prime minister who was ousted in a 1999 coup and forced from power again in 2017 by a court ruling.

The political chaos has coincided with Pakistan's most dire economic conditions in decades, raising concern for the future of the country of 241 million people.

Khan has had dozens of cases filed against him. He dismisses the charges which he says have been cooked up by his enemies, including the military, to keep him out of politics.

#### **NO-FLY LIST**

Pakistani authorities recommended placing the names of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and 28 others on the Exit Control List due to their alleged involvement in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption scandal.

Popularly called the 'no-fly list', the Exit Control List (ECL) is a list of people prohibited bylaw from leaving Pakistan by any means.

# business



On the exchange rate front, the **Indian rupee has exhibited** low volatility and orderly movements relative to peers despite elevated US treasury yields and a strong US dollar SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

#### MANTIS: MADE-IN-INDIA EV SUPERBIKE

Orxa Energies, a Bangalore based electric vehicle (EV) maker, has announced the launch of a high-end electric bike, the Mantis. Priced at ₹3.6 lakh ex-showroom, the bike features a 1.3 kW charger and is now available for bookings, according to reports





We have 27 GW construction, and we had thought that we will add another 25 GW. But we have decided that we will start work on at least 55-60 GW of thermal capacity. As demand keeps accelerating, we will keep

RK SINGH UNION POWER MINISTER

The Mutual Recognition Agreement would reduce regulatory compliance and audit



AJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI



research community to offer cutting-edge innovation that meets the evolving demands of the industry and customers

MANU SAALE | MD AND CEO, MBRDI

#### SHORT TAKES

#### **Crisil raises Tata Power outlook**

New Delhi: Tata Power Wednesday said Crisil Ratings has upgraded its outlook on the company to 'positive' on expectation of an improvement in operating profitability this fiscal. The ratings agency had earlier assigned a 'stable' outlook on the company, Tata Power said in a regulatory filing. "CRISIL Ratings Limited has upgraded its outlook on the company (Tata Power) from AA/Stable Outlook to AA/Positive Outlook," it said.

#### Coca-Cola brings **Honest Tea**

Kolkata: Coca-Cola India Wednesday said it is foraying into the ready-to-drink tea beverages segment with the launch of 'Honest Tea'. The brand is owned by Honest, a subsidiary of the Coca-Cola Company. The organic green tea for the product will be sourced from Kolkata-based Luxmi Tea Co Private Ltd's Makaibari Tea Estate, company officials said. An MoU in this regard was signed between the two companies at the seventh edition of the Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) here.

#### NSE partners with **West Bengal govt**

New Delhi: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) Wednesday said it has collaborated with the West Bengal government to spread awareness amongst MSMFs in the state regarding fundraising through IPO mechanism using the bourse's SME platform. As part of the pact. NSF with the support of West Bengal government will conduct awareness drives through seminars, MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)camps. knowledge sessions, road shows, workshops to guide corporates across the state for fundraising on its SME platform, Emerge, and handhold companies in the listing process, the bourse said in a statement.

#### ₹10L fine on Al

New Delhi: Aviation watchdog DGCA has imposed a penalty of ₹10 lakh on Air India for its failure to comply with norms pertaining to facilities that are required to be provided to passengers. After carrying out inspections of airlines at Delhi, Kochi and Bangalore airports, the regulator observed that Air India was not complying with the provisions of the relevant Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR). Later, a show-cause notice was issued to Air India November 3.

# India's Russian oil binge dips

**CHEAP OIL HAS MADE MOSCOW ITS TOP BUYER FOR THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF** THIS FISCAL YEAR

New Delhi, Nov 22: OPEC's share in India's oil imports in October hit a 10-month high as refiners bought more crude from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates after discounts narrowed for Russian oil that month trade data showed

Russia's share of the Indian market in October slipped to the lowest in nine months, according to Reuters calculations based

**AM/NS unveils new** 

Mumbai, Nov 22: ArcelorMittal

Nippon Steel India (AM/NS

India) – a joint venture between

ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel.

two of the world's leading steelmakers- has announced the

launch of a new television com-

mercial titled 'Banaunga Main,

The campaign aims to evoke

collective enthusiasm for and

pride in India's progress and

its diverse skill workforce, who

are powering the country's de-

With a focus on engaging and

motivating young people, the ad-

vertising film showcases recent na-

tional triumphs that underscore

India's advancement in areas such as high value-added manufac-

turing, science, and technology.

