



THE NEXT LEVEL

Actor Ridhi Dogra says she has proven herself enough, now she needs big roles and spotlight

LEISURE P2



WAR ESCALATES

Russia launches its most intense drone attack on Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL P10



EYEING 6TH TITLE

Shuttlers Chirag Shetty and Satwik Rankireddy in final of the China Masters with convincing win over their Chinese opponents

SPORTS P12



MATTER OF FAITH: People queue up for darshan of Lord Shiva at Dhabaleswar Shrine in Cuttack on the occasion of Bada Osa, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Woman cut into 31 pieces, buried

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur/Raigarh, Nov 25: In a stark reminder of the diabolic Shradha Walkar murder case in south Delhi's Mehrauli who was strangled and her body sawed into over 35 pieces by her live-in partner, a young woman was cut into 31 pieces by her lover, a married man, and buried in a forest under Raigarh police station in Nabarangpur district, police sources said Saturday.



Accused couple has been detained and is being quizzed by Raigarh police

The dastardly crime came to light after the body parts were exhumed and seized by Raigarh police. The deceased woman has been identified as Tila Ganda, 23, daughter of Luduram Ganda, of Baghbeda village in the district. Police, after the preliminary investigation, are suspecting that the cold-blooded murder is the fallout of an extramarital affair.

and his wife are being interrogated after the couple's detention in connection with the crime.

As per sources, Tila had left her house Wednesday afternoon and was missing since then. Despite a frantic search, family members failed to locate her. In the meanwhile, some people raised an alarm in the village after spotting traces of blood in Muramdihi forest Saturday. As the news spread, Tila's family members rushed to the spot. Informed, Raigarh police and a scientific team also reached the crime spot and started a search.

one after the other when the ground was dug. A sharp-edged weapon, some wooden planks and a saree were also recovered and seized as evidence.

As per sources, Tila was in a relationship with Chandra, a father of five, for the past couple of years. This was the reason behind frequent quarrels between Chandra and his wife.

Prima facie, it appears that the victim went to the couple's house Wednesday and demanded that he marry her. To finish the matter once and for all, Chandra and his wife murdered Tila in cold blood, and buried her body in the forest after cutting it into 31 pieces, said the police who are questioning the couple after detaining them.

They also handed over Tila's body parts to her family members after post-mortem. Members of the bereaved family and the irate villagers of Baghbeda were insisting on burying Tila's body parts in front of Chandra's house. The police, however, placated the angry villagers who relented after a discussion with the former.

A case (206/23) under Sections 302, 201 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at Raigarh police station and a probe launched into the alleged murder. The suspect Chandra

SHORT TAKES

ROAD MISHAPS CLAIM 9 LIVES IN STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: There seems to be no let-up in road accidents and fatalities as nine people died and seven sustained injuries in two separate road accidents in Malkangiri and Nayagarh districts, Saturday.

In the first incident, six labourers were killed and seven others injured when a cement-rod laden truck overturned at Hantalaguda in Swabhimani area of

Malkangiri district when the truck was on its way from Chittrakonda to Jodamba, police said. While three of the injured were admitted to Chittrakonda sub-divisional hospital, four others were shifted to Malkangiri DHH.

The deceased were identified as Sunadhar Bhatra (1), Sunadhar Bhatra (2), Purna Bhatra, Jibardhan Bhatra, Phulsingh Bhatra and Duryodhan Bhatra - all from

Motigaon village under Koshagumuda block of Nabarangpur district.

CMNaveen Patnaik expressed grief over the deaths and announced ₹3 lakh ex gratia each to the next kin of the deceased.

In the other incident, Deepak Medinira, Situ Khan and Gokulananda Nayak were killed when the bike on which they were travelling collided with an SUV near Subalaya Square in Nayagarh district Saturday.

Ravenshaw gets NAAC A++ grade

Bhubaneswar: Good news for students and faculties of Ravenshaw University in Cuttack as the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of University Grants Commission (UGC) has awarded A++ grade to the premier educational institution of the state. A five-member team from NAAC had visited the university from November 20 to 22. The varsity has been awarded a final grade point of 3.58 by the NAAC, sources said.

4 dead, 60 hurt in varsity stampede

Kochi: Four students died and 60 others were injured in a stampede at Cochin University, Kerala Health Minister Veena George said Saturday. The tragedy occurred during the university's anniversary celebrations.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We just can't dismiss it by calling it deepfake. It is you making poll promises, sir

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	28.7°C	28.8°C
TEMP MIN	19.2°C	18.5°C
Humidity	73%	75%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Mainly clear sky later	

Silkyara rescue ops to take time: NDMA

ABOUT 86 METRES OF VERTICAL DRILLING LIKELY TO START TODAY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 25: The National Disaster Management Authority Saturday said that rescue operations at the Silkyara tunnel may take time with the auger machine facing repeated troubles and the focus is now on vertical drilling to bring out the 41 trapped workers.

Briefing the media on the progress of rescue operations, NDMA member Lt Gen (ret'd) Syed Ata Hasnain said, "It will take time to bring out the trapped workers as everything has to be done with utmost care."

The focus is now on vertical drilling and the operations may start in next 24 to 36 hours as machines are being placed on a platform on top of the tunnel, the member said.

About 86 metres of vertical drilling is needed to reach the crust of the tunnel, and thereafter it will be broken to reach the trapped workers, he said.

The multi-agency rescue effort began November 12 when a portion of the under-construction tunnel on Uttarakhand's Char Dham route collapsed following a landslide, trapping workers inside.

The NDMA member further said a very difficult operation is going on. Two methods are being used currently, but a

Landline facility set up

A landline facility has been set up at Silkyara tunnel to keep trapped workers connected with their family members, officials said Saturday. The facility has been set up by BSNL and a handset will be given to the workers trapped inside the partially collapsed tunnel for the past 13 days, they said. "We have set up a telephone exchange. We will give them a phone connected with the line via the pipe being used for sending food. This phone will have incoming and outgoing facilities. They can talk to their family," DGM, BSNL, Rakesh Chaudhary said.

third method that is drift method could also be used soon.

Currently, 47-metre horizontal drilling has been completed, he said, adding the broken part of the auger machine has to be removed, and the drilled structure has to be kept stable.

Drilling at the collapsed portion of the tunnel to rescue the trapped men was halted again Friday night after the auger drilling machine engaged in drilling through the rubble faced a hurdle, apparently a metal object. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami Saturday said that the blades of the auger machine have got stuck in the rubble.

Climate change behind dengue spread

AGENCIES

Dimapur (Nagaland), Nov 25: As rising heat and erratic rainfall provide favourable conditions for Aedes mosquitoes to breed, Dimapur, once a city with moderate temperatures, is now witnessing these phenomena due to climate change and has become one of the dengue hotspots.

The lights above washing the hospital corridor with a dim glow, a frantic Jenpu Rongmei rushed to see his 12-year-old nephew Nina who had been admitted the night before with fever and body ache. He was too late.

The young boy had succumbed to dengue, a neglected tropical disease that



Transmission of dengue is closely associated with three key factors - rainfall, humidity and temperature

was entirely alien to the people of Nagaland till very recently.

A month later, Jenpu remembers every detail of that evening - the dull light in the hospital, the faces around, the intense grief and the sheer disbelief that Nina could have gone so soon and so suddenly.

"When I got the news that my nephew was admitted, I

thought he would be fine. I didn't think dengue could be deadly," Jenpu said.

Nina's untimely death is the latest in the devastating crisis sweeping across the Northeast and other states in India. The spread of the disease even in autumn has been attributed to a late withdrawal of the monsoon, a factor of climate change. According to Jenpu, vil-

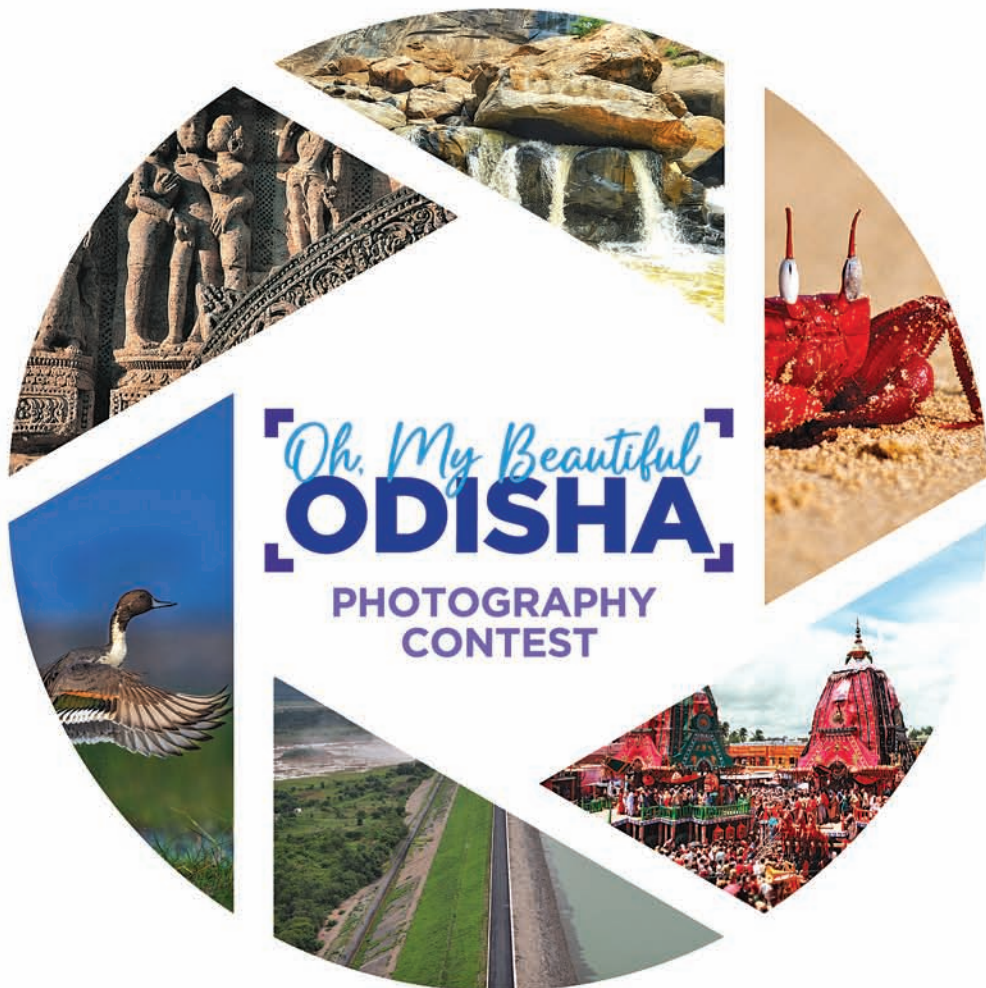
lagers, once accustomed to wearing jackets in October, now opt for shorts as temperatures and humidity have soared over the years.

The Lancet noted in its global annual countdown on the health impacts of climate change that the number of months suitable for dengue transmission by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes has risen to 5.6 months each year in India.

According to Niesakho Kire, state programme officer of the National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC), the first case of dengue in Nagaland was reported only eight years ago in June 2015. Since then, the numbers have been rising steadily.

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leisure



OZZY: WILL SURVIVE NUCLEAR BOMB IF WW III ERUPTS

Rocker Ozzy Osbourne believes that there's a chance he could survive a World War III nuclear blast on his mansion. The 75-year-old said that if another global conflict erupted he'd invite his enemy to target his house just to see if he was tough enough to endure a blast.

TIFFANY HADDISH ARRESTED FOR DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE (DUI)

Actress-comedienne Tiffany Haddish has been apprehended for Driving Under Influence (DUI) after police reportedly found her asleep at the wheel of her running car.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

You will find some decisions difficult to make, but be intent and resolute. Emotions may put you off rail, but once you have resolved, don't stray from it. Besides, Ganesh advises you to learn to endure setbacks in a mature manner.

TAURUS

Today Ganesh sees you overdoing your aggression, domination bit and urges you to keep your assertiveness in check. This day is not a favourable one for new ventures and undertakings. Don't therefore attempt anything new. Talk pleasantly. Harshness, roughness in your tone is only going to antagonize and alienate valuable friends.

GEMINI

Ganesh advises that while today will be a day filled with a lot of festivity, you still need to guard against getting carried away. You will spend the day socialising with friends and family. You might end up neglecting your household duties in organizing some function or picnic, says Ganesh.

CANCER

A hectic day, combined with domestic pressure will make you exhausted. You feel a heavy burden on mind and heart. Don't be too emotional, says Ganesh. Take care not to pass domestic burdens on to your career or business, and thereby mar your capacity and efficiency.

LEO

You will pay more attention to the younger members in the family. You will guide the children in improving their daily schedule. An occasion to celebrate will present itself. You will be desirous of participating in some competition or program, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

A fear of the unknown will keep lurking in your mind today. The shadow will only grow larger as the day progresses. You may find yourself spending too much on your foreign friends. Ganesh advises you to be cautious in this regard today.

LIBRA

Ganesh says your children will gain achievements that will have you feel proud of them. You will get monetary benefit either by increment in salary or by inheritance. You will be able to gain substantial gains by investing in real estate or buying insurance policies.

SCORPIO

Ganesh asks you to practice caution today. There are strong possibilities that an evil eye may attack you in some or other way. So, keep a watchful eye. And remember, every day brings along an experience and a lesson with it. Learn and move on.

SAGITTARIUS

Your stars are aligned in a way that you may have to travel long distance, either for business or for leisure. Socially, you are active as you are likely to attend a function and take the centre stage.

CAPRICORN

After all the drudgery you endured in a bid to reach a certain point in your career, it's time to sit back and enjoy the rewards, says Ganesh. Today, you can expect to get a transfer, a promotion, a pay hike or all the three. But these will be accompanied by added responsibilities and work, leaving you wondering if it really was an achievement or a bait used to trap you.

AQUARIUS

You will tackle complicated issues with infinite ease! But you will also find people passing the buck onto you. It irks you no end, having to take the blame for others' mistakes. But here's a chance, says Ganesh, to turn a weakness into a strength.

PISCES

The focus today will be on self-improvement. You may find yourself attending seminars or workshops. Self-employed people are likely to find lucrative deals landing in their laps in the afternoon. Quality time with your family in the evening will give you a sense of balance and of belonging, says Ganesh.

RIDHI: NOW I NEED THE SPOTLIGHT

Mumbai: After playing Kaveri Amma in the blockbuster *Jawan*, actor Ridhi Dogra hopes that opportunities will now open at par for her. "Your work should be enough to speak for you, and people should reach out and call you, and that has happened," she continues. "I have got calls, but whether it materialises fully or not, let's see."

Pointing out the culture of only casting people who are out there, she remarks, "There is so much noise generally around certain people, and I am going to call them talented, without having to make anybody, but because they are everywhere and they are papped, you will cast them, and it has always been like that, there is nothing new," adding, "There were times when I was just an audience, and I would look at some people and think to myself, 'Why is this person acting, and why is that person not doing it?' After being an actor and in the industry, you get it."

"I am going to keep pushing it, wherever I can. If you work in a factory, and the factory owner is more comfortable talking to his bhatija, over the guy who is putting in hours and hours, you can't do anything. I have proven myself enough, now I need the big roles and spot-light," emphasises Dogra, last seen in *Mumbai Diaries 26/11*.

AGENCIES

Adah wants people to keep guessing

Mumbai: Recently, there were rumours about actor Adah Sharma buying late-actor Sushant Singh Rajput's house in Mumbai.

Addressing the reports, she says, "My house is my temple, I wouldn't want every tabloid and phone splashing things about where I am living. I have always lived in Pallai in my father's house, since childhood," adding, "Even if I decide to move, this is not how I am going to announce the news. I would like to share it in my own way. Where you live, your house, your home, is something very personal to me. Let people keep guessing, I will take my time to confirm the reports. Right now, my focus is to live in people's hearts, and even in the future."

Do these rumours and reports bother her or ever feel too much intruding? "I have a personal choice to share with everyone. I can tell my fans whenever I want. I don't feel uncomfortable due to any rumours. The rumours and everything is a part of my life as an actor. I don't take it as a privacy invasion or anything, of course fans hain toh unhe jaanne ki utsukta hoti hogi. They want to know our favourite colour, food, etc.," the 31-year-old said.

