

Identity crisis
Actor Kriti Sanon shares on how it took her years to get rid of 'Tiger Shroff's heroine' tag

LEISURE | P2



US' last ceasefire push
Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu in the first big US push for ME ceasefire

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Bear attack
Investors' wealth erodes by a massive ₹9.19 lakh crore as markets come under heavy sell-off with the Sensex falling 930.55 points

BUSINESS | P11



9 sports dropped
The Glasgow CWG in 2026 will be without 9 disciplines and in most India have regularly won medals in the past

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

TMC MP smashes bottle at Waqf meet

New Delhi: TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee was suspended for one day from the parliamentary committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill after high drama during its meeting Tuesday where he smashed a glass water bottle and threw it towards the Chair while injuring his fingers in the process. The committee's chairperson and veteran BJP MP Jagdambika Pal condemned the conduct of Banerjee, a rather vocal parliamentarian who has been strident in his criticism of the Bill. He said such actions were "unprecedented" and crossed all limits. As MPs enjoy privilege, does it mean someone will appear with a revolver tomorrow, Pal told reporters, adding he had a narrow escape.

P9

2 Maharashtra tigers identified for Simlipal

Chandrapur (Maha): Authorities have identified two tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra and started the process to capture the two felines for relocation to the Simlipal Tiger Reserve (STR), an official said Tuesday. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given the nod to the proposal for translocation of two felines from the TATR to the STR in Mayurbhanj district, TATR field director Jitendra Ramgaokar said. A high-level meeting of authorities of both the tiger reserves was recently held to prepare an action plan for the relocation of the big cats.

P5

China confirms pact to end standoff

Beijing: China Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh. "Over a recent period of time, China and India have kept close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues related to the China-India border," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing here. Lin was asked for a response to Monday's Indian announcement about reaching an agreement to end the over four-year long military standoff.

P8



IRREGULAR by MANJUL
Now that everything is fine in our country and there's hardly any news, let's launch an international channel

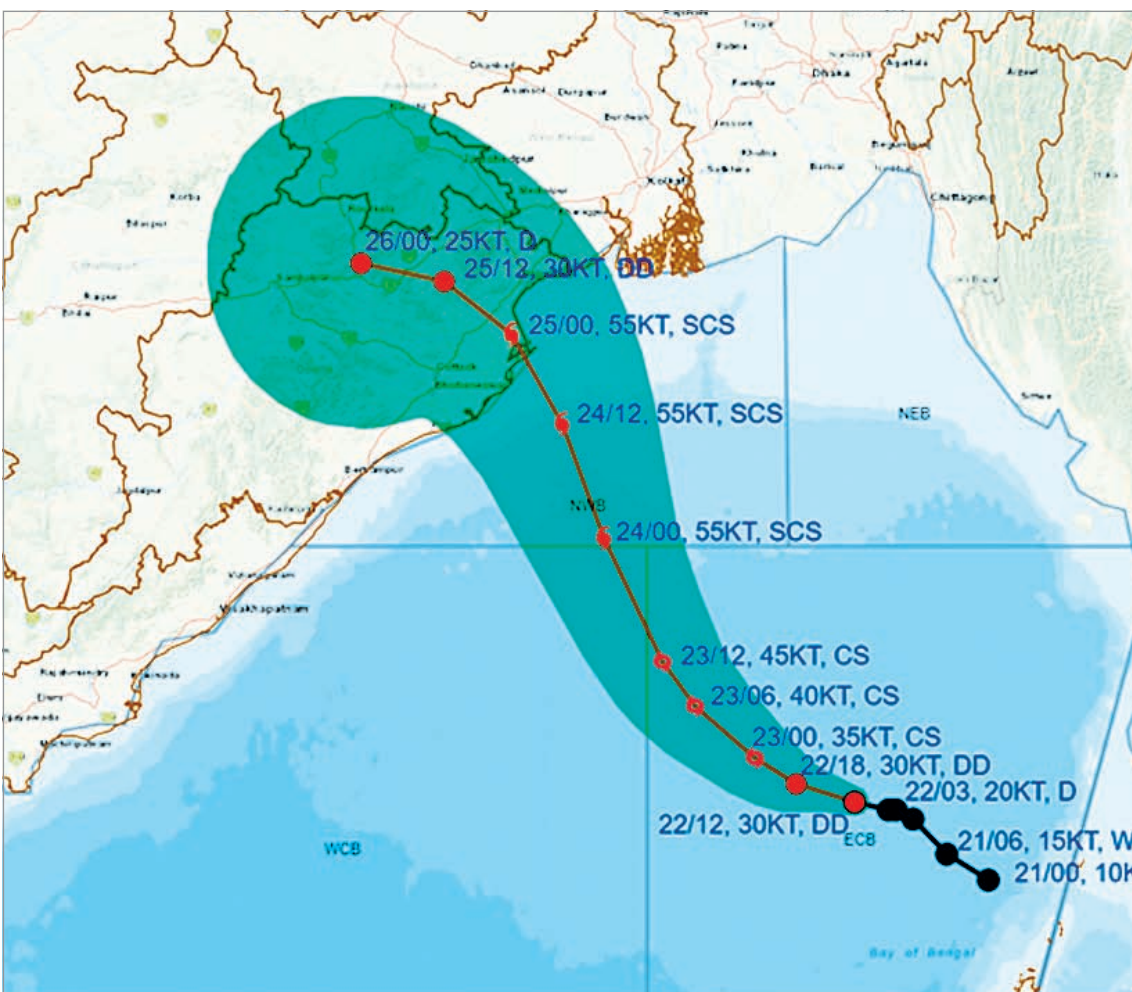
MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	80220.72	↓ 930.55
NIFTY	24,472.10	↓ 309.00
DOLLAR	84.09	↑ ₹0.00
EURO	91.09	↓ ₹0.16
GOLD	₹78,465	↑ ₹426
SILVER	₹99,543	↑ ₹2,095