growing brand value, underpinned

by the 'Smarter Steels, Brighter

Futures' brand promise, this ini-

tiative serves as a platform to

strengthen AM/NS India's posi-

tion as a leading player in the sec-

tor. It also reflects the company's

dedication to manufacturing steel

which plays a fundamental role in

driving the overall development

of the country.
DILIP OOMMEN, CEO,

AM/NS INDIA said, "Building

'Reimagineering' campaign suc-

cess, the latest endeavour re-

flects our unwavering commit-

ment to contributing to a new

India. In its journey towards

the goal of Amrit Kaal, India is

embracing steel-intensive

growth through the Make in

India programme to ascend to

new heights of prosperity. We are

proud to be part of the coun-

try's progress – a bright spot

in the world economy – with

our brand promise 'Smarter

Steels, Brighter Futures'."

our

last

year's

Building on AM/NS India's

brand campaign

POST NEWS NETWORK

Banega Bharat'.

velopment.

**RUSSIAN OIL SHARE PLUMMETS** TO 9-MONTHS LOW IMPORTS FROM OPEC HIT

10-MONTH HIGH IN OCT SAUDI, UAE IMPORTS JUMP TO 7-MONTH HIGH

on ship tracking data from trade sources.

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, typically relies on producers in the Middle East for most of its oil finers to diversify to cheaper alternatives to cut costs.

The South Asian nation has emerged as the top buyer of the Russian seaborne oil sold at a discount after Western nations stopped buying from Moscow following its invasion of Ukraine.

India imported about 4.7 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude in October, up 8.4% from the previous month as refiners increased purchases to meet higher local fuel demand during the festive season, the data showed.

Imports from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates jumped to a 7-month high, up about 53% and 63% respectively in October from the previous month, the data showed.

That helped lift the share of the producers in the Organization of Countries to 54% in October, up from 50% in September, according to the data.

India imported on average 1.56 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian oil in October, up 1.2% from the previous month, the data showed.

Despite the increase, Russian oil's share in India's October imports slipped to 33% from 35% in September.

Russia was the top oil supplier to India in April to October, the first seven months of this fiscal year to March 2024, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Higher intake of Russian oil boosted the share of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in India's oil imports to the highest during April-October, the data showed.

Altman's dramatic

turnaround has drawn

comparisons in Silicon

Valley lore to Steve Jobs,

Apple's CEO who left the

computer maker in a

1985 power struggle only

to return 12 years later

## Benchmarks settle with modest gains

**VOLATILE TRADE** 



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 22: Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty eked out marginal gains to settle in the positive zone after a highly volatile trade Wednesday, helped by buying in index majors Infosys, ITC and Reliance **Industries** 

However, foreign fund outflows from the equity market restricted the upmove in stocks, traders said.

In a choppy session, the 30share BSE Sensex climbed 92.47 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 66,023.24. During the day, it fell to a low of 65,664.85 and touched a high of 66,063.43. The Nifty edged higher by 28.45 points or 0.14 per cent to 19,811.85.

"Investors are following global markets, which are mostly sluggish with a mixed bias. Due to lack of fresh positive triggers, investors are trading cautiously and taking selective bets," Prashanth Tapse, Research Analyst, Sr VP Research, Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Among the Sensex firms.

hit new highs in the next

six months and rise over 10% from here by end-2024, driven by a sustained expansion in the fastest-growing

major economy, according to a Reuters poll of equity strategists

Infosys, NTPC, Power Grid, Titan, ITC, Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajai Finsery, Reliance Industries and UltraTech Cement were the biggest gainers.

In contrast, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, HDFC Bank and Maruti were the major laggards. The BSE benchmark climbed

275.62 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 65,930.77 Tuesday. The Nifty went up by 89.40 points or 0.45 per cent to 19,783.40.

#### **HIGH-LEVEL DRAMA**

## Altman returns after abrupt ouster

Sam Altman is back as OpenAI CEO just four days after being removed, along with a new board

REUTERS

San Francisco, Nov 22: ChatGPT-maker OpenAI has reached an agreement for Sam Altman to return as CEO days after his ouster, capping frenzied discussions about the future of the startup at the center of an artificial intelligence boom.