AGENCIES



'Art is secondary, survival is primary'

Mumbai: Pankaj Tripathy is now one of the most sought after actors in the country. While speaking during a masterclass at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), the actor touched upon some sensitive topics.

During the conversation, when the moderator Mayank Shekhar pointed out how Tripathy wasn't given the credit for his role in the film *Run*, the actor quickly states, "It's the story of life. Kabhi credit milega, kabhi nahi. But one needs to continue working with honesty."

The OMG actor recalled carrying around a Police Inspector's uniform so as to get small roles. But at no point he felt frustrated. "I'm a very content person. I used to feel happy playing the role of a police officer in a daily soap for a week. I never felt like 'what am I doing?' I have never said no to any role. For me, art is secondary, survival is primary," he shared.

He also talked about star and actor and the distinction. "The trend of actors having a certain mannerism or style has diminished now. And even stars want to be called actors now," he says, adding that this has given actors like him a chance to experiment.

AGENCIES



Big B chronicles showbiz evolution

New Delhi: Amitabh Bachchan, who is in the showbiz for over five decades, shared about the transformations he has observed in the film industry over the years, adding how the number of women have increased on the sets.

In the episode 75 of the quiz based reality show *Kaun Banega Crorepati* season 15, a contestant asked Big B: "Sir, I have a question. You have been working in the Indian film industry since 1970. I want you to tell me about the transformations in the film industry since you started working, in every way."

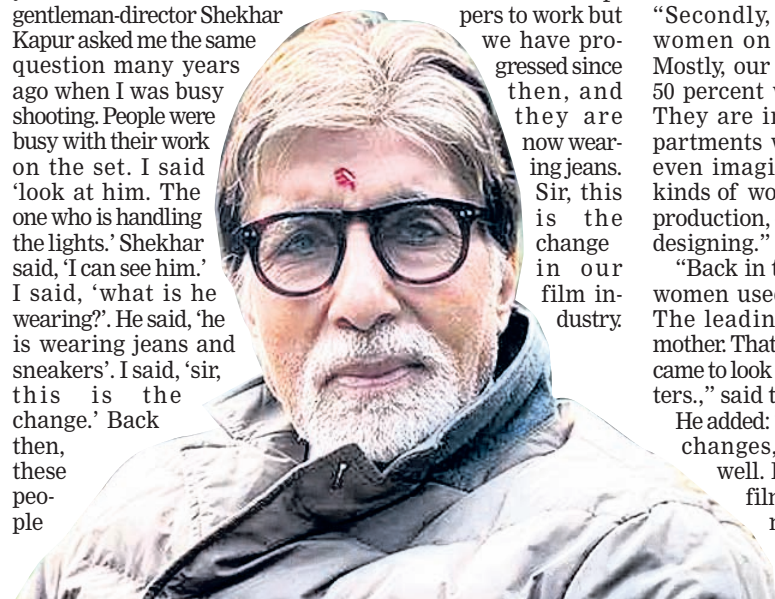
Replying to him, the 81-year-old actor shared: "Another gentleman-director Shekhar Kapur asked me the same question many years ago when I was busy shooting. People were busy with their work on the set. I said 'look at him. The one who is handling the lights.' Shekhar said, 'I can see him.' I said, 'what is he wearing?'. He said, 'he is wearing jeans and sneakers'. I said, 'sir, this is the change.' Back then, these people wore a pair of tattered pyjamas and rubber slippers to work but we have progressed since then, and they are now wearing jeans. Sir, this is the change in our film industry."

He further shared: "Secondly, the number of women on set increased. Mostly, our crew comprises 50 percent women at least. They are in charge of departments which you can't even imagine. They do all kinds of work. They handle production, direction and set designing."

"Back in the day, only two women used to be present. The leading lady and her mother. That's it. The mothers came to look after their daughters.," said the actor.

He added: "There have been changes, technically as well. Earlier, celluloid films were used but now a chip is used."

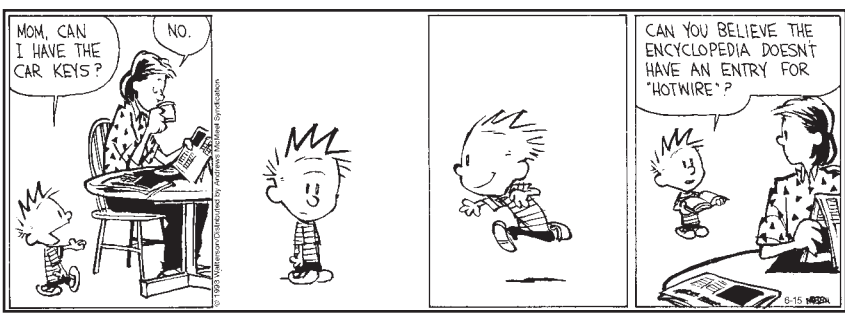
AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

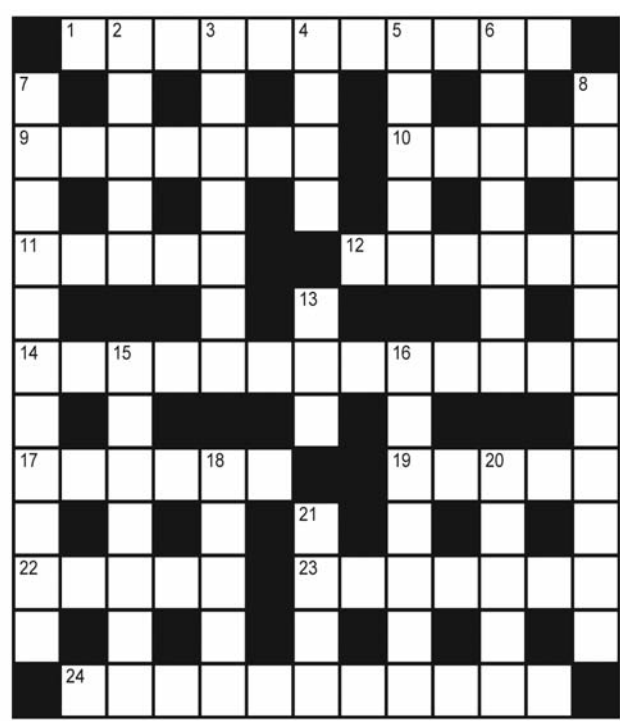


BREVITY



FUN post

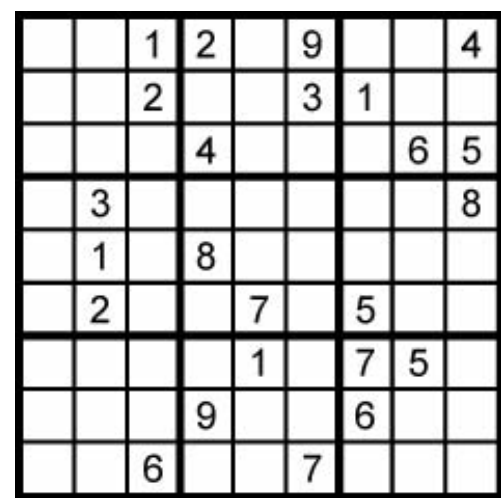
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Mentally nimble (5-6)
 - 9 Kind of comb
 - 10 Words to remember
 - 11 Tennis starter
 - 12 Eye part
 - 14 Selling points? (10,3)
 - 17 Pointless
 - 19 Channel markers
 - 22 Contents of Pandora's box
 - 23 Cupidity
 - 24 Hard labour requirement (5,6)
- Down**
- 2 Pronounce
 - 3 Ski abodes
 - 4 Feral
 - 5 Pace
 - 6 Tartu locale
 - 7 Pub offering (5,6)
 - 8 Earth's locale (5,6)
 - 13 Back of the boat
 - 15 Garden sore spot
 - 16 Hug
 - 18 Rodeo rope
 - 20 Skips
 - 21 Zingy taste

SUDOKU

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

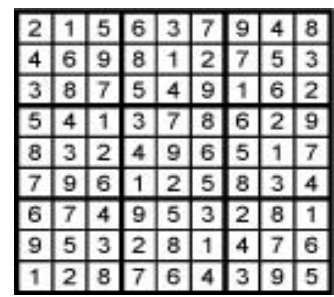


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

LaccMI now in Rayagada



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday launched the LaccMI scheme (Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative) bus service in the tribal majority Rayagada district to boost the rural economy and improve connectivity.

Launching the service through virtual mode, Patnaik said a total of 52 buses will run to connect to all 182 gram panchayats in the district.

There will be 300 bus stops for affordable bus service under

the scheme.

According to the provisions under the scheme, a woman can travel from gram panchayat headquarters to block headquarters at a fare of Rs 5.

The chief minister said he was optimistic that the affordable bus service will bring change to the lives of people in Rayagada district.

"This is likely to transform our rural transport system. The buses will now connect from one village to another, improve social bonding and strengthen the rural economy," he said.

Patnaik said his government

came to know the requirement of the people from the CMO Grievance meetings.

He said now children can easily go to schools and colleges, working women to offices, farmers to markets and also take patients to hospitals.

The objective of the programme is to improve the local transport system and promote tourism as well as regional economy.

Patnaik said the state government is investing Rs 90 crore in Rayagada district under the 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha' (Our Odisha, New Odisha) programme.

ST (transformational initiative) and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian coordinated the event and said he had visited Rayagada district on the instruction of the Chief Minister prior to the launch of the LaccMI scheme.

Starting October 12 from Malkangiri district, the scheme is being launched in six southern Odisha district in the first phase.

CULTURAL EVENING

Sushama Sangeeta Sadan organised patriotic songs programme 'Mera Bharat Mahan' at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



CARE AND CONCERN: Family members of Odia workers trapped inside the under-construction tunnel in Uttarkashi met ST and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar Saturday. Pandian informed them that the workers are safe and state government officials are in constant touch with the rescue team

Dacoits lock family in bathroom, loot house

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: In a shocking incident within the City limits, a group of 8-9 masked men allegedly looted valuables worth approximately Rs 7-8 lakh from a house after locking the inmates in bathroom, in the wee hours of Saturday. The incident occurred at Bhola residency in Raghunathpur area under Nandankanan police station, here.

Nandankanan police station IIC, Biswaranjan Nayak said that though the identity of the dacoits are yet to be ascertained, the police, from preliminary investigation, have learnt they could be locals.

An officer privy to the investigation said that Friday night, owner of the house, Rakesh Chand and his family had gone to attend a wedding ceremony and returned home late. When the family was asleep, the dacoits allegedly found their way into the house. "They then demanded money from Rakesh's family members by threatening them with sharp weapons," said the officer.

Chand told the police that the dacoits got provoked and tied him, his wife and two children to bed after failing in their attempt to find any cash. Thereafter, the miscreants locked all four of them in the bathroom when they started rummaging through essentials in other rooms.

"The four of us were locked inside the bathroom for about 45 minutes when they took away gold ornaments. After realizing they have left, we called for help. Upon hearing our screams, neighbors broke open the door and saved us," Chand said.

Following the incident, a complaint was lodged by the victim in the Nandankanan police station, prompting an investigation.

NAAC A++ GRADE TO RAVENSHAW UNIVERSITY

Boost for students' career choices, academics

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Faculties and former administrators have welcomed the decision of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) to grant A++ grade to the Ravenshaw University and said the move will boost career choices of students and help augment infrastructure as well as academics at the premier educational institution in the state.

Former chairperson, PG Council of Ravenshaw University, Asima Sahu said the honour exemplified the landmark achievement of the university. Elaborating, she said Ravenshaw University became the first public university from the state to be accorded with such recognition.

She said the feat will reinforce the varsity's demand to receive additional funds for launch of new online courses, building re-



search apparatus, increasing hostel infrastructure and enabling more facility to every department.

NAAC is an autonomous council under UGC, which performs the duty of analyzing teaching standards and infrastructure in educational institutions across the country. The gradation assessed by the NAAC is based on seven criteria, including curricular aspects, teaching-learning and evaluation, research-innovation and extension,

infrastructure and learning resources, student support and progression, governance leadership and management, and institutional values and main practices.

A senior professor of the University, who wished not be named, said the NAAC decision will also help students for higher education as their degrees will now be recognised by top notch institutions in the country. "This will ease their anxiety while applying elsewhere for higher stud-

ies," she said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of students gathered at the university lawn and started celebrating the new feat after the news broke out Saturday afternoon. There were reasons for the jubilation as Ravenshaw University became the first university in the state to be accorded the NAAC grade.

Reportedly, NAAC officials conducted an analysis of the university's core functioning areas including infrastructure, student's performance and curriculum during their visit from November 20 till November 22nd. The university will get the next chance after seven years to apply for the revision process of NAAC gradation, as per guidelines.

Formerly, known as Ravenshaw College, the institution got the status of university in 2006. Considering the increasing student capacity, the university opened its second campus in Naraj this year.

President's 2-day visit starts today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to visit Odisha for two days from Sunday and will attend a function in Paradip, officials said.

This will be her second visit to Odisha this month as she spent three days in her home state from November 20.

The president will arrive at the

Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here at 6 PM Sunday and spend the night at Raj Bhavan.

Murmu will virtually inaugurate a multi-modal logistic park and lay the foundation stone for a new reservoir and water treatment plant for the port township, a next-gen vessel traffic management and information system.

The President is likely to interact with members of the fishing community during her visit to Paradip.

She will leave Bhubaneswar Monday evening.

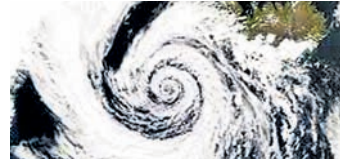
Lopar likely over southeast Bay of Bengal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: A low pressure area (LOPAR) is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and the adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal November 27 due to possible formation of a cyclonic circulation in the region, informed the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here Saturday.

The IMD further added that the Lopar will likely move north-westwards and intensify into a depression over the Southeast Bay of Bengal November 29.

The weather agency predicted light to moderate rain and thundershower at one or two places over some southern districts of the state in the next 24 hours. These districts include Gajapati, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Koraput and



Nabarangpur. The IMD forecast dry weather for the rest of the state.

"A cyclonic circulation is likely to emerge in South Andaman Sea and neighbourhood by November 26. Under its influence, a low pressure area is likely to form over South Andaman Sea and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal around November 27. It is likely to move west northwestwards and intensify into a depression over Southeast Bay of Bengal around November 29, 2023," said the IMD mid-day bulletin.

Giving a rundown of weather conditions over different parts of the

state, the agency informed that dense fog occurred at one or two places over Phulbani, and shallow to moderate fog occurred at one or two places over Angul, Bhawanipatna and Rourkela.

Minimum temperatures observed significant rise at one or two places in north-interior Odisha and no large change was seen elsewhere over the other districts. Temperatures were above the normal at one or two places, appreciably above the normal at a few places and above normal at one or two places over the districts of interior Odisha, informed the weather agency.

The highest maximum temperature of 32.0 C was recorded at Jajpur, Paralakhemundi and Khurda and the lowest minimum temperature of 15.0 C was recorded at Phulbani in the plains.

Coal particulate pollution doubles death risk

Exposure to fine particulate air pollutants from coal-fired power plants (coal PM2.5) is associated with a risk of mortality more than double that of exposure to PM2.5 from other sources, say researchers after examining emissions data and Medicare records.

Between 1999 and 2020, 4,60,000 deaths among Medicare enrollees were attributable to coal-fired power plants; 10 of these plants each contributed at least 5,000 deaths, according to the study led by George Mason University, The University of Texas at Austin, and Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.

Most of the deaths occurred between 1999 and 2007, when coal PM2.5 levels were highest, according to the study published in the journal, Science.

While previous studies have quantified the mortality burden from coal-fired power plants, much of this research has assumed that coal PM2.5 has the same toxicity



Using emissions data from 480 coal power plants between 1999 and 2020, the researchers modelled where wind carried coal sulfur dioxide and how atmospheric processes converted it into PM2.5

They found that 4,60,000 deaths were attributable to coal PM2.5, representing 25 per cent of all PM2.5-related deaths among Medicare enrollees

as PM2.5 from other sources.

"PM2.5 from coal has been treated as if it's just another air pollutant. But it's much more harmful than we thought, and its mortality burden has been seriously underestimated," said lead author Lucas Henneman, assistant professor at George Mason University.

Using emissions data from 480 coal power plants in the US be-

tween 1999 and 2020, the researchers modelled where wind carried coal sulfur dioxide throughout the week after it was emitted and how atmospheric processes converted the sulfur dioxide into PM2.5.