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.1°C	31.6°C
Min Temp	24.0°C	23.0°C
Humidity	76%	80%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
LIGHT TO MODERATE RAIN



TRACKING CYCLONE: The track along with cone of uncertainty of the deep depression over east-central Bay of Bengal, as released by the IMD at 5.30 pm, Tuesday. (Top) Fishermen pulling a boat to safety at Puri beach. (Bottom) Disaster response personnel with equipment in Bhubaneswar



IMD & OP PHOTOS

Modi pushes for peaceful resolution to Ukraine war

Kazan, Oct 22: The Russia-Ukraine conflict should be resolved in a peaceful manner and India is ready to provide all possible cooperation towards it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Tuesday during his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Modi held bilateral talks with Putin hours after arriving in this central Russian city to attend the 16th BRICS summit. In his televised opening remarks, the prime minister conveyed to the Russian leader that New Delhi "fully supports" the early return of peace and stability in the region. Modi also said that his second visit to Russia in the last three months reflected "close" coordination and deep trust between the two countries. "We're in constant touch on the issue of ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As I said earlier, we believe that problems should be resolved in a peaceful manner," the PM said. "We fully support the early return of peace and stability. All our efforts give priority to humanity. India is ready to provide all possible cooperation in times to come," he said.

STORM IN KITCHEN AHEAD OF CYCLONE

Two days before Dana's anticipated landfall on the coasts of Odisha, the pre-shocks of the cyclone were felt across households Tuesday as the already soaring vegetable prices went through the roof at major markets owing to panic buying by consumers. The situation has only been precipitated by television news channels and various online platforms blaring 24X7 cyclone updates. Prices of staple potato and onion have skyrocketed, while vegetables have become dearer by ₹10-20 per kg. With the government occupied with evacuation and relief measures, black marketeers and hoarders are having a field day by cashing in on the fear psychosis. If the administration fails to act now, the consumer is certain to face the worst in the aftermath of the cyclonic storm which is expected to cause widespread disruption and devastation.



the price of potato has increased from ₹30 per kg Monday to ₹50 Tuesday. The price of onion has also increased to ₹60 per kg from ₹40 in the market, which is one of the largest vegetable markets in Odisha. Tomato is being sold for ₹80 to ₹100 in the local markets here, recording a rise of ₹10 as compared to Monday's price, traders said. The price of other vegetables like beans, brinjal, ladyfinger and cauliflower has also increased by ₹10 to ₹20 per kg.