The company also agreed to revamp the board of directors that had dismissed him. OpenAI named Bret Taylor, formerly co-CEO of Salesforce, as chair and also appointed Larry Summers, former US Treasury Secretary,



77th IIM-ATM, NMA meet flagged off

Bhubaneswar: The 77th annual technical meeting (ATM) of The Indian

22 to November 24, is being organised by the Angul, Sambalpur, and

presence of Hemant Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries

Department, Govt of Odisha; Satish Pai, President IIM and Managing

Director, Hindalco Industries Ltd; Sajjan Jindal, Vice President, IIM and

Chairman, JSW Group; Amarendu Prakash, Chairman, SAIL; BS Murty,

Complex, both Vice Presidents of IIM. Highlighting the mining sector's

contribution to the state's growth, Jena in his address said, "The revenue

22 it stands at almost 50,000 crore. This is an almost 10 times growth in 5

years. The Odisha government recognizes the importance of metals and

in the development of new technology, collaboration with research and

scientific institutions, we are here to support you."

contribution of the mining sector was about ₹4,900 crore in 2016-17. In 2021-

metallurgical infrastructure and is committed to supporting it, whether it is

Director, IIT Hyderabad and Komal Kapoor, Chief Executive of Nuclear Fuel

Institute of Metals and National Metallurgist Awards (IIM-ATM 2023 & NMA)

was flagged off Wednesday at KIIT Convention Centre, Bhubaneswar. The

flagship event of the metals industry, which is being held from November

Bhubaneswar Chapters of IIM, in association with Hindalco Industries Ltd

and KIIT Deemed to Be University, Bhubaneswar. The plenary session was

inaugurated by Pradeep Kumar Jena, IAS, Chief Secretary, Odisha in the

Altman said in a post on X, "I'm looking forward to returning to OpenAI.'

After Altman was fired Friday, the original board had given scant explanation other than his lack of candor and its need to defend OpenAI's mission to develop AI that benefits humanity.

The deal to restore Altman ushers in a potentially new era for the startup - a non-profit which long juggled concerns among staff about AI's dangers and its potential for commercialization.

Tuesday's reshuffle appeared to favor Altman and financial backer Microsoft, which is rolling out OpenAI's technology to business customers globally.

#### **IPO FRENZY GETS REAL**

#### **Tata Tech fully subscribed within minutes** New Delhi: The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of Tata Technologies, which

provides engineering and product development digital services, was fully subscribed within minutes of opening for bidding Wednesday and finally ended with 6.54 times subscription. This is the first company from the Tata Group to float an initial public offer in nearly two decades. Tata Consultancy Services was the last IPO from the group in the year 2004. The ₹3,042.5 crore IPO received bid for shares against 29,43,78,780 shares against 4,50,29,207 shares on offer, translating into 6.54 times subscription, as per NSE data.

#### Flair Writing closes with 2.17X subscription

New Delhi: The initial share sale offering of pen maker Flair Writing Industries was fully subscribed on the first day of bidding Wednesday, ending the trade with 2.17 times subscription. The Initial Public Offer (IPO) received bids for 3,13,20,310 shares against 1,44,13,188 shares on offer, according to data available with the NSE. Flair Writing's IPO has a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹292 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of equity shares worth up to ₹301 crore by promoters and promoter group entities.

#### Fedfina subscribed 38% on Day 1 of offer

New Delhi: The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Fedbank Financial Services (Fedfina), a subsidiary of Federal Bank, got subscribed 38 per cent on the first day of share sale Wednesday. The IPO got bids for 2,14,48,471 shares against 5,59,23,660 shares on offer, as per NSE data. Fedbank Financial Services Tuesday said it has collected ₹325 crore from anchor investors. The public issue has a price band of ₹133-140 per share.

#### **IREDA** receives 4.56X subscription on Day 2 of offer

New Delhi: The Initial Public Offer (IPO) of state-owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) received 4.56 times subscription on the second day of bidding Wednesday, The ₹2,150 crore IPO received bids for 2,14,52,83,140 shares against 47,09,21,451 shares on offer, as per data available with the NSE The category meant for noninstitutional investors received 7.74 times subscription while the quota for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) got subscribed 4.25 times. The portion for **Qualified Institutional Buyers** (QIBs) was subscribed 2.69 times. The IPO has a fresh issue of up to 40,31,64,706 equity shares and an offer for sale of up to 26,87,76,471 equity shares. The price range for the offer is ₹30-32 a share. Indian Renewable

**Energy Development Agency has** 

mobilised ₹643 crore from anchor

investors.