They then examined individual-level Medicare records from 1999 to 2016, representing the health statuses of Americans ages 65 and older and representing a total of more

than 650 million person-years.

By linking the exposure fields to the Medicare records, inclusive of where enrollees lived and when they died, the researchers were able to understand individuals' exposure to coal PM2.5 and calculate the impact it had on their health. They found that 460,000 deaths were attributable to coal PM2.5, representing 25 per cent of all PM2.5-related deaths among Medicare enrollees before 2009.

"Beyond showing just how harmful coal pollution has been, we also show good news: Deaths from coal were highest in 1999 but by 2020 decreased by about 95 per cent, as coal plants have installed scrubbers or shut down," Henneman said.

These findings can help policymakers and regulators identify cost-effective solutions for cleaning up the country's air, for example, by requiring emissions controls or encouraging utilities to use other energy sources, like renewables, the authors noted.

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Servitors' body meets Pandian

The servitors express gratitude to Chief Minister for creating a new identity by sanctioning funds to small temples in rural areas under Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha scheme



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: The members of Odisha Mandira Sevayat Sangha Saturday met 5T Chairman VK Pandian at Naveen Nivas and thanked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for his efforts to transform various temples and heritage sites in the state. The servitors also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister on behalf of all temple servitors for creating a new identity by sanctioning funds to small temples in the rural areas under the Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha scheme. Along with that, they also expressed gratitude to the 5T Chairman for initiating steps to solve the problems of tem-

ples and servitors during his visits to various districts. The servitors also thanked the Chief Minister for his steps in developing and transforming the ancient temples and mutts. During the meeting, the 5T Chairman discussed with the servitors regarding the inauguration of the ongoing Srimandir Heritage Corridor project and sought their full cooperation to make the programme successful. During the interaction, servitors' sangha president Kameshwar Tripathi (Baripada Jagannath Temple), secretary Sinhari Alok Khuntia (Sakshigopal Temple), coordinator Devi Pani (Biraja Temple), chief whip Subash Mishra and other senior members were present.

Vig arrests Nabarangpur Dy Excise Superintendent

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Vigilance officials Saturday arrested Ganga Paikray, Nabarangpur Deputy Excise Superintendent, on possession of disproportionate assets (DA) to the tune of 208 per cent of his known sources of income. Paikray is being forwarded to the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Jeypore. A case was registered against Ganga Paikray, and his spouse U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 P.C. Amendment Act, 2018. Paikray was arrested after during house searches, movable and immovable assets worth crores were unearthed in his name and in the name of his family members. During searches, the Vigilance officials unearthed two triple storied buildings one parking shed at Jeypore, Advance amount ₹16 lakh paid to Annapura Real Estate, Jeypore during 2013-14 to purchase land/house and five plots in prime area of Jeypore town.

In addition to ₹1,12,240 in cash, 2 four wheelers and 2 two wheelers worth approx ₹17 lakh, jewellery, deposits and household articles worth approx ₹20 lakh were also found. After thorough search, inventory and further enquiry, the income, expenditure and assets of Paikray, were calculated and he was found in possession of disproportionate assets which were 208 per cent in excess of his known sources of income. Further investigation into the case is on.



FOOD MATTERS: People queue up near IG Park in Bhubaneswar to get Central government's newly launched 'Bharat Atta', Saturday

Wild tusker captured; another dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Binjharpur/Kalahandi, Nov 25: In separate incidents, a wild tusker was captured in Jajpur district while another elephant died in Kalahandi district while undergoing treatment. According to information, the forest department captured a wild tusker from Binjharpur area in Jajpur district after a long exercise, Saturday. The tusker after crossing Palatpur and Nandipur village area under Dasarathpur block entered Pritipur area under Binjharpur block. The tusker had created panic among the residents of this locality when it headed towards the human settlements after destroying the paddy fields. The locals along with administration and the forest department staff tried to drive away the tusker.



After reaching the spot, Tehsildar Kailas Chandra Mahalik, Alakunda PS IIC, Prashanta Kumar Das and Divisional forest officer, Binjharpur Anupama Sahu reviewed the situation. They also alerted the locals. Soon after Cuttack ASF, Soubhagya Kumar Sahu, SFO, Anil Ray, Forester, Cuttack Sukanta Behera, Forester Bhadrak, Preetirani Dash, Chowdwar forester Manorama Hota and Alakunda PS ASI,

Rashmita Dixit reached the spot and made a plan to capture the tusker. The special team from Nandankanan and forest department officers along with the police administration captured the tusker, Saturday. In another incident, a wild elephant died while being treated near Gandharbaru village of Kamarda section under Narla range of Kalahandi North Forest Division in Kalahandi district late Friday night.

Locals first spotted the sick elephant in the day time and informed the forest department. Later veterinary doctors and forest employees, under the guidance of Narla forest department officer Prashant Pal, started treatment of the sick elephant. However, they could not save it. The exact reason of the elephant's death will be ascertained after the post-mortem, said the forest official.



Birla Global University holds 6th annual convocation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Birla Global University (BGU) celebrated its 6th annual convocation for the PG 2021-23 and UG 2023-26 batch students at its campus here, Saturday. Chairman Mahindra Defence and Aerospace, Mahindra Agri and Micro-irrigation, CIE Automotive India and President

Society of Indian Defense Manufactures graced the occasion as chief guest. International sand artist Padma Shri Sudarsan Pattnaik graced the ceremony as the guest of honour. The University bestowed the honorary degree of D.Lit (Honoris Causa) on Sriprakash Shukla and Sudarshan Pattnaik for their significant contribu-

tions in their respective fields. In his speech, Jayashree Mohta, Chairperson, Birla Global University and Birla Academy of Art & Culture said that the University has made several landmark achievements over the time in placements. Later, the chairman and the guests presented the degrees and gold medals to the students on this occasion.

Body of youth found hanging

POST NEWS NETWORK

Gopalpur, Nov 25: The body of a youth was found hanging from a tree inside a forest under Gopalpur police limits in Ganjam district Saturday. The deceased was identified as Purna Chandra Biswal, 27, of Hariapur village in Bhadrak district. As per information, Purna Chandra had been residing here in Ambapua village under Gopalpur police limits for last two months and was working here. Saturday morning he hanged himself with a rope from a tree inside forest adjacent to Central school road. Locals spotted the body and informed police. Gopalpur police station IIC, Bibekananda Swain along with other staff reached the spot and seized the body. Police then sent the body to MKCG medical college and hospital at Berhampur for post-mortem. Gopalpur police launched an investigation after registering a case (25/23) of unnatural death.



IN MEMORIAM: Guests attending a function by paying tribute to Professor Jagamohan Rathore and releasing a book on his life at Buddha Mandir in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Youth should strive hard to become self-reliant: Pradhan

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 25: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday called upon the youths to strive hard to become self-reliant with self respect and dignity. Addressing the State Youth Festival - 2023 organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Nehru Youth Center, Pradhan said the need of the youths is to be self-reliant with self respect and dignity and to achieve it the youths should strive hard. The youth festival was organized with the aim of moti-

vating the youths in the right direction and promoting cultural diversity. The Union Minister said the enthusiasm, courage and creativity of the youths inspires society and gives a new direction to society. "We have to create the feeling in the minds of the youth for keeping our race, society and language intact", he said. Organized on the theme of India @2047, the Union Minister read the five-pronged resolution for a developed India to the students and young women present in the program. He said the nation will reach

its peak only on the shoulders of youth for which we have to eliminate slavery and alien mentality. One should be proud of the art, culture and tradition of one's own country. The unity and integrity of the country should not be harmed, he remarked. As a citizen, one has to exercise not only his rights but also the duties and responsibilities towards the society. Pradhan said in 2036, Odisha will complete 100 years of its formation as a language-based state and by 2047, the country will complete 100 years of independence.

Liberal media more opposed to AI than conservative media

CLASSIFIED
AFFIDAVIT
I, Sujata Mohapatra, W/o Arun Kumar Mahapatra, resident of Jaunliapati, Choudhury Bazar, PO-Telenga Bazar, Dist-Cuttack, Odisha declare by this affidavit No- 11543 Dt 24.11.2023 before the Executive Magistrate, Sadar Cuttack, that now onwards I shall be known as Sujata Mohapatra for all future purposes.

Researchers have found that articles published by the liberal media tend to be more opposed to artificial intelligence (AI) than those by the conservative media. The opposition could arise out of concerns about AI amplifying racial and gender biases in the society, along with income inequity, researchers from the Virginia Tech University, US, said. Considering that media sentiment is indicative of public opinion and can, in turn, impact policymakers' stances, the findings may have important implications for future political discussions around AI, the researchers said. Their work was published in the journal Social Psychological and Personality Science. They also said that the observed differences in the parti-



san media's sentiment towards AI may also subsequently lead to differences in the public's sentiment towards AI. "Media sentiment is a powerful driver of public opinion, and many times policymakers look towards the media to predict public sentiment on contentious issues," said Angela Yi, study author and a PhD student in the marketing department of Virginia Tech Pamplin College of Business. For the study, the researchers formed a compilation of over 7,500 articles written on AI from May 2019 to May 2021 by downloading them from various media outlets. They looked for specific keywords in the articles such as "algorithm" or "artificial intelligence". The articles that the team chose to study were published by

a mix of media houses, such as the liberal-leaning The New York Times and The Washington Post, and the conservative-leaning The Wall Street Journal and the New York Post. The researchers analysed the "emotional tone" of these articles using an automated text analysis tool. The tool, they said, worked by calculating the difference between the percentage of positive emotion words and the percentage of negative emotion words in a text. Each article was then given a standardised 'emotional tone' measure or score. The researchers said that they

RESEARCHERS SAID CONSIDERING THAT MEDIA SENTIMENT IS INDICATIVE OF PUBLIC OPINION AND CAN, IN TURN, IMPACT POLICYMAKERS' STANCES, THE FINDINGS MAY HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AROUND AI. THEY ALSO SAID THAT THE OBSERVED DIFFERENCES IN THE PARTISAN MEDIA'S SENTIMENT TOWARDS AI MAY ALSO SUBSEQUENTLY LEAD TO DIFFERENCES IN THE PUBLIC'S SENTIMENT TOWARDS AI

media sentiment and that these differences are important to quantify, see, and understand," said Shreyans Goenka, a study author and assistant professor of marketing at Virginia Tech Pamplin College of Business. The researchers also examined how media sentiment towards AI changed after George Floyd's death, which happened May 25, 2020. Floyd, a 46-year-old black American man, was killed in the US city of Minneapolis by Derek Chauvin, a 44-year-old white police officer. "Since Floyd's death ignited a national conversation about social biases in society, his death heightened social bias concerns in the media," said Yi. "This, in turn, resulted in the media becoming even more negative towards AI in their storytelling," said Yi.

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FOCUS SINO-AMERICAN TIES

MISSED OPPORTUNITY



It is said that Biden does not want to give the Republicans a reason to say that he is soft on China. But he should communicate to voters that removing the Trump tariffs would be good for American households and firms

At their recent summit in San Francisco, US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on a few important issues. Notably, the two countries will resume military-to-military communication, thereby reducing the chances of an accidental conflict, and China will do more to restrict the export of chemicals used to make the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl – a major cause of death in the United States. But there is one crucial area where progress remained elusive: tariffs.

In 2018, then-US President Donald Trump's administration hiked the tariff rate on imports from China from slightly over 3% to more than 21% – a level unseen in the US since before World War II. This prompted China to retaliate with higher tariffs on US imports from about 8% to some 19%. As China also lowered its tariffs on imports from all other countries, it reduced the competitiveness of US goods in the Chinese market by an even greater amount.

At the end of 2019, Trump and Xi reached a "phase one" agreement that froze the tariffs. The deal was a coercive one, designed to compel China to increase imports from the US at the expense of other trading partners, using means that are illegal under World Trade Organization rules. Ultimately, China could not fulfill its purchase commitments. In any case, a WTO panel ruled in 2020 that the Trump tariffs are incompatible with America's legal obligation to abide by the organization's rules.

US insistence on maintaining the tariffs not only undermines the rules-based interna-

tional trading system, but also hurts households and firms in both countries. In 2017 – the last year before Trump's tariff hike – US imports from China amounted to \$506 billion, about 22% of total imports. Every serious study of the issue suggests that the increased costs arising from the tariffs have been passed onto American consumers. Since imported goods account for about 12% of the US household-consumption basket, the removal of the Trump tariffs would lower the cost of that basket by about half a percentage point.

But that is only the beginning. About 40% of US imports from China are parts, components, and intermediate goods, so removing the Trump tariffs would also lower input costs for American service providers and manufacturers. As a result, the prices of many American-made products and services in the US household-consumption basket would also decline.

Then there are the indirect effects. As Chinese imports become cheaper, competitive pressure on other producers would rise, leading to lower prices on goods made in Mexico, India, Vietnam, and even the US. Taken together, these effects would permanently reduce the cost of living to Americans by about one percentage point. Put another way, this would be equivalent of an increase in US household income by more than \$250 billion per year (1% of US GDP in 2022).

US firms also stand to gain. Given that China has always characterized its tariff increases on US goods as retaliatory, one can assume that it would remove them if the Trump tariffs were reversed. This would benefit the competitiveness of US goods in the Chinese market, thereby bolstering jobs and incomes not only for US exporters, but also for their input

suppliers. Such increases in employment and incomes would help US voters, and Biden could certainly use the political win. In a recent poll, just 14% of American voters reported being better off financially now than when Biden took office. Almost 70% said that his policies have either made the US economy worse off or made no difference, with about half believing his policies have hurt the US economy "a lot."

While no one should be surprised that a majority of Republican voters dislike Biden's policies, the fact that fewer than half of Democrats believe his policies have helped the economy, even a little, should be setting off alarm bells to the president. Biden is facing a highly contentious election next year, and the rising cost of living is voters' number one economic concern. And yet, despite the benefits that reducing tariffs would bring, the US Trade Representative did not attend the San Francisco summit, suggesting that Biden never intended to discuss the issue at all.

It is said that Biden does not want to give the Republicans a reason to say that he is soft on China. But he should communicate to voters that removing the Trump tariffs would be good for American households and firms. Not doing so is a failure of leadership.

The writer is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

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Shang-Jin Wei

IN A RECENT POLL, NEARLY 70 PER CENT AMERICAN VOTERS SAID THAT BIDEN'S POLICIES HAVE EITHER MADE THE US ECONOMY WORSE OFF OR MADE NO DIFFERENCE

Delayed Delimitation

For 50 years, India has not changed the composition of the Lok Sabha (through what is called delimitation). Enormous power is in the hands of the individual who is chosen to increase or decrease a region's share of seats. The orders 'have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court' and cannot be modified.

Recent events have returned delimitation to prominence, and women's reservations in Parliament and Assemblies 'shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken'.

It is unclear who this person is at the moment. The last chairperson, retired judge Ranjana Desai, left the job in 2022 and was given another sinecure (at the Press Council), but her name continues to be on the Election Commission website.

Let us examine the key issue related to delimitation, which is the difference in population sizes in our states. Andhra Pradesh's total fertility rate, the average number of children born to a woman, is 1.7, while Bihar's is 3. India is now at a replacement rate of around 2, and in a few decades, our population will begin to contract. However, 29 states and Union territories are already below 2. It is the other seven that raise the national average.

Fifty years ago, the 85 MPs from UP (plus Uttarakhand) represented 10 lakh citizens each, and so did Kerala's 20 MPs, Tamil Nadu's 40 MPs, Karnataka's 28 MPs, and Rajasthan's 25 MPs.

In the 50 years since the last time Lok Sabha seats were increased, Kerala's population increased by 56 per cent but Rajasthan's by 166 per cent. Tamil Nadu's by 75 per cent but Haryana's by 157 per cent. That the southern populations should not be punished for their effective implementation of family planning by allocating more power to the north is a meaningful argument, but it is also a fact that the northern MP represents many more Indians than the southern one, and that also seems unfair: Bihar's 40 and UP's 80 MPs each represent on an average 30 lakh Indians, the average Kerala MP represents 17 lakh; and the average Tamil MP represents 19 lakh.

The difference in Lok Sabha seats between states had existed because of a difference in population size, but each MP represented about the same number of Indians. Today, this is no longer the case.

There are meaningful and legitimate arguments on both sides, and when the delimitation commission sits, it will be under pressure because, whatever action or inaction chosen, someone will remain dissatisfied and disgruntled.