There was a huge rush in the vegetable markets as consumers wanted to store sufficient quantities of vegetables especially potato and onion in view of the cyclone, which is expected to hit the state's coast by October 25. "We don't know how the market will be after the cyclone hits the state. If the supply chain is disrupted, it may lead to further increase in the price. So, I bought sufficient quantity of potato and onion for my family," said Nibedita Behera, a housewife from Cuttack. Local vendors have attributed the price hike to scarcity of potato-laden trucks and the anticipation of further disruptions if the cyclone makes landfall. Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra warned that strong action will be taken against traders, who will indulge in black marketing and illegal hoarding of essential consumable items. Meanwhile, Kabiraj Swain, president of Unit I Vegetable Traders' Association in Bhubaneswar, said, "There was an increase by ₹10 to ₹15 in the prices of potato, onion, tomato and other vegetables. We inspected some stockists and warned them to stick to the maximum retail price." He appealed to consumers not to panic as there is ample stock of veggies.

DANA: EVACUATION BEGINS

As the state braces for severe cyclonic storm Dana, the government Tuesday started evacuating people and decided to close educational institutions in vulnerable areas. According to plans, over 10 lakh people from 3,000 villages in 14 districts will be shifted to relief camps. A depression over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a deep depression Tuesday evening and is likely to become a severe cyclonic storm and cross the Odisha-West Bengal coasts in the early hours of October 25 with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting to 120 kmph. IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that the entire eastern coast from Puri to Sagar Island in West Bengal is likely to be impacted. CM Mohan Charan Majhi urged all MLAs to coordinate with the administration in rescue and relief operations. "Fifty-one ODRAF and 178 Fire Services teams have so far been deployed in the vulnerable districts, while 20 NDRF teams have been mobilised," an official said. All educational institutions including schools, colleges and universities will remain closed in 14 districts from October 23 to 25.

MORE P3

80 flights get bomb threats in 24 hours

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Mumbai, Oct 22: Nearly 80 domestic and international flights received bomb threats in less than 24 hours that later turned out to be hoaxes, keeping thousands of passengers and security agencies on tenterhooks.

The estimated losses incurred by airlines due to the disruptions would be around ₹600 crore, according to two former airline officials. On Tuesday alone, around 50 flights, including 13 each of IndiGo and Air India received bomb threats. Akasa Air got the threats for over 12 flights and as many as 11 flights of Vistara also received the threats, the sources in the know said. Around 30 flights of IndiGo, Air India and Vistara got bomb threats Monday night, they added. In nine days, more than 170 flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb threats, mostly through social media, that also forced the diversion of some of the international flights. On average, disruption to a domestic flight would cost around ₹1.5 crore while the expenses would be around ₹5-5.5 crore for an international flight, an official, who has worked in the finance department of a domestic airline, told PTI. A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that the average cost of disruption caused to domestic and international flights would be around ₹3.5 crore, and for more than 170 flights, the total expenses or loss for the airlines would be around ₹600 crore. The figures are broad based since many other factors like narrow-body and wide-body planes, and duration of a flight also need to be taken into consideration.



Three CRPF schools, 2 KVs get bomb threat

New Delhi: An e-mail was received threatening to blow up three CRPF schools in Delhi and Hyderabad, and two Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) within the forces' office premises in other cities, officials sources said Tuesday, adding it turned out to be a hoax. The schools were checked by anti-sabotage teams and nothing suspicious was found, they said, adding classes were conducted smoothly Tuesday. The three CRPF schools include two in Delhi (Rohini and Dwarka), one in Hyderabad (Telangana); while the two Kendriya Vidyalayas are within the paramilitary forces' office premises at Panchkula (Haryana) and Rampur (Uttar Pradesh).