## Economic models buckle under strain of climate reality

The latest run of the model used by the Network for Greening the Financial System - a grouping of central banks - calculates the path to 2.9C of warming in its "current policies" scenario would by 2050 have caused 8% of lost output from hazards such as drought, heatwaves, floods and cyclones

Washington, Nov 22: Ahead of international climate talks in Dubai this month, economists are updating estimates of the impact of global warming on the world economy, sometimes calculating down to a decimal place the hit to output in decades to come.

But detractors say those numbers are the product of economic models that are not fit to capture the full extent of climate damage. As such, they can provide an alibi for policy inaction.

Record temperatures, droughts, floods and wildfires this year have caused billions of dollars of damage, even before emissions take warming beyond the 2015 Paris Agreement cap of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

 $Still, some \, economist \, models \,$ 

critics - that by the turn of the century, warming will cause less harm to the world economy than Covid-19 has, or hit global shares by less than in the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

Nobel-winning US economist William Nordhaus sparked controversy in 2018 with a model that found the climate policies that best balanced the costs and benefits from an economic point of view would result in warming of more than 3C

A year earlier, the Trump administration cited similar models to justify replacing the Obamaera Clean Power Plan with one allowing higher emissions from coal-burning plants.

Many policymakers acknowledge the modelling's limitations: European Central Bank executive board member Isabel Schnabel said in September it could understate the impact.



Others go further, saying the whole approach is flawed.

At issue are the "integrated assessment models" (IAMs) economists use to draw conclusions on anything from output losses to financial risk or the pricing of carbon markets.

They rely on a theory of how demand, supply and prices in-

teract throughout an economy to find a new balance after an outside shock - the so-called "general equilibrium" model developed by 19th century French economist Leon Walras. "But climate change is fun-

damentally different to other shocks because once it has hit. it doesn't go away," said Thierry

Philipponnat, author of a report by Finance Watch, a Brussels-based public interest NGO on financial issues.

"And if the fundamental assumption is flawed, all the rest makes little sense - if any," he told Reuters.

Another issue is that IAMs have for years used a "quadratic function" to calculate GDP losses that involves squaring the temperature change - while ignoring other methods such as the

for rapid change Critics say this choice is doomed to underplay the likely impact - particularly if the planet hits environmental tipping points in which damage is not only irreversible but happens at an

exponential function better suited

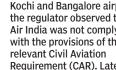
ever-accelerating rate. Adding to the confusion, IAMs

produce sharply different results according to their specific design and the variables they choose to include, **SAY ECONOMIC** making interpreta-

MODELS NOT FIT FOR tion difficult. The 2023 up-**ECONOMISTS URGED TO TAKE** Nordhaus' ROADER, CROSS-DISCIPLINE VIEW model, described on his website as the "most widely **START IN DUBAI** used climate-change

IAM", estimates damages of 3.1% of global GDP when 3C warming is reached. Finance Watch also pointed

to a 2020 study by the G20-backed Financial Stability Board (FSB) that cited economist estimates that 4C of warming could shave as little as 2.9% off the averagevalue of global financial assets by the year 2105.



conclude - implausibly, say the







#### INDIA'S YOUNG STARS FACE FIRST REAL TEST WHEN THEY TAKE ON AUSTRALIA IN THE 5-MATCH T201 SERIES STARTING TODAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam, Nov 22: Survakumar Yaday will have to suppress the massive disappointment of a World Cup final defeat somewhere in the deeper confines of his heart while leading a sprightly bunch of 'Gen-Next' stars against a strong Australian side in a five-match T20I series, starting here Thursday.

The scars of defeat are too deep and it would take time for those wounds to heal. With just around 96 hours of turnaround time from World Cup to the next series, it hardly leaves 'SKY with any chance of introspection as he gets ready to play his favourite format.

As the captain of the side, he will not only want to win the series but also check out some of the best young Indian exponents of the shortest format, who will be on trial for next year's ICC T20 World Cup in June and July in the Americas (West Indies and

The young guns like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rinku Singh, Tilak Verma, Jitesh Sharma and not-

so-young Mukesh Kumar have all made their international debuts in past few months but their first real Test will be against a very strong Australian T20 side which will have some of their World Cup heroes like opener Travis Head, Glenn Maxwell, leg-spinner Adam Zampa and former skipper Steve Smith in its

Then there are IPL performers like Marcus Stoinis, Nathan Ellis, Tim David to name a few and even the T20 side, without its premier pacers, bears a formidable look under Matthew Wade, who will be leading in the

With skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul not being considered for the shortest format since the 2022 T20 World Cup semi-final defeat, one will get a real idea about the bunch of players, earmarked by the national selectors for next year's mega event.