Perhaps the exercise will be delayed indefinitely, especially because the census needs to be conducted first and has inexplicably been put off. And also because the Women's Reservations Act, giving women a third of all Lok Sabha seats, is now law, meaning that delimitation will have a wider impact than merely geographical. That should not, however, deceive us, and the problem will remain. What is to be done?

Not acting would seem in violation of the constitution. Article 82 ('Readjustment after each census') reads: 'Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine'.

Note the words 'each census' and the absence of movement on this for 50 years, a festering problem. Till 1972, the process was adhered to. The 494 Lok Sabha seats of the 1950s went up to 522 in the 1960s and then 543 in the 1970s. At this time, as our numbers above show, while the representation across states was even, there was a recognition that the South was doing much better and that there was a need for the state to promote family planning, especially for the North.

Readers will be familiar with the infamous actions taken by the Indira Gandhi government during the Emergency, and many will also be familiar with the widespread family planning advertisements that continued on Doordarshan and in print till the end of the 1980s.

One of the outcomes that the long campaign sought to achieve was parity between the states, with an eye on delimitation. The link between the census and delimitation was severed, or, more accurately, suspended, after that. In the 1980s and 1990s, while we conducted the census and the numbers showed the growing disparity in population sizes, there was no delimitation exercise.

The Vajpayee government in 2002 kicked the can down the road for a quarter century, to the census in 2031 (actually the 'first census after 2026').

When will that be? We do not know. For the first time since 1880, no census was conducted, as should have been the case in 2021. The reason given was the pandemic, but that is over, and there is no sign of a census yet (or, for that matter, the CAA law, which was also to be implemented 'after the pandemic').

Assuming the census is held soon, the government will have to do some deft management of perceptions. And it is not easy to see how, given the reality of the disparity and the enormous shift over the last 50 years, this can be done without an open and frank conversation with the people, something that has not begun and, knowing the style of our leader, is not expected to begin.



THE MOTHER

Aspiration is always good and if some demand is mixed up with it, you can be sure that it will not be granted



Aakar Patel

The delimitation commission will be under pressure because, whatever action or inaction chosen someone will remain dissatisfied and disgruntled

SPECTRUM PRODUCTIVITY

Technological prowess key to progress



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE HUGE LABOUR FORCE DOES NOT FIND ADEQUATE EMPLOYMENT AND EVEN THOSE WHO FIND EMPLOYMENT ARE WITHOUT JOBS FOR AROUND SIX MONTHS A YEAR

Increasing workers' productivity is an issue which has come into sharp focus following a recent podcast of legendary co-founder of tech giant Infosys NR Narayana Murthy, wherein he requested youngsters to work for "70 hours a week".

Undeniably, labour productivity in India is quite low compared to many countries, even in the emerging economies. Thus, there is need to raise productivity, as efficiency increase is the order of the day, and must be ensured to make India competitive in the global market.

However, the question arises whether this would be possible through more efficiency, which could be brought about by use of technology and/or better planning etc. or through extending a longer work week. The latter option is not evident in most other countries and therefore may not be acceptable. Moreover, working more hours per week does not necessarily improve work culture and standards.

While urging the need for increasing productivity, the prevailing situation in the country, not just in the modern industrial sector but also in the traditional industrial sector in both big and medium industries needs to be considered. A section of analysts has been harping more on the induction of technology than in longer working hours.

However, it may be mentioned here that in the unregulated informal sector, the working hours are around 70 hours a week.

Some feel that Murthy's thesis is not quite correct as productivity is not necessarily linked to how many hours people work. Indians already work longer hours than most. The Indian government's time-use survey in 2019 found that men between the ages of 15 and 59 in urban India spent an average of 521 minutes a day in paid employment. That translates to over 60 hours a week. The number is even higher if you exclude those with only primary education.

Murthy pinpointed India's underwhelming work productivity, ranking among the lowest in the world, which is possibly not the fact. The case of China needs to be studied. The China Labour-Force Dynamics Survey in 2017 revealed that the average employee in the People's Republic spent just under 45 hours at work, though more than 40 percent reported that they were working over 50 hours a week.

There are, however, some sectors in that country where the working hours are around 60-62 hours a week. But China's progress and prosperity has been not because of long hours of work but due to high techno-

logical prowess. During the pandemic, work was being done from home but at least one survey found that Indians had to put in more unpaid overtime.

Murthy's comparison with Germany also does not appear convincing. Though Germany's workers in the 1950s certainly worked longer hours than, say, the British, the total was still probably between 45 and 50 hours a week though presently it's not more than 50 hours a week.

The five-day week culture may not be ideal for a developing nation like India, but factories operate for six days a week and most private sector companies also follow the same principle. It is necessary to mention here that if corporate India wants workers to work longer hours, it will need to create high productivity jobs for them.

With more than 45 per cent of India's workers engaged in agriculture and another 40 per cent in enterprises employing nine or fewer workers, high productivity jobs are scarce in the country. The reason is quite obvious – we are yet to establish an efficient and technologically developed structure. The huge labour force does not find adequate employment and even those who find employment are without jobs for around six months a year. Whether it be

agriculture or agro-based industries or even the informal sector, modernisation has not taken place yet.

With little capital and land to work on, the marginal product of labour is too small to convince workers to work harder. Moreover, the situation is such that harder work does not reach the employee in most cases but are taken away by the employer in connivance with corrupt political leaders. All the talk of increasing working hours is limited to the top corporate sectors which have unfortunately got all the attention of the government and the country. In fact, all the capital has been invested in these few sectors, which employs around 8-9 percent of the total workforce.

It is now necessary that a change be brought about in the informal sector of the country where pay structure, working hours, overtime allowance is fixed, and workers are not allowed to be exploited. Entrepreneurs like Murthy can talk about more working hours and can examine the labour put in by those who work in the informal sector and devise ways and means and then advise the government to conduct a comprehensive study towards reforming this sector and improving the working conditions of the workers.

WISDOM CORNER

- The greatest religion is to be true to your own nature. Have faith in yourselves. **SWAMI VIVEKANANDA**
- Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions. **DALAI LAMA**
- And, when you want something, the entire universe conspires in helping you to achieve it. **PAULO COELHO**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1924:** After the defeat of the White Russians and the Chinese, the Mongolian People's Republic was proclaimed.
- 1941:** U.S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull sent a harsh notice to Japan, calling for a full withdrawal from China and Indochina.
- 1942:** Set in occupied Morocco during World War II, directed by Michael Curtiz, and starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and Paul Henreid, Casablanca premiered this day in 1942 and became one of Hollywood's most-revered films.
- 2008:** Ten gunmen—who were believed to be connected to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Pakistan-based terrorist organization—launched a series of coordinated attacks in Mumbai (Bombay); the siege ended three days later, with at least 174 people killed.

Governors' boundary

Sir, It is laudable that the Supreme Court has come out with the most welcome verdict making it abundantly clear to the Governors that when a bill is passed by a state Assembly and sent for their assent, being titular heads of states, they don't have the power to veto legislative decisions of elected governments or sit indefinitely on bills duly passed by the legislature. The apex court also made it clear that when a bill which has been returned by the Governor is re-enacted by the Assembly and returned to him with or without any amendments, the Governor has no other option but to give assent to the bill. The top court has also confirmed that it is Speaker's call to adjourn or prorogue the House and the Governors cannot poke their nose into the powers of the Speaker as well. Now one only hopes that wisdom will prevail on Governors of the non-BJP ruled states who are bent on giving umpteen problems to the states just to create chaos and confusion in those states.

Tharcus S. Fernando, CHENNAI

Prayer for the trapped

Sir, The mission to rescue the 41 trapped workers in Uttarkashi appears to be jinxed! The US auger machine that ground to a halt Thursday after colliding with a metallic object resumed drilling on Friday afternoon but ran into a metal rod and stopped. With the auger machine encountering umpteen hurdles, work on vertical drilling is in full swing. One prays the rescue team will not face any more obstacles and the trapped labourers will be rescued soon.

N J Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Miserable show

Sir, What is wrong with Indian cricket? To my mind it is simple. Arrogance. Because we control the money we believe we control the events. And we believe our status as IPL kings gives us the right to swagger into stadiums and win. Secondly, our strategic capabilities are over-estimated by the powers that be who control the affairs of Indian cricket. We need a big match temperament and killer instinct, and it is not there. We lost the plot completely. The body language said it all. The moment they put up a sub-par score, they were out. Sad show for the followers.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

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

Delhi set to record 11th severe air day in Nov

Biomass burning, including post-harvest paddy straw burning in neighbouring states, contributed 21 per cent to the capital's air pollution the previous day



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 25: Delhi's air quality stood in the "severe" category Saturday morning with monitoring agencies pinning hopes on a western disturbance which may improve meteorological conditions starting Sunday.

There were nine such days in November 2020; 7 in 2019; 5 in 2018; 7 in 2017; 10 in 2016 and 6 in 2015, according to CPCB data.

Air quality in Delhi turned 'severe' again Friday with a drop in minimum temperatures and slow wind speed at night allowing accumulation of pollutants.

The city's air quality index (AQI) stood at 421 at 8 am. A scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted a brief relief due to a likely improvement in meteorological conditions under the influence

It would be the 11th severe air quality day in November in Delhi if the average air quality index remains above the 400-mark till the end of the day

Delhi recorded just three severe air quality days in November last year, while it experienced 12 such days in 2021, the maximum in the month since the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) began monitoring

of a western disturbance expected to affect northwest India starting Sunday.

Delhi has been witnessing a gradual increase in AQI levels after a marginal improvement last Sunday.

The 24-hour average AQI, recorded at 4 pm every day, was 415 Friday, 390 Thursday, 394 Wednesday, 365 Tuesday, 348

Monday and 301 Sunday (November 19).

The rise in the AQI levels comes after the Centre last Saturday removed stringent curbs, including a ban on construction work related to linear projects and the entry of polluting trucks in Delhi, following a drop in pollution levels due to a favourable wind speed and direction.

Meanwhile, neighbouring Ghaziabad (424), Gurugram (345), Greater Noida (398), Noida (393) and Faridabad (426) also recorded 'very poor' to 'severe' air quality Saturday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe-plus'.

According to a joint project by the Delhi government and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, biomass burning stood out as the top reason for Delhi's foul air, contributing 51 per cent to the capital's air pollution Friday.

The data revealed that vehicular emissions accounted for about 31 per cent of the capital's air pollution the previous day.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai has directed agencies and departments concerned to ensure strict implementation of curbs on polluting vehicles and check the increasing incidents of biomass burning.



Players compete during the President's Polo Cup Exhibition Match at the President's Bodyguard (PBG) Parade Ground, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

BJP TO HOST 'NAMO KABADDI' MATCHES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 25: In a novel initiative to reach out to rural youth, the BJP in Uttar Pradesh is planning to host 'NamO Kabaddi' (named after PM Narendra Modi) matches in the rural interiors in the first week of December.

The fortnight-long sporting event is scheduled to be organised by BJP's Kisan Morcha - the organisational front wing

entrusted with the responsibility of reaching out to the farming community - across all districts of the state.

Uttar Pradesh BJP vice-president and in-charge of Kisan Morcha, Dinesh Chandra Sharma, said that the idea was to get closer to the rural youth.

"The sport highlights our Indian culture. Sports like kabaddi, kho-kho and wrestling have deep rural connect and can



help the BJP make its ties stronger with the rural population," Sharma said.

He added that the sport infuses passion and a feeling of teamwork and unity. While a formal blueprint of the event is expected to be announced soon, sources said that the party aims to engage youths aged between 18 and 40.

The occasion will also be used by the BJP to highlight the measures and rural schemes initiated by the Centre and state government.

UP students to learn disaster management

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj, Nov 25: Uttar Pradesh Board students from classes 1-8 will now have a separate course on disaster management, like Hindi, English and Mathematics.

At present, a part of disaster management is taught under the subject of Geography in more than 1.5 lakh government schools of the state.

Preparations have been intensified to implement a separate curriculum with the aim of preparing over 2 crore children studying in these schools for the future challenges.

On the instructions of Director



General Vijay Kiran Anand, experts of the State Education Institute have been asked to prepare the curriculum.

Earlier this month, Joint di-

rector of the State Council of Educational Research and Training, Pawan Kumar, sent a letter in this regard to the principal of the State Institute of Education.

At present, separate curricula are being prepared for classes 1-5 and classes 6-8 also. Deepti Mishra, the assistant deputy education director of the institute, said that the curriculum is being prepared as per instructions of the government.

IN THE HONOURABLE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE CUM S.C. & S.T. JUDGE, VIZIANAGARAM

M.O.P.550/2022

Between: Sri Komana Pydi Raju...Petitioner And Sri Mahammad Kadir Khalifa etc.,...Respondents

To THE 2ND RESPONDENT: Sri Rattan Sharma, S/o. Sharma, Owner of the Lorry No. OR 18 D 3898, Flat-G/4, Saraswathi Enclave, NH-6, Bargarh, Odisha State.

NOTICE

Take notice that the above petition filed by the petitioner on account the injuries sustained by him in a motor vehicle accident is posted to 15.12.2023 at 10.30 a.m. before the above Honourable Court for your appearance, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

Advocate for the Petitioner N. RAMESH KUMAR ADVOCATE MIG-1-190, Phase-II Vuda Colony, Cantonment Vizianagaram

MCD MAY REDUCE FILM SHOOTING CHARGES

New Delhi: The cost of shooting a film in the city is likely to go down as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is set to table a proposal in the next House meeting to reduce such charges and deploy civil guards and a licence officer at designated areas, an MCD official aware of the development said. "The proposal aims to slash the charges for film shooting in Delhi to Rs 15,000 for an eight hour per day slot and Rs 25,000 for 24-hour per day slot from Rs 75,000 per day," the official told PTI. According to the proposal, the time designated for film shooting on an MCD property will be divided into three shifts of eight hours. Earlier, the MCD used to charge Rs 75,000 for a 24-hour full day slot. The proposal also aims to revise the one-time registration fees to obtain permission for each film shooting to Rs 2,000 plus GST across its zones.

'Moye Moye' video sparks social media frenzy on road safety

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 25: Delhi Police Saturday shared an online social media 'Moye Moye' trend to address increasing road accidents across the city.

The video, shared on X, features a daring bike stunt with a cautionary caption: "Gaadi par control na khoyen, nahi toh ho sakta hai Moye Moye."

The tweet has notched up an impressive 601k views, capturing the attention and support of social media users who commend Delhi Police's inventive approach to conveying a crucial message on road safety.

The use of 'Moye Moye' in the video draws from the Serbian song Dzanum by Teya Dora, where the chorus has gained popularity as a sound effect to represent situations laden with sadness, emotion, or drama.

The term, translating to 'nightmare' in Serbian, has become a widely recognised symbol across various social media platforms.

Delhi Police's initiative comes in the wake of alarming statistics highlighted in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' annual report on accidents for 2022.

HC: Cow Slaughter Act doesn't prohibit transportation of beef



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Prayagraj, Nov 25: The Allahabad High Court has observed that the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act does not prohibit the transportation of beef.

The observation was made by Justice Pankaj Bhatia while allowing a criminal revision filed by Waseem Ahmad, who had moved the court challenging an order of the Fatehpur district magistrate, confiscating his motorcycle on the allegation that it was used for the transportation of beef.

In the order, the district magistrate had said he had received a report from the Fatehpur Superintendent of Police that the revisionist's vehicle was implicated in transporting beef and further recorded that since the revisionist failed to provide convincing evidence

contradicting the claim, the vehicle was liable to be confiscated under the anti-cow slaughter law.

"The restrictions on transportation in terms of the Act and the rules framed thereunder are only applicable in respect of transportation of cow, bull or bullock, that too in any place in Uttar Pradesh from any place outside the state," the court said after hearing the lawyers from both sides. "In the entire Act or the rules, there exists no provision barring transportation of beef. The restriction placed under section 5A of the Cow Slaughter Act is only in respect of transportation of cow, bull or bullock, that too only from a place outside the state to any place within the state. There is no bar or restriction on transportation of beef even from any place outside the state to any place inside the state," the court observed.

"In the present case, the alleged transportation of beef on a vehicle (motorcycle) within two places in the state is neither prohibited nor even regulated and thus, the foundation for confiscation on the charge of transportation in violation of the provisions of this Act is prima facie not established," the court said.

