



PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE

Shradha Kapoor says her dream is to continue maximising her fullest potential as a human being

LEISURE P2



TRUCE FROM TODAY

Qatar says a four-day ceasefire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas will begin Friday morning

INTERNATIONAL P10



SATWIK-CHIRAG DUO SAILS ON

The pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advances to the quarterfinals at China Masters badminton

SPORTS P12



WARMING UP: A participant with his buffaloes during a trial run for the 'Bengaluru Kambala' (Buffalo race), at Palace Grounds in Bangalore, Thursday. PHOTO

40K migrate for work

WITH 26,151 LABOURERS, BOLANGIR TOPS THE LIST; NINE DISTRICTS DRAW A BLANK

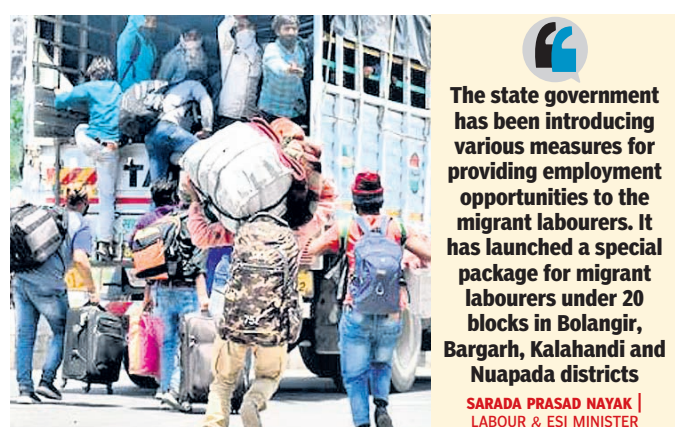
AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: As many as 40,088 labourers from Odisha, with the highest from Bolangir district, have migrated to other states for jobs, Labour and ESI Minister Sarada Prasad Nayak said, Thursday.

Responding to a query of Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati in the state Assembly, Nayak said the state government has provided licences to 626 labour contractors under Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 till October this year.

"As many as 40,088 labourers from Odisha have migrated to other states for jobs through these 626 contractors," the Labour minister said.

Nayak said the highest of 26,151 workers from Bolangir district have migrated to other states for employment purposes, followed by 8,205 from Nuapada, 1,467 from Ganjam and 650 from Kalahandi. "As many as nine districts - Angul, Bhadrak, Boudh, Deoghar, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Sonepur and Sundargarh - have reported zero



The state government has been introducing various measures for providing employment opportunities to the migrant labourers. It has launched a special package for migrant labourers under 20 blocks in Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada districts

SARADA PRASAD NAYAK | LABOUR & ESI MINISTER

migration for job," the Labour and ESI minister said.

The state government has been introducing various measures for providing employment opportunities to the migrant labourers, he said.

It has launched a special package for migrant labourers under 20 blocks in Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada districts, said Nayak.

"The state government has been providing 300 days of work to the labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in many areas of Odisha. Steps are also being taken to include the migrant labourers under various welfare schemes of the government," the Labour and ESI minister pointed out.

Meanwhile, responding to a question of Salipur MLA Prasanta Behera, the Labour and ESI minister said 143 migrant labourers from Odisha have died in other states and 10 outside India in the last three years. "The bodies of all the 153 have been brought back," Nayak added.

Two terrorists, soldier killed in gunfight

Rajouri/Jammu: Two terrorists, including a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander trained in Afghanistan, and a soldier were killed in a gunfight during an operation by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri, Thursday, officials said. With the soldier's death, the number of army personnel killed in the anti-terror operation that began Wednesday in the Dharmasal belt's Bajimaal has increased to five. Firing was halted in night and the area was put under cordon. Firing resumed Thursday morning, and two terrorists were eliminated, they said.

1st woman SC judge Fathima Beevi dies

Kollam (Ker): Justice Fathima Beevi, the first woman judge of the Supreme Court and former Governor of Tamil Nadu, died at a private hospital here Thursday, official sources said. She was 96. Justice Beevi was admitted to the private hospital a few days ago due to age-related ailments and breathed her last around 12:15 pm Thursday, an official source said. "Her body is being brought back to her residence in Pathanamthitta. Her burial will be held tomorrow (November 24) at the Pathanamthitta Juma Masjid," the source said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If only you had followers all over the country, you would be on parole during every election, babaji

EC NOTICE TO RAHUL ON 'PANAUTI' REMARK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The Election Commission (EC) issued a show-cause notice to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday for his 'panauti', 'pickpocket' and 'loan waiver for the super rich' jibes at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and asked him to respond by Saturday.

A Hindi slang, 'panauti' loosely refers to someone who brings bad luck.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had approached the poll panel against the former Congress president, saying it was 'unbecoming' of a 'very senior leader' to use such language.

The EC reminded Gandhi that the Model Code of Conduct prohibits leaders from making unverified allegations against political rivals. The Congress leader used those words targeting the

PM at recent rallies in poll-bound Rajasthan. In its representation to the EC, the BJP had asserted that the allegation of grant of waivers to industrialists of ₹14,00,000 crore over the last nine years was 'not borne out on facts'.

The EC notice said the expression 'panauti' ex-facie falls in the equity of the prohibition of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, dealing with corrupt practices.

Clause 2, sub section (ii) of section 123 states that any person who induces or attempts to induce a candidate or an elector to believe that he, or any person in whom he is interested, will become or will be rendered an object of divine displeasure or spiritual censure, shall be deemed to interfere with the free exercise of the electoral right of such a candidate or elector, it reminded Gandhi.

New regulation soon to tackle deepfakes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The government is planning new regulations that may impose penalties on both creator and platform hosting deepfakes as it looks to clamp down on what IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishaw described as 'a threat to democracy'.

Amid some celebrities reporting their faces being manipulated onto another video, new protection regulations being considered will look at measures including watermarking AI-generated con-

tent, deepfake detection, rules for data bias, privacy and guards against concentration.

"Deepfakes have emerged as a new threat to democracy. These (can) weaken trust in society and its institutions," Vaishaw said after meeting with various stakeholders, including social media platforms, Nasscom and other professors from the field of artificial intelligence (AI).

"We will start drafting the regulations today itself and within a very short time-frame, we will have a separate regulation for deepfakes," he said.

Tiger traverses 2K km to reach Odisha

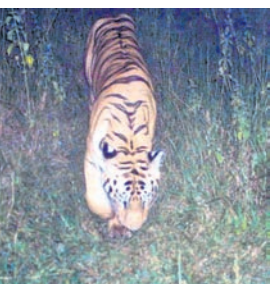
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: A Royal Bengal Tiger (RBT), which has been spotted in a forest in Odisha, has travelled more than 2,000 km across four states, perhaps in search of a suitable territory, a forester said Thursday. The same big cat was earlier found in a Maharashtra forest, he said.

The male tiger, whose stripe pattern was found to be similar to a big cat photographed in a forest in Maharashtra, has been sighted in Mahendra forest range in Gajapati district since September,

Paralakhemundi divisional forest officer S Anand said. After sighting the big cat in its jurisdiction, the Paralakhemundi forest division officials in Gajapati district have been tracking the movement of the wild animal, he said.

As the tiger was sighted for the first time in the area, they sent the pictures and other details of the tiger to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to find its original territory, Anand said. "The WII has confirmed that our camera trap image matched with a tiger previously photographed in the Brahmapuri forest division



of Maharashtra. From its unique stripe patterns and other details, it was confirmed that the tiger has come from Maharashtra to Odisha travelling almost 2,000 km and covering four states," the forest official said.

Residents of Analabara village panicked after the tiger mauled a cow to death. "Before any such incident occurs, we request the Forest department to trap the tiger and translocate it to any zoo or wildlife sanctuary," said a villager from Analabara.

Ashok Behera, assistant conservator of forests (ACF), Paralakhemundi, said five teams, consisting of 35 members, have been deployed to alert people living in the bordering areas.

PCCF (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda appealed to the people not to remain in panic and to follow the advice of the forest officials.

DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2023
CLIMATE CHANGE: THE PATH AHEAD

50 Years

SONU SOOD
ACTOR/
YOUTH ICON

RICKY KEJ
MUSIC
COMPOSER
3X GRAMMY
AWARD
WINNER

Padmashri JADAY PAYENG
CONSERVATIONIST
FOREST MAN OF INDIA

ARUN KRISHNAMURTHY
FOUNDER, EFI

SNEHA SHAHI
ENVIRONMENTALIST

RICHARD MAHAPATRA
MANAGING EDITOR
DOWN TO EARTH
MAGAZINE

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DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2023
CLIMATE CHANGE: THE PATH AHEAD

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RAPPER DRAKE GETS ARABIC FACE TATTOO

Rapper Drake has added a new face tattoo above his right eyebrow, an Arabic phrase 'miskeen'. The new tattoo was first spotted by HipHopDX after photographer Brent Kore posted an image of the father of one's tattoo on his Instagram, reports *People* magazine.

BRITISH HONOUR FOR BLACKPINK

King Charles III honoured the K-pop band *BLACKPINK* Wednesday for their work in raising awareness about climate change. Charles made *BLACKPINK* members Jennie Kim, Jisoo Kim and Lalisa Manoban honorary Members of the Order of the British Empire.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
If your heart wishes to be alone, honour the mood. No friends, no music. Drive away and connect to nature if you must. There is a bit of money jingling in if you're dealing in finances, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
This day your energy levels are likely to be below par. You may tend to be restless, inactive, and averse to exerting yourself in any way. Routine tasks, even the important ones could remain unattended. But, says Ganesh, you will try to pull yourself together later in the day, make amends by trying to do something meaningful. Towards this end, success will smile upon you.

GEMINI
You will feel joy and happiness today, says Ganesh. However you need to be careful not to lack in co-operating with and supporting others in their endeavours. You need to look beyond fulfilling your own needs and wants and help others achieve their goals.

CANCER
You will spend the whole day in domestic matters and feel the burden of responsibilities, too. By evening, you will influence near ones by giving them special attention; you will also make others happy, says Ganesh.

LEO
You will be in the mood to provide assistance to others, however you may not be able to succeed in your endeavour. The later half of the day will see your doubts melt away and the picture will become much more clearer. You will need to work hard to attain desired results today, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh predicts that partnership agreements and monetary matters will take up most of your day because business and work are on the top of your priority list. You will have to encounter competition and jealousy at different levels today. In the extremely competitive business matters, you have bright chances of success in the evening.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you shall have good news in the family regarding the progress of your children. You will present them valuable gifts and will appreciate their efficiency. Due to no reason, in the afternoon you will experience a feeling of sadness. Ganeshji advises you not to take small things on your mind.

SCORPIO
Lots of work and less of time may make things difficult for you today. This may disappoint you, and you may feel agitated and irritated. But, after all what are friends for? Call them, talk to them and they may be the best counsellors. Go for a walk to take a break from a boring routine.

SAGITTARIUS
Family and friends take a back seat today as your inclination and faith in spirituality grows stronger. You may come across few unavoidable expenses, foresees Ganesh. In the evening, you may plan to visit a holy place or a temple to seek spiritual peace.

CAPRICORN
Personally as well a professionally, you'll have the best of both worlds today, assures Ganesh. Some unexpected turn of events will keep you charged up. As the day progresses, you will come across more and more such events that will keep you in a happy mood.

AQUARIUS
You will get success on the platter today. Enjoy the sweet taste of success, says Ganesh. People around you will be pleasantly surprised to see a different side of your personality. Continue to be like this and have a good time while luck favours you, as everyday is not the same say.

PISCES
A day of hectic socialising awaits you, not that you mind it. But you may also catch yourself wishing for some time alone for yourself, says Ganesh. The evening will probably see you deck up and head for a happening party, with lots of members of the opposite sex to woo.



Shraddha aspires to reach for the 'stars'

Mumbai: Shraddha Kapoor recently shared her profound perspective on life in an exclusive interview for a prominent magazine, giving a glimpse into the essence of her journey.

Her Instagram bio encapsulates the ethos of her life, "Living the dream." Intriguing, aspirational, and loaded with significance, this phrase has sparked curiosity among her admirers. When questioned about the meaning behind these words and how she stays committed to her dream, Kapoor responded with a quiet profundity that reflects her persona. Shraddha said, "Living the dream is, simply put, my everyday life. It is me living my life exactly the way I want to. I embody my fearlessness very lightly, very softly."

She continued: "My dream—that I am unfolding every day—is to continue maximizing my fullest potential as a human being. My dream has actually been consistent since I was a little girl—I want to reach for the stars with my feet on the ground. And I live this every day, thanks to my humble family for bringing me up in the most simple way."

On the film front, after the success of her last film, *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar*, Shraddha Kapoor is all set to dazzle audiences once again in the highly anticipated sequel of *Stree*.



TIGER 3

My Zoya can have an origin story: Katrina

Mumbai: With a successful run of her latest release *Tiger 3*, where she plays a spy, actress Katrina Kaif says her character Zoya too can have an origin story.

Asked if she feels that there should be an origin story for Zoya just like *Tiger*, essayed by Salman Khan, Katrina said: "So the beauty of the spy verse is that I think Aditya Chopra has created in there's so much room and there's so much scope for all of the characters he has created because they are so well written."

Zoya first appeared in *Ek Tha Tiger*, a 2012 action thriller film directed by Kabir Khan, where Katrina played an ISI agent. She was then seen in 2017 in the film *Tiger Zinda Hai* directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, where she played *Tiger's* wife. She then was seen in *Tiger 3*.

All Katrina wants is a good story and script for a film on Zoya. "If there is a good story, my belief is a good story and a good script should always deserve to be made. So if we get or if you know, the team cracks an amazing story, which everyone's excited about of course why not. There can definitely be an origin story for Zoya," she added.

Pratha producer sits on dharna



Bhubaneswar: Sanlisa Patel, the producer of Odia movie *Pratha* Thursday sat on a dharna near Lower PMG here demanding fulfillment of her five point charter of demands. They include one cinema hall in each block headquarters, mandatory screening of Odia films in every theatre for a certain period, and formation of regulatory body to address producers' grievances among others. It also includes streamlining of distribution systems and security of films and makers both on and offline. Speaking to *Orissa POST* Patel said, "I sought assistance from people concerned to release my movie on December 14 across the state. But nobody has

come forward to help me in this regard." She added "I request the government to fulfill the demands or else, the protest will continue for an indefinite period." A few other co-actors including Budhaditya Mohanty also joined in to lend her support. It may be recalled that some protesters had damaged the posters of *Pratha* and opposed its release in Jharsuguda. This made the producer remove the movie from several cinema halls. Sanlisa had earlier directly blamed Manoj Mishra, a prominent actor from western Odisha, for this act.

MADDY'S CRUSH ON JUHI CHAWLA

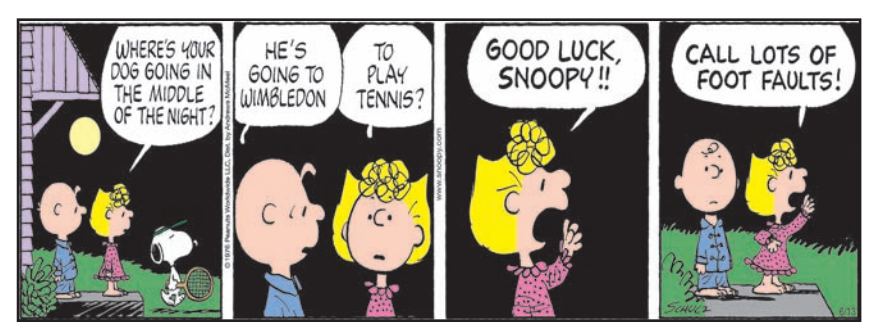


Mumbai: Actor R Madhavan, who recently received the National award for his film *Rocketry*, revealed that he once expressed his desire to marry actress Juhi Chawla to his mother after he watched Juhi in *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* (1988). This revelation came after Juhi Chawla provided insights into her decision

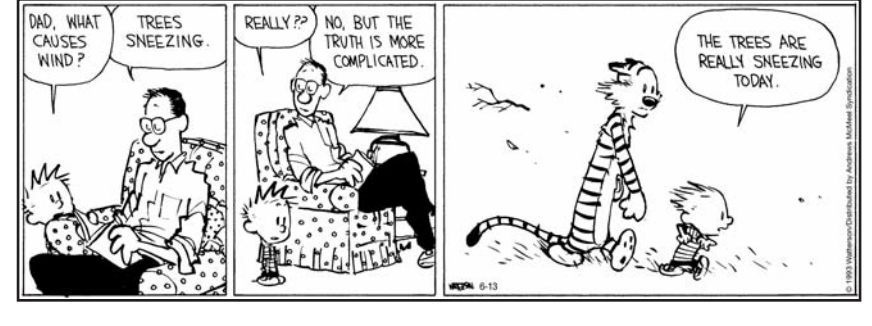
to join the cast of the Netflix original web series, *The Railway Men*. Madhavan humorously confessed, "Luckily, you said yes. I must admit in front of everyone, after watching *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* (1988), I told my mom, 'I want to marry Juhi Chawla.' That was my sole aspiration at the time."

Madhavan went on to explain that, despite his wish, he didn't have the opportunity to work with Juhi in the new series, as she was cast after he had already completed his portions. The *Railway Men* is currently streaming on Netflix.