Rinku has been pretty impressive in his short India stint so far and ditto for Yashasvi, Tilak and Mukesh, while Jitesh, despite his debut in Hangzhou, will have to wait for his turn for

#### MATCHDAY

**India vs Australia** 1st T20 International

Time: 7 pm Telecast: Sports 18 Network

Stream: Jio Cinema

a longer rope in presence of Ishan Kishan.

Having played mediocre attacks of West Indies, Ireland and some of the 'B' grade sides at the Asian Games, it will be a trial by fire for these youngsters, who would like to make an impression in whatever chances they get during this series and two ensuing ones involving South

Africa (away) and Afghanistan

The Australian pace attack comprising Kane Richardson, Nathan Ellis, Sean Abbott and left-armer Jason Behrendorff, is way better in terms of quality compared to what they have faced till now in their very short but eventful T20I careers.

There are 11 T20Is that India play before IPL, which will be a two-month affair before the 'Men in Blue' hit the T20 World Cup

Manchester, Nov 22: Lionel

Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo

could resume their longstanding

rivalry in a tournament being

staged in Saudi Arabia in

mode. Hence the next two months will be very important for these youngsters as they would like to further consolidate their spots for that World Cup.

How interim coach VVS Laxman works around the batting order will be interesting as someone like Shubman Gill is bound to comeback for the series against South Africa and there would be too many options at the top order.

It is expected that Ruturaj Gaikwad and one among either Jaiswal or Ishan Kishan will be opening the batting, keeping the right-left combination in mind.

Surya, who is the designated vice-captain when Hardik Pandya is there to lead the side, will bat at No.3 or 4, depending on whether the team management decides to play both Jaiswal and

Unlike the ODI team, the T20I side has a bevy of left-handers, in fact seven of them – Jaiswal. Kishan, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh along with all-rounders Axar Patel, Shivam Dube and Washington Sundar.

It is understood that T20 team's think-tank is looking at Rinku

### **THE SQUADS**

Suryakumar Yadav (C), Ruturaj Gaikwad (vc), Ishan Kishan (wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Shivam Dubey, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar, Shreyas Iyer (last 2 matches only).

#### **AUSTRALIA**

Matthew Wade (C, wk), Aaron Hardie, Jason Behrendorff, Sean Abbott, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Travis Head, Josh Inglis (wk), Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Steve Smith, Marcus Stoinis, Kane Richardson,

and Jitesh as the two designated finishers, one of whom is likely to get a slot.

However the biggest test of this series will be the bowlers. Ravi Bishnoi will get a number of games as selectors want to look beyond Yuzvendra Chahal while Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan, Mukesh Kumar and Arshdeep Singh will be rotated during the series.

### Stimac dissatisfied with Asian Cup preparations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 22: India head coach Igor Stimac said he would not consider the upcoming Asian Cup in Doha as an important tournament as the team is competing in the continental showpiece without proper national camp, comments which may ruffle the feathers of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

Stimac wanted at least four weeks of national camp ahead of the continent's premier competition which begins January 12 but with the first phase of the Indian Super League (ISL) continuing till December 29, the clubs are unlikely to release their players for a long training camp.

India face formidable Australia January 13 and Stimac is unlikely to get more than 10 days of training with all his national team players together. Uzbekistan and Syria are the other two teams in India's group.

"We did not get what we wanted. I was very clear, you give me time and I might provide results for you. Without the time, do not ask about the results or anything like that. Just forget it,' Stimac said bluntly. "I will go there (Doha) with pride to represent India with my boys. We are going to do everything but there is no time for us to work, 12-13 days is nothing to prepare," he said after India lost 0-3 to Qatar in a World Cup second round qualifiers match here.

The top two teams from each of the six groups as well as the four best third-place sides will advance into the round of 16. Stimac mentioned that most of the countries will be coming for the Asian Cup well prepared

We are going to face Uzbekistan who will be preparing for six weeks. I don't consider Australia as a team which we can (beat), they are better than Qatar. They are out of our league. But we are going to try everything and do everything.'