Residents rue lack of sunlight, playing space

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Residents in the Jama Masjid area of old Delhi grudge over the encroachment of public parks by scrap dealers, hawkers, and drug addicts - leaving no space for children to play and families to take a walk.

Locals in the area said that a lack of a safe and hygienic park in the area force them to go to distant places to enjoy leisure time under the sun with their families.

"We don't get enough sun exposure in the homes in Old Delhi due to the cramped lanes here which restrict sun rays from directly entering our



ENCROACHMENT ON MCD PUBLIC PARKS

homes. The parks here are also unhygienic and not safe for women," a resident of the Jama Masjid locality said.

"We have to go to far-off places to let our children play in a garden or

simply enjoy time with our family," another resident added.

Every 70 in 100 patients in the area's Kasturba Hospital suffer from vitamin-D deficiency also due to little sun exposure besides nutrient deficiency, a resident doctor of the civic facility said.

She added that these patients are usually women and people coming from poor families.

"Almost 70 per cent of our patients suffer from vitamin-D deficiency which is mainly caused by lack of sun exposure as well as nutritional deficiency. They are mostly women and people from slum areas," she said.

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E-mail: recoverybhubro@centralbank.co.in

**E-AUCTION
SALE
NOTICE**
(Immovable Property)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISIO TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India- Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on the date and time specified here in below, for recovery of due to the Central Bank of India- Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit of the respective properties is mentioned here in below:-

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower/Account	Name & Address of the Guarantors/ Mortgagees	Description of Properties	Outstanding Amount / Demand Notice Date / Possession Notice Date	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount
1.	PURI BRANCH / Borrower: Google Enterprise, Prop.: Jyoti Mohanty, S/o: Parsuram Mohanty, At: Chandan Hajuri Road, P.O: Puri 1, P.S: Puri Town, Dist.: Puri, PIN - 752001 / Mortgagor: Jyoti Mohanty, S/o: Parsuram Mohanty, At: Chandan Hajuri Road, P.O: Puri 1, P.S: Puri Town, Dist.: Puri, PIN - 752001	Guarantor: Debi Prasanna Mohanty, C/o: Sital Sen, At: Chandan Hajuri Road, P.O: Puri 1, P.S: Puri Town, Dist.: Puri, PIN - 752001 / Mortgagor: Jyoti Mohanty, S/o: Parsuram Mohanty, At: Chandan Hajuri Road, P.O: Puri 1, P.S: Puri Town, Dist.: Puri, PIN - 752001	All that part and parcel of Land & Building in the name of Jyoti Mohanty, S/o: Parsuram Mohanty , situated at Mouza: Bharatipur, P.S.: Puri Sadar, Tahasil: Puri No.: 683, Dist.: Puri, Khata No.: 340/659, Plot No.: 192/1296, Area: Ac.0.055 Dec, Bounded by East: Proposed Road, West: Sarala Swain & Sabita Swain, South: Embankment, North: Ranjan Kumar Das.	₹ 50,62,817/- + interest & expenses thereon / 05.05.2023 / 07.10.2023	₹ 37,47,500/- / ₹ 3,74,750/- / ₹ 20,000/-
2.	PADHANSARI BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Ganeswar Senapati, S/o: Mr. Maheswar Senapati, At/P.O: Kuha, P.S.: Airfield, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751002	Mortgagor: Mr. Ganeswar Senapati, S/o: Mr. Maheswar Senapati, At/P.O: Kuha, P.S.: Airfield, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751002	All that part and parcel of Land & Building in the name of Mr. Ganeswar Senapati, S/o: Mr. Maheswar Senapati , Mouza: Khetrapal, P.S.: Airfield, Bhubaneswar, Tahasil: Jatni No.: 193, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 306/612, Plot No.: 323/1120, Area: Ac.0.062 Dec., Bounded by East: Sub Plot No.: B, West: Govt. Road, South: Sub Plot No.: A1, North: Plot No.: 322	₹ 31,65,637/- + interest & expenses thereon / 04.07.2023 / 02.11.2023	₹ 37,30,500/- / ₹ 3,73,050/- / ₹ 20,000/-
3.	PADHANSARI BRANCH / Borrower: Mrs. Sanjukta Kumari Mohapatra, W/o: Mr. Ganeswar Senapati, At/P.O.: Kuha, P.S.: Airfield Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751002	Mortgagor: Mrs. Sanjukta Kumari Mohapatra, W/o: Mr. Ganeswar Senapati, At/PO: Kuha, P.S.: Airfield, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751002	All that part and parcel of Land & Building in the name of Mrs. Sanjukta Kumari Mohapatra, W/o: Mr. Ganeswar Senapati , Mouza: Khetrapal, P.S.: Airfield, Bhubaneswar, Tahasil: Jatni No.: 193, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 306/611, Plot No.: 323/1119, Area: Ac. 0.040 Dec., Bounded by East: Sub Plot No.: B, West: Govt. Land, South: 12ft. Wide Road, North: Sub Plot No.: A	₹ 31,01,279/- + interest & expenses thereon / 04.07.2023 / 02.11.2023	₹ 34,15,500/- / ₹ 3,41,550/- / ₹ 20,000/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Date & Time of E-Auction : 05.01.2024 from 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M with auto extension of 10 minutes.
- Last Date & Time of Submission of EMD online on or before 03.01.2024 up to 4.00 P.M.
- Date and Time of Property Inspection: 01.12.2023 to 02.01.2024 on any working day during office hours.
- For Participating in the E-auction sale, the intending bidders should register their details with the service provider <https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> well in advance and shall get user ID & password. Intending bidders advised to change only the password. For detailed terms & conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in <https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> and Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.centralbankofindia.co.in. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc. may contact to www.msstcecommerce.com or their Central helpdesk Number 033-22901004.
- Bidder will register on website <https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> and upload KYC documents and after verification of KYC documents by the service provider, EMD to be deposited in Global EMD wallet through NEFT/ transfer(after generation for Challan from <https://www.msstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>).
- For any property related query, bidders may contact: For Sl. No.: 1: MR. ABHISHEK MOHAPATRA, Branch Head, Puri Branch, Mob: 7381002133, e-mail id: bmbhub0133@centralbank.co.in, For Sl. No.: 2 & 3: MRS. SUBHADRA MAHARANA, Branch Head, Padhansari Branch, Mob: 7381002810, e-mail id: bmbhub2810@centralbank.co.in at any working day during office hours.
- Property under sale is also loanable and loan may also be obtained from our bank subject to fulfillment of rules.
- The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duties/transfer charges, fees etc and also all statutory/non-statutory dues, taxes, TDS, rates, fees etc owing to anybody.
- Other terms and conditions are available in the auction site.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date: 24.11.2023

Authorised Officer
Central Bank of India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes a sortie on the Tejas in Bangalore



Lava erupts from snow-covered Mt Etna, Sicily, Italy



Palestinians line up for cooking gas during the second day of the temporary ceasefire between Hamas and Israel in Rafah, Gaza Strip



Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi during a roadshow ahead of the Telangana Assembly elections, in Khammam, Telangana



Armed forces personnel pay homage to Captain MV Pranjali who was killed during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri, before his last rites in Bangalore



Residents help a child while trying to cross a road damaged by rains in Tula, Tana River county in Kenya. Severe flooding in the country has killed at least 71 people and displaced thousands, according to estimates from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



A flock of lesser whistling ducks flies over a lake in Nagaon district of Assam



Children take part in 'Nagar Kirtan' procession ahead of the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev at the Golden Temple in Amritsar

national

of the day quote

Nurturing a thriving startup ecosystem is a priority for Goa and the state government's goal is to help turn ideas into high-growth startups and attract funding

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

There have been no talks regarding seat sharing among members of the state's ruling alliance for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections

AJIT PAWAR | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

Dirty game of appeasement politics can be seen in Telangana now. We have seen in Telangana to what extent a government can go to divide the society when the BRS government announces Muslim reservation

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

SHORT TAKES

12 students injured

Ramgarh (Jharkhand): Altogether 12 students of a government school suffered injuries after being attacked allegedly by a group of eve-teasers in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district, a police official said Saturday. The injured students were admitted to the Sadar Hospital. The incident occurred at Mael village in Rajrappa area, around 80 km from the state capital Ranchi, on Friday when the students were returning home from school walking. Ramgarh Superintendent of Police Piyush Pandey said that a group of youths teased girls when boys of the same school protested, leading to a fight between the two sides and 12 were injured.

Woman killed

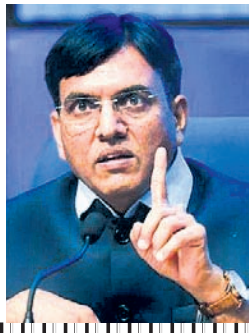
Dhanbad: A large number of people Saturday blocked a colliery road after a woman was killed allegedly during illegal coal mining in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, police said. Staging a demonstration with the body, the residents demanded compensation to the kin of the woman. The mine area falls under the limit of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCL) and it is operated by an outsourcing company, they said. Police, however, said that they don't have information about any such incident. The incident reportedly happened at the Tetulmari colliery around 190 km from the state capital Ranchi.

Village volunteer killed in gunfight

Imphal: At least one village volunteer was killed in a gunfight with unidentified men in Manipur's Kangpokpi district Saturday, an official said. The incident took place around 2.30 am when a group of armed men attacked Joupi, leading to a gunfight with local volunteers guarding the hill village, he said.

Over 50 booked for clash in Mumbai

Mumbai: More than 50 persons were booked for a clash between two groups in Bhandi Bazar area of south Mumbai, a police official said Saturday. The incident took place Friday evening near Gol Deval Temple junction on Maulana Azad road during a procession, he said. Some persons attached a truck to the generator van and started playing loud music with sound amplifying equipment, popularly called DJ, and indulged in shouting slogans while one person also pelted a stone, the official said. "This led to a clash between two groups, after which a sizable number of police personnel had to be deployed at the site to restore normalcy," the official said.

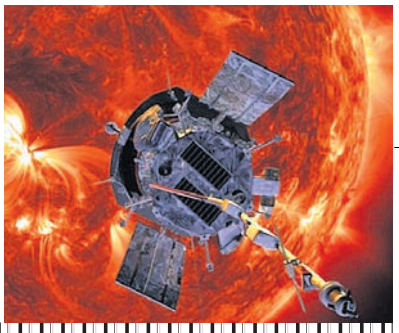


The government is monitoring the situation. The ICMR and the Director General of Health Services are observing the surging cases of pneumonia in China, and necessary steps are being taken

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

ADITYA L1 SPACECRAFT IS NEARING ITS FINAL PHASE

Aditya L1 spacecraft, India's first space-based mission to study the Sun, is nearing its final phase and maneuvers to enter the L1 point are expected to be completed by January 7, 2024, according to ISRO chairman S Somanath



4 dead, over 60 hurt in stampede

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 25: Four students were killed, and over 60 were injured in a stampede during Cochin university annual festival here Saturday night, police said.

Officials said that the stampede occurred before well known singer Nikhita Gandhi was to perform for a musical festival in the open air auditorium of Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) here.

Four students, including two boys and two girls, lost their lives, while over 60 others are undergoing treatment at Kalamassery Medical College Hospital and some other hospitals nearby according to State Health Minister Veena George.

George mentioned that four more students were in a critical condition. ADGP M R Ajith Kumar stated that the audience rushed to the auditorium using the stairs when there was a sudden downpour, leading to a stampede and subsequent deaths.

"It was an annual festival, and from the brochure, we under-



Police personnel and others at a hospital where injured students have been admitted

stood that it was held from November 24 to November 26. The musical event was organised at an auditorium with a capacity of 1,000 to 1,500 people." It was partially filled. But when the rains lashed suddenly, the students rushed through the stairs, leading to the tragedy," Kumar said here.

While initial reports suggested that the stampede occurred during the Nikhita Gandhi musical performance, officials later said that the singer

had not begun her performance when the tragedy struck.

"The entry to the programme was restricted to ticket holders. However, several local residents were also outside the auditorium during the musical show," an eyewitness told the media. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan held an emergency meeting at a government guest house in Kozhikode in the wake of the tragedy and condoled the death of students.

Wife punches hubby to death for not taking her to Dubai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Nov 25: A 38-year-old man died in Pune city of Maharashtra after his wife allegedly punched him in the face as she was apparently upset with him for not taking her to Dubai to celebrate her birthday, police said.

The incident occurred Friday afternoon in Wanwadi area, they said. The deceased, Nikhil Khanna, was a real estate developer, according to the police.

"During the investigation, it came to light that the man's 36-year-old wife, Renuka, had her birthday on September 18. She wanted to celebrate it in Dubai, but her husband did not fulfil her demand," an official of Wanwadi police station said.

"Besides, the couple also had their wedding anniversary on November 5 and she was expecting some good gift from her husband. The woman was also upset as she wanted to go to Delhi for her relative's birthday, but there was no favourable response from her husband," he said.

Over 68% turnout in Rajasthan polls



The Election Commission had made elaborate arrangements to ensure smooth polling. More than 1.70 lakh security personnel were deployed across the state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Nov 25: More than 68 per cent voter turnout was recorded by 5 pm in the Rajasthan Assembly elections Saturday, with polling passing off peacefully barring a few stray incidents of violence.

In the last assembly elections in 2018, the state recorded a voter turnout of 74.06 per cent. The Election Commission has set a target of at least 75 per cent turnout in each constituency this time. Voting at more than 51,000 polling booths in 199 assembly constituencies began at 7 am and ended at 6 pm, but officials said those already in queue at the polling booths were allowed to vote.

"Polling percentage till 5 pm is 68.2 per cent. The highest turnout was in Jaisalmer district, followed by Hanumangarh and Dholpur districts," Gupta said at a press conference after the polling ended. The election in the desert state is a direct contest between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP. The Congress is aiming to buck the trend of the ruling party being voted out every five years, while the BJP is eyeing a return in the state ahead of the Lok Sabha polls next year.

Nearly 10 per cent of the electorate cast their votes in the first two hours of voting and the figure went up to nearly 25 per cent by 11 am and to more than 40

per cent by 1 pm. Polling in the Karanpur assembly constituency in Sriganganagar was postponed due to the death of the Congress candidate.

The votes will be counted December 3. Two people - Shanti Lal, who was a polling agent of the BJP candidate from the Sumerpur constituency Joraram Kumawat, and 62-year-old voter Satyendra Arora - died of cardiac arrest at polling booths in Pali and Udaipur districts.

There are more than 5.25 crore registered voters in 199 seats while 1,862 candidates are in the fray. The Election Commission had made elaborate arrangements to ensure smooth polling. More than 1.70 lakh security personnel were deployed across the state.

In Sanwler village of Kaman in Deeg district, two persons including a policeman were injured in stone-pelting. "Police fired 12 rounds in the air to disperse the crowd. Voting was disrupted for a few minutes due to the incident," Deeg Superintendent of Police (SP) Brijesh Upadhyay said.

In Sikar's Fatehpur, two groups clashed and a jawan was injured in the violence. "Stone pelting occurred outside a polling booth. One jawan was injured in the stone pelting. No civilian was injured. Around 5-7 persons have been detained," Fatehpur DSP Ram Pratap said.

CBI begins probe against Moitra

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The CBI has started a probe into allegations of corruption against Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra on a reference from anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal, officials said Saturday.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey had approached the Lokpal with a complaint against Moitra over allegations of taking bribes to raise questions in Parliament. Moitra remained combative, saying neither has Lokpal uploaded any referral order on its website as per the Lokpal Act nor has the CBI put out anything official. "Hope Rs 13,000 crore Adani coal scam merits CBI PE before my witchhunt," she posted on X.

Officials said the CBI has started a preliminary enquiry after getting a reference from the Lokpal which is the first step towards ascertaining if the allegations merit a full-fledged investigation.

There was no formal statement from either the CBI or the Lokpal on the issue.

Dubey had accused Moitra of asking questions in Lok Sabha to target the Adani Group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani in exchange for gifts.

He had also accused Moitra of compromising national security for monetary gains.

Moitra has denied any wrongdoing and claimed that she was being targeted as she had raised questions on the deals of the Adani group.

"Neither has Lok Pal uploaded any referral order on website as per Lokpal Act & nor has CBI put out anything official. 'Sources' telling journals as per usual media circus. 'Hope 713,000 crore Adani coal scam merits CBI PE before my witchhunt,'" Moitra said on X Saturday.

Moitra said she was "amused to see how headless Lokpal with no full-time Chairman referred" her case to the CBI.