Fake court busted in Gujarat; 'judge' arrested

Ahmedabad, Oct 22: After fake toll plaza, government offices and hospitals, the police in Gujarat have uncovered a nefarious scheme orchestrated by a man masquerading as a judge in his own fake tribunal and passing judgements since 2019 especially in land deals in Gandhinagar area. Morris Samuel Christian, since arrested, is accused of orchestrating a deception that fooled many into believing they were in a legitimate court. Police said Christian, the mastermind behind this elaborate ruse, wielded his gavel to pass judgments in favour of his clients, all within the fabricated walls of

his office. The bogus tribunal, reminiscent of a real courtroom, worked undetected for years, with its roots tracing back to as early as 2019. Initial probe suggested that Christian preyed on unsuspecting individuals entangled in land disputes, promising swift resolutions in exchange for hefty fees. By assuming the role of a judge, he exploited the vulnerable, manipulating the course of justice for personal gain. The elaborate charade involved Christian's associates posing as court personnel, creating a façade of authenticity to dupe his clients. The elaborate theatrics, complete with a mock courtroom setting in Gandhinagar, lent an air of legitimacy to his



deceitful proceedings. In 2019, Christian passed an order in favour of his client using the same modus operandi. The case was pertaining to a

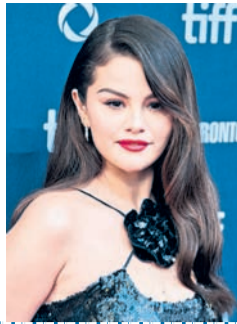


government land under the district Collector while his client had staked claim on it and wanted to add his name in revenue records related to the plot in question lo-

cated in Paldi area, a police release said Monday. Without an authority or order issued by any court under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Christian told his client he has been appointed as the "official arbitrator" by the government. The conman then initiated fake proceedings at his 'court' and passed an order in favour of his client, directing the Collector to add his client's name in the revenue records of that land, the release said. To implement the order, Christian, through another lawyer, filed an appeal in the City Civil Court and attached the fraudulent order passed by him. The court registrar, Hardik Desai, recently found out that

Christian is neither an arbitrator nor is the order of the tribunal genuine. Following his complaint, the Karanj police here lodged an FIR under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 170 (pretending to hold any office as a public servant) and 419 (cheating by personation). The conman was arrested for allegedly cheating people by posing as a judge of an arbitral tribunal and passing favourable orders claiming he has been appointed as an arbitrator by a competent court to adjudicate legal disputes, the release said. The accused is already facing a cheating complaint filed at the city's Maninagar police station in 2015, it added.

leisure



SELENA GOMEZ 'BLACKED OUT' DURING EMILIA PEREZ AUDITION

Actress-singer Selena Gomez has admitted that she 'blacked out' during one of her auditions. The singer shared that it happened during the audition for a part in Oscar-tipped operatic musical *Emilia Perez*.

HARVEY WEINSTEIN HAS BONE MARROW CANCER

Disgraced movie producer Harvey Weinstein is diagnosed with bone marrow cancer. According to NBC News, Weinstein has chronic myeloid leukemia, a form of bone marrow cancer, reports *variety.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
A tough, action-packed day ahead! There may be difference of opinions with friends over trivial matters, but you will thrive on it. But all pending work will be completed, much to your relief. It's a promising and optimistic day, says Ganesh!

TAURUS
Today, you may have something at the back of your mind that will grip you with its complexity, says Ganesh. Speak freely as your words are capable of making a great impact on others. You may not be willing to confront unpleasant situations today. Don't worry, the stars seem in your favour, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
You are extremely competitive. And it doesn't matter how far behind the competition is. So today, you will continue your usual quest for getting better. You won't have any other way as you despise mediocrity. You will find yourself in the company of like-minded people who will inspire you to study new subjects.

CANCER
Today is a good day for you. However, don't expect a windfall. It is just one of those days when you will be in a good mood, irrespective of your problems, if any. You will treat your subordinates well, and they will show their appreciation.

LEO
Che Guevara may not hold the beacon any more, and the best of the Beatles are long gone. But your desire to revolutionise the world is as strong as ever, says Ganesh. The best ideas are the ones that come suddenly and subconsciously. So, always carry a pen and paper with you, you may need them to note down ideas that you generate over the course of the day. Remember, ideas have a tendency to wane with the same speed with which they wax.

VIRGO
Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening, cautions Ganesh.