As the national team is not getting enough time for Asian Cup preparation, Stimac said the continental showpiece is no longer a very important tournament for him.

"For us the most important thing is the World Cup qualifier. Knowing that we are not going to get enough time for the Asian Cup, I don't consider the Asian Cup as such an important tournament for us," said Stimac.

"I don't want to get my players injured there. That is all I am going to take care of. Because there are three games against such big opponents like Australia, Uzbekistan and Syria. We might do something well and we are definitely going to fight and do everything on the pitch. But I am not worried about that.

"I need to make sure that we get enough points in our group in the World Cup qualifiers to make sure that we get five-six home games in the third round and that will be huge for Indian football for the future. So let us stop talking about the Asian Cup."

Stimac's comments may not be taken kindly by the AIFF top brass with whom he has had run-ins in the past. The Croatian was served show-cause notice earlier in the year for his public comments though his contract, which was to end after the Asian Cup is over, was extended for another two years until June 2026.



### Argentina pip Brazil 1-0 in World Cup qualifying



EMORABLE NIGHT: Nicolas Otamendi (R) and Enzo Fernandez celebrate after the former scored against Brazil, Tuesday

qualifying standings but also

having given its fans one more

chance to celebrate a victory at

the historic stadium here. Two

years ago, Angel di Maria scored

the only goal in an empty

Maracana to give his team the

dent, starting shortly after the

national anthems, stalled the

start for 27 minutes. Argentina,

led by Messi, headed to the locker

rooms for 22 minutes. At least one

fan left the stadium bleeding

from his head. Rio police said

they had arrested eight people

The aggression between fans

was reflected on the field in the

first 20 minutes of the encounter;

the referee gave fouls against

Brazil during that time. The ten-

sion eased and allowed Argentina

Argentina lead the 10-team

South American qualifying com-

petition with 15 points from six

matches, followed by Uruguay on

13 and Colombia. Brazil could end

the year in sixth position, with

Also Tuesday, Colombia won

1-0 at Paraguay; Uruguay beat

Bolivia 3-0 in Montevideo; and

Ecuador topped Chile 1-0.

to avoid direct confrontation.

The violent pre-match inci-

Copa America title.

due to the brawl.

seven points.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rio de Janeiro, Nov 22: Many fans came to the Maracana Stadium to watch Lionel Messi in his likely last match in Brazil, a superclasico in World Cup qualifying against the hosts. Instead, they saw Nicolas Otamendi score the only goal in a 1-0 win for Argentina after a brawl between fans that delayed the start of the game.

The World Cup champions inflicted the first home defeat on Brazil ever in World Cup qualifying. It was Brazil's third consecutive loss in the round-robin tournament — another negative mark for new coach Fernando Diniz.

Messi left the pitch in the 78th minute amid a mixture of jeers and applause from Brazil fans. Dozens of children arrived at the Maracana wearing the shirts of Barcelona, the star's previous club, and Inter Miami.

The Argentine star wasn't able to end one of his last barriers in the sport at the Maracana, though, to score against the Brazilians in a World Cup qual-

Argentina will return home not only atop the South American

February. Organizers of the Rivadh Season Cup said Tuesday that Messi's Inter Miami is expected to play in the three-team

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami called the announcement "inaccurate" and said it had been determining its preseason schedule. But the prospect of Messi vs Ronaldo was already being pushed in Saudi Arabia.

'We look forward to welcoming everyone from Inter Miami in February for the Riyadh Season Cup, which will bring together a number of the biggest international stars from across all three clubs competing," said Turki Alalshikh, chairman of the Saudi General Entertainment Authority.

Messi has promoted tourism in Saudi Arabia and in May was suspended by former club PSG for making an unauthorized trip to the country. He also played



in this year's Riyadh Season Cup when PSG was the guest team.

Ronaldo's Al Nassr and Neymar's Al-Hilal will take part in February's event, organizers said. Inter Miami has confirmed it will embark on an international tour but did not reveal details.