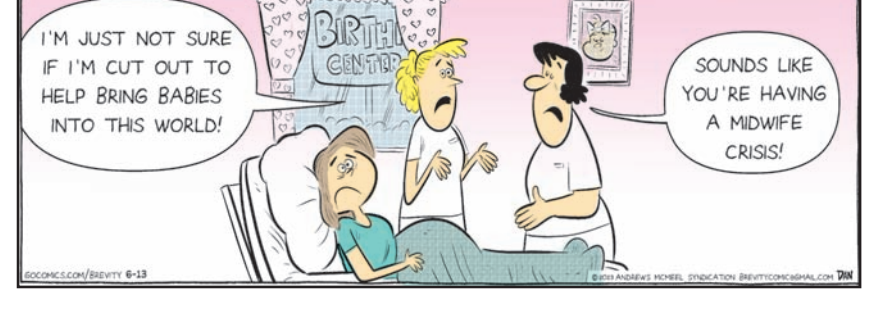
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

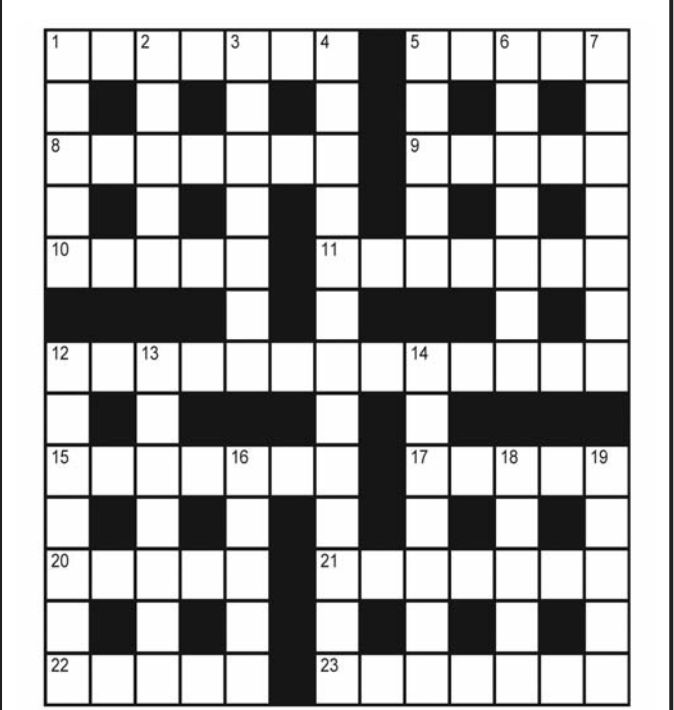


BREVITY



FUN post

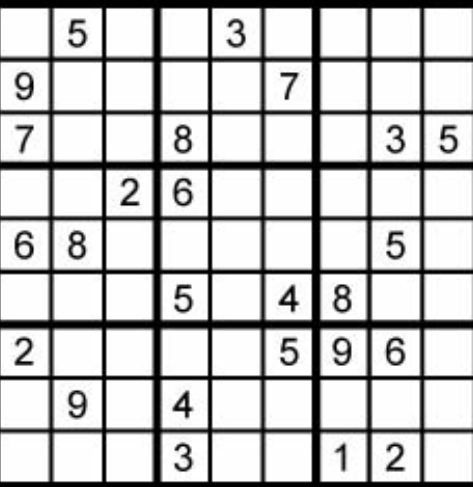
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Brush-footed butterfly
 - 5 Inspection of sorts
 - 8 Storm leftovers
 - 9 Reddish brown
 - 10 Hippodrome, e.g.
 - 11 Stalemate
 - 12 Stinger part (5,2,6)
 - 15 One of the Balearic Islands
 - 17 Addiction
 - 20 Bottomless pit
 - 21 Shellfish
 - 22 Roomy vehicle
 - 23 Surgical seams
 - Down**
 - 1 Greek letter
 - 2 Gnatlike insect
 - 3 Let go
 - 4 Victor Hugo novel (3,10)
 - 5 Fable writer
 - 6 Sediment
 - 7 Circus feature
 - 12 Percussion instrument
 - 13 Savoured
 - 14 Display
 - 16 Pine exudation
 - 18 Bad dog, e.g.
 - 19 Beginners

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

UPPING THE ANTE

Students of BJB College in Bhubaneswar Thursday staged a road blockade in protest against intrusion of non-students into the campus which results in conflicts



Land transfer issue rocks House for 2nd day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The Assembly witnessed a ruckus by the opposition parties for the second consecutive day Thursday over the state government's decision to allow Scheduled Tribe (ST) people to sell their land to non-tribals.

The BJP and Congress intensified their protest in the House, demanding the rollback of the state Cabinet's decision. Speaker Pramila Mallik adjourned the proceeding till 4pm, as members of the opposition trooped into the well of the House and shouted slogans against the BJD government.

After the adjournment of the House, BJP MLAs marched to Raj Bhavan to meet Governor Raghubar Das and submit a memorandum on the transfer of tribal land.

The House could transact business only for three minutes as Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahu replied to a question on irrigation facilities.

As soon as the House assembled for the Question Hour at 10:30am, BJP and Congress members trooped into the well and shouted slogans, demanding immediate withdrawal of



The BJP alleged that the government's decision would encourage corporate houses to grab tribal land in the mineral-rich areas of the state

the Cabinet decision to allow ST people to transfer their land to non-tribals in the scheduled areas (tribal dominated areas).

Adorned with 'angabastar' having tribal motifs, the saffron party members held placards aloft and raised slogans in the House, alleging that the government's decision would encourage corporate houses to grab tribal land in the mineral-rich areas of the state.

They demanded that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik should announce complete withdrawal of the Cabinet decision on the tribal land transfer.

Congress members led by party's whip Taraprasad Bahinipati tried to climb the Speaker's podium and raised slogans, describing the BJD government as "anti-tribal".

Congress members also demanded proper implementation of Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 in Odisha.

The state Cabinet had November 14 decided to amend the Odisha Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by STs) Regulation, 1956 to allow ST people to transfer their land to non-

tribals in scheduled areas. ST people, however, will need to seek written permission from sub-collectors to sell their land to non-tribals. Following protests by the opposition at that time, the government withheld the decision two days later.

"The state government has no concern over tribal welfare though it claims to have rolled out several schemes for the tribes. The recent move of the government exposed that it has been anti-tribal. They will become landless if the state Cabinet's decision is implemented," BJP chief whip in the Assembly Mohan Majhi said.

Stating that the Cabinet decision was against the provision of the Constitution, he said, "We cannot understand what prompted the government to take such a decision to grab the tribal lands?"

Though state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi had announced that the November 14 Cabinet decision was put on hold, the BJP demands complete withdrawal of it.

Both the opposition parties asked the Speaker to allow a notice for discussion on the matter in the House.

Dharitri Youth Conclave 2023 is here

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: The third edition of the 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2023- Climate Change: The Path Ahead' will be a star studded event which will witness the convergence of a galaxy of eminent personalities and experts from the world of environment, movies and music.

The unique event is bringing together the youth, climate leaders and experts as panelists to discuss climate change and find solution towards sustainable climate action. The conclave will be held at the Rail Auditorium here.

The morning session of the conclave will witness experts from different facets of environment disc issues related to climate change and the necessary actions to be taken to save the future.

The panelist in this year's conclave include environmentalist Sneha Shahi, managing editor of Down To Earth magazine Richard Mahapatra, conservationist and Forest Man of India



HERO'S WELCOME: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy & Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy greet film star Sonu Sood on his arrival at the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Sood, well-known for his philanthropy and concern for environment, will be the key attraction at the Dharitri Youth Conclave-2023 to be held at Rail Auditorium here, today

Padma Shri Jadav Payeng and environment activist & founder of Environmental Foundation of India (EFI) Arun Krishnamurthy. This apart, actor and youth icon Sonu Sood will be the star attraction of the conclave. He will interact with audience and also join the panel discussion.

The evening of the conclave will be musical as three time Grammy award winner and environment activist Ricky Kej will be performing.

In the conclave this year too, thousands of students from different educational institution of the state will participate in large number. The aim of the conclave is to create awareness among the youth and bring together climate warriors to work towards sustainable climate change solution and action.

Nearly 26K killed in road mishaps in 5 yrs

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Road accidents claimed 25,934 lives in Odisha from 2018 to 2022, Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu informed the assembly, Thursday.

Replying to a question from BJP MLA Kusum Tete, the minister said a total of 54,790 accidents were reported in the state during the period in which 25,934 people were killed and 51,873 were injured. According to the minister, the highest of 5,467 deaths in road accidents were reported in 2022, while 5,333 people were killed in 2019. Road accidents claimed the lives of 5,315 people

in 2018 and 5,081 in 2021. The lowest of 4,738 road fatalities were reported in the pandemic year of 2020, despite long durations of lockdowns and severe restrictions on vehicular movement.

As many as 11,794 people sustained injuries in accidents in 2018, while 11,177 were hurt in 2019, and 8,818 in 2020.

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Gram Rojgar Sevak in Vigilance net for bribery

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Vigilance Thursday arrested a woman Gram Rojgar Sevak, attached to Badkorlakot Gram Panchayat, under Jaypatna block of Kalahandi district for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹15,000 from an MGNREGA worker for registering his name in the muster roll. Vigilance sources said Margret Panigrahy has been booked under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) act following her arrest. Acting on a complaint that the government servant was demanding a bribe from the victim to release the amount promised under MGNREGA by getting his name enlisted in the muster roll along with the other beneficiaries, the Vigilance sleuths laid a trap at the office of the accused. Margret was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe amount, the official added. Following her arrest, the sleuths conducted searches at her official residence for seizure of suspected disproportionate assets. She was produced in a designated court for remand.

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State gears up to meet green energy goals

Odisha lags behind in renewable energy installed capacity compared to its counterparts in the country

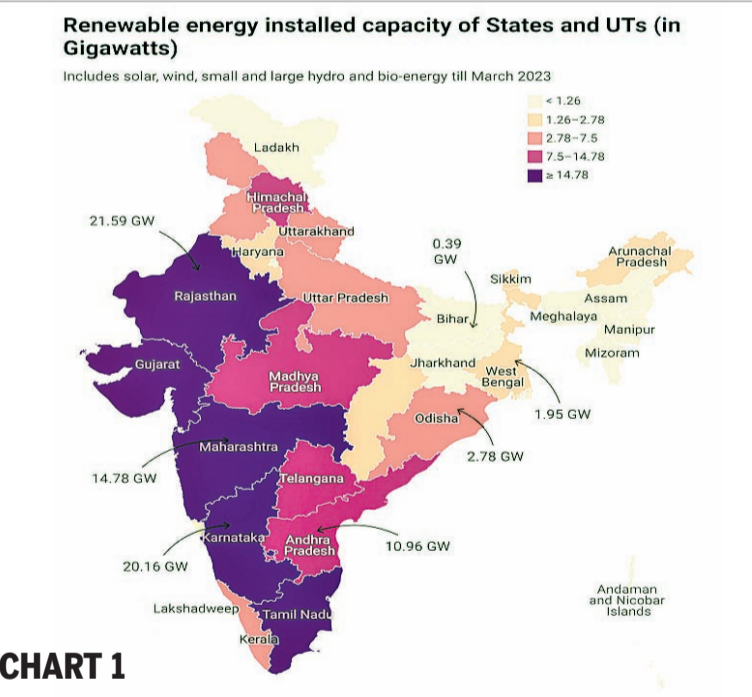


CHART 1

ATRI PRASAD ROUT, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: As India works towards clean energy commitments, states across the country have been aggressively building up renewable power generation capacity.

According to Annual Activity Report of the state Energy Department, Odisha plans to meet 20 per cent of its energy demand from renewable sources other than hydro by 2026, and 50 per cent by 2030.

However, given these goals, the state stands far behind others in terms of renewable energy installed capacity. As per data shared by the Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh in Rajya Sabha, as of January 31, 2023, Odisha had a total renewable installed capacity of 2,782.22 megawatt (MW) or 2.78 gigawatt (1 GW equals 1,000 MW).

Compared to Odisha, which ranks 15 nationally in terms of installed capacity, a leading state like Karnataka has about seven times more capacity - of around 20,160 MW- whereas Andhra Pradesh, a state not so rich in renewable, has an capacity of 10,960 MW (Chart 1).

Odisha's deficient renewable energy capacity comes as a surprise given the fact that the state was among the firsts to launch a dedicated agency - the Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA)- for popularisation of renewable since 1984.

"There are three reasons why

hydro and small hydro (Chart 2). Compared to the huge solar potential, the current installed capacity for solar power is only at a fraction (Chart 2). And of the 2,782.22 MW of total installed capacity, large hydro accounts for more than 75 per cent. Given that the state is maxing out on large hydro power, the focus is gradually shifting to other sources.

"We have received investment proposals of over ₹4,000 crore for wind energy projects of more than 500 MW," says Mahesh Prasad Dash, team lead at Grid Corporation of Odisha (GRIDCO) which has been designated the state nodal agency for renewable energy.

"Our wind potential is low as coastal areas are frequently hit by cyclones. For mega solar and wind projects, it's a challenge to acquire land as there are environmental and habitation concerns. And where there is land, there exist logistical challenges to store and distribute the generated power," says Dash.

Admitting that Odisha has fallen behind other states, Dash says, "The government is fully committed to development of renewable energy. It has brought out a new renewable energy policy. We have signed MoUs with the four major power sector PSUs, launched a dedicated portal for RE, and floating solar is being prioritised as we have some 180 lakes and reservoirs where land acquisition is not a problem. With participation of all departments, hopefully the process of securing permits becomes more efficient."

Bhagat says that in the last five years, more people have turned to solar as the installation costs has fallen by 30 per cent, or more. But he says, "For renewables to really take off, you need large-scale power plants at every district and block level. And the government needs to work with more urgency in this regard."

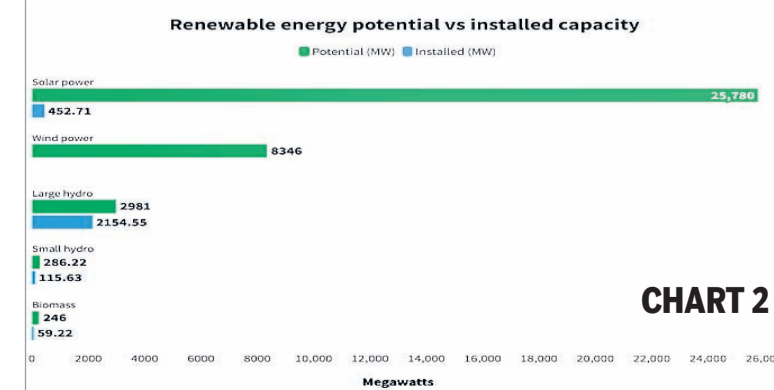


CHART 2

RESOLVE OF A VIKSIT BHARAT WITH THE POWER OF YUVA SHAKTI.

"The mantra to stay relevant in a fast-paced occupational environment and market conditions is Skill, re-skill, and upskill."
- Narendra Modi

Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI Plus)

24 November, 2023 | Jatni, Khordha

Features of NSTI plus

- 7.8 acres of proposed State-of-the-Art training facility in Jatni, Bhubaneswar
- An integrated campus for Industry 4.0, modern new-age skills, and skills for potential entrepreneurs
- Training of Master Trainers for latest skill development requirements aligning to industry demand
- Target to annually train 500 trainers for Long-Term CITS program and another 500 trainers for short-term upskilling and reskilling.

- Pivotal role in delivering skill training and facilitating the enhancement of skills for Engineers, Supervisors, Technicians, Executives, and faculty members of educational institutions.
- Curriculum, training, and modules will be developed in close collaboration with the industry and corporates.
- Will assist as capacity-building centers for training of school teachers.
- Enabling Horizontal and vertical mobility for students through NIESBUD, IGNOU, NIOS, and Skill India International centers at the institution.

Chief Guest

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India

Shri Pritranjan Gharai
Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Dept. of Rural Development, Skill Development, & Technical Education Govt. of Odisha

Smt. Aparajita Sarangi
Hon'ble Member of Parliament Bhubaneswar

Shri Muzibulla Khan
Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)

Shri Suresh Kumar Routray
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Jatni

CBC G3101/13/0014/2324

ODISHA SHIPS CASHEW NUTS TO BANGLADESH



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: In a landmark achievement, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India, facilitated the first-ever shipment of cashew nuts from the state of Odisha to Bangladesh.

The consignment, comprising 2 metric tons of premium quality cashew nuts, was exported by M/s Paaf Global Pvt. Limited. The step not only strengthens economic ties between the two nations but also

sensitize Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), inspiring them to venture into the field of agriculture exports. By encouraging them to become exporters, the initiative aims to eliminate middlemen from the supply chain, thus maximizing farmers' income.

The shipment was both virtually and physically flagged off by Abhishek Das, Chairman-APEDA in the presence of senior officers of APEDA, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Principal Secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, MSME Principal Secretary Swaswat Mishra and other senior officers from ECGC, NABARD, RPQS and CUSTOMS.

Subsequent shipments of cashew nut from Odisha are being planned for some other global destinations including Bahrain and Qatar, as committed by the exporter.

This initiative not only holds promise for the economic prosperity of the region but also aligns with the broader vision of a self-reliant India, developing entrepreneurship and sustainable agricultural export.

opens up new avenues for the agricultural sector in Odisha.

The cashew nuts, sourced from the renowned company "Passion Gourmet", run by a dynamic women entrepreneur in Odisha signify a blend of quality and empowerment. This initiative holds particular significance as it aligns with the broader mission of promoting women-led businesses and developing economic growth in the region.

To mark this historic occasion, an export-oriented capacity development program was organised in the conference hall of IDCO, Bhubaneswar.

This program is designed to



BALIYATRA FEST: A tableau being displayed at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar by Tourism department to create awareness about upcoming trade fair in Cuttack

LVPEI holds awareness walk on refractive error

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) concluded its Children's Eye Care Week with an awareness walk recently in the City.

The week-long celebration marked the 15th-year milestone of LVPEI's dedicated children's eye care unit, the Miriam Hyman Children's Eye Care Centre.

Child Sight Institute, LVPEI Director Ramesha Kekunnaya and LVPEI Bhubaneswar Head Srikanth Sahu inaugurated the newly renovated and updated outpatient wing in the paediatric facility.

The celebrations featured an array of engaging programs, in-



cluding a live art exhibition, a children's painting competition, an enlightening awareness talk, a knowledge-packed expert lecture, and an insightful surgical workshop.

Also, a special fun camp was organised for children with special needs and their parents from two blind schools in

Bhubaneswar:

Speaking on the occasion, Vivek Warkad, Head of Miriam Hyman Children's Eye Care Centre at LVPEI Bhubaneswar, emphasized the importance of recognising early signs of refractive errors, urging immediate consultation with an eye specialist.

ment of refractive errors are crucial, with eye examinations recommended at ages one, three, and five," he said.

Debasmita Majhi, Pediatric Ophthalmologist, LVPEI, highlighted the potential consequences of undiagnosed and untreated refractive errors, including delayed milestones, negative impacts on academic performance, participation in activities, and social behaviour.

She said children with myopia face a higher risk of developing serious eye diseases, emphasizing the collective responsibility of families, teachers, healthcare professionals, and the government to ensure children's well-being.

Tata Power to make youth industry-ready

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: To give Odisha youth training for employability and relevant skill sets for the power sector, Tata Power has signed MoUs with universities of the state.

The initiative is in line with the Odisha Government's 'Skilled in Odisha' initiative which focuses on skill building to enhance employability and entrepreneurial prowess of local youth across sectors.

The universities include Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology (IGIT, Sarang), Silicon Institute of Technology (SIT), Bhubanananda Odisha School of Engineering (BOSE), Institute of Technical Education & Research (ITER), and World Skill Centre (WSC).

As per sources, the company is also in talks with MO College to extend this program to ITIs across the state.