Soumya murder: Life term for 4

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: In a rare order, a Delhi court Saturday handed down double rigorous life imprisonment to four members of an organised crime syndicate for killing TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan around 15 years ago here.

The special court awarded two life imprisonments to Ravi Kapoor, Amit Shukla, Baljeet Malik and Ajay Kumar under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and U/s 3 (1) (1) of 'The Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (committing organised crime resulting in the death of any person) and made clear that they will run "consecutively".

Referring to some apex court verdicts, guidelines regarding the sentencing policy, submis-



early hours of September 30, 2008, on south Delhi's Nelson Mandela Marg while she was returning home from work.

The special court did not agree to the vehement submissions of the prosecution seeking the death penalty, saying the act of the four convicts to murder the victim does not fall within the category of "rarest of rare cases".

Referring to some apex court verdicts, guidelines regarding the sentencing policy, submis-

sions on behalf of the state and on behalf of the convicts and the pre-sentence report as filed by the probation officer, the court said, "the present case and the act of the (four) convicts to murder the victim do not fall within the category of rarest of rare cases category in which the death penalty can be imposed."

The court also observed that it was "unfortunate" that Vishwanathan who was a "young, dynamic and hard-working journalist" lost her life due to the act of the convicts. While sentencing Kapoor, Shukla, Malik and Kumar to double life imprisonment, the court also imposed a fine of Rs 1.25 lakh each on them.

It also handed down three years of simple imprisonment to the fifth convict Ajay Sethi under IPC section 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property).



Police personnel use water cannons to disperse Youth Congress activists during their protest in Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday

Assam launches trust-building initiative for ULFA cadres

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 25: Assam Director General of Police GP Singh said Saturday that an initiative has been launched in the state to connect with family members of ULFA cadres and help them bring back their wards into the mainstream.

The joint initiative by the state police along with the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and the Indian Army aims at fostering peace and reconciliation in the entire region, he said.

"From conflict to collaboration: A trust-building initiative for a peaceful future," Singh posted on X, sharing photographs of family members of ULFA cadres in conversation with security personnel at different lo-



cations. Under the initiative, families of ULFA cadres are invited to army or central armed police force camps or police stations for "trust-building and to help them bring their children into the mainstream", the DGP said. "The initiative of inviting families of ULFA cadres for trust-building activities holds immense potential to promote peace and reconciliation in the region," he said. Among the objectives of the programme is building trust and understanding. "The initiative aims to bridge

the gap between the security forces and the families of ULFA cadres, creating a foundation of mutual respect and understanding," the DGP said. By engaging with the families, it also seeks to encourage rehabilitation and reintegration of ULFA cadres into mainstream society.

Stating that "promoting peace and reconciliation" is another objective of the initiative, the top police official said, "The overall objective is to foster a sense of peace and reconciliation in the region, paving the way for a more harmonious and peaceful future. An Initiative by @adgpi and @assampolice @CMOfficeAssam."

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had on November 16 said that 8,756 militants from different organisations have been rehabilitated across the state over the last two years.

Out of them, the highest 4,203 cadres belonged to the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB), followed by 1,926 from various Karbi militant organisations and 1,182 from a number of Adivasi extremist groups. They received skill development training under the surrender-cum-rehabilitation policy and 'Swavalamban' scheme, and are now leading a dignified life, Sarma had earlier posted on X.

All party meet on Dec 2 ahead of Winter session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The government has convened an all-party meeting December 2 ahead of the Winter session of Parliament, sources said Saturday.

The session will begin on December 4 and conclude on December 22. Though the all-party meet is convened a day before the session begins, this time it has been advanced by a day apparently due to counting of votes for five states December 3.

The results of the assembly elections will have a major bearing on the session during which the government is keen to pass key bills. The report of the Ethics Committee on the "cash-for-query" allegations against TMC MP Mahua Moitra will be tabled in Lok Sabha during the session.

The House will have to adopt the report before the expulsion recommended by the panel comes into effect.

Three key bills which seek to replace the IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act are likely to be taken up for consideration during the session as the standing committee on Home has already adopted the three reports recently.

Another key bill pending in Parliament relates to the appointment of the chief election commissioner and election commissioners.

Introduced in the Monsoon session, the government had not pushed for its passage in the special session of Parliament amid protests from the opposition and former chief election commissioners as it seeks to bring on a par the status of the CEC and ECs with that of the cabinet secretary. At present, they enjoy the status of a Supreme Court judge.

international



Canadian companies are already benefiting from Horizon and have for many years, but there is much more that we'll be able to access now that we are full partners
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM OF CANADA

ANDRY RAJOELINA REELECTED AS MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT

Madagascar's incumbent President Andry Rajoelina has won the presidential election again by garnering more than 50 per cent of the votes, as per preliminary results released Saturday by the country's Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI)



of the day quote

We have to agree to carry out a development and cooperation plan to help the people of Latin America, especially Central America and the Caribbean
ANDRES MANUEL LOPEZ OBRADOR | MEXICAN PRESIDENT

Countries must wake up to the massive violations that Israel is committing in Gaza
IBRAHIM KHRAISHI | PALESTINIAN AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND

Party leaders must begin their preparations for the national elections
NAWAZ SHARIF | PML-N SUPREMO

ISRAEL-GAZA TRUCE DEAL Hamas delays hostage release

Some 39 Palestinian women and teenagers were released from Israeli jails under the truce accord mediated by Qatar



Jerusalem, Nov 25: The armed wing of Hamas said it had decided to delay Saturday's scheduled second round of hostage releases until Israel met conditions including committing to let aid trucks into northern Gaza, as mediators scrambled to keep a four-day truce on track.
Qatar is in ongoing talks with Israel and Hamas to resolve the delay in hostage releases "as soon as possible," an official briefed on the situation said. Egypt was also trying to resolve the delay, a Palestinian official familiar with the matter who did not want to be named told

Reuters. Israel said it was honouring the truce. Earlier it said 50 aid trucks carrying food, water, shelter equipment and medical supplies had deployed to northern Gaza under UN supervision, the first significant aid delivery to northern Gaza since the start of the war.
The statement by the al-Qassam Brigades punctured hopes of a smooth second day of hostage and prisoner releases after 13 Israeli women and children were freed by Hamas on Friday. Some 39 Palestinian women and teenagers were released from Israeli jails under the truce accord mediated by Qatar. Hamas' al-Qassam Brigades said Israel was failing to respect the terms of the Palestinian prisoner release agreed as part of the hostage deal.
Qadura Fares, the Palestinian commissioner for prisoners, said Israel had not released detainees according to seniority, as was

expected. Israeli army spokesman Olivier Rafowicz told French television Israel was strictly honouring the terms of the truce, and said the military had carried out no attacks or offensive operations in Gaza Saturday. "There is a delay...in the release of the hostages. I do not want in any way to get into what the armed wing of the terrorist group Hamas is saying," Rafowicz told BFM TV. "This situation is obviously being managed at the highest level in Israel."

The Israeli army spokesman said earlier Israel had been expecting another 13 hostages to be set free on Saturday, with 39 Palestinian prisoners also to be released - barring last-minute changes.
A total of 50 hostages are to be exchanged for 150 Palestinian prisoners over four days under the truce, the first halt in fighting since Hamas fighters rampaged through southern Israel October 7, killing 1,200 people and taking about 240 hostages.

British troops patrol Kosovo-Serbia border

REUTERS
Jarinje, Kosovo, Nov 25: British troops are patrolling the Kosovo-Serbia border as part of a NATO peacekeeping presence being bolstered amid concern that the former wartime foes could return to open conflict following a series of violent incidents in recent months.



The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation sent hundreds of additional forces to Kosovo from Britain and Romania after a battle between the authorities and armed Serbs holed up in a monastery turned a quiet village in northern Kosovo into a war zone September 24.
One police officer and three gunmen were killed in the village of Banjska in what was seen as the worst violence since Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008.
Kosovo accused Serbia of providing financial and practical support for the gunmen, which Belgrade denies.
NATO has sent 1,000 extra troops to the region, bringing its presence there to 4,500 peacekeepers from 27 countries.
British soldiers are now being deployed in 18-hour shifts in freezing conditions to make sure no weapons or armed groups enter Kosovo.
"Currently we are here on a routine patrol, which consists of understanding patterns of life, gaining intelligence on any illegal or suspicious activity that then gets fed back to KFOR (NATO mission) and higher," Lieutenant Joss Gaddie from the British Army told Reuters at the border with Serbia.

SHORT TAKES

PIO in coma after assaulted in OZ

Melbourne: An Indian-origin student in Australia is in a medically induced coma after he was assaulted and a suspect has been taken into custody and charged with criminal assault, according to a media report. The student, who has not been identified, is in his 20s. He is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Tasmania.

Imran moves Supreme Court

Islamabad: Imran Khan has moved the Supreme Court for bail in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case in which Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister and his wife are accused of receiving land worth billions of rupees as a bribe from a real estate tycoon, according to a media report. Khan, 71, who has been incarcerated in the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi since September 26 in various cases, Friday moved the apex court following rejection of his plea by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) November 14.

Nine killed in Syrian shelling

Beirut: Syrian government forces' shelling of a northwestern village Saturday killed at least nine people, including six children, as they picked olives, opposition activists said. The shelling of the village of Qawqafeen, in Idlib province, is the latest violation of a truce reached in March 2020 between Russia and Turkey, who back rival sides in Syria's 12-year conflict that has killed half a million people.

14 farmers brutally killed in Congo

Kinshasa (Congo): Militants from a shadowy extremist organisation with ties to the Islamic State Group killed at least 14 farmers in Congo's hard-hit eastern region, a local official said. The Allied Democratic Forces attacked Mamove village in North Kivu province Friday night where they beheaded the farmers working on their fields. Armed violence in eastern Congo has been simmering for decades. In 2021, Uganda's army launched joint air and artillery strikes against the ADF in eastern Congo.

Pope cancels Saturday activities

Rome: Pope Francis has cancelled his audiences scheduled for Saturday morning because he has a slight fever, the Vatican said. "The Holy Father's audiences scheduled for this morning are cancelled due to a mild flu," it said in a statement.

11 killed in Karachi shopping mall fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Nov 25: A massive fire tore through a shopping mall in Pakistan's Karachi city Saturday, killing at least 11 people and injuring six, officials said.

The fire that broke out at around 7 am on the second floor engulfed the fourth, fifth and sixth floors of the shopping mall, but it was not clear what caused it.

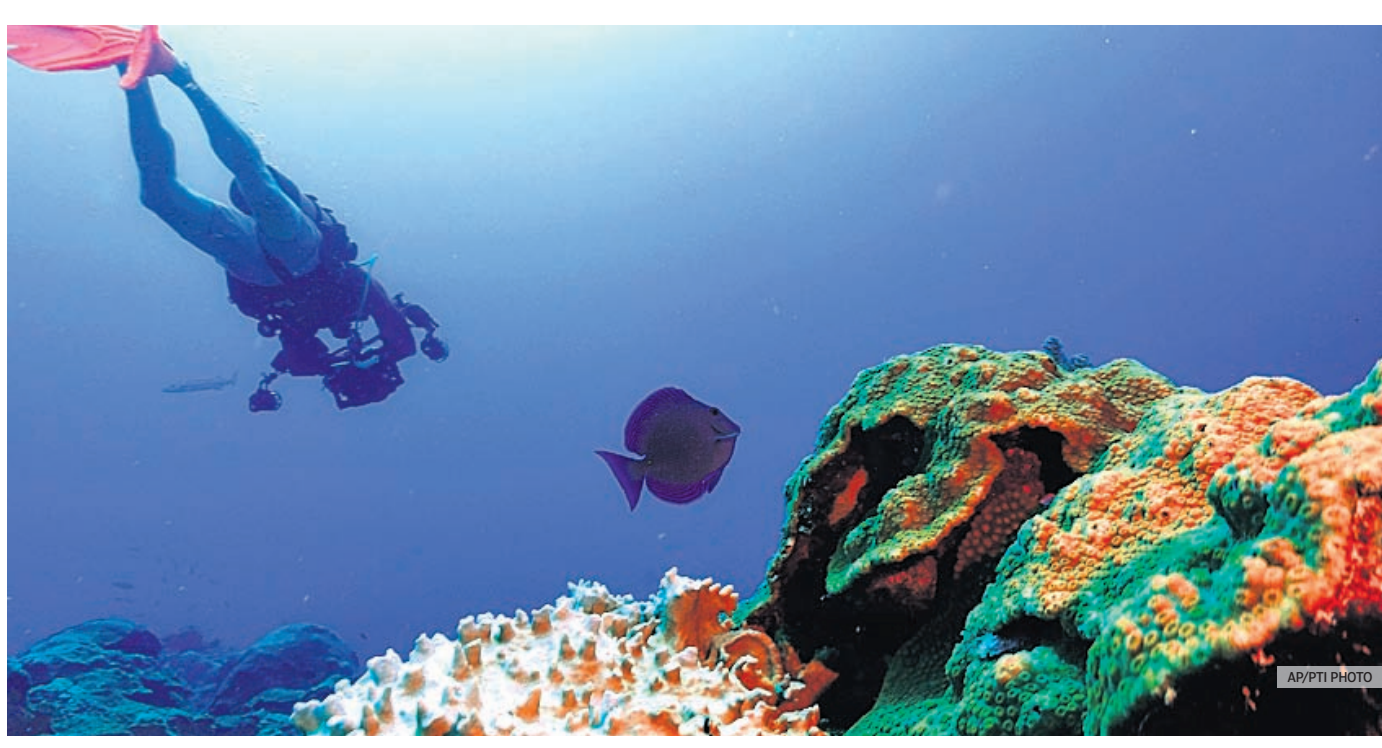
Twelve fire tenders, a snorkel and around 50 firefighters were called to control the fire and rescue around 42 people in the building.

Chief Fire Officer Mubin Ahmed said that 11 people were killed and six injured in the blaze mostly due to smoke inhalation and panic as the electricity to the building had to be cut off to control the blaze.

Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab confirmed that nine persons were killed in the fire but Police official Summaya Syed said that so far 11 bodies have been brought to two hospitals.

Nine were brought to Jinnah Hospital while 2 others were taken to Civil Hospital, she said, adding that the condition of 6 of those rescued was critical. Mubin said they were still investigating the reason for the fire but just earlier this week, city planners and engineers at a seminar said they were sure some 90 per cent of structures in Karachi — residential, commercial and industrial — did not have fire prevention and firefighting systems.

They agreed that it was "criminal negligence" on the part of regulatory bodies like the Sindh Building Control Authority (SBCA) that put the lives of millions of people in the metropolis at risk.



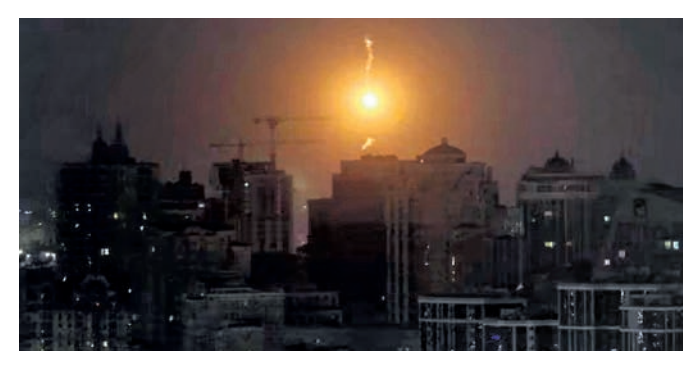
A scuba diver swims near bleached coral, left, and healthy coral at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of Galveston in Texas

Russia launches largest drone attack on Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv (Ukraine), Nov 25: Russia Saturday morning launched its most intense drone attack on Ukraine since the beginning of its full-scale invasion in 2022, targeting the Ukrainian capital, military officials said.

"Kyiv was the main target," Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleshchuk wrote on his Telegram channel. The attack was "the most massive air attack by drones on Kyiv," said Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv city administration. Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuriy Ilnat confirmed later that the air defenses shot down 66 air targets over the capital and surrounding region throughout the morning.



At least five civilians were wounded in the hours long assault, which saw several buildings damaged by falling debris from downed drones, including a kindergarten. The wounded included an 11-year-old child, according to Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko. In the city's

Solomiansky district, debris left a crater in the courtyard of a residential area, and the windows of a nearby building were blown out.
Residents, most of them elderly, received medical attention at the scene. Others took shelter in a nearby subway station.