"Since day one, Inter Miami CF has set out to be a global brand. To this end, we have been in conversations to determine our 2024 preseason schedule," it said. "We



look forward to showcasing our players on Inter Miami CF's first international tour which will be announced in the coming

weeks. Saudi Arabia has made a major push to be a big player in world football by signing some of the game's biggest players amid allegations of sportswashing. But it couldn't lure Messi to the oil-rich kingdom when he left PSG at the end of last season, with the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner opting to move to

Messi-CR7 rivalry could be rekindled

Messi, who led Argentina to triumph at last year's World Cup, has already won his first trophy with the David Beckham coowned Miami — the Leagues Cup in August.

Messi and Ronaldo are widely onsidered to be two of the greatest players of all-time and competed against each other for football's biggest prizes during their prime years at Barcelona and Real Madrid, respectively. Both have left European foot-

ball behind but have shown little sign of giving up their ambition to add to their legacies. Ronaldo has led Portugal to next year's European Championship and Messi will be aiming to retain the Copa America for Argentina at next year's tournament. The Riyadh Season Cup is scheduled to be held in the first week of February at Kingdom Arena.

Inter Miami sporting director Chris Henderson said Monday that nothing had been finalized or was ready to be announced about the team's preseason plans.

### Lakshya, Srikanth bow out of China **Masters badminton**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shenzhen, Nov 22: Star Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and Kidambi Srikanth suffered contrasting losses to bow out of the China Masters badminton tournament - the season's last BWF Super 750 event - here Wednesday.

World No.17 Sen, who won the Canada Open this year, went down 19-21, 18-21 to seventhseeded Chinese Shi Yuqi, while World No.24 Srikanth suffered a 15-21, 21-14, 13-21 loss to World Champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of

Thailand. It was a third consecutive firstround exit on the World Tour for Srikanth, who has just four quarterfinal finishes to show this season. Both Sen and Srikanth are fighting to be inside the top 16 by April 28 next year to qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Young Indian Priyanshu Rajawat also bowed out after losing 17-21, 14-21 to Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in 46 minutes.

## Croatia qualify for Euro 2024



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 22: Croatia overcame some nerves and a stubborn Armenia team to win 1-0 and secure the last automatic qualifying spot for Euro 2024.

The Croats needed a win to guarantee qualification along with Group D winner Turkey. But it was tense in Zagreb until midfielder Ante Budimir headed in Borna Sosa's cross in the 43rd

minute. The celebrations were

tempts on goal A slipup would have given Wales hope if they had beaten Turkey in Cardiff, but coach Rob Page's team drew 1-1. The top two finishers from each of the 10 groups advance, while host Germany was automatically qualified. Wales now hopes to

tinged with relief for 38-year-

old midfielder Luka Modric and

a Croatia team that had 23 at-

be one of the three teams qualifying via the playoffs in March with 12 teams involved.

Elsewhere, France's perfect record in qualifying came to an end when they drew 2-2 against Greece in Athens. Kylian Mbappe hit the crossbar in the final seconds after coming off the bench for World Cup runners-up.

After conceding a record 14 goals to France, tiny Gibraltar lost 0-6 at home to the already qualified Netherlands. Forward Calvin Stengs scored a hat-trick, while midfielders Mats Wieffer and Teun Koopmeiners each scored before striker Cody Gapko completed the scoring.

Group I winners Romania beat visiting Switzerland 1-0 in a match with nothing at stake since both had already qualified. In the other Group I matches, thirdplace Israel won 2-0 at Andorra to finish three points ahead of Belarus, who won 1-0 at Kosovo.

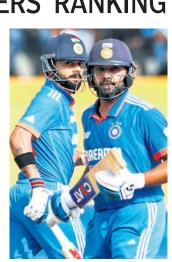
#### KOHLI, ROHIT RISE IN GILL-LED ICC ODI BATTERS' RANKING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Nov 22: Virat Kohli's brilliant run in the just-concluded World Cup has helped him jump one place, to third, in the latest ICC ODI players' rankings for batters, which is being led by his junior teammate Shubman Gill.

Kohli (791 rating points) scored a tournament-best 765 runs during the World Cup, which propelled him to the top-3, just 35 rating points behind Gill. Gill (826 rating points) is holding on to a narrow lead at the top of the rankings ahead of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam (824). Not just Kohli, India skipper Rohit Sharma also rose one spot to fourth position with 769 rating

In the bowlers' chart, the Indian pace duo of Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah re-



mained at third and fourth spots respectively. Another Indian, Kuldeep Yadav dropped one spot to occupy the sixth position jointly with Afghanistan's Rashid Khan. Mohammed Shami occupies the 10th spot.

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