"These strategic partnerships provide comprehensive skill development programs and courses covering a diverse array of subjects, ranging from electrical and mechanical to information technology and soft skills. These programs adhere to the highest industry standards and are meticulously structured to meet both current and future industry requirements in alignment with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF)," said an official.

Sanjay Banga of Tata Power said, "Tata Power and its Odisha discoms are fully committed to equip local youth with the skills and opportunities necessary for fulfilling their aspirations and ambitions. We take pride in our role in supporting the Make in Odisha vision by creating an enabling environment for the youth to thrive and excel within the power sector."

GARG REVIEWS LIFT IRRIGATION PROJECT

Bhubaneswar: Department of Water Resources Development Commissioner-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg held a review meeting on comprehensive action plan for utilisation of water in Gangadhar Meher Lift Irrigation Project (GMLIP), Bijepur, Bargarh. GMLIP is one of the flagship projects of state government to cater the irrigation needs of the upland areas of Bijepur, Sohela, Barpali blocks of Bargarh district and Durguripali block of Subarnapur district, which are lying at higher level than the full supply level of Bargarh main canal of Hirakud Dam Project. Out of total 129 villages, 122 villages of 3 blocks (Bijepur-75, Sohela-25 and Barpali-22) in Bargarh district and 7 villages of Durguripali block in Subarnapur district will be irrigated covering total area of 25,600 Ha benefitting 35,600 farmers. Subsequently another project namely GMLIP has been taken up to cater the irrigation need of farmers covering an area of 5,750 Ha in 12 villages of Bargarh block and 2 villages of Barpali block. Reviewing the progress of work on GMLIP, Garg said that, as this irrigation project is constructed with huge money and effort and first-of-its-kind in India, all stakeholders must be involved for optimum use of each drop of water for growing profitable and required crops.



SUPPORTING PROHIBITION: Members of Milita Odisha Nisha Nibarana Abhijan (MONA) stage a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, seeking liquor-free Odisha

Report on sea intrusion released

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: A group of civil society organizations have recently released a report - Lost to the sea - a study on sea intrusion and displacement happening due to coastal erosion in five disaster-prone districts of the state namely Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Bhadrak.

The study, conducted by Action Aid Association, Young India, Sneha Abhiyan, Odisha Viklang Manch, and Community Radio Namaskar, was released by Electronics, Information Technology Minister Tusharkanti Behera recently in presence of representatives of the said organizations.

Covering 23 villages, with 230 structured interviews and group discussions with villagers and



households resettled in Bagpatia was given Rs 1.2 lakh and allotted 10 decimals of homestead land," informs the study.

The study further adds, "In the process of rehabilitation, people have been shifted to new places because of which

they have lost access to many resources which were available to them for years. In the original location, people had access to common property resources and other natural resources like land, water, and forests. Satabhaya is only one example of the villages lost to the sea, leaving behind communities to find new homes and ways to survive. It is the tip of an iceberg of displacements that is unfolding due to the worsening climate crisis."

groups, the study tries to be comprehensive with participation of 10 to 30 individuals from each village. The sample size consisted of equal participation of men and women participants with age groups ranging between 25 and 82.

"The Bagapatia resettlement colony is first rehabilitation colony in the country where Odisha government has resettled 571 families from seven coastal villages of Kendrapara displaced due sea intrusion. Each of the

Nat'l Children Literary Fest from Nov 25

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Ninth edition of the National Children Literary Fest (NCLF) of KIIT International School, Bhubaneswar will be organised from November 25-26.

The literary fest, the first and only of its kind in India for school students, will be attended by more than 1,000 students from 75 schools across the country.

Internationally renowned Indian music composer and three-time Grammy winner Ricky Kej and G20 Sherpa and former CEO of Niti Aayog Amitabh Kant will interact with students during the two-day event. World-renowned children's writer Padma Bhushan Ruskin Bond will also grace the occasion virtually.



The National Children Literary Fest is brainchild of eminent educationist, philanthropist, and KIIT & KISS founder Achyuta Samanta. The fest is designed and maintained by the chairperson of the KIIT International School Mona Lisa Bal since its inaugural edition in 2013.

KIIT International School, among the top-ranked International Schools in the

country, offers CBSE as national curriculum and IBDP and IGCSE as international curriculum. Taking off from 2013, NCLF has become one of the most loved and interesting Children's Festival. It has grown in stature during the course of the last nine years, hosting popular writers, poets, and artists who have contributed immensely to the field of humanities and literature in various capacities.

The two-day fest will cover diverse areas from freedom of expression, politics, violence, environment, spirituality, stories of love, lust and relationships, travel, and ethics. Special sessions by well-known authors Anand Neelakantan, Sudeep Nagarkar, storyteller Geeta Ramanujam, and former cricketer Mohammed Kaif are highlights of the ninth edition of the National Children Literary Fest.

The fest will also feature motivational speech by model, actor and singer Prince Narula, flash mob and dance workshop, poetry writing competition, quiz competition, candle making workshop, storytelling competition, and a unique 'Out of the Box Production'. The event will conclude with a concert by Ankit Tiwari, a popular playback singer.

ILS discovers new host protein NCoR1

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Over the course of the past one decade, the researchers at Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) here has made a groundbreaking discovery by identifying a novel host protein named NCoR1 (Nuclear Receptor Co-repressor).

According to ILS scientists, this protein exhibits immense potential in combatting severe ailments such as tuberculosis, viral infections and addressing prolonged health complications associated with autoimmune diseases.

Under the guidance of Dr Sunil Kumar Raghav (Scientist F), the research group at ILS has tirelessly devoted their efforts to deciphering the intricate mechanisms governed by this host protein in multifaceted diseases. Their recent groundbreaking

study on tuberculosis has not only been published in the prestigious journal PLoS Biology but also extensively featured in the journal Autophagy, signifying its profound impact on the scientific community. The absence of this particular protein amplifies the bacterial burden within the host, and its expression demonstrates a strong correlation among active and recovered TB patients.

The team is actively engaged in ongoing investigations to unravel the full spectrum of its functionality in human subjects. Prior research conducted by the group has also shed light on its pivotal role in strengthening antiviral responses. Presently, their focus extends towards exploring new dimensions linked to Rheumatoid Arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

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Jumbo jeopardy: Keonjhar sees 106 deaths in 7 years



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 23: Man-elephant conflict has taken alarming proportions in Keonjhar district as 40 pachyderms have died due to various reasons during last seven years in this district while as many as 66 persons perished in jumbo attacks in the same period.

Several crores are being spent and hundreds of employees are working towards the protection of elephants. The forest officials are also keeping a track of the animals' movement alerting their offices about their presence in a particular area.

They are also alerting the local residents about the presence of herds in their areas through SMS and public address systems.

However, despite all such efforts 40 elephants have died due to various reasons in the last seven years while 66 human lives were lost during the same period. Moreover, as many as 241 persons have been injured in elephant attacks.

Notably, four elephants succumbed owing to various reasons during past one and half months. Among them, two were electrocuted, one was killed in train mishap and another died

after sustaining critical injuries after falling into a pit.

The Forest department has taken action against the railway official for the elephant death due to train-hit and against 13 persons for the electrocutions. However, no action has been taken against any forest official. This has sparked strong resentment among the environmentalists as they urged the state government to take strong measures for protection of the gentle giant and reduce man-elephant conflict.

According to available data, two elephants died in 2017-18, three in 2018-19, six in 2019-20, seven in 2020-21, seven in 2021-22, 11 in 2022-23 and four elephants till date in 2023-24. Similarly, nine persons were killed and 26 injured in elephant attacks in 2017-18, 14 persons died and 30 were injured in 2018-19, nine were killed and 38 injured in 2019-20, six died and 49 were injured in 2020-21, 13 persons succumbed and 55 were injured in 2021-22 and 12 persons were killed and 43 injured in 2022-23.

Meanwhile, three persons have been killed so far in 2023-24. Among the injured, 12 have been maimed in elephant attacks and living a life of

utter hardship and deprivation. Several houses have been flattened, properties and crops destroyed by the marauding elephants.

When contacted, Additional ACF Ashok Das said various steps were being taken to check elephant deaths. People are being alerted in advance and warned not to venture into the jungle where there is presence of an elephant herd around them. Compensation is being provided in cases of death and injury as well as for crops loss and destruction of houses as per government norms.

Tribal leader Bhagirathi Singh said that people are forced to drive away the elephants to protect their crops and properties as a proper assessment for compensation is not being done.

Environmentalist Bimbahar Behera said elephant deaths are occurring as people are drawing live electric wires on elephant corridors to protect themselves and their crops. He said this can be checked by giving away proper compensation to the affected people and taking measures to protect their life and properties. Moreover, they should be sensitised about the value of the animal in maintaining ecological diversity and urged not to kill elephants.

It is alleged that no action is taken against the forest officials for dereliction of their duty and instead the wrongdoers are being protected, environmentalist Harekrishna Mohanta said. This has given rise to resentment among people and is reflected in the hostility between the Forest, Railways and Power officials.

Man kills wife, daughter by releasing snake; held

The incident took place over a month-and-a-half ago in Adheigaon village in Kabisuryanagar PS area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Nov 23: A 25-year-old man was arrested Thursday for allegedly killing his wife and two-year-old daughter by releasing a venomous snake into their room in Ganjam district, police said.

The incident took place over a month-and-a-half ago in Adheigaon village in Kabisuryanagar police station area, around 60 km from here.

The accused, identified as K Ganesh Patra, was having a marital dispute with his wife K Basanti Patra (23). They were married in 2020 and had a two-year-old daughter named Debasmita.

The accused had allegedly procured a snake from a snake charmer, lying to him that he would use the reptile for religious purposes, a police officer said.

On October 6, he brought a cobra in a plastic jar and released the snake into the room where his wife and daughter slept. Both were found dead with snake bites the next morning, while the accused slept in another room.

The police initially registered an unnatural death case, but questioned the accused after his father-in-law lodged an FIR accusing him of murder, Ganjam Superintendent of Police Jagmohan Meena said.

The accused was arrested a month after the incident as there was some delay in gathering evidence against him. During interrogation, he initially denied the allegation and later claimed that the snake might have entered the room on its own but eventually confessed to committing the crime, the SP said, adding further investigation was underway.

Injured elephant calf rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 23: Forest officials managed to rescue the injured female elephant calf roaming in Maidankel reserve forest under Patana and Sadar forest ranges in Keonjhar district and started its treatment, Thursday.

The calf belonging to a 12-member herd was found limping due to a blister on its foot. Forest officials rescued the calf after

struggling to catch it for a week. The calf when rescued was found to have developed a wound on its leg due to coiling of a small wire or rope around its leg. The calf was administered with primary treatment by the veterinarians.

However, it is likely to be shifted to Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) or Nandankanan Zoological Park as the blister had festered, forest official said.

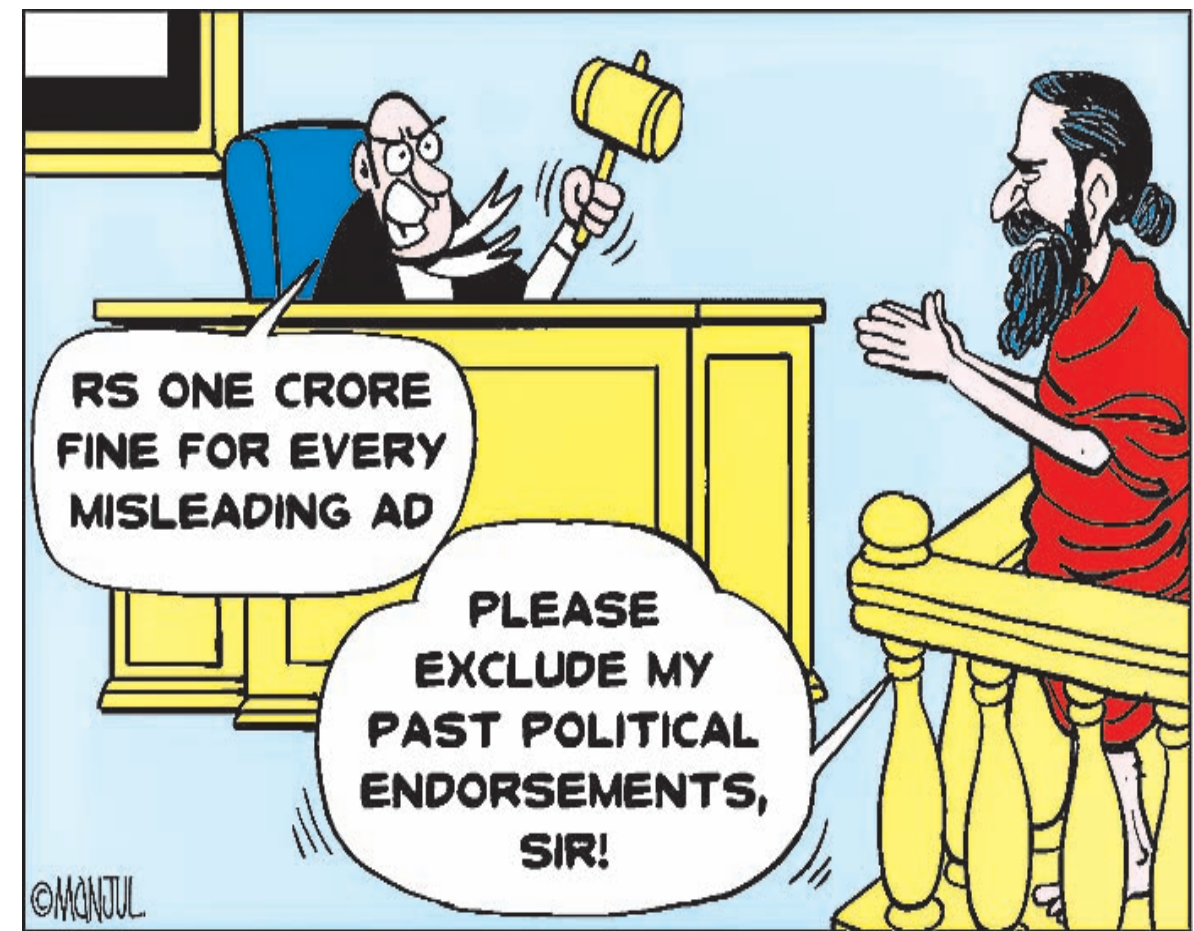
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-870
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
NUAPADA IRRIGATION DIVISION, NUAPADA
e-Procurement Notice No.-(NID) 02/2023-24
e-mail address: ee.npd.irrig@gmail.com
PERCENTAGE RATE e-TENDER

1. The Superintending Engineer Nuapada Irrigation Division, Nuapada, Dist.- Nuapada, Pin-76105, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites "PERCENTAGE RATE Bids" IN SINGLE COVER SYSTEM, in electronic tendering system for the construction works detailed in the table below, which are eventually to be drawn on P1 agreement.

Package No.	BID ID No. (NID) 54/2023-24 to BID ID No. (NID) 57/2023-24
Nature of Work	04 (Four) Nos. Road Works.
Approximate value of work	Rs.20.95 lakhs to 37.85 lakhs (Excluding GST)
Period of Completion	03 (Three) & 04 (Four) calendar Months.
Classification of Bidder	'C' & 'B' class Contractor only
Bid documents available Date and Time.	From 30.11.2023 10.00 A.M. to 11.12.2023 up to 5.30 P.M.
Bid clarification start date & closing date.	From 30.11.2023 10.00 A.M. to 08.12.2023 up to 5.30 P.M.
Date, Time and Venue of opening of bid online.	12.12.2023 at 10.00 A.M. in office of the Superintending Engineer, Nuapada Irrigation Division, Nuapada
If stipulation arises the Tender will be decided through Lottery System.	18.12.2023 at 10.00 A.M. in office of the Superintending Engineer, Nuapada Irrigation Division, Nuapada

Further details can be seen any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation to the above notice will be published in the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
Nuapada Irrigation Division, Nuapada

OIPR-32026/11/0003/2324



26 ancient temples in CM's home turf set for makeover



PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Nov 23: The state government has sanctioned ₹42.51 crore for the redevelopment of 26 ancient shrines in Ganjam district, an official said Thursday.

Renovation, restoration and reconstruction of the ancient shrines located in 12 of the 13 Assembly constituencies in Ganjam, the home turf of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, will be undertaken with the fund, he said. The Works department will execute the project, he added.

The district administration has recommended the government for renovation and infrastructure development of these old and historic temples on the basis of public demand, the official said.

Earlier, the government had sanctioned ₹48.97 crore for the district for giving a facelift to 997 village temples.

The tenders for execution of the projects are under process, said Assistant Chief Engineer (Works) Durga Charan

Behera. Among these 26 shrines is the 300-year-old Marda temple in Polasara block, known as Sharan Shrikshetra, where the deities of the Puri Jagannath temple were kept from 1733 to 1735.

The 500-year-old Ganesh temple at Panchama near Berhampur and the ancient Siddha Bhairabi temple where the former PM PV Narsimha Rao had performed rituals are among the other temples that have been taken up for redevelopment.

Repair and renovation of the temple structures will be carried out, and amenities for pilgrims such as rest sheds and toilets will be built, besides drinking water and illumination will be provided, said Behera. The government has also decided to renovate the famed Maa Budhi Thakurani temple in Berhampur under a separate scheme.

The government has also asked the panchayats to develop temple infrastructure under the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' scheme, for which ₹50 lakh was sanctioned for each panchayat, the official said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/E-Tender/106
Dated: 16.11.2023

(1) Tender No. e-Tender-CENTKUR-335-2023
Dtd. 13.11.2023

DESCRIPTION: PROVISION OF SAFETY FENCING ALONG THE TRACK FOR RUNNING OF TRAINS ABOVE 110 KMPH IN VULNERABLE LOCATIONS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work (₹) 41.60 Lakh, EMD (₹): 83,200/-, Completion Period: 04 (Four) Months.

(2) Tender No. e-Tender-EastKUR-339-2023
Dtd. 10.11.2023

DESCRIPTION: EXECUTION OF P.WAY RELATED WORK FOR PROPOSED RAISING OF SPEED FROM 30 KMPH TO 50 KMPH IN LOOP LINES FROM CHARBATIA TO PARADEEP SECTION UNDER SR. DEN (EAST) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work (₹) 93.58 Lakh, EMD (₹): 1,67,200/-, Completion period: 06 (Six) Months.

(3) Tender No. e-TenderSouthKUR-ORH-2023
Dtd. 14.11.2023

DESCRIPTION: CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS REST HOUSE AT BRAHMAPUR OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work (₹) 74.29 Lakh, EMD (₹): 1,48,600/-, Completion period: 10 (Ten) Months.