In total, Russia launched 75 Iranian-made Shahed drones against Ukraine, of which 74 were destroyed by air defenses

As people were clearing up debris and broken glass in the neighbourhood, the hum of a fresh wave of drones could be heard nearby.
The assault on Kyiv began at 4 a.m., continuing in waves for over six hours, and caused power outages in 77 residential buildings and 120 institutions, ac-

ording to Popko. Ukraine's Energy Ministry said 17,000 people were without power in the Kyiv region as a result of the attack, noting that four power lines were damaged. Power was restored in the early afternoon.
"Our soldiers shot down most of the drones. Unfortunately, not all," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram.
"But we continue to work to strengthen our air defense and shoot down more," he said. Meanwhile, shelling killed on person and wounded three in the southern Kherson region, regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said Saturday. According to Prokudin, the region had been shelled 100 times over the previous 24 hours.

Italy is no country for young chefs

REUTERS

Rome, Nov 25: Like many young people growing up in Sardinia, Davide Sanna loved Italian cuisine and wanted to have a successful career as a chef. But to do so, he had to move to New York.

Sanna had worked in kitchens on the Mediterranean island and in northern Italy for four years, starting when he was only 19. But he was toiling 60 hours a week to take home just 1,800 euros (\$1,963.26) a month, at best. In the busy summer season, he'd be at the stove every day for two months, without a break.

Then a fellow chef put him in contact with a restaurateur looking for cooks in New York, Sanna said. He accepted without giving it a second thought.
For the past year, the 25-year-old has cooked at Piccola Cucina, an Italian restaurant in Manhattan's glitzy SoHo district, home to designer boutiques and high-end art galleries. In New York, he can pull down



The popularity of Italian cuisine in Europe and the United States grew as more immigrants arrived after World War Two

\$7,000 a month, working a 50-hour week.
"Here there are regular contracts, nothing in the 'black'," said Sanna, using the Italian slang for undeclared labour. "And, if you work a minute extra, you're paid for it. It's not like that in Italy."
Italy's food is famous the world over but many talented young chefs, hoping to make a career in their country, find themselves frustrated by low pay, lack of labour protection and scant

prospects. Since the launch of Europe's single currency 25 years ago, Italy has been the euro zone's most sluggish economy.
Star chefs like Massimo Bottura, who runs the Osteria Francescana in Modena, are reinventing Italian cuisine. But, given its rich culinary tradition, Italy arguably finds itself underrepresented by top-class restaurants. It has 13 with three Michelin stars — the prestigious guide book's highest ranking — the same number as Spain, Japan,

meanwhile, has 21, and France boasts 29.
The current outflow of Italian chefs due to difficult conditions at home is not a new phenomenon.
Italians began taking pizza and pasta to the world during mass emigration in the late 19th century. The popularity of Italian cuisine in Europe and the United States grew as more immigrants arrived after World War Two.
But the number of young Italian leaving to seek work in faster-growing economies has been steadily rising for decades — though the trend was briefly interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Emigration, and a low birth rate, has contributed to a mounting demographic crisis: Italy's population of 59 million is shrinking.
Much of the emigration has come from the Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Sardinia, as well as Italy's economically underdeveloped south — the 'mezzogiorno'.

SNIPPETS

PIO Yoga prodigy wins gold in Europe

London: A 13-year-old Indian-origin Yoga prodigy from south-east England with several awards under his belt has added another Gold Medal to his tally at the European Yoga Sports Championship in Sweden. Ishwar Sharma, from Sevenoaks in Kent, started taking up Yoga when he was three years old after seeing his father practise daily and went on to win several World Yoga Championships. Last weekend, he bagged the Europe Cup 2023 in the Boys 12-14 category when he competed in the European competition.

Court sentences two former army officers

Islamabad: Two retired Pakistani Army officers have been court-martialed and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of up to 14 years for inciting sedition, it was announced on Saturday, indicating that military court trials of those accused of violence against military installations May 9 have begun. Major (Retired) Adil Farooq Raja and Captain (Retired) Haider Raza Mehdi, who live abroad and are critical of the senior Army leadership, were sentenced in absentia.

No approval given to construct Pashupatinath Temple in India

Kathmandu: Authorities at Nepal's Pashupati Area Development Trust Saturday said that no permission has been given to anyone to build a replica of the world-famous Pashupatinath temple here in India. A statement from the Pashupati Area Development Trust (PADT) came in the wake of media reports stating that a replica of the Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu was being constructed in a village in Uttarakhand. The centuries-old temple is devoted to the Hindu god Shiva, in his avatar as Pashupati, the protector of animals. "There is no truth in the news report that Pashupatinath Temple is being built in Uttarakhand of India and the Trust's attention has been drawn towards this false news report," Dr Ghanashyam Khatiwada, the executive director of PADT said in a statement.

of the day quote

Our current focus, in addition to services, is on precision manufacturing. Now, India is attracting a lot of manufacturing investments. We are trying to invest in those companies which can export and make components in deep tech, and automobiles

MD RANGANATH | CHAIRMAN, CATAMARAN

We are seeing green shoots come through even in the semi-urban areas and with the tailwind that we have, I think both retail and e-commerce should see a fairly good year in 2024

HIMANSHU CHAKRAWARTI | CEO, SNAPDEAL

Cyber Week is off to a strong start with Thanksgiving driving a record \$5.6 billion in online spend as consumers took advantage of strong discounts and continued their shopping plans, virtually

VIVEK PANDYA | LEAD ANALYST, ADOBE DIGITAL INSIGHTS

SHORT TAKES

Ampln Energy to invest in Odisha

New Delhi: Ampln Energy Transition announced plans to invest ₹3,100 crore in states including Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand. The investments will be made towards setting up renewable energy projects of about 600 MW and a 1.3 GW integrated manufacturing facility of solar cells and modules, the company said in a statement. "Significant investments are planned in West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and the Northeastern states. The investment reflects our commitment of accelerating the renewable energy transition and adoption of clean energy solutions in the Eastern region," it said.

New FICCI Prez

New Delhi: Industry body FICCI Friday said Anish Shah -- Mahindra Group CEO and Managing Director of its parent firm Mahindra & Mahindra -- will take over as its president next month. Shah is the senior Vice-President of FICCI and will succeed Subhrakant Panda as the President of the chamber at the conclusion of its 96th Annual General Meeting to be held here December 8-9. Anish Shah is the Group CEO of Mahindra Group and the Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra, the parent company of the Group. His primary focus is on nurturing a purpose-driven organisation, establishing tech leadership in each industry, and enabling value creation across businesses, FICCI said.



UPI has spawned one of the world's most exciting fintech systems in the world, which is now growing and thriving and creating unprecedented opportunities in India

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | UNION MINISTER

INDIA TO LEAD ISO NEXT YEAR

India will assume the chairmanship of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO), an apex body for sugar and related products, for 2024, the government said Friday. India is the largest consumer and second largest producer of sugar in the world



PASSENGER TRAFFIC

INTERNATIONAL AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC TOUCHES HIGHEST LEVEL POST PANDEMIC NOV 24, JUST A DAY AFTER DOMESTIC TRAFFIC WAS AT PEAK LEVEL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The international air passenger traffic touched 1,06,827 Friday, the highest level post the coronavirus pandemic, according to union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. In a post on X, Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia

Indian aviation sector scaling new heights



So far this month, the domestic traffic has touched new highs at least four times -- Nov 23, 20, 19 and 20

A landmark day for Indian aviation sector! After reaching the milestone of carrying 4.63 lakh daily domestic passengers, the sector has achieved yet another feat of carrying more than 1 lakh daily international passengers

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA | UNION MINISTER

Saturday said international air passenger traffic stood at 1,06,827 November 24 and it was the "highest post Covid international air traffic".

"Post-Covid, India's domestic aviation's turnaround story has not just been overwhelming but inspiring as well. Positive attitude, progressive

policies, and deep trust among passengers are taking it to new heights with every flight, every day," the civil aviation min-

Sebi introduces new regulatory framework for index providers

Sebi introduces new regulatory framework for index providers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: Markets watchdog Sebi Saturday approved a slew of proposals, including providing flexibility to Not for Profit Organisations (NPOs) in raising funds through the social stock exchange and also decided to introduce a regulatory framework for index providers.

Besides, the regulator will put in place a new regulatory framework for facilitating Small and Medium Real Estate Investment Trusts (SM REITs) apart from amending norms to strengthen the protection of investors who have pumped in money into Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

The decisions were taken by the board of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) during its meeting held here.

On SM REITs, Sebi Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said the objective is to help expand the market significantly so that more retail investors can have fractional ownership in REIT units.

In a release, the regulator said flexibility will be provided for fundraising by NPOs through the social stock exchange.

In this regard, the minimum issue size in case of public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZPI) for NPOs on the social stock exchange will be reduced to ₹50 lakh from ₹1 crore.

Sebi also aims to introduce same-day settlement of trades on stock exchanges by March 2024 and eventually have real time settlement. Already, the watchdog reduced the settlement timelines to as short as one day.

Among other decisions, a regulatory framework will be introduced for the index providers to foster transparency and accountability in governance and administration of financial benchmarks in the securities market.

Unsecured personal loans jumped 4-fold from FY17 to FY23

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 25: Unsecured personal loans jumped more than four-fold to ₹13.32 lakh crore as of March 2023 from ₹4.26 lakh crore in March 2017, as per a report.

Overall, the number of personal loans has almost tripled during this period to ₹51.7 lakh crore, an analysis by Care Ratings revealed.

This means the personal loan books of banks and non-banks almost grew 1.5 times between FY17 and FY23, and now constitutes 30.3 per cent of the overall credit of ₹170.5 lakh crore as of March 2023, the report said.

At the end of FY17, the amount was ₹18.6 lakh crore, or 21.5 per cent of the overall loan book, it said. Of the total personal loans, unsecured loans jumped more than four-fold to ₹13.32 lakh crore as of March 2023 from ₹4.26 lakh crore in March 2017, recording a growth rate of 23 per cent in the final year over FY22, when it stood at ₹10.81 lakh crore.

The recent move by the RBI to hike the risk weight by 25 percentage points to deter high consumer credit growth is expected to impact the momentum in growth in the immediate to near term, the report said.

Sources say Centre is likely to fall short of its divestment goal by ₹300bn as elections delay IDBI, NMDC privatisation

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 25: India will struggle to raise even half the proceeds it had targeted from planned sales of state-run firms this year and will miss divestment targets for the fifth straight year, sources said, as elections shift government priorities.

The government may fall short of its divestment goal by ₹300 billion in 2023/24, two government sources told Reuters. New Delhi had targeted ₹510 billion from divestment proceeds for the current fiscal year that ends March, 2024.

In 2023/24, about ₹300 billion of the ₹510 billion target was expected through stake sales in IDBI Bank and the privatisation of state-owned NMDC Steel.

However, delays in vetting of interested buyers for IDBI by the Reserve Bank of India, the banking regulator, have stretched the sale timeline beyond the 2024

FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW



No privatisation will take place in this tenure of the government. Forget divestment and privatisation for next six months because of lack of political interest in privatisation policy

SUBHASH CHANDRA GARG | FORMER FEDERAL FINANCE SECRETARY

federal elections.

The sale of NMDC Steel will not conclude this year due to state elections and federal elections next summer. The company's main plant is in the mineral rich state of Chhattisgarh, where it is a major employer and unions have protested the sale.

While it may still achieve some smaller divestments in the current

Govt has targeted ₹510bn from divestment proceeds for the current fiscal year that ends March, 2024

ment, the first source said. Strong profits and steady demand have allowed these firms to give higher dividends.

The government expects to surpass its ₹430 billion dividend target and has so far received ₹203 billion from state-run firms.

"As long as the government is meeting its fiscal targets and there isn't a shortfall, missing divestment targets is fine," said Rahul Bajoria, an economist at Barclays Investment Bank.

The privatisation delays will not impact the government's fiscal deficit target of 5.9% of GDP, a third government official said.

The government has only managed to sell minority stakes in five of its companies through so-called offer for sales via stock exchanges, despite Indian markets hitting record highs this year. An index of state-owned entities touched an all-time high of 13,242 November 16.

BIZ BUZZ

Odisha Gramya Bank disburses ₹250 crore to SHG members

Bhubaneswar: At the state level conclave on skill enhancement of FPO & SHG members organised by NABARD, Odisha Gramya Bank disbursed ₹250 crore to SHG members of Khurda, Cuttack and Pipli Saturday. The bank also disbursed ₹2 crore to KCC beneficiaries, ₹1.7 lakh to street vendors and ₹10 lakh to PMSBY nominees. The function was attended by more than 300 SHG members. The Chairman Rishi Singh, GM Shwetabh Kumar, GM Trupti Ranjan Swain, GM Basudev Routray and GM Satyabati Sahoo guided SHG members about proper utilisation of funds and technical aspects about how to increase productivity. The SHG beneficiaries displayed their products such as Chandua and Patta Chitra at the function. The bank also assured to provide more financing options to SHGs to empower every woman of the state.



India, EU sign MoU on semiconductors

THE MoU SYMBOLISES STRONG COMMITMENT BETWEEN INDIA, EU TO WORK TOWARDS BUILDING ROBUST CHIP SUPPLY CHAINS AND WORK TOGETHER ON INNOVATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: India and the European Union have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on semiconductors that covers cooperation in areas such as research and innovation, talent development, partnerships and exchange of market information, the External Affairs Ministry said Friday.

The MoU was signed ahead of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council that was held in the virtual format Friday.

The Trade and Technology Council meeting was co-chaired on the Indian side by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology



Ashwini Vaishnav

Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis and Vice-President Vera Jourova chaired the meeting from the European side.

The Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was launched by Prime Minister and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen during the latter's visit to India in April 2022.

The inaugural ministerial meeting of TTC was held in Brussels May 16, where all three working groups under TTC set out their cooperation on a wide range of issues including semiconductors, high-performance computing, digital public infrastructures, clean energy technologies, supply chain resilience and trade issues.

During the virtual meeting, the co-chairs reviewed the progress achieved in the working groups since the first ministerial meeting and also discussed the future action plans of these working groups, the MEA said in its statement.

The co-chairs provided strategic guidance to the Working Groups on strategic technologies and digital connectivity, clean and green energy technologies, and trade, investment and resilient supply chains towards achieving the objectives set out for TTC during its establishment at the highest levels, he said.

The MoU on semiconductors was signed by Ashwini Vaishnav and Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for Internal Markets.

WEDDING SEASON DEMAND WANES

Asia Gold: Indian dealers widen discounts

LOCAL GOLD PRICES IN INDIA WERE AROUND ₹61,100 PER 10 GRAMS FRIDAY AFTER HITTING A RECORD HIGH OF ₹61,914 LAST WEEK

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 25: Top Asian hubs saw some selling of physical gold this week as people cashed in on relatively high prices, with lacklustre demand during the wedding season in India prompting dealers to offer steeper discounts.

The bullion industry was hoping the momentum seen during the festival of Diwali would continue, but higher prices seem to be hampering wedding season demand, said a Mumbai-based bullion dealer with a private bank.

Local gold prices in India were around ₹61,100 per 10 grams Friday after hitting a record high of ₹61,914 last week.



- INDIA DEALERS OFFER \$6/OUNCE DISCOUNT
- CHINA PREMIUMS FALL TO \$20-\$40/OUNCE
- MORE SELLING THAN BUYING IN SINGAPORE

some people, prompting them to book profits, resulting in lower premiums in Shanghai, said

Asia in general is pretty quiet at the moment. There has been some sporadic selling in places, but generally the markets are marking time

RHONA O'CONNELL | ANALYST, STONEX

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The government Saturday announced compulsory blending of compressed biogas, which is extracted from municipal and agriculture waste, in natural gas to cut reliance on imports.

Initially, 1 per cent of biogas will be blended in gas used in automobiles and household kitchens for cooking from April 2025, a government statement said. The share will be increased to around 5 per cent by 2028.

The government also plans to have 1 per cent sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in aircraft turbine fuel by 2027, doubling to 2 per cent in 2028. The SAF targets will initially apply to international flights, the statement said. "CBG Blending Obligation (CBO) will promote production and consumption of Compressed Biogas (CBG) in the country," it said.

"The key objectives of the CBO are to stimulate demand



The move is in line with the aim of achieving net zero emissions targets by 2070

for CBG in city gas distribution sector, import substitution for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), saving in forex, promoting circular economy and to assist in achieving the target of net zero emission."