(4) Tender No. e-Tender-SPLKUR-347-2023
Dtd. 15.11.2023

DESCRIPTION: EXECUTION OF WORKS RELATED TO DAILY TRACK MAINTENANCE AS PER DIRECTION OF SSE (P-WAY) IN CHARGE AT MCL SIDING, TALCHER OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION UNDER DEPOSIT SCHEME FOR ONE YEAR.

Approx Cost of the work (₹) 433.03 Lakh, EMD (₹): 3,66,500/-, Completion period: 12 (Twelve) Months.

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 1500 Hrs. of 06.12.2023 (for all Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tenders is available in website: <http://www.irps.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg),
PR-799/O/23-24
Khurda Road

Bank of India
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Mob.: 8337911737

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI Act, 2002

Whereas the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagees/ Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	BHUBANESWAR BRANCH, PH.: 8652226475 / Borrower: M/s. Meera Creation, Prop.: Mr. Jiban Jyoti Barik / Guarantors: 1) Sumitra Barik, W/o.: Late Chitta Ranjan Barik, 2) Suchitra Barik, D/o.: Late Chitta Ranjan Barik, All are At: Plot No.: 267/B, Chitta Nivas, Nuapada, Balisahi, Madhupatna, Cuttack - 753010 / Total Dues: ₹3,11,98,798.62 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of the property of Land situated at Mouza: Adalia, Thana: Cuttack Sadar, Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack Pertaining to 1) Khata No.: 686/392, Plot No.: 1290, Area: Ac.0.070 Dec., Plot No.: 1972, Area: Ac.0.010 Dec. and Plot No.: 1287, Area: Ac.0.070 Dec., Total Plots (Three), Total Area: Ac.0.150 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Standing in the name of Mrs. Sumitra Barik, Mr. Jiban Jyoti Barik & Mrs. Suchitra Barik, 2) Khata No.: 686/934, Plot No.: 1291, Area: Ac.0.010 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Standing in the name of Mr. Jiban Jyoti Barik, Total Plots (Four), Total Land Area: Ac.0.160 Dec., Bounded by North: Prahalad Prusty & Govt. Land, South: R K Das, East: Sanatan Land & Ratnakar Sachoo, West: 20ft wide earthen Road	₹1,26,71,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹12,67,100/- / ₹ 50,000/-
2.	NAYAGARH BRANCH, PH.: 9836799043 / Borrower: Mr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, S/o.: Jagannath Sahoo / Guarantor: Mr. Buli Sahoo, W/o.: Mr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, Both are At: Deuli, P.O.: Mali Sahi, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN-752070 / Total Dues: ₹13,98,116/- as on 28.02.2023 + interest, costs and expenses from 29.02.2023, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 369/355, Plot No.: 471, Area: Ac.0.03 Dec & Plot No.: 471/1429, Area: Ac.0.03 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, Mouza: Deuli, P.S.: Nayagarh, DSRO: Nayagarh, Tahasil: Nugaon, Dist.: Nayagarh, standing in the name of Mr. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, Bounded by North: Sukuri Ghadei, South: Road, East: Matia Siha, West: Basani Daku	₹31,64,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹3,16,400/- / ₹50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction : 27.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each
Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 26.12.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.
Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 26.12.2023 with prior appointment of the authorised officer

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) <https://www.ibapi.in> (2) <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> (3) www.bankofindia.co.in

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 24.11.2023
Authorised Officer
Bank of India

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
ZONAL OFFICE, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(See proviso to rule 6(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for sale of property/ies under SARFAESI Act 2002)

Sale of immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. **The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> on 11.12.2023 (Monday) at 11.00 AM (For Sl. No. 1) and 14.12.2023 (Thursday) at 11.00 AM (For Sl. No. 2).**

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name of Account / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees	Description of the Immovable / Movable Properties	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Outstanding dues (As per 13(2) notice) / Nature of Possession	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	SAHEED NAGAR BRANCH / Ph. No.: 9830090768 / Account: M/s Lingaraj Supplier / Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Lingaraj Pradhan, S/o- Gunamoni Pradhan / Guarantor: Mrs. Sipa Sundaray, W/o- Lingaraj Pradhan, Both residing at Plot No.: 330/2208, Lingaraj Nagar, Lane-18, Bhitmatanagi, Old Town, Bhubaneswar.	All the part and parcel of Residential Land & Building situated in Plot No.: 330/2208, Khata No.: 994/140, Total Area: Ac.0.550dec., Mouza: Bhubaneswar Sahar, Unit No. 27, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, in the name of Mr. Lingaraj Pradhan. Bounded by: North: Plot No. 830(P), South: Plot No. 2973(P), East: Plot No. 330(P), West: Road.	26.10.2022 / 11.01.2023 / ₹46,41,000/- as on 26.10.2022 plus further interest @ applicable rates till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses / Symbolic	₹ 74,52,000/- / ₹ 7,45,200/- / ₹ 25,000/-
2.	TEMPLE MARG BRANCH / Ph. No.: 7977325259 / Account: M/s Battery Center / Borrower & Proprietor: Late Sankar Roy, Represented through Legal Heirs/ Representatives / Mortgagor: Mrs. Prakriti Roy, W/o- Late Sankar Roy / Guarantor: Ms. Prathana Roy, All residing at Flat No.: 201, Harapriya Apartment, Vivekananda Marg, Bhubaneswar-751006.	All the part and parcel of Residential Flat consisting of Land & Building 3 BHK Apartment situated in Flat No.: 201, SBA:1500 sqft., Harapriya Apartment, Vivekananda Marg, standing over Mouza: Unit-28, Goutam Nagar, Hal Khata No.: 1720, Hal Plot No.: 2727, Area: Ac.0.0250dec. and Khata No.: 1571, Hal Plot No.: 2727/3743, Area: Ac.0.072dec. (Total Two Plots Area: Ac.0.322dec.), in the name of Late Sankar Roy. Bounded by: North: Open to Sky, South: Corridor, East: Open to Sky, West: Open to Space.	25.07.2022 / 21.10.2022 / ₹1,86,45,000/- as on 22.07.2022 plus further interest @ applicable rates till the date of realization and costs, charges and expenses / Symbolic	₹ 59,40,000/- / ₹ 5,94,000/- / ₹ 25,000/-

DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: 11.12.2023 (Monday) from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM (For Sl. No. 1) and 14.12.2023 (Thursday) from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM (For Sl. No. 2), with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration
LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS: ON OR BEFORE 10.12.2023 upto 05.00 PM (For Sl. No. 1) and ON OR BEFORE 13.12.2023 upto 05.00 PM (For Sl. No. 2)
DATE & TIME OF INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES: 04.12.2023 to 08.12.2023 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM (For Sl. No. 1) and 04.12.2023 to 11.12.2023 between 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM (For Sl. No. 2) (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses

TERMS & CONDITIONS:
(1) For detailed terms & conditions of the sale please refer to the link: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> and <https://ibapi.in>. Prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch No. as mentioned in above list. (2) This is also 15 days notice to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date. (3) On receipt of the entire sale consideration, the Authorised Officer shall issue the Sale Certificate as per rules. (4) All expenses relating to the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate conveyance if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. (5) The Authorised Officer will not be held responsible for any charge lien encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. (6) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
Borrowers/Guarantors are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost.

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 23.11.2023
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Timidity is a form of vanity. When you are timid, it means that you attach more importance to the opinions others have of you than to the sincerity of your actions.

THE MOTHER



Future Beyond 1.5°C

The negotiators and activists preparing to attend the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai are grimly aware that there is no realistic chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C Celsius above pre-industrial levels. But what has become an open secret in climate circles must be shared more widely. Paradoxically, it may be the only way to muster the political will needed to eschew incrementalism in favour of disruptive action that is commensurate with the scale of the challenge.

The official view remains that the 1.5°C target set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement is still achievable, but only if we act decisively and immediately. While that may be true in theory, the necessary reforms are politically painful and therefore almost non-existent. Global coal consumption, for example, climbed to a new all-time high of 8.3 billion tonnes in 2022. Moreover, Chevron and ExxonMobil recently invested a combined \$113 billion in securing additional oil and gas reserves – an unambiguous bet on the long-term profitability of fossil fuels.

It has become starkly apparent that we are barreling toward global temperatures at least 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This aligns with the International Energy Agency's recent conclusion that, based on today's policies, global emissions could push up average temperatures by around 2.4°C this century.

A future beyond 1.5°C will look very different from our current reality, and every tenth of a degree will have major consequences. At 2°C warming, it is estimated that around 40% of the world's population will be exposed to severe heatwaves, while up to one-third will experience chronic water scarcity. The human cost, in terms of displacement, lost livelihoods, and early deaths, will be unprecedented, with vulnerable communities, largely in poorer countries, bearing the heaviest burden.

We must do everything within our power to prevent these outcomes. But, ironically, raising false hopes of achieving the 1.5°C target has become a roadblock to progress on climate action. As NatureFinance highlights in a publication released on the eve of COP28, "Time to Plan for a Future Beyond 1.5 Degrees," this goal reflects our ambition but, perversely, has embedded the fiction of a "win-win" energy transition, whereby the future world looks much like ours, only without carbon emissions. This narrative, promoted by many political, business, and civil-society leaders, constrains our response, forcing us to act within the confines of conventional wisdom.

Humans struggle to react to slow-moving crises. Escaping this pattern usually requires a "new truth" to become self-evident, often through a sudden jolt that cements a paradigm shift and broadens the realm of possibility.

In the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, for example, finance ministers and central bank governors abandoned the long-held belief that monetary expansion must be avoided at all costs for fear of inflation; instead, they embraced quantitative easing – in effect, printing money – to stimulate recovery. Similarly, after the COVID-19 pandemic erupted, leading G20 governments renounced their commitment to fiscal probity and adopted costly universal-income payments previously derided as utopian fantasy.

Pivoting to a "beyond 1.5°C" narrative could provide the jolt necessary to reject a business-as-usual mindset in favour of interventions that break from accepted norms and disrupt the status quo. Consider, for example, the existential issue of food security. Helping vulnerable smallholder farmers shift to regenerative practices might work in a world where warming is limited to 1.5°C. But it could hinder their pivot away from farming methods and livelihoods that will no longer exist if temperatures exceed that target.

At the same time, global food supply chains may become less important beyond 1.5°C of warming, as producing countries restrict exports and major sovereign importers like China focus on achieving self-sufficiency. Such on-shoring is likely to accelerate investment in capital-intensive food production that is more climate-resilient and less nature-dependent, including vertical farming and lab-grown proteins. Judging by the rollout of renewable-energy technologies, the main challenge may be deploying these resilient food systems at scale in poorer countries.

The finance sector is also ripe for disruption. Investments must urgently be steered away from carbon-intensive assets. Yet ongoing efforts to factor climate-related risks into asset valuation and allocation have obviously failed. Much bolder action is needed to align financial flows with national and international climate policies and commitments. Central banks and supervisors, for example, must move beyond financial risk and discard their cherished policy independence, which they have previously done in times of crisis. Under such circumstances, regulators could align with national net-zero policy goals and international commitments in imposing mandatory requirements on financial institutions to deliver net-zero, nature-positive portfolios within a certain time-frame.

Realism about the 1.5°C target is necessary to abandon incremental efforts and begin thinking bigger. Truly innovative climate action is impossible without letting go of this much-hoped-for goal and the comforting vision of an illusory future that accompanied it. While such a pivot would not guarantee success, it could unlock unconventional measures to limit rising temperatures and prepare for a warmer world.

The writer is Executive Director of NatureFinance and Co-Lead of the Secretariat for the Taskforce on Nature Markets.

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WISDOM CORNER

- Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away. PABLO PICASSO
- Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new. OG MANDINO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1642: Dutch navigator Abel Janszoon Tasman, who sailed from Batavia (Jakarta) to investigate the practicality of a sea passage eastward to Chile and to explore New Guinea, skirted the southern shores of Tasmania this day in 1642.
- 1859: Charles Darwin's Origin of Species published. One of the most influential books of all times, On the Origin of Species, put forth the theory of evolution and described the process of natural selection.
- 1874: American inventor Joseph Farwell Glidden patented the first commercially successful barbed wire.

CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM

FOCUS DIPLOMACY



India-Australia bilateralism is sustained by a mutual interest in containing China and ensuring a stable order in Indo-Pacific region

India and Australia are rivals in cricket as two top teams in the world. They have clashed many times including in World Cup finals. After winning all league matches, India unexpectedly lost to Australia in the World Cup final. On the other hand, the India-Australia bilateral engagement is currently at an all-time high encompassing defence, security, trade and cultural partnerships, technology and education as key areas of collaboration. The Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, the Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles arrived in India early last week for the second 2+2 ministerial dialogue. As usual, the dialogues covered a wide range of issues including India-Canada relations which are undergoing some stress due to the rise of radicalism in Canada that is directed against India.



DK Giri

AUSTRALIA HOPES TO ENHANCE ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA IN ORDER TO CUT DOWN ON ITS RELIANCE ON CHINA

The close proximity between Australia and Canada necessitated a discussion on Indo-Canada relations and possibility of defusing the tension. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar underlined the need for such a discussion on Canada. "Australia has a good and strong relationship with both India and Canada. Hence it was important that Australia get our perspective on the issue". He further pointed out that, "From our point of view, the key issue is really the space which is being given to extremism and radicalism in Canada."

From the available reports and the press briefings, it appeared that Australians have been sensitised on issues of terrorism which are of central concern to New Delhi. The MEA said in a press brief, "We had extensive discussion on security issues. We spoke about terrorism, radicalism and extremism. At the heart of it, is really a shared commitment to a free, open, inclusive, prosperous, and rule-based Indo-Pacific region."

It is pertinent to note the driving factors that bring Australia

and India closer. India's strong ties with the US since the Indo-US Civil Agreement signed in 2008 helped Australia, as an ally of United States to embrace India. Second, China's border clashes with India and trade disputes with Australia bring them together. China, in fact, as a common threat to both India and Australia works as a catalyst in their bilateralism. The Australian Deputy Prime Minister in the 2+2 dialogue confirmed that, "China is the biggest security anxiety for India and Australia." His counterpart, the Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, endorsed it: "Strong India-Australia ties are crucial for peace, security and prosperity of the India Pacific." Indeed, India-Australia bilateralism is sustained by a mutual interest in containing China and ensuring a stable order in Indo-Pacific region.

Third, the domestic constituents in both countries like civil society actors, think tanks and research organisations have advocated a closer relationship between the two countries. Fourth, the mutual economic and trade interests have also driven the partnership. Australia hopes to enhance its partnership with India in order to cut down on its reliance on China. Australian Prime Minister Antony Albanese came with 25 Australian business leaders to

expand trade when he came for attending the G20 meeting last September. Likewise, New Delhi wants to tap into Australia's rich mineral resources and investment potentials.

The bilateralism is conducted through several agreements, membership of multilateral coalitions and bilateral visits by top leadership. Prime Minister Modi's visit to Australia in September 2014 was the first by any Indian Prime Minister in 28 years. Following this visit, a Framework of Security Cooperation paved the way for future engagements. In 2020, India and Australia announced a comprehensive strategic partnership that includes an agreement on maritime and cyber technology cooperation and Mutual Logistics Support Agreement to increase military inter-operability through defence exercises and further cooperation on defence, science and technology.

In November 2022, both countries signed the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement in an effort to strengthen trade ties. Beyond bilateralism, Australia and India are involved in a range of multilateral mechanisms and regional groupings that include G20, the Indian Ocean Rim Association, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the QUAD. Such agreements and cooperation

have led to joint defence drills which are the main pillar of India-Australia bilateralism.

Australia invited India to participate in Talisman Sabre, the most important military exercise between the US and Australia. Similar exercises between Australia and India include AusIndex, Kakadu, Pitch Black, and Milan. The Malabar Naval exercises where Australia has recently joined, is another front-line naval exercise. In 2022, the joint army exercise Austra-Hind took place.

To sum up, despite growing proximity between India and Australia, there are a few challenges to reckon with. Obviously, the bilateralism is shaped by their 'shared interest' and 'shared values'. The shared interest is apparent, which is balancing China, the common threat. Second is the mutual benefit accruing from growing trade and economic partnership. There are concerns, however, on shared values. For instance, India's refusal to condemn Russian aggression of Ukraine caused unease in Australia.

Both countries got their independence from Britain. India chose to be non-aligned whereas Australia became an ally of the US. Observers of India-Australia relations wonder what would be India's position on Taiwan, if ever it was invaded by China. Any military confrontation like the one on Taiwan could have disastrous consequences in terms of security and economy in Indo-Pacific. Will India's strategic autonomy sit well with such a destabilising possibility?

For now, Australia seems to go along well with the Indian approach to multilateral partnerships. Also, the multi-stakeholder approach favoured by both sides in building their bilateralism gives a cause for optimism.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.

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SPECTRUM MILLETS

Resilient saviours of nutrition & sustainability

Millet, often overlooked but integral to the sustenance of developing countries, particularly in the semi-arid tropics of Asia and Africa, are emerging as vital players in ensuring food and nutrition security. Their significance is particularly pronounced in countries like India, Nigeria, and Niger, where they thrive in soils too impoverished to support conventional crops. The unique attributes of millets, including their higher tolerance for drought, low nutrient application, and temperature fluctuations, make them resilient and adaptable, especially in climate change. Their short growing season and ability to withstand higher temperatures position them as 'climate-smart' cereals.



SN Tripathy

THE NEED TO REVERSE THE DECLINE IN MILLET CULTIVATION IS EVIDENT FROM THE NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS THEY OFFER AND THEIR RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CHANGING CLIMATE

Unlike conventional cereals such as rice, millets demonstrate remarkable efficiency in water usage, requiring only 250-300 litres per kg compared to the substantial 5,000 litres needed for rice cultivation. This inherent sustainability is gaining attention, especially as urban consumers grapple with lifestyle-related disorders. In India, millets are cultivated across 21 states, with significant impetus in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala,

Telangana, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana. However, the total millet cultivation area has declined, standing at 14.72 million hectares in 2016-17, down from 37 million hectares in 1965-66 before the Green Revolution.

India's diverse millet crops include Sorghum (Great millet), Bajra (Pearl millet), Ragi (Finger millet), and minor millets like Korra (Foxtail millet), Little millet, Kodo millet, Proso millet, and Barnyard millet. Often referred to as coarse cereals, their nutrient richness has led to their reclassification as 'nutri-cereals.' Millets boast mineral-rich profiles containing iron, magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium. Finger millet stands out with its calcium content, surpassing rice, or wheat tenfold.

In India, millets occupy 15.48 million hectares, producing 17.2 million tonnes in 2015. Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Karnataka emerged as the lead states in millet cultivation. However, despite their nutritional prowess, millets' contribution to India's total food grain production has dwindled from 22.17% to 6.94% from 1950-51 to 2011-12. This decline is attributed to the relentless promotion of crops like rice and wheat during the

Green Revolution, particularly in resource-rich irrigated areas.

Characterised by the introduction of high-yielding varieties in the late 1960s, the Green Revolution aimed to boost agricultural productivity. Programmes such as the Grow More Food campaign and the Intensive Agriculture Development Programme sought to address the growing demand for cereals. While successful in increasing production, the Green Revolution left significant ecological and societal impacts. Loss of indigenous landraces, soil degradation, excessive pesticide use, unsustainable farming practices, farmer suicides, and the shift from agriculture due to economic pressures were among the consequences.

Millets are gaining popularity as gluten-free with a low glycemic index and boasting superior micronutrient composition than rice or wheat. As urban consumers grapple with lifestyle-related disorders, millets are self-assured for an upward trajectory in the days to come. The need to reverse the decline in millet cultivation is evident from the nutritional benefits they offer and their resilience in the face of changing climate conditions.

A comprehensive public aware-

ness campaign should highlight millets' nutritional richness and sustainability, targeting both urban and rural populations. The campaign can also emphasise the environmental advantages of millet cultivation, positioning it as a climate-smart and eco-friendly option. Collaborations with government agencies, NGOs, and private sectors can amplify the impact of this initiative.

The government can implement targeted incentives to encourage millet cultivation and support farmers. This may include subsidies on millet seeds, equipment, and irrigation systems, making it economically viable for farmers to choose millets over other crops. Training programmes and workshops can be organised to educate farmers about modern millet farming techniques, enhancing their productivity. Moreover, establishing millet processing units with government support can create value-added products, boosting the overall economic viability of millet cultivation.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune.

Honour ceasefire

Sir, This refers to "Truce for hostage," Orissa POST, Nov 23. Israel and Hamas have reached an agreement on a four-day ceasefire in war-ravaged Gaza with the twin objectives of increasing the inflow of humanitarian aid and facilitating the release of at least 50 hostages captured by militants in exchange for around 150 Palestinians jailed in Israel. This promises to be a significant pause in the war that began over six weeks ago and has claimed the lives of more than 14,000 Palestinians so far, even as about 1,200 Israelis were killed in the October 7 Hamas attack. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has declared that the war against Hamas would resume once the truce expires. However, Tel Aviv may find it hard to achieve its goal of destroying Hamas' military capabilities if the lull leads to a louder clamour, both on the international and domestic fronts, to end the war. The temporary de-escalation of hostilities may give Hamas an opportunity to regroup after having suffered heavy losses. The militant group has made it clear that its fingers will 'remain on the trigger' and its 'victorious fighters will be on the lookout to defend our people and defeat the occupation.' The onus is on both sides to honour the ceasefire and pave the way for a potentially extended pause. Any transgression would undo the efforts made by Qatar and other countries to bring Israel and Hamas to the negotiating table. Much will depend on whether Hamas will release all hostages (and how soon) or keep some of them back as a bargaining chip.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Autocratic move

Sir, This refers to "Parliament to Hindi names for proposed criminal laws," Orissa POST, November 22. The ruling party at the Centre is in a mood to show its autocracy in every sphere of its work. How can it give nod to Hindi names for all three major laws? What is the logic behind it? If the text of the proposed Sanhita is in English and the official language of courts is English, what prompts the government to replace the names? How many of us know Hindi? We cannot be compelled to learn Hindi.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Small town girl who breached glass ceiling

Country has come out of mentality of slavery: PM

The death of Justice Fathima Beevi, the first woman judge of Supreme Court, brought an end to a life that served as an inspiration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 23:

Born in a small town in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore in 1927, Justice M Fathima Beevi's journey to becoming the first woman judge of the Supreme Court and later the Governor of Tamil Nadu is an inspiring example of breaking the 'glass ceiling', a term perhaps not commonly used at that time.

Her death Thursday afternoon at a private hospital in Kollam brought an end to a life that served as an inspiration, especially for women, urging them to perceive restrictive social situations as challenges to overcome.

Not only did Justice Beevi pave the way for women to pursue careers in the male-dominated judiciary, but she also became a role model for addressing the gender imbalance in the legal profession.

Justice Beevi had described her elevation to the apex court as the opening of a closed door. However, without her father, Meera Sahib, urging her - a science student - to pursue a legal career, the title of the first woman

judge in the apex court might have gone to Justice Sujata Manohar years later.

Justice Manohar was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1994, two years after Justice Beevi's retirement. Justice Beevi's father, a government servant at a sub-registrar's office, motivated his eldest of eight children to study law instead of pursuing an MSc in Chemistry. He did not want her to become a college teacher or professor in Thiruvananthapuram. Justice Beevi completed her schooling at Catholicate High School in Pathanamthitta and earned a BSc degree from University College in Thiruvananthapuram.

Initially planning to pursue an MSc in Chemistry, her father's insistence on her studying law led to her achieve several groundbreaking milestones for women in the legal profession. She received the Travancore Bar Council gold medal for topping the bar council examination in 1949-50, a notable accomplishment for a diligent and hardworking student. From that point forward, there was no turning back, as



she rapidly ascended the ladder of the legal profession at a time when women lawyers did not get much support and encouragement from society.

After practising law for seven years, Beevi successfully cleared the state public service examination for the position of Munsiff. Subsequently, she was promoted to Subordinate Judge in 1968, Chief Judicial Magistrate in 1972, and District and Sessions Judge in 1974. She was elevated to the Kerala High Court in 1983 and

became a permanent judge there the following year. Justice Beevi was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court in 1989 during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister. It was after her retirement from the Kerala High Court and amid controversy surrounding the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act of 1986. During her extensive legal career, she handled various cases but is particularly remembered for inviting late AIADMK leader J Jayalalitha to

form the government when she served as Governor of Tamil Nadu. The decision came up for criticism, given Jayalalitha's ongoing corruption cases at that time. Justice Beevi resigned as Governor of Tamil Nadu in July 2002, hours after the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government sought her recall over an alleged failure to uphold the Constitution following the arrest of DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi, a BJP-led NDA partner at the time. The NDA government perceived her report on the state's situation as "biased".

Expressing condolences over her demise, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan said, "Her life is an inspirational story of hard work and determination, and her contributions reflect her profound social commitment. May her soul rest in eternal peace."

Justice Beevi had been admitted to the private hospital a few days ago due to age-related ailments and passed away Thursday afternoon, according to an official source. "Her burial will be held tomorrow (November 24) at the Pathanamthitta Juma Masjid," the source said.

She was unmarried and is survived by her four younger sisters, with two brothers and a sister predeceasing her, according to a family member.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mathura (UP), Nov 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said for the first time in the 'Amritkaal' of India's independence, the country has come out of the mentality of slavery and is moving ahead with the feeling of pride for its heritage.

He was addressing the 'Mirabai Janmotsav', organised here to celebrate the 525th birth anniversary of the poet

and Lord Krishna devotee.

"Today for the first time in the 'Amritkaal' of India's independence, the country has come out of the mentality of slavery," Modi said. "We have taken the pledge of 'Panch Pran' from the Red Fort. We are moving ahead with the feeling of pride for our heritage," he said. Before attending the event, the prime minister paid obeisance at the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura.

Ban on 'halal' products leads to raids by FSDA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 23: The units of Food Safety and Drugs Authority (FSDA) continue to inspect and seize products after the Uttar Pradesh government banned companies issuing halal certification in the state.



While a statewide review has been scheduled, districts continued to make search exercises in various places.

In Lucknow, the FSDA team led by assistant food commissioner S.P. Singh seized material worth over ₹26,000 from four places.

Likewise, the FSDA team in Prayagraj also inspected various outlets.

Assistant commissioner, food, Mamta led the teams that scanned 95 places over the past two days. In the raids, samples worth ₹6,500 were seized and sent to the lab.

The products included baking soda, cocoa powder, ready

to eat food items like veg burger patties and veg momos, besides some confectionery.

In Gorakhpur, food items worth ₹40,000 were seized from different places in the city market.

Led by Hitendra Mohan Tripathi, the teams collected samples of items like noodles, toffees, coffee, brown sugar and edible curry mixes.

In Ayodhya, a team led by Manik Chandra Singh collected samples of packed spices from the market in the main city.

Similar raids were conducted in over two dozen districts including Kanpur, Ayodhya, Gautam Budh Nagar, Sitapur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Gorakhpur, Etawah, Auraiyya and Rae Bareilly.

Drug inspectors also led the teams in some central districts and scanned medical stores where they seized materials like herbal tea and health juices.

In some places, however, no misbranded material was found.

In Kanpur, assistant commissioner (food) Vijay Pratap Singh and his team searched 19 places but returned empty handed.

Banarasi sarees woven by prisoners to reach markets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Varanasi, Nov 23: Banarasi sarees woven by inmates at the Central Jail in Varanasi will soon reach the markets.

Around 60 prisoners were initially weaving sarees on handlooms installed at workshops of the jail, but now a batch of 300 more inmates have been trained in the skills of dyeing silk and weaving.

Efforts are on to create an outlet of the jail and the prison department officials are also in contact with top fashion designers, companies as well as online shopping portals to market these products.

Director General (Prisons) S.N. Sabat said: "On the lines of 'One District One Product' scheme of the state government, we have launched 'One Prison One Product' (OPOP) for those jails where production of articles under ODOP is possible by making inmates skilled for it."

"Varanasi's central jail prisoners were already weaving sarees inside the jail, hence it was decided to include this jail in the OPOP list." Vishal Kumar Agrahari, who coordinated the training of the prisoners, said: "The textile and apparel industry, which is the biggest employer after agriculture, faces a gap in engaging 'skilled labours' in it. After the ministry of textiles, government of India, launched the demand-driven employment-linked skill development scheme known as Samarth, in order to promote skill and skill upgrading in the traditional sectors of handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture and jute, an innovative initiative was planned."

As a part of it, the Central Silk Board decided to conduct skill development training in silk weaving and dyeing for jail inmates of Central Jail of Varanasi, said Agrahari.

Octogenarian files defamation suit against CPI-M mouthpiece



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 23: Taking the fight into the 'enemy' camp, 86-year-old Mariyakutty reportedly a daily wage labourer - Thursday filed a defamation case against CPI(M) mouthpiece 'Deshabhimani' in Kerala for "portraying her in poor light".

She has filed the petition at a court accusing the chief editor of 'Deshabhimani', its three journalists and six others of spreading fake news on social media.

Mariyakutty contended that she has suffered huge loss of face because of the 'false' report, and hence she should be compensated and the 'guilty' should be

punished. Incidentally, 'Deshabhimani' published the report after the elderly woman also with her friend slammed the Pinarayi Vijayan government over arrears in social welfare pension of ₹1,600 a month. As a mark of protest, the two elderly women posed with begging bowls with a caption that they have no money and hence are resorting to begging at their home town in Idukki.

She became upset with the party mouthpiece after it published a report that Mariyakutty owns 1.5 acres of land and two houses, and her daughter is based out of Switzerland.

The report further alleged that she has joined

with the Congress to malign the state government's reputation.

The video of the two women begging went viral, giving fodder to the Congress to attack the Vijayan-led government. Upset by the 'Deshabhimani' article, Mariyakutty had approached the local village officer and submitted an application to trace her land and other assets. After the due process of inspection, the authorities issued a certificate stating that she doesn't own any assets. Then came the news that her daughter stays in Adimali (Idukki), and not in Switzerland as claimed, and makes a living by selling lottery tickets.

While Deshabhimani later came out with an apology, Mariyakutty said that she will file two cases, one against the party mouthpiece in a local court, and another in the Kerala High Court seeking disbursement of monthly social welfare pension on time.

After being deserted by her husband 36 years ago, Mariyakutty toiled hard to raise her four children.

Government of Odisha No. O-1604
"e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 12 of 2023-24

1	Number of Works	: 31 Nos. of Building & Road Work
2	Estimated Cost (Approx.)	: Rs.5.03 to Rs.20.87 lakh (Approx.)
3	Period of Completion	: Mentioned against NIT Table Col. 06
4	Date & time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	: 15.12.2023 at 11.00 hrs.
5	Last date & time for receipt of Bids in the portal	: 26.12.2023 at 15.00 hrs.
6	Date of Opening of Tender	: 26.12.2023 at 16.00 hrs.
7	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Jagatsinghpur

Further details can be seen from the Government website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division, Jagatsinghpur
OIPR-25056/11/0026/2324

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, RAYAGADA
PIN Code - 765001, ODISHA
Tel. No./Fax No.: 06856-235067
E-mail ID: rayagadam.hud@nic.in
No. 5703 Dt.: 22.11.2023

2nd CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 5231, DATED: 13.11.2023

1. Schedule - 1 of Financial Bid Table B (Material Component) As per revised schedule of rates 2022 published by works department Odisha, the per hour rate of Tractor with Trolley is modified of Rs.357.55.

2. New point as Sl. No. 1.27 has been added in Chapter - 1 General Terms & Conditions that All kinds of revised rate will be applicable to the tenderer as notified by the Government of Odisha from time to time. The corrigendum applies to all 6 zones and other terms & conditions mentioned in aforesaid notice remain unchanged.

Sd./- Executive Officer, Rayagada Municipality
OIPR-13150/11/0035/2324

No. O-1605 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email id: eorwgunpur@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GUNUPUR
e-Procurement Notice for Repair & Maintenance of Roads & Buildings Works

Lr. No. 4027 (Tender SERWGNP - Online - 04/2023-24) Date: 20.11.2023

1.	Name of the Work	: Repair & Maintenance of Roads & Buildings Works
2.	Total No. of Works	: 50 Nos. (Percentage rate tender)
3.	Estimated Cost	: As mentioned in Col. 3 of TCN Annexure
4.	Class of Contractor	: As mentioned in Col. 5 of TCN Annexure
5.	Period of Completion	: As mentioned in Col. 4 of TCN Annexure
6.	EMD	: As mentioned in Col. 6 of TCN Annexure
7.	Paper Cost	: As mentioned in Col. 7 of TCN Annexure
8.	Other details	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur	SERWGNP Online 04/2023-24	01.12.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	12.12.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	13.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

9. The amount put to tender is exclusive of 18% GST. The intending bidder should offer their rates which shall be exclusive of GST applicable as per norms. GST as applicable on works contract shall be paid over the bill amount at the time of payment of bill. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any subsequent addendum or corrigendum will be made available in the above website.

OIPR-25170/11/0007/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Gunupur

NTPC Limited is looking for Assistant Mine Surveyor for Coal Mining areas under NTPC Mining Limited (NML)

Required Qualification: Degree in Civil/Mining Engineering from a recognized University/Institution with Surveyor's Certificate of Competency issued by DGMS for Open Cast Coal Mines.

No. of Posts: 11

Level/Pay Scale for Recruitment: E0 Level/IDA (Rs. 30,000-1,20,000).

How to Apply: Interested candidates should log on to our website careers.ntpc.co.in or visit careers section at www.ntpc.co.in for viewing the eligibility criteria, full text of the advertisement and for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted. The online application portal will remain open from 24.11.2023 to 08.12.2023. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will only be published on our website.

NTPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise) **Leading the Power Sector**

NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 Visit us at: www.ntpc.co.in

@ntplimited @ntpl ntpcltd ntpclimited company/ntpc @ntpc_limited

IREL (India) Limited
(A Government of India Undertaking-Dept. of Atomic Energy)
Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400028
CIN:U15100MH1950GOI008187

Advt.No.CO/HRM/22/2023

IREL (India) Limited, a Miniratna-I CPSE, invites online applications from experienced finance professionals for the following positions. Last date of submission of applications is 15.12.2023.

Name of the Post	Grade	No. of Post
Chief Manager (Finance)	E-5	1 (UR)
Senior Manager (Finance)	E-4	2UR, 1 OBC (NCL)
Manager (Finance)	E-3	1 (UR)
Assistant Manager (Finance)	E-1	2UR, 1 OBC (NCL)

Eligible and interested candidates are requested to visit Career section of IREL website www.irel.co.in for details and applying. * Applicants who have already applied for the finance posts vide advertisement No. CO/HRM/18/2023 notified during June 2023 are not required to apply again. Their applications will also be considered for screening and selection alongwith the fresh applications received against this notification. cbc 48129/12/0041/2324

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, RAYAGADA
C-1906 PIN CODE-765001, ODISHA
Tel No./Fax No- 06856 235067, E-mail ID- rayagadam.hud@nic.in
No. 5669 Dt. 21.11.2023

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO 5231 DATED 13.11.2023

1. New point as Sl.No.13 has been added in Eligibility Criteria that: The Bidder should submit last 3 months EPF payment confirmation slip i.e. From July 2023 to September 2023.

2. New point as Sl.No. 14 has been added in Eligibility Criteria that: The Bidder who score at least 50 marks out of 100 marks in Technical Evaluation shall qualify for financial bid opening.

3. The condition mentioned Sl.No. 3.3.1 in Chapter-03 In the Financial bid, the bidder with the lowest price shall be awarded the contract. However in the case two or more bidders quote the same lowest price, then the bidder secured with the higher mark in the technical evaluation shall be awarded the contract. However, if both the technical marks and quoted rate in the financial bid of the bidders will be same, then in that case, the selection of the tender shall be decided on the basis of transparency lottery system.

4. Technical Evaluation sheet (Annexure-A) added in Check List of Page No. 16.

The details of the Corrigendum and Technical Evaluation can be seen at website www.rayagadam.nic.in & www.rayagadamunicipality.in

This Corrigendum applies to all 6 Zones and other terms & conditions mentioned in aforesaid notice remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Officer
Rayagada Municipality
OIPR-13150/11/0034/2324

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BELPAHAR
Ph.: 06645-356292, Fax: 06645-250236
Email: municipalitybelpahar@gmail.com
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID REFERENCE NO. EO/BPHM/08/23-24
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 2023, ORULB, 97345
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 3774 DT.21.11.2023

No. C-1910: Bid documents consisting of specification, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in the Govt. website i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Name of the Work	: Individual Civil Construction Works
No. of Works	: 17 Nos.
Bid Value	: As per DTCN
Period of Completion	: As per DTCN
Date & time of availability of the bid documents in the portal	: From Dt.23.11.2023 at 10.00 A.M. to Dt.02.12.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
Submission of Original Financial documents (Bid Cost & EMD) by Regd. Post/Speed Post	: On or before Dt.06.12.2023 upto 5.00 P.M. on working days.
Bids received online shall be opened on	: 11.00 A.M. on Dt.07.12.2023
Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, Belpahar Municipality

Further the details can be seen from the procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. If any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender shall be publish in the above website only.