The CBO will encourage investment of around ₹37,500 crores and facilitate establishment of 750 CBG projects by 2028-29, the statement said.

The CBG blending will be voluntary till FY 2024-2025 (April 2024 to March 2025) and the mandatory blending obligation will

start from FY 2025-26. "CBO shall be kept as 1 per cent, 3 per cent and 4 per cent of total CNG/PNG consumption for FY 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 respectively. From 2028-29 onwards CBO will be 5 per cent," the statement said.

A Central Repository Body (CRB) shall monitor and implement the blending mandate based on the operational guidelines.

Also, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF/ Bio-ATF) initial indicative blending percentage targets were set.

Satwik-Chirag in final

Indian duo outclasses Chinese pair, eyes 6th title of season

AGENCIES

Shenzhen, Nov 25: India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty dished out another attacking masterclass to outwit the Chinese duo of He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu and storm into the men's doubles final at the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament here Saturday.

The former World No. 1 Indian pair, who had won their first BWF World Super 750 title at the French Open last year, notched up a 21-15, 22-20 win over the newly-formed Chinese pair of He and Ren, which had a title-winning run last week at the Japan Masters.

The top seeds will face another Chinese pair in the summit clash, the winner of the other semifinal between Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi and second seeds Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang.

Satwik and Chirag have won the Badminton Asian Championships, Indonesia Super 1000, Korea Super 500, Swiss Super 300 and finally the Asian Games gold medal in a stellar year.

The BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour is divided into six levels, namely World Tour Finals, four Super 1000, six Super 750, seven Super 500, and 11 Super 300 tournaments. One more category of tournament, the BWF Tour Super 100 level, also offers ranking points. Each of these tournaments offers different ranking points and prize money. The highest points and prize pool is offered at the Super 1000 level.



Chirag Shetty (in front) and Satwik Rankireddy have been playing consistently this season

FILE PHOTO

The Chinese duo was not in the same league as the Indian pair. Both Satwik and Chirag launched a relentless attack on their Chinese adversaries and never relaxed for one moment. They always had the upper hand in the first game. Though He and Ren offered some resistance in the second game the outcome was never in doubt. The Indians finished off the match in little less than an hour.

Despite having a local crowd cheering all their shots vociferously, the Chinese duo trailed the entire first game. They were always playing catch-up with both Chirag and Satwik hitting some acute angle cross-court smashes. Chirag was unstoppable with his interceptions as he patrolled the front court and pounced on anything re-

MATCH SCORE

Satwik & Chirag bt He & Ren

21-15, 22-20

motely weak, while Satwik added some loopy returns at the backline along with his thunderous smashes. The Chinese pair did better with their frontcourt play in the second game to lead 8-6 after the Indians went wide on a couple of occasions. They also led 12-9 after resumption. However, the Indians varied the pace of the shuttle to a nicety and soon it was 13-13. After that the Indians never looked back.

SHORT TAKES

Uday to lead India in U-19 Asia Cup

Mumbai: Promising batsman Uday Saharan will lead defending champions India in the ACC Men's Under-19 Asia Cup to be played in the UAE from December 8. Saamy Kumar Pandey was named as vice-captain of the 15-member side. India are the most successful team in the U-19 Asia Cup having won the title eight times. India are grouped with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nepal in the tournament. They will begin their campaign against the Afghans December 8 at the ICC Academy Oval-1. India will then face Pakistan December 10 and Nepal two days later. **The squad:** Uday Saharan (captain), Saamy Kumar Pandey (vice-captain), Arshin Kulkarni, Adarsh Singh, Rudra Mayur Patel, Sachin Dhas, Priyanshu Moliya, Musheer Khan, Dhanush Gowda, Avinash Rao (wk), M Abhishek, Inness Mahajan (wk), Aardhya Shukla, Raj Limbani and Naman Tiwari.

Kane show continues

Berlin: Harry Kane scored yet again to lead Bayern Munich to the top of the Bundesliga with a 1-0 win Saturday at Cologne. No other player has ever scored 18 goals in the first 12 rounds of the Bundesliga. However Kane became the first English player to reach 18 goals in a single Bundesliga season, overtaking the 17 scored both by Jadon Sancho for Borussia Dortmund (2019-20) and Kevin Keegan for Hamburger SV (1978-79). "One-nil, we probably know we could have scored a couple more in the first half but, really, a great victory," Kane said.

Lyon junks 'Bazball'

London: Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon has dismissed assertions that 'Bazball', an aggressive brand of cricket displayed by the England Test team, has revolutionised the game. Lyon, who is just four wickets shy of 500 wickets in Tests, said he did not see 'Bazball' in the two Ashes fixtures he was part of last year before getting injured for the remaining three. The term 'Bazball' came into being after Brendon McCullum, who is nicknamed 'Baz', was appointed England Test coach last year. "I'm 2-0 against 'Bazball' so I am happy," Lyon joked on Channel 7's 'Front Bar' programme. "It's a load of s... if you ask me. It's a brand of cricket that the English want to keep going with. Now, it's in the dictionary, which is pretty extraordinary," added the Australian spinner.

HI chief accused of 'extortion'

Hockey Telangana alleges Bhola Nath demanded ₹25 lakh to allow it to conduct elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: Hockey India (HI) was left red-faced Saturday after its all-powerful secretary general Bhola Nath Singh was accused of trying to 'extort' ₹25 lakh from Hockey Telangana unit president Saral Talwar, an allegation which the senior administrator termed 'baseless'. The allegations by Talwar are based on Bhola Nath apparently demanding huge sum of money lieu of allowing the state hockey unit to conduct elections.

Telangana Hockey's elections was due since April this year. However, according to Talwar, HI secretary general has been creating multiple unnecessary hurdles, citing different reasons at different junctures.

"The elections were due in April and we were on line to conduct it but an HI official was sabotaging that. HI said there were complaints and we gave an answer to the committee and finally I met him (Bhola Nath) and he said that 'if you want to get out of it, you have to pay ₹25 (lakh). It was just me and him in the room', Talwar told this agency. "And then he said, he will give 7 days time to think about it. I met him November 3," Talwar informed.

Bhola Nath, on his part, rejected all the allegations and said he has always worked for the betterment of the sport. "These allegations are completely base-



Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh

I am hoping Dilip Tirkey will take some action. If not I will seek the next available option

SARAL TALWAR | HOCKEY TELANGANA

less. I have never taken even 25 paise from anyone, leave aside ₹25 lakh," he asserted.

"I have always worked for the betterment of the sport and for the welfare and growth of Indian hockey and Indian players," Bhola Nath added.

The problem started when HI under Bhola Nath's leadership, formed an ad-hoc committee to run the day-to-day affairs of Telangana Hockey. The three-member ad-hoc committee was headed by Chhatisgarh Hockey secretary general Firoz Ansari and it forced Talwar to lodge the complaint.

Talwar said that they have been trying to conduct the elections from the onset but HI was deferring it citing one or the other reasons, including, non-compliance with its constitution.

"HI formed the ad-hoc committee almost three months back and since then it didn't meet once. They kept on giving some excuses on the other, like our constitution was not correct and that we did not have enough permanent members," Talwar stated.

Talwar said he tried to reach out to HI president Dilip Tirkey, who promised to look into the matter. "I have written to him (Tirkey) twice before and then again I wrote a third letter. I spoke to him also in detail and he said he will look into it but than nothing happened," Talwar claimed.

CR7's 'goal of the season'

AGENCIES

Riyadh, Nov 25: Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr closed the gap on Saudi Pro League leaders Al-Hilal to just one point Saturday after easing to a 3-0 win over Al Okhdood at the King Saud University Stadium here. Heading into the match, Al-Nassr were second in the table, four points behind leaders Al Hilal.

Sami Al Najdi put the hosts in front in the 13th minute with a clinical finish from close range. Ronaldo came close to scoring himself multiple times in the first half, but was denied by the Al Okhdood keeper who was in tremendous form.

Ronaldo's moment, however, finally arrived in the 77th minute as he skipped past a couple of defenders before finding the back of the net from a tight angle.

However, there was more drama left in the match and Ronaldo was at the centre of it. In the 80th minute, the Al-Nassr



Cristiano Ronaldo scores against Al Okhdood in a match of the Saudi Pro League

captain made it 3-0 in spectacular fashion after the ball dropped to his feet about 30 yards from goal.

With the goalkeeper rushing to close him down, Ronaldo showed tremendous awareness and technique to lob the ball that went into the back of the net. Then he celebrated in his traditional style. The goal also proved that despite being on the wrong side of 30, Ronaldo is still in sublime form. After his brace, Ronaldo now has 18 goals and nine assists in 18 appearances across all competitions for Al Nassr.

Man City, Reds play stalemate

AGENCIES

Manchester, Nov 25: Manchester City failed to equal the English top-flight record of 24 straight home wins in all competitions as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Liverpool at the Etihad Stadium here Saturday. Erling Haaland (27th) struck his 50th Premier League goal to open the scoring but Trent Alexander-Arnold (80th) arrowed home brilliantly late on to earn the visitors a point. Still, the draw ensured City will stay top into next week.

Haaland opened the scoring on 27 minutes when he collected Nathan Ake's pass and drilled a low strike into the bottom corner following a miscued kick from visiting goalkeeper, Alisson. In the process Haaland added another feather to his cap (See box).

The hosts created the better chances in the second half but

Bowlers seek improved show

India face Australia in 2nd T20I game with aim to consolidate lead

AGENCIES

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 25: The young Indian bowling unit will have to push behind the timid show in the series opener and find their flow against a forceful Australian batting line-up in the second T20 here Sunday. India had won the first game at Visakhapatnam by two wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series, but their bowlers, except pacer Mukesh Kumar, looked incapable of stemming the run-flow.

Keeping in mind that India are now aiming to win the T20 World Cup to be played next year in the West Indies and the US, the bowlers must step up to find a place in the national squad. With the regulars Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj and Ravindra Jadeja - all being rested, this is the ideal time for the reserve bench bowlers to come good.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav, who played a match-winning innings in the first T20 game was candid enough here Saturday and harped on the importance of the bowlers firing.

"We will try to do well in the upcoming tournaments and there is an ICC event coming up next year. We need to prepare properly and everyone has to contribute so that we can adopt a winning formula," Surya stated. "Hopefully we will improve with every game and hopefully we will end the run of remaining trophy-less by winning the ICC T20 World Cup next year," added the stand-in Indian skipper.

Surya also thanked the fans for their support. "It is only 5-6 days since the ODI World Cup ended. However, wherever we are going there have been massive crowds.



WARMING UP: Suryakumar Yadav does stretching exercises during the training session Saturday. PTI PHOTO

'DIFFICULT TO STAY AHEAD OF SKY'

Thiruvananthapuram: Trying to stay a step ahead of players like Suryakumar Yadav, also popularly known as SKY, and Ishan Kishan has always been left-arm pacer Jason Behrendorff's endeavour but it is easier said than done, admitted the Australian speedster here Saturday. The fast bowler was asked what could possibly be his strategy to stop his Mumbai Indians teammate. "Give the ball to someone else may be," Behrendorff joked. "They are all pretty good players and I try to keep them guessing, but just to stay one step ahead is hard to do at times. Maybe, we will vary our pace, line and length to keep them quiet," he added.

We must thank them and show them gratitude by winning games on a regular basis," Surya stated. "We are disappointed losing the final, but now the fans are motivating us to do well," he added.

Among the bowlers especially, pacer Prasidh Krishna and leggie Ravi Bishnoi will have to show vast improvement. In the

last game they completely looked rudderless as the Australian batters went on the offensive.

However, India will have not much to complain about in the batting department as Surya, Ishan Kishan, Rinku Singh and Yashasvi Jaiswal displayed fine touch against the Aussie bowlers.

Stubborn Haryana end Odisha's dream

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 25: Haryana stood firm in penalty shootout to overcome Odisha 3-2 after the game was tied at 2-2 at the end of regulation time in the Hockey India Senior Men's National Championships here Saturday.

In other matches played on the day, India skipper Harmanpreet Singh struck twice as Punjab defeated Manipur 4-2 to set up a semifinal clash against Karnataka. Harmanpreet, who had scored a hat-trick in the previous game against Uttarakhand, scored in the 31st and 51st minutes from penalty corners. India forward Sukhjeet Singh (20th) and Pardeep Singh (36th) joined him on the score sheet. For Manipur, captain Chhingsena Singh (36th) and Rishi Yumnam (45th) were on target.

In another game, Karnataka brushed aside Jharkhand 4-1 with Harish Mutagar (46th, 49th), captain Sheshe Gowda (23th) and Likhith Bm (32nd) on target. For Jharkhand, Dilbar Barla (39th) scored the consolation goal.

Tamil Nadu registered a thrilling 3-2 comeback win over Uttar Pradesh with second half goals from J. Kavin Kishore (33rd) and captain J Joshua Benedict Wesley (52nd, 59th). Manish Sahani (27th), Sunil Yadav (30th) had earlier scored from penalty corners to give Uttar Pradesh a two-goal lead.

Tough selection process for Paris Games wrestlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 25: The wrestling squad for the 2024 Paris Olympics will be finalised through a two-step selection process, where the grapplers who have earned the quota places for the country, will compete against a challenger in June and the winner will represent India in the quadrennial showpiece. So far only Antim Panghal, the World Championships bronze medalist in 53kg category, has earned a quota place for India and she too will have to compete against a challenger June 1 to know whether she will go to Paris or not.

The young Antim could end up competing against arch-rival Vinesh Phogat for the Paris berth if the 2018 Asian Games gold medalist emerges a 'challenger', which will be determined May 31.

The IOA constituted ad-hoc committee stated in a statement Saturday that all the challengers will be determined May 31 and the 'wrestle-off' between the 'Challenger' and Olympic quota winner will take place June 1.

Only Antim has been able to clinch an Olympic quota place for India. More wrestlers are expected to earn slots for India in the two upcoming events - the Asian Olympic Qualifier in Kyrgyzstan (April 19-21) and the World Olympic Qualifiers in Turkey (May 9-12). India can

- All who win Olympic quotas will have to face 'challengers' for final selection
- 17 quotas still available for India for Paris Olympics

earn 17 more Paris quota places in the two tournaments - six each in men's free-style and greco-roman and five in the women's category.

The ad-hoc committee, led by Bhupender Singh Bajwa, said in a statement that the 'comprehensive selection policy' for the 2024 Paris Olympics will ensure a 'fair and transparent process in determining the athletes who will represent India on the global stage'.

The members of the Indian contingent for the two Olympic qualifying events will be selected on the basis of trials, to be conducted in all 30 Olympic and non-Olympic categories, from February 27-29. All grapplers who were part of the Hangzhou Asian Games and 2023 Senior World Championships can compete in the February trials.

Bajwa, when asked whether Indian grapplers will compete under the United World Wrestling (UWW) flag at the Paris Olympics since the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has been banned said that "since the Olympics and Asian Games are multi-discipline events, they will compete as part of the Indian contingent".

Chennaiyin held by resolute East Bengal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Nov 25: Ninthoingamba Meetei netted an equaliser late into the second half as Chennaiyin FC (CFC) played out a 1-1 draw with East Bengal in a match of the ISL at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, here Saturday.

East Bengal took the lead in the first half against the run of play through an own goal by midfielder Ayush Adhikari in the 29th minute. Meetei scored the only goal for the home side in the 86th minute of an exciting contest.

The Marina Machans found their feet in the game early on as a long-range attempt of Adhikari from outside the box was saved by the away team in the seventh minute. Jordan Murray soon found himself in the mix of the action and hit a right-footed shot from the centre of the box that went high over the bar.

No stopping Haaland

MANCHESTER: Manchester City striker Erling Haaland broke another scoring record by tallying his 50th Premier League goal faster than anyone in league history. The Norway international opened the scoring in City's match against Liverpool. Haaland's landmark figure came in 48 games and broke the record held by former Manchester United and Newcastle striker Andy Cole, who reached that total in 65 games. It was Haaland's 18th goal in 20 appearances in all competitions this season. In a record-setting season last year, he scored 52 goals for City as the club won a treble of trophies - the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.



A pumped up Erling Haaland after his goal against Liverpool as Bernardo runs in to join the celebrations

the visitors silenced the home crowd 10 minutes from time when Alexander-Arnold rifled a sublime low shot into the far corner to earn a share of the spoils after a lovely build-up down the middle.