Sd./- Executive Officer, Belpahar Municipality
OIPR-13050/11/0005/2324

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, PHULBANI FOREST DIVISION
Phone: 06842-253617 (Off.), Cell: 9437065299
Email: dfo.phulbani@odisha.gov.in

SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 05/DFO/PLB/CAMPA-2023-24, Dated: 21.11.2023

No. MM-301: The Divisional Forest Officer, Phulbani Forest Division, Phulbani in the District of Kandhamal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids to be received in Online mode for following works from eligible & experienced contractors in similar nature of work registered with State Govt. & Contractor of equivalent Grant/Class registered with Central Govt./Railways. Short tender notice is invited owing to shortage of work days for completion of the infrastructure works.

1	Nature of Work	: Construction of Barrack at Ranipathar of Sudrukumpa Range
2	No. of Work	: 01 (One)
3	Period of Completion	: 03 (Three) Calendar Months or 90 days for each work
4	Cost of Tender Paper	: Rs.6000/- (Six thousands) only for each work
5	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	: Rs.21.05 Lakh
6	Class of Contractor	: D & C Only
7	Date & time of availability of bid document in portal	: 11 A.M. of 24.11.2023 to 17.00 P.M. of 04.12.2023
8	Receipt of bid, bid cost, bid security documents etc.	: Online only
9	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid	: 05.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
10	Other details	: As mentioned in DTCN www.tendersodisha.gov.in www.odishaforest.in www.kandhamal.nic.in
11	Online/Website details	: www.tendersodisha.gov.in www.odishaforest.in www.kandhamal.nic.in
12	Any Addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation	: Shall be mentioned in above websites
13	Concession if any	: 10% concession to SC/ST contractors over General category contractors only on submission of affidavit.
14	Authority to accept/reject any tender	: Divisional Forest Officer, Phulbani Forest Division

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Phulbani Forest Division
OIPR-08098/11/0006/2324



Israeli soldiers are seen in Balata, a Palestinian refugee camp in Nablus, West Bank. An agreement for a four-day ceasefire in Gaza and the release of dozens of hostages held by militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel appeared to have hit a last-minute snag. A senior Israeli official said it would not take effect until Friday, a day later than originally announced



Residents at a flooded locality after incessant rains, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Members of different organisations shout slogans during a protest march towards the Consulate of the United States to express their solidarity with Palestine, in Kolkata, West Bengal



Protesters clash with police in a rally demanding a restoration of Nepal's monarchy in Kathmandu, Nepal. Riot police used batons and tear gas to halt tens of thousands of supporters of Nepal's former king demanding the restoration of the monarchy and the nation's former status as a Hindu state



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, aboard a bulldozer, participates in a roadshow in support of BJP candidate from Jhotwara constituency Rajavardhan Singh Rathore ahead of Rajasthan Assembly elections, in Jaipur



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Seychelles Sylvestre Radegonde witness signing of an MoU between India and Seychelles during a meeting, in New Delhi



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam on Delhi-Gurgaon expressway at Sirhaul Toll Plaza amid smog, in Gurugram, Haryana

of the day quote

The BJP has not been able to fulfil any of its promises to the people. That is why now they are into halal and hijab issues



MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

Since Bihar BJP leaders claim they also supported both bills in the assembly as well as the council, the Centre must make its intent clear on the issue without any delay



TEJASHWI YADAV | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

In the last five years, the Congress has worked with the policy of appeasement and corruption. The people of Rajasthan are very upset with this



AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Fire breaks out in 24-storey building

Mumbai: At least 11 people suffered from suffocation after a fire broke out at a 24-storey residential building in central Mumbai's Byculla area in the early hours of Thursday, officials said. All of them were admitted to hospitals and their condition was stated to be stable.

Giriraj demands ban on halal products

Patna: Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh Thursday asked Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to ban the sale of "halal certified" products, calling it a "jihad" aimed at the "Islamisation of businesses". Singh, who represents the state's Begusarai Lok Sabha seat, also shared on X a copy of a letter he wrote to Kumar Wednesday, urging him to take a leaf out of the book of Yogi Adityanath government in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh.

Campaigning in Rajasthan ends

Jaipur: The high-pitch electoral campaign in Rajasthan for the November 25 assembly elections came to an end Wednesday evening with the BJP going all out to wrest power from the Congress, which is trying to end the state's anti-incumbency trend. While the ruling Congress focused its election campaign mainly on the works and performance of the Ashok Gehlot government, its schemes and programmes and also banked on the promise of seven guarantees if the party retains power, the BJP attacked the Congress on issues such as crime against women, appeasement, corruption and paper leak.

Partha's judicial custody extended

Kolkata: A special court in Kolkata Thursday extended the judicial custody of former West Bengal Education Minister Chatterjee till December 7 in connection with the multi-crore cash for school jobs case in which the once Trinamool strongman is a prime suspect. Chatterjee's counsel did not move any bail petition on behalf of his client Thursday. Instead, he moved a plea seeking proper medical treatment of his client in the prison where he is lodged. Chatterjee especially stressed on physiotherapy and kidney-related treatment within the jail premises.

12 shops gutted

Etawah: Twelve shops have been gutted in a fire at the Nai Mandi complex here in Uttar Pradesh, a senior official said Thursday. No casualties were reported in the incident that took place Wednesday night.



They (BJP) even tried to saffronise the team by introducing saffron practice jerseys. The players resisted, and as a result, they did not have to wear those jerseys during the matches

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

SAME-SEX MARRIAGES VERDICT REVIEW PLEA

A petition seeking review of the October 17 verdict refusing to accord legal recognition to same-sex marriages by queer couples was Thursday mentioned before the Supreme Court for an open court hearing



U'KHAND TUNNEL COLLAPSE

Another hurdle halts rescue work

THE DRILLING WORK TO PULL OUT 41 TRAPPED WORKERS ENCOUNTERED OBSTACLES, WHICH RESULTED IN A TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF RESCUE EFFORTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Boring through the rubble of the collapsed Silkyara tunnel was put on hold again Thursday apparently after cracks appeared in the platform on which the drilling machine rests, in a fresh hurdle to the rescue of 41 workers trapped inside for 11 days. The dampener came hours after the operation resumed earlier in the day, following a six-hour delay to cut through an iron girder that came in the way of the auger machine late Wednesday night.

This is the third time that the drilling exercise has been halted since the multi-agency rescue mission began November 12 after a stretch of the under-construction tunnel in Uttarakhand's Char Dham route collapsed.

According to one official the drilling was stopped Thursday to "stabilise" the platform on which the 25-tonne drilling machine is mounted. Some cracks apparently appeared in the structure, but there was no official confirmation.

In the afternoon, a government press statement in Delhi said minor vibrations were noticed at 1.10 pm and the auger was being pushed slightly back to "reassess the force to be applied". It said the operation will then restart. Before the setback, officials were looking at the possibility of the operation ending



during Thursday night - provided no more obstacles emerged during the drilling as it entered the last stretch of 10 to 12 metres. "I expect that in the next few hours or by tomorrow, we will be successful in this operation," National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) member Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain said in Delhi, even as warned that there could be more hurdles that could delay it.

Former advisor with the Prime Minister's Office Bhaskar Khulbe, who was at the site, said an iron obstruction that came in the path of the drill on Wednesday night had been removed. At 10 am, he told reporters it would take 12 to 14 hours of drilling and about three hours on top of that for the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to evacuate the workers.

State government's nodal officer Neel Neeraj Khairwal told reporters at around 2 pm that drilling had progressed by 1.8 metre after the setback Wednesday night at the 45-metre mark. Another official said the drill had covered 48 metres.

Section-by-section, a steel pipe was being pushed through the rubble as the auger machine drilled. Once the chute emerges from the other end, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) men will enter it to help bring out the trapped workers one by one. The workers would lie on low, wheeled stretchers that will be pulled out of the horizontal chute using ropes.

The trapped workers are being sent food, medicines and other essentials through a new six-inch wide tube, which is also being used for communication.

Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways V K Singh and NDRF Director General Atul Karwal were at Silkyara Thursday to review the rescue effort. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also arrived in Silkyara. The CM asked two workers, Gabbar Singh Negi and Saba Ahmad, about the condition of others and praised them for keeping their morale up. The drilling and insertion of 800-mm wide pipes from the Silkyara end was first put on hold Friday afternoon when the auger machine encountered a hard obstacle around the 22-metre mark, creating vibrations in the tunnel that caused safety concerns.

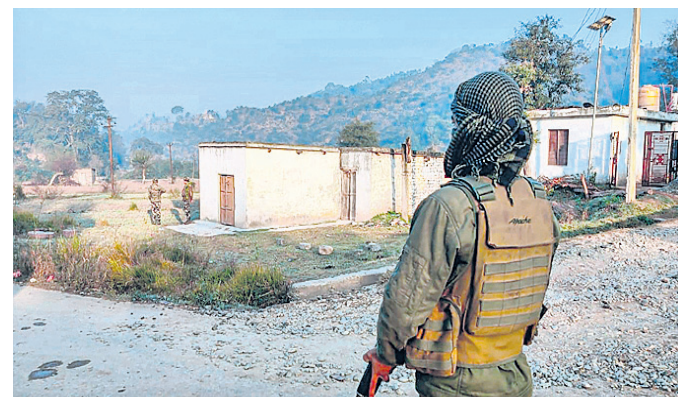
The drilling resumed around midnight Tuesday but then there was the other, relatively minor, second setback the next night.

At the disaster site, International tunneling expert Arnold Dix told PTI that the machine was facing "some difficulties", stressing that it has not been designed to be put through this level of stress.

When the workers come out, they will be rushed in ambulances under police escort through a 'green corridor' to a 41-bed special ward set up at the community health centre in Chinyalisaur in Uttarkashi district. If needed, they will then be transferred to other medical facilities. The NDRF chief earlier said the trapped workers appeared to be in good spirits.

J&K ENCOUNTER

Death toll rises to 5; two terrorists killed



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, Nov 23: Two terrorists, including a top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander trained in Afghanistan, and a soldier were killed in a gunfight during an operation by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district Thursday, officials said.

With the soldier's death, the number of army personnel killed in the anti-terror operation that began Wednesday in the Dharmasal belt's Bajimaal area has increased to five.

The officials said firing was halted in the night and the area was put under cordon. Firing resumed Thursday morning, and two terrorists were eliminated, they said and added that a soldier was also killed in the operation.

The area was cordoned off and more security personnel were deployed in the night to ensure the terrorists do not es-

cape from the thickly forested area, the officials said.

On the LeT commander, a defence spokesman said he has been identified as Quari, a Pakistan national and hardcore terrorist. "He has been trained on the Pakistan and Afghanistan front. He is a highly ranked terrorist leader of the Lashkar-e-Taiba," he said.

Quari, a top LeT commander, was active in Rajouri-Poonch along with his group for the past one year, police said, adding that he is also believed to be the mastermind of Dangri and Kandi attacks. He was sent to revive terrorism in the region, they said. Quari was an expert in IEDs, a trained sniper and operated from caves.

The identity of the other terrorist is being verified.

On Wednesday, four army personnel, including two captains, were killed and two others injured in the operation against the terrorists in the

SNIPPETS

SC adjourns PMLA verdict reconsideration

New Delhi: In a twist after two days of arguments, the Supreme Court Thursday adjourned by eight weeks the hearing on pleas seeking reconsideration of the July 27, 2022 verdict that had upheld the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) powers to arrest and attach property under the PMLA, after the Centre sought time to respond to the issues raised. "I am doing it with a heavy heart and I have not done this in my tenure," Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who was heading a three-judge bench, said while pronouncing the order. The top court deferred the hearing, which continued since Wednesday, after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, sought time to address the arguments raised by the petitioners in detail.

Tussle over Gurdwara control turns violent

Sultanpur Lodhi (Kapurthala): A home guard jawan was killed while four policemen suffered injuries when a group of Nihangs resorted to "unprovoked" firing at them in Punjab's Kapurthala early Thursday, officials said. Five people were arrested in the incident, they said. According to police, there was a dispute between two factions of Nihangs over the possession of Gurdwara Akal Bunga Sahib here. The incident took place when policemen tried to get the gurdwara vacated from a faction of Nihangs led by Baba Mann Singh.

Accused facing Interpol notice brought back

New Delhi: A murder accused facing an Interpol Red Notice was brought back from Saudi Arabia Thursday in an operation coordinated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), officials said. Sudheesh Ramachandran (38) was wanted by the Kerala Police in a 2006 murder case registered at the Thumba police station in Thiruvananthapuram November 30 that year, they said. It is alleged that Ramachandran had attacked Muralidharan Nair over old enmity and inflicted serious injuries to his head and legs. Nair succumbed to the injuries during treatment at a government hospital. The Red Notice was issued against him May 26, 2021, on the request of the Kerala Police.



Railway and NDRF personnel during a joint mock drill organised at Mawaiya's railway yard, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Chlorine disinfectant fails to tackle fatal hosp superbug

Clostridium difficile, also known as C. Diff, is a microbe that causes diarrhea, colitis and other bowel complications and is known to infect millions of people all over the world each year

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 23: One of the primary chlorine disinfectants currently being used to clean hospital scrubs and surfaces does not kill the most common cause of antibiotic-associated illness in health care settings globally, according to a study.

Researchers at the University of Plymouth in the UK found that spores of *Clostridioides difficile*, commonly known as *C. Diff*, are completely unaffected despite being treated with high concentrations of bleach used in



many hospitals.

They found that the chlorine chemicals are no more effective at damaging the spores when used as a surface disinfectant than using water with no additives.

The study, published in the journal *Microbiology*, shows that

susceptible people working and being treated in clinical settings might be unknowingly placed at risk of contracting the superbug.

With incidence of disinfectant overuse only serving to fuel rises in antimicrobial resistance

(AMR) worldwide, the researchers call for urgent study to find alternative strategies to disinfect *C. Diff* spores in order to break the chain of transmission in clinical environments.

"With incidence of anti-microbial resistance on the rise, the threat posed by superbugs to human health is increasing," said Tina Joshi, Associate Professor at the University of Plymouth, who carried out the study with Humaira Ahmed, a fourth-year Medicine student at the university.

"But far from demonstrating that our clinical environments are clean and safe for staff and patients, this study highlights the ability of *C. Diff* spores to tolerate disinfection at in-use and recommended active chlorine concentrations," Joshi said.

C. Diff is a microbe that causes diarrhea, colitis and other bowel complications and is known to infect millions of people all over the world each year.

The study examined spore response of three different strains of *C. Diff* to three clinical in-use concentrations of sodium hypochlorite.

The spores were then spiked onto surgical scrubs and patient gowns, examined using scanning electron microscopes to establish if there were any morphological changes to the outer spore coat.

"Understanding how these spores and disinfectants interact is integral to practical management of *C. Diff* infection and reducing the burden of infection in health care settings," Joshi said.

"However, there are still unanswered questions regarding the extent of biocide tolerance within *C. Diff* and whether it is affected by antibiotic co-tolerance. With AMR increasing globally, the need to find those answers—both for *C. Diff* and other superbugs—has never been more pressing," she added.

ED summons Prakash Raj

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 23: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned actor Prakash Raj for questioning in a money laundering case linked to an alleged Rs 100-crore ponzi and fraud case against a Tiruchirappalli-based jewellery group, official sources said Thursday.

The investigation pertains to a case against Pranav Jewellers, a partnership firm based in Tiruchirappalli, whom the ED raided November 20 and claimed to have seized "unexplained" cash of Rs 23.70 lakh and some gold jewellery. According to sources, the ED wants to record his statement and understand some purported payments made by the company to the Bengaluru-based actor-politician and some other financial transactions. The ED case stems from an FIR of the Tamil Nadu Police Economic Offences Wing.

international



G20 members must give high priority to development cooperation and oppose the politicisation of development issues
LI QIANG | CHINESE PREMIER

PAKISTAN EYES BRICS MEMBERSHIP

Pakistan has applied for BRICS membership and sought Russia's support for the same, said the country's envoy to Moscow, Muhammad Khalid Jamali, according to a media report



of the day quote

After meeting with China's President Xi Jinping, I hope to collaborate with China on upgrading nation's shipyards and ports
SITIVENI RABUKA | PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI

Nepal wants to develop cordial and friendly relations not only with India and China but also with all other countries in the world, including the US, on the basis of mutual benefits
NARAYAN PRAKASH SAUD | NEPAL FOREIGN MINISTER

Tunisia doesn't want to be Europe's border guard to slow migration
KAIS SAIED | TUNISIA'S PRESIDENT

Ceasefire to begin Friday: Qatar

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Nov 23: A four-day ceasefire in Gaza between Israel and Hamas will begin Friday morning, Qatar said, a day later than originally announced, as negotiators worked out final details of the deal, which is to lead to the release of dozens of hostages held by militants and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

The diplomatic breakthrough promised some relief for the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza who have endured weeks of Israeli bombardment, as well as families in Israel fearful for the fate of their loved ones taken captive during Hamas' October 7 attack that triggered the war.

The deal appeared to hit a last-minute snag when Israel's national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, announced a one-day delay late Wednesday, without providing a reason. The cease-fire was originally set to begin Thursday morning.

On Thursday, Majed al-Ansari, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of Qatar, which played



Palestinians look for survivors after an Israeli strike on the Gaza Strip in Rafah, Thursday

a key role in mediating with Hamas, announced the ceasefire will start at 7 a.m. local time Friday (5 a.m. GMT).

He said the two sides had exchanged lists of those to be released, and the first group of hostages held by Hamas — including 13 women and children — would be freed Friday afternoon. Increased aid for Palestinians will start to enter "as soon as possible," al-Ansari

said. The Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, meanwhile, resumed its detailed count of Palestinian casualties from the war, saying over 13,300 have been killed.

The new numbers were not fully broken down, but in past tallies, women and minors have consistently made up around two-thirds of the dead.

The figures do not include updated numbers from hospitals

in the north, where services and communication largely broke down earlier this month. The ministry says some 6,000 people have been reported missing and are feared to be buried under rubble. The ministry does not differentiate between civilians and militants in its death tolls. Israel says it has killed thousands of Hamas fighters, without presenting evidence for its count.

The ministry stopped publishing casualty counts as of November 11, saying it had lost the ability to do so because of the collapse of the health sector in the north.

The truce agreement had raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, which has levelled vast swaths of Gaza, fuelled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

Wilders wins big in Dutch elections

Wilders got a standing ovation, cake and sparkling wine when he met his lawmakers at the parliament building Thursday morning



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Hague, Nov 23: Anti-Islam populist Geert Wilders said Thursday he is ready to join the next Dutch coalition government after he surged to a huge election victory that marked a stunning lurch to the far right for a nation once famed as a beacon of tolerance.

The result is sending shockwaves through Europe, where extremist right-wing ideology is putting pressure on democracies that now face the possibility of having to deal with the first far-right prime minister of the Netherlands.

"It is going to happen that the PVV is in the next Cabinet," Wilders said, using the Dutch abbreviation for his Party for Freedom. With nearly all votes counted, Wilders' party was forecast to win 37 seats in the 150-seat lower house of parliament, more than double the 17 the party secured in the last election.

Wilders got a standing ovation, cake and sparkling wine when he met his lawmakers at the parliament building Thursday morning. "Can you imagine it? 37 seats!" he said to cheers. Other political parties were holding separate meetings to discuss the election's outcome before what is likely to be an arduous process of forming a new governing coalition begins Friday.

Wilders' election programme included calls for a referendum on the Netherlands leaving the European Union, a total halt to

accepting asylum-seekers and migrant pushbacks at Dutch borders.

It also advocates the "de-Islamization" of the Netherlands. He says he wants no mosques or Islamic schools in the country, although he has been milder about Islam during this election campaign than in the past.

One of the most prominent Muslim organisations in the Netherlands said it had received emails expressing support since the election result. "That's reassuring," the Contact Group Muslims and Government said in a statement. "In addition, Mr Wilders has said that he will become prime minister of all Dutch people, regardless of their religion, sex or colour. The Netherlands is a state governed by the rule of law and we trust that it is a tolerant country."

In a statement on its website, the Dutch branch of Amnesty International said: "Yesterday human rights lost. A racist party won the Dutch elections." Although known for his harsh rhetoric, Wilders began courting other right-wing and centrist parties by saying in a victory speech that whatever policies he pushes will be "within the law and constitution".

His victory appeared based on his campaign to curtail migration — the issue that caused the last governing coalition to quit in July — and to tackle issues such as the Netherlands' cost-of-living crisis and housing shortages.

SHORT TAKES

India launches Millets Festival

Jakarta: India has launched a five-day Millets Festival here in the Indonesian capital to raise awareness for millets as a farmer-friendly and sustainable food choice and create a market for millets-based products among the 10-member ASEAN bloc. The Indian Mission to ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare have jointly organised the 'ASEAN-India Millets Festival' starting November 22 during which a Millet-centric exhibition is being held featuring participation from Millet-based FPOs, start-ups and Indian chefs.

NZ ends talks to form govt

Wellington: Three New Zealand political parties Thursday concluded weeks of negotiations to form a government and will announce the details in a signing ceremony on Friday. "The parties are now going through their respective party processes for final sign-off and we expect that process to be completed this evening," said a joint statement issued by leaders of the three parties, National's Christopher Luxon, ACT's David Seymour and NZ First's Winston Peters.

Four kids dead

Manila: Four children, including an 11-month-old infant, were killed and two others injured in a fire that erupted at a residential complex in Cebu City in the central Philippines Thursday, authorities said.

Three killed in Russian attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Nov 23: A Russian attack using cluster munitions killed three people Thursday in a suburb of Ukraine's southern city of Kherson, a Ukrainian official said, bringing the number of civilians to die in a day of war to at least six.

Five people were wounded in what Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said was heavy afternoon shelling of Kherson's Chornobayivka suburb. More than 60 residential and infrastructure buildings were damaged in the daylight attack, he said.

Cluster munitions — a type of bomb that opens in the air and releases smaller "bomblets" across a wide area — are used by both Russia and Ukraine, which has received them as military aid from the United States. Critics say the weapons litter the ground and harm and kill many more civilians than combatants.

Kherson city is the capital of a region of the same name that is located on the Dnieper River near the mouth of the Black Sea and a key gateway to Crimea. Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and uses it for logistics operations and rear supply depots during the current war.



West Australian firefighters watch as grassland burns near the West Australian city of Wannaroo, north of Perth in the early hours of Thursday. Dozens of residents have been evacuated and at least 10 homes have been destroyed by a wildfire that is burning out of control on the northern fringe of the west coast city of Perth during heatwave spring conditions, authorities say

2 dead in car explosion at US-Canada border

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 21: A speeding car crashed in flames on the bridge linking New York state and Ontario at Niagara Falls on Wednesday, killing two people in the vehicle and sparking a security scare that closed four US-Canadian border crossings and New York's Buffalo International Airport.

Hours later federal and state authorities said investigators had found no evidence of an act of terror, though circumstances surrounding the crash on the Rainbow Bridge remained murky, leaving it to be determined whether it was accidental or intentional.



"At this time, there is no indication of a terrorist attack" or threat to the public at large, New York Governor Kathy Hochul told reporters Wednesday evening. Her comments were echoed by federal and local law enforcement officials at a separate news conference.

The FBI said in a statement late on Wednesday it had concluded its investigation. "A search of the scene revealed no explosive materials, and no terrorism nexus was identified," the FBI said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Video of the crash caught on security camera and posted to X by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency showed the car traveling from the U.S. side at high speed, then hitting an object and flying into the air before crashing to the ground and exploding in flames.

The driver and a passenger perished in the wreck, and a CBP officer suffered minor injuries. He was treated at a nearby

hospital and released, an agency official said later. Authorities did not identify the two people killed. CNN reported the driver was a 56-year-old man who was traveling in a Bentley automobile with his wife to attend a concert by the rock group KISS.

A performance of the band scheduled for Wednesday in Toronto as part of the group's farewell tour was canceled after one of its members, Paul Stanley, came down with the flu. The crash unfolded at a time of heightened security concerns around the world stemming from the conflict in the Middle East and at the peak of U.S. holiday travel on the eve of Thanksgiving celebrations.

Indian student shot dead in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Nov 23: The 26-year-old Indian doctoral student died after being shot inside a car in the US state of Ohio, in an incident described by his medical university as "sudden, tragic and senseless".

Aaditya Adlakha was a fourth-year doctoral student in the molecular and developmental biology programme at the University of Cincinnati Medical School, according to a statement from the medical school, WXIX-TV reported.

Adlakha died earlier this month at the UC Medical Center, according to the Hamilton County Coroner's Office. On November 9, Cincinnati Police Lt. Jonathan Cunningham said officers found a man shot inside a vehicle that crashed into a wall on the upper deck of the Western Hills Viaduct.

ShotSpotter, a gunfire locator service, reported there was gunfire in the area around 6:20 am, police said.

Drivers passing by called 911 to report a vehicle that had bullet holes in it with a person inside who had been shot, said Cunningham.

Adlakha was transported to UC Medical Center where he was in critical condition and was pronounced dead two days later. No arrests have been made since the shooting was reported, local media reports said.

"Today, you might have seen news reports of his sudden, tragic and senseless death. Those who knew him, along with fellow students and others who may not have had the fortune to have met Aaditya, may experience a wide variety of reactions, which are understandable and expected," Senior Vice President of Health Affairs and Dean, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Andrew Filak said.

WHO asks China for detail on respiratory illness outbreaks

OUTSIDE SCIENTISTS SAID THE SITUATION WARRANTED CLOSE MONITORING, BUT WERE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE RECENT SPIKE IN RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES IN CHINA SIGNALLED THE START OF A NEW GLOBAL OUTBREAK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Nov 23: The World Health Organization says it has made an official request to China for information about a potentially worrying spike in respiratory illnesses and clusters of pneumonia in children.

The UN health agency cited unspecified media reports and a global infectious disease monitoring service as reporting clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia in children in northern China. In a statement late Wednesday, WHO said it was unclear whether those were linked to a rise in respiratory infections reported by Chinese authorities.

Outside scientists said the situation warranted close monitoring, but were not convinced that the recent spike in respiratory illnesses in China signalled the start of a new global outbreak. The emergence of new flu strains or other viruses capable of triggering pandemics typically starts with undiagnosed clusters of respiratory illness. Both SARS and COVID-19 were first reported as unusual types of pneumonia.

WHO noted that authorities at China's National Health Commission on November 13 reported an increase in respiratory diseases, which they said



was due to the lifting of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Other countries also saw a jump in respiratory diseases such as respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, when pandemic restrictions ended.

WHO said media reports about a week later reported clusters of undiagnosed pneumonia in children in northern China. "It is unclear if these are associated with the overall increase in res-

piratory infections previously reported by Chinese authorities, or separate events," WHO said, adding that it had requested more details from China about currently circulating viruses and any increased burden on hospitals, via an international legal mechanism.

Dr. David Heymann of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine said there was a likely background of sea-

sonal respiratory infections. "The challenge is to discern the outbreaks and determine the cause," Heymann said in a statement, adding that genetic sequencing and isolating cases would be critical. He led WHO's response to the 2002-2003 SARS outbreak.

Francois Balloux of University College London said the current wave of disease in China was likely due to respiratory illnesses like flu, RSV or a bacterial infection. He said China was probably experiencing a significant wave of childhood infections since this was the first winter since lockdown restrictions were lifted, which likely reduced children's immunity to common bugs.

"Unless new evidence emerges, there is no reason to suspect the emergence of a novel pathogen," Balloux said. WHO said that northern China has reported a jump in influenza-like illnesses since mid-October compared to the previous three years. It is rare for the U.N. Health agency

to publicly ask for more detailed information from countries, as such requests are typically made internally.

The outbreaks have swamped some hospitals in northern China, including in Beijing, and health authorities have asked the public to take children with less severe symptoms to clinics and other facilities.

The average number of patients in the internal medicine department at Beijing Children's Hospital topped 7,000 per day, exceeding the hospital's capacity, state-owned China National Radio said in an online article earlier this week.

China's National Health Commission, in a written QandA posted online by the official Xinhua News Agency, suggested Thursday that children with mild symptoms "first visit primary healthcare institutions or pediatrics departments of general hospitals" because large hospitals are crowded and have long waiting times.

of the day quote

You need to create the equivalent (like Sebi) for the AI system. You need a regulator who understands the technology and, instead of wasting time predicting where it will go, pays attention to how it is evolving

SANJIV SANYAL | MEMBER, PMEAC

Led by both robust demand and increased input costs, there has been a significant surge in average housing prices across key micro-markets in the top seven cities

PRASHANT THAKUR | REGIONAL DIRECTOR & HEAD (RESEARCH), ANAROCK

I'm incredibly proud to have witnessed the record-breaking number of 10 lakh orders on magicpin under the ONDC umbrella this past month and half

ANSHOO SHARMA | CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, MAGICPIN

SHORT TAKES

Oil prices slid 1%

Washington: Oil prices dipped about 1% Thursday, extending losses after postponement of an OPEC+ meeting stoked expectations that the group might not deepen output cuts next year. Brent crude futures were down 90 cents, or about 1.1%, at \$81.06 a barrel after falling as much as 4% Wednesday. US West Texas Intermediate crude slid 86 cents, also about 1.1%, to \$76.24 after dropping as much as 5% in the previous session. In a surprise move Wednesday, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia delayed to November 30 a ministerial meeting at which they were expected to discuss oil output cuts.

Daikin's 3rd plant

New Delhi: Daikin Airconditioning India Pvt Ltd Thursday said it is set to accelerate supplies of products manufactured in the country for both domestic and international markets with the commercialisation of its third plant. The company, a wholly-owned arm of Japan's Daikin Industries Ltd said its third integrated air-conditioning and compressor manufacturing facility at Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, has been set up with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore. The new plant spread across 75.5 acres has been set up as part of a PLI scheme and it helps the company leverage on India's manufacturing potential to produce for the world.



Telecom and digital are the heartbeat of the country. If we don't have a telecom and a digital infrastructure, which is under our control, then we can end up losing our national security also

JAIMIT BHATTACHARYA | PRESIDENT, CENTRE FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY POLICY RESEARCH

LIC ON EXPANSION MODE

Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has lined up 3-4 product launches in the coming months with a view to achieve double-digit growth in new business premium in the current financial year. LIC is going to launch one product in the first week of December, hoping that it will attract a lot of traction in the market, sources said



Hybrid MFs catch investors' fancy

THE CATEGORY HAS BEEN ATTRACTING REGULAR INFLOWS SINCE APRIL AFTER A CHANGE IN TAXATION FOR DEBT FUNDS THAT KICKED OFF IN THE SAME MONTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: Hybrid mutual fund schemes have been gaining popularity among investors with the category attracting over Rs 72,000 crore in the past seven months, following a change in taxation for debt funds and huge inflow experienced in the arbitrage category. Hybrid funds are mutual fund schemes that typically invest in a combination of equity and debt securities and sometimes in other asset categories such as gold.

The category has been attracting regular inflows since April after a change in taxation for debt funds that kicked off in the same month. Before that, the segment saw a net withdrawal of Rs 12,372 crore in March.

According to the latest data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), hybrid schemes witnessed an inflow of Rs 9,907 crore in October. The category had attracted Rs 62,174 crore in the April-September period.

With this, total inflow has reached Rs 72,081 crore in the first seven months of the current financial year.

Of Rs 72,081 crore, a massive amount of Rs 48,978 crore inflow was seen in the arbitrage category, data showed.

Hybrid funds appeal more to investors with a moderate or low-risk profile.

These funds are good investment options as they reduce the volatility associated when participating in equity markets while simultaneously providing stability in the fixed-income market.

Market analysts believe that



HYBRID FUNDS ATTRACT RS 72,000CR IN PAST 7 MONTHS BEFORE THAT, IT SAW WITHDRAWAL OF RS 12,372CR INFLOW HAS PUSHED AUM OF HYBRID SCHEMES BY 19%

investors are looking to invest a portion of their fixed income exposure through hybrid funds after the change in taxation for debt funds.

Under the new rules that kicked in from April 1, debt mutual funds held for more than three years will no longer enjoy indexation benefits.

Indexation takes into account inflation during the holding period of a mutual fund unit and consequently increases the purchase price of the asset and this reduces the tax.

The inflow has pushed the Assets Under Management (AUM) of hybrid schemes by 19 per cent to Rs 5.88 lakh crore in October-end from Rs 4.94 lakh crore in April.

Within the hybrid schemes, the largest assets belong to the dynamic asset-allocation/balanced advantage category, with assets totalling Rs 2.12 lakh crore. This was followed by the balanced hybrid fund/aggressive hybrid category with assets of Rs 1.72 lakh crore.

CHOPPY SESSION

D-St surrenders gains to end flat

IT stocks lost 0.59% Thursday. They had gained 6.30% since mid-November when soft US inflation data spurred bets that the Federal Reserve may be done raising interest rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 23: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower in highly volatile trade Thursday as losses in healthcare and IT stocks were largely offset by gains in energy and metal shares amid positive global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dipped 5.43 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 66,017.81. During the day, it hit a high of 66,235.24 and a low of 65,980.50. The Nifty slipped 9.85 points or 0.05 per cent to 19,802.

"It turned out to be a dull session as the benchmark ended unchanged after trading in a narrow band. After the initial uptick, Nifty slipped lower in

no time and remained in a tight range till the end," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Among the Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC, Infosys, Titan and Asian Paints were the major laggards. IndusInd Bank, JSW Steel, Bharti Airtel, Wipro, HDFC Bank and Tata Steel were the major gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.44 per cent, and midcap index gained 0.15 per cent. Among the indices, healthcare declined 1.13 per cent, IT fell 0.46 per cent, consumer durables declined 0.44 per cent, teck (0.26 per cent),



capital goods (0.26 per cent) and power (0.11 per cent).

Realty climbed 1.22 per cent, oil & gas jumped 1.21 per cent, energy (0.84 per cent), telecommunication (0.82 per cent) and metal (0.53 per cent).

In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong set

led in the green. European markets were trading with marginal gains. The US markets ended in positive territory Wednesday.

"Range-bound momentum continued on main indexes as the market looked for new triggers for a decisive move beyond the 19,800 level. However, the broad markets' undercurrent is strong and rapid buying has emerged in the mid and small-cap counters as a bargaining strategy arose on recent underperforming stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

The BSE benchmark climbed 92.47 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 66,023.24 Wednesday. The Nifty edged higher by 28.45 points or 0.14 per cent to 19,811.85.

NEGATIVE MARGINS

India slows palm oil imports

Lower purchases by the world's biggest importer of vegetable oils could lead to higher stocks of palm oil in key producers Indonesia and Malaysia, weighing on benchmark futures which are trading near their highest in level in two months



Buyers are concerned that the recent price rise may not be sustainable, so they are placing new import orders cautiously

SANDEEP BAJORIA | CEO, SUNVIN GROUP

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 23: Indian buyers curtailed purchases of palm oil for December and January shipments due to rising prices and as refiners face negative margins after making heavy imports in the past few months, industry officials told Reuters Thursday.

"Traders are attempting to liquidate stocks accumulated at ports due to aggressive imports in recent months," Rajesh Patel, managing partner at edible oil

The landed cost of crude palm oil for December shipments on the west coast without import taxes is Rs 77,500 per metric tonne, whereas already imported oil is being offered at Rs 76,500, traders said.

Higher imports during July to September lifted vegetable oil stocks in India to 3.3 million tonne November 1 from 2.46 million tonne a year ago, according to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India.

Increasing supplies of local soyoil and cottonseed oil have also curbed import needs, he said.

India's palm oil imports in November are likely to fall to 770,000 metric tonne from 1.1 million tonne a year ago, said Patel of GGN Research.

Soyoil and sunflower oil imports in November could fall to 130,000 tonne and 150,000 tonne respectively, he said.

India buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, and soyoil and sunflower oil from Argentina, Brazil, Russia and Ukraine.

NBFCs body appeals to RBI to review risk weight increase

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 23: A representative body of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) has requested the central bank to re-evaluate the sharp increase in risk weights assigned to bank loans to NBFCs, according to a letter sent to the regulator Thursday and seen by Reuters.

The Reserve Bank of India last week increased the risk weights, or the capital that banks need to set aside for every loan disbursed, for banks and NBFCs by 25 percentage points to 125% on retail loans.



"While we understand the purpose of the Bank to regulate credit flow to the consumer sector, this measure inadvertently, also has the potential to sharply reduce flow of credit to MSMEs, self-employed and other sectors which rely upon credit from NBFCs," the letter sent to the RBI by the Finance Industry Development Council showed.

This would also increase the cost of funds to critical sectors at a time when the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) as well as self-employed segments are emerging from the pandemic impact, FIDC said.

"We would request the RBI to kindly restore the risk weight on bank loans to NBFCs where majority of the NBFCs' loan book consists of MSME loans, vehicle loans and other categories of loans that have been excluded from the purview of the aforesaid circular," the letter added.

CRICKET WORLD CUP Disney clocks record TV viewership

THE TOURNAMENT CROSSED A VIEWERSHIP OF OVER HALF A BILLION VIEWERS FOR THE FIRST TIME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: The live broadcast on television of the men's cricket world cup final between India and Australia saw more than 30 crore viewers tuning in to watch it, making it the highest-viewed match ever, Disney Star said Thursday.

The tournament crossed a viewership of over half a billion viewers for the first time as 518 million (51.8 crore) TV viewers tuned in for the live

broadcast, said Disney Star, the official broadcaster of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in a statement citing BARC data.

The live TV broadcast for the tournament garnered 422 billion minutes of watch time making it the most watched ICC Men's World Cup in the history of the event, it added.

"Over 30 crore fans tuned in to the live broadcast on TV of the final between India and Australia, making it the highest viewed match ever," the company said,

adding that the peak concurrency on TV for the final match at 13 crore surpassing the previous highest peak concurrency in the tournament with India versus Pakistan at 7.5 crore and India versus New Zealand at 8 crore.

Peak concurrency is the highest number of viewers during a live broadcast.

India lost to Australia by six wickets in the final match.

Further, the company said its streaming arm, Disney+ Hotstar, broke its own record five times through the tournament to witness a peak concurrency of 5.9 crore for the final.



"...It has been extremely encouraging to see growth across both, the linear and digital mediums, thereby increasing the fan base of cricket. This is a testament to the uniqueness of the India market where linear and digital continue to grow alongside each other. This successful

tournament has set the stage for a promising future in our association with the ICC," Disney Star Country Manager & President K Madhavan said.

Disney Star has exclusive broadcast and media rights for both linear and digital platforms.

'AI breakthrough behind OpenAI CEO ouster'

Some researchers at OpenAI believe Q* could be a breakthrough in the startup's search for what's known as artificial general intelligence

REUTERS

Washington, Nov 23: Ahead of OpenAI CEO Sam Altman's four days in exile, several staff researchers wrote a letter to the board of directors warning of a powerful artificial intelligence discovery that they said could threaten humanity, two people familiar with the matter said.

The sources cited the letter as one factor among a longer list of grievances by the board leading to Altman's firing, among which were concerns over commercializing advances before understanding the consequences.

After being contacted by Reuters, OpenAI, which declined to comment, acknowledged in an internal message to staffers a project called Q* and a letter to the board before the week-

end's events, one of the people said. An OpenAI spokesperson said that the message, sent by long-time executive Mira Murati, alerted staff to certain media stories without commenting on their accuracy.

Some at OpenAI believe Q* (pronounced Q-Star) could be a breakthrough in the startup's search for what's known as artificial general intelligence (AGI), one of the people told Reuters. OpenAI defines AGI as autonomous systems that surpass humans in most economically valuable tasks.

Given vast computing resources, the new model was able to solve certain mathematical problems, the person said on condition of anonymity because the individual was not authorized to speak on behalf of the company. Though only performing math on the level of grade-school students, acing such tests made researchers very optimistic about Q*'s future success, the source said.

Reuters could not independently verify the capabilities of Q* claimed by the researchers.



'VEIL OF IGNORANCE'

Researchers consider math to be a frontier of generative AI development. Currently, generative AI is good at writing and language translation by statistically predicting the next word, and answers to the same question can vary widely. But conquering the ability to do math — where there is only one right answer — implies AI would have greater reasoning capabilities, resembling human intelligence. This could be applied to novel scientific research, for instance, AI researchers believe.

Unlike a calculator that can solve a limited number of operations, AGI can generalize, learn and comprehend.

In their letter to the board, researchers flagged AI's prowess and potential danger, the sources

The previously unreported letter and AI algorithm were key developments before the board's ouster of Altman, the poster child of generative AI, the two sources said. Prior to his triumphant return late Tuesday, more than 700 employees had threatened to quit and join backer Microsoft in solidarity with their fired leader

said without specifying the exact safety concerns noted in the letter. There has long been discussion among computer scientists about the danger posed by highly intelligent machines, for instance if they might decide that the destruction of humanity was in their interest.

Researchers have also flagged work by an "AI scientist" team, the existence of which multiple sources confirmed. The group, formed by combining earlier "Code Gen" and "Math Gen" teams, was exploring how to optimize existing AI models to improve their reasoning and eventually perform scientific work, sources said.

Altman led efforts to make ChatGPT one of the fastest growing software applications in history

and drew investment — and computing resources — necessary from Microsoft to get closer to AGI.

In addition to announcing a slew of new tools in a demonstration this month, Altman last week teased at a summit of world leaders that he believed major advances were in sight.

"Four times now in the history of OpenAI, the most recent time was just in the last couple weeks, I've gotten to be in the room, when we sort of push the veil of ignorance back and the frontier of discovery forward, and getting to do that is the professional honor of a lifetime," he said at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

A day later, the board fired Altman.

BIZ BUZZ

RBI plays a pivotal role in India's rapid economic growth: Panda

Bhubaneswar: Subhrakant Panda, President, FICCI and Managing Director, IMFA spoke at the inaugural session of FIBAC 2023 which is the flagship event of the banking sector and is jointly organised by FICCI and the Indian Banks' Association annually in Mumbai. The event was graced by Shaktikanta Das, RBI Governor and other dignitaries like Dinesh Khara, Chairman, SBI and Amitabh Chaudhry, MD, Axis Bank among others. Panda said, "The RBI has played a key role in the evolution of the banking sector in India, and its measured actions have strengthened banks which are well positioned to support India's rapid economic growth." In his remarks, Das said RBI will maintain an unerring focus on controlling inflation even as it takes into account various external factors.



Surya shines at night

Kuldeep moves towards 'next opportunity' after heartbreak



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Visakhapatnam, Nov 23: Skipper Suryakumar Yadav shrugged off the disappointment of a World Cup final defeat with a captain's knock (80, 42b, 9x4, 4x6) but it was Rinku Singh's composure (22 n o, 14b, 4x4) that took a young Indian team to a thrilling two-wicket victory in the opening T20I here, Thursday. This was India's highest successful chase in T20Is.

The skipper was in belligerent mood making a mockery of a 209-run chase but Rinku's innings saved India from the blushes. India needed 14 off 12 balls after Surya departed but Axar Patel bungled big time and the likes of Ravi Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh also were run-out in a jiffy.

With a single needed off the final delivery, Sean Abbott was deposited into the stands by Rinku but to everyone's surprise, it turned out to be a big no-ball and hence the maximum wasn't counted. India thus won with a ball to spare. However, what stood out was Rinku's fearlessness and the sense of occasion and execution under pressure.



Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan during their partnership, Thursday

Ishan Kishan also brushed aside initial rustiness to smack five sixes and two fours in his 39-ball-58 and was an ideal companion for his skipper in a run-chase which became easy due to a flat batting track, short boundaries although there wasn't a lot of dew during the second innings.

What the 112-run stand in 10

overs between Surya and Kishan did for India was keep them at par with Australia and in the hunt for a win. But it was the hunger for a sixth six over extra cover that brought about his downfall.

His skipper, however, hit the best six of the match when he brought about his first half cen-

tury with a lofted on-drive off Sean Abbott.

Earlier, India's young bowling attack got a rude reality check as a dominant Josh Inglis smoked them to all parts of the ground with a cracking 110 (50b, 11x4, 8x6), taking Australia to a healthy 208/3.

Surya's decision to bowl first on a batting featherbed turned out to be a nightmare for the inexperienced Indian attack. They were taken to the cleaners by Inglis. The century, his first across international formats, came off 47 balls. Only pacer Mukesh Kumar (0/29 in 4 overs) held his own amid the onslaught from both ends.

The stockily built keeper-batter, brimming with confidence of an altogether different level, took a special liking for Bishnoi (1/54), who for the first time looked exposed due to his one-dimensional skill-set of consistently bowling fast googlies, with an occasional straighter one slipped in between.

Inglis had the seasoned Steve Smith (52, 41b, 8x4) for company in a stand of 130. Prasad Krishna (1/50) clearly didn't find any rhythm. In fact, it was Bishnoi who drew the first blood getting Matthew Short cleaned up with a straighter one but then Inglis devised a plan that worked wonderfully well for him.

Having been used to a stellar bowling show through the better part of the World Cup, the pasting that this second string attack received from Australia must have shaken the likes of Bishnoi and Krishna.

BRIEF SCORES

Australia 208/3 (Josh Inglis 110, Steve Smith 52; Prasad Krishna 1/50, Ravi Bishnoi 1/54) lost to India 209/8 (Suryakumar Yadav 80, Ishan Kishan 58; Tanveer Sangha 2/47) by 2 wickets.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 23: India spinner Kuldeep Yadav Thursday admitted that the pain of World Cup final defeat to Australia will linger and push him to work harder for the "next opportunity". India suffered a six-wicket loss to Australia in the summit clash in Ahmedabad, November 19.

"Our journey from Chennai to Ahmedabad ended in a disappointing result, but we take pride in our achievements over the six weeks. Despite the pain, we're determined to work harder for the next opportunity," Kuldeep said in a post on 'X'. "While the pain of defeat lingers, we must move forward; life continues, and healing takes time," said the wrist spinner.

He said dealing with the setback was tough. "The Cup was beautiful, but it seems God had other plans. Navigating this moment, it's time to switch off and recharge. Dealing with this setback is tough, but we hold onto faith, believing in the journey ahead," he said. Kuldeep played all of India's 11 matches in the World Cup and took 15 wickets at an average of 28.26.

ASHWIN BACKS ROHIT

Ravichandran Ashwin said Thursday Rohit Sharma "doesn't need to be taught to score hundreds", backing his captain to the hilt after his failure to convert a blazing start into a big score in the World Cup final against Australia attracted criticism.

Rohit was in full flow throughout the tournament and the brisk starts that India enjoyed were largely due to his pyrotechnics at the top of the order. Scoring at an incredible strike rate of 125, he amassed 597 runs in 11



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

matches.

However, Rohit received criticism from some quarters after an adventurous attempt to hit Glenn Maxwell out of the ground in the final led to his dismissal for a 31-ball 47, which set a solid foundation but from where his team could not consolidate.

"Everybody says in hindsight that he would score 100 if he carried on, but it was his intent that made the team play in such a way. Rohit Sharma doesn't need to be taught to score hundreds - he has had quite a lot - but it is the intent which counts," Ashwin said.

The seasoned off-spinner revealed he was shell-shocked by Australia's decision to bowl first in the final last Sunday, but also praised Pat Cummins and selector George Bailey for reading the pitch at Ahmedabad perfectly.

"Australia were practically outstanding in the final. I was shell-shocked to see their tactics. Australia has deceived me personally, as their history goes

by; they say 'we are going to have a bat, mate!' after winning the toss in the big finals," Ashwin said in his latest YouTube video Thursday.

"I was praying to the lord that Australia should do that, because many people do not understand that the soil in Ahmedabad was like Odisha's, as in, it played like how any soil taken from the eastern part of the country would play - if every pitch gets bounce until the knee, this would get bounce only up to the shin," he said.

"The bounce will be less, but the soil won't disintegrate because the clay does not release the moisture, but holds it," Ashwin added.

Ashwin explained why he was surprised by Australia's tactics, but also added that India becoming a 'cricket hub' of the world due to the number of bilateral series as well as the Indian Premier League (IPL) gave the overseas players insights into pitches and conditions.

DAVIS CUP TENNIS

De Minaur helps Australia rally to reach semifinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaga (Spain), Nov 23: A game away from elimination, Australia found a way to rally and make its way back to the Davis Cup semifinals. Australia came from behind to defeat the Czech Republic 2-1 and reach the last-four for the second straight year Wednesday.

Alex de Minaur recovered from a set and a break down to keep the Aussies alive, then Max Purcell and Matthew Ebden won the decisive doubles match to set up a last-four encounter with Finland Friday.

Tomas Machac defeated Jordan Thompson 6-4, 7-5 in the first singles to put the Czechs ahead, but De Minaur beat Jiri Lehecka 4-6, 7-6(7-2), 7-5, and then Purcell and Ebden - the 2022 Wimbledon champions - sealed the comeback by defeating Adam Pavlasek and Lehecka 6-4, 7-5 in the doubles.



De Minaur, the top-ranked Australian and No.12 in the world, broke back at 3-5 down in the second set and went on to force a tiebreaker. He then broke serve at 5-5 in the final set before closing out the match with four straight points.

Lehecka, No.31 in the world, finished his season early to be fully fit for the last-eight in Malaga. Machac broke Thompson's serve once in the first set and twice in the second, including at 5-5 before closing out the match in the first singles.

Australia became only the second nation, after the United States, to reach 200 tie victories in the Davis Cup. Finland upset defending champion Canada 2-1 Tuesday. Last year, Australia lost to Canada in the final after defeating Croatia in the last four.

Djokovic sets eyes on Davis Cup title



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaga (Spain), Nov 23: Novak Djokovic is not ready to start letting down just yet. The top-ranked Djokovic wants to keep his momentum going for one last week and cap a great season in style with the Davis Cup title.

Djokovic, who won three Grand Slams this year, will lead Serbia against Britain in the last quarterfinal of the Davis Cup Finals Thursday.

"It's the last week of the season so one final push is necessary from each one of us, and I'm excited because I have been play-

ing some really good tennis, particularly in the last four months," said Djokovic, who won a record-breaking seventh ATP Finals title Sunday.

"I couldn't be happier with the way I performed in the semifinals and finals of Torino, so hopefully I'm carrying this kind

of energy and performance level to the Davis Cup," he said.

Djokovic flew to Malaga shortly after his win in Turin to start preparing for the Davis Cup. "I came the next day I got a day and a half of rest and I started training right away, because obviously there is not much time to really leave the racket aside," he said. "Davis Cup has been and is one of my greatest goals of this season and always is. Hopefully I will be able to contribute to win."

Djokovic is on a 20-match winning streak in Davis Cup singles, going back to a loss via retirement to Juan Martin del Potro in Serbia's 2011 semifinal loss to Argentina. Djokovic's last loss in a completed Davis Cup singles match was in 2009. He is tied with Nenad Zimonjic at the top of the list for most Davis Cup match-wins by a Serbian player. Djokovic helped Serbia win their first Davis Cup title in 2010.

DEPLETED BRITAIN

Seeking an 11th Davis Cup trophy, and first since its drought-breaking victory in 2015, Britain will take on Serbia without Andy Murray and Dan Evans because of injuries. The Brits, aiming to reach the semifinals for the first time in four years, will be led by No.18 Cameron Norrie and No.60 Jack Draper. Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury are set to play in the doubles.

Prannoy, Satwik-Chirag in China Masters last-8



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shenzhen, Nov 23: Ace Indian shuttler HS Prannoy and Asian Games gold winning pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the quarterfinals in their respective events at the China Masters badminton tournament here Thursday.

World Championship bronze medalist Prannoy, the only surviving Indian in the men's singles event, registered a comfortable 21-12, 21-18 win over Magnus Johannesen of Denmark in the pre-quarterfinal match that lasted exactly 40 minutes.

Prannoy, seeded eighth here, will now take on third seeded Japanese Kodai Naraoka in the last eight round. Besides Prannoy, World No.5 and top seeds Satwik and Chirag also kept the Indian

flag flying by progressing to the quarterfinals of men's doubles event with 21-15, 21-16 win over Japanese duo of Akira Koga and Taichi Saito. They will next play Indonesian combination of Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin.

Against Johannesen, Prannoy started on a bright note and used his smart play to race to a 6-1 lead in the first game before the Dane reduced it to 8-6 and then to 14-11. But the Indian used all his experience and engaged his opponent in long rallies to tire him out and pocket the first game.

The second game was an intense affair as both the shuttlers fought tooth and nail till 15 points and then were tied at 18 apiece before Prannoy got the better of his opponent to close out the contest and seal his quarterfinal spot.

BIPLAB, DEBABRATA LEAD ODISHA TO 4-WICKET WIN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 23: Odisha skipper Biplab Samantray (5/32) and Debabrata Pradhan (4/14) shared nine wickets between them to help Odisha register a convincing four-wicket victory over Tripura in a match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy in Bangalore, Thursday.

Odisha invited Wriddhiman Saha-led Tripura to bat first after winning the toss. Debabrata and his new-ball partner Rajesh Mohanty (0/13 in 6 overs) justified his skipper's call with superb bowling.

Prayash Singh, who came to bowl at first change, was the other wicket taker for Odisha. Later, Biplab came into action and stole the show

with a five-wicket haul. Manishankar Murasingh was the top scorer for Tripura with 24. Saha, who changed his team from Bengal to Tripura, was the second best having 14 runs to his name.

In response, Odisha too found themselves in a place of bother when they were reduced to 16/3 inside four overs.

However, Subhranshu Senapati (41) and Biplab steadied the ship with a 56-run stand for the fourth wicket before the skipper headed back to pavilion.

Odisha eventually got over the line in the 24th over despite having a couple more hiccups. Murasingh (2/19) and Rana Dutta (2/25) bowled well for the losing side.

Barca, Real return to league action

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona (Spain), Nov 23: Barcelona and Real Madrid will be without three of their top young players when the Spanish league returns this weekend, after they were injured during the international break.

Barcelona lost 19-year-old Gavi for the rest of the season when the all-terrain midfielder tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee and damaged his lateral meniscus during Spain's final European Championship qualifier. Spain was already qualified for next year's tournament in Germany before it beat Georgia 3-1 Sunday.

National team coach Luis de la Fuente has come under criticism in Spain's sports media for not substituting Gavi when his knee buckled inward during a colli-



XAVI HERNANDEZ



CARLO ANCELOTTI

sion with an opponent. He played on for a few minutes only to collapse in tears before limping off. He will now undergo surgery that will most likely also rule him out for Spain at Euro 2024.

Gavi, despite his age, has emerged as a key player for Spain and for his club. He is Barcelona's best tackler in midfield and replacing him will be no easy task

for coach Xavi Hernandez.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen is also doubtful after he hurt his back while with Germany. If he cannot play at the 10th-placed Rayo, then rarely used Inaki Pena will be in goal.

Barcelona visit Rayo Vallecano Saturday. They sit third in the league standings, four points behind surprising leader Girona

and two points behind Real. Real travel to 16th-placed Cadix Sunday needing to find replacements for forward Vinicius Junior and multi-use midfielder Eduardo Camavinga.

Vinicius tore a leg muscle in his left leg during Brazil's 1-2 loss at Colombia Friday. That should sideline the player. Vinicius' injury leaves Carlo Ancelotti without one of his top scorers.

Newcomer Jude Bellingham has so far picked up the scoring load with a league-high 10 goals and 13 goals in all competitions. The 23-year-old Vinicius has chipped in with six goals overall.

The 21-year-old Camavinga tore a ligament in his right knee in training with France. His absence leaves Ancelotti without one of his most versatile players, who can play as a holding midfielder or at right back.