LIBRA
Gear up to play the peace maker today! Your ability to handle a 'Brady Bunch' hasn't gone unnoticed. So expect to be put in charge of handling disputes among your subordinates at work today, hints Ganesh. Research work may slow to a crawl today, but the offshoot is that it's an auspicious day to enter into new contracts.

SCORPIO
Work pressure will keep on mounting today, predicts Ganesh. But you shall handle it with great style, all thanks to your patience. But keep a watch on the radar and learn how to spot stress early and then act on it as quickly as you can.

SAGITTARIUS
Your ship may be rocked by stormy controversies today. Ganesh advises you to steer clear of people looking to give you a piece of their mind. The storm looks to ease away if you lend a patient ear to all such elements, and try and accommodate their views.

CAPRICORN
You will starve for some free time, but will find it difficult to steal even a minute from your busy schedule, even if it is for unwinding your overworked soul, says Ganesh. In times like these, one can hardly think straight, let alone be innovative. You will, however, work your way out by prioritising matters.

AQUARIUS
Your ideas are bang on target today! Everything you touch turns into gold. You have it in you to make it big, and the time is now. When the going gets tough, the tough get going — you've heard this before, now it's time for some action, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Stabbing with a pen is so much more satisfying than slicing with a sword. With these lofty ideals in mind, you will launch an assault upon your unsuspecting prey with your lethal presentation skills, eliciting cries of sheer ecstasy and tremendous applause.

Ekta, mom summoned by police in POCSO case

Mumbai: Filmmaker Ekta Kapoor and her mother, Shobha Kapoor, have been asked to appear before Mumbai Police October 24 in connection with a POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) case registered against them over the alleged obscene portrayal of minor girls during a web series, an official said.

According to the statement, issued on behalf of Alt Balaji Telefilm Limited, Shobha and Ekta are "not involved" in daily operations. Separate teams are involved in content strategy, it said.

The FIR was registered against Ekta, Shobha, and Balaji Telefilms Limited in connection with the alleged streaming of inappropriate scenes involving minor girls in an episode of the ALT Balaji's web series *Gandi Baat*. The case is related to the Season 6 of the web series.

According to the complainant, who is a resident of Borivli in Mumbai, obscene scenes of minor girls were streamed between February and April 2021 in one of the episodes, the official said. PTI



Kareena's love for K-drama

Mumbai: Showbiz diva Kareena Kapoor Khan, also known as Bebo among her fans, has expressed her desire to explore Korean dramas and said that they are hugely popular.

Asked about going global, the *Jab We Met* actress, during an event at Delhi said, "The world is coming closer. Everyone's coming together. So much connectivity through events, films, OTT platforms... I mean definitely an international collaboration with an Indian or an American actor, who knows a Korean film. Language is not a barrier... I am a huge fan of Meryl Streep. I would love to stand in a frame with her."

She then went on to express her desire to work in K-dramas.

"I would love to explore Korean dramas because the world is watching their series and films. So hugely popular," she said.

About collaborations, she went on to heap praise on Punjabi singing sensation Diljit Dosanjh and confessed she is a big fan of him.

Talking about the food, Kareena said she is "very unapologetic about it".

"Gobsmacking food in Delhi and the whole world knows that I am crazy about food and I am very unapologetic about it. I love chole bhature, aloo paranthas... biryani of course, I am a Kapoor," she concluded. IANS

Kriti on her identity crisis

Mumbai: Kriti Sanon has come a long way as she completed a decade in her acting journey. The actor recently recalled how she was recognised as "Tiger Shroff's heroine" after her debut Hindi film *Heropanti*. Kriti, in an interview with a news portal said that it took her years to get rid of the label.

The actress, while reflecting on her acting career stated that, "It didn't take me that many years to get my first break. At the time of *Heropanti*, though people knew Tiger and that the movie marked his launch, the director and producer treated the movie as launching two new faces. I got the quintessential Bollywood heroine moment too, with songs and everything."

She further said, "However, for a while after that, people referred to me as 'the one who appeared in Tiger Shroff's movie.' When you are not from the industry (film family), it takes longer for you to etch your name and face into the minds of people. At that point the kids of Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, who later directed *Bareilly Ki Barfi*, used to call me 'Tiger didi.' Those were the instances when I realised I would have to work doubly hard to get people to recognise me and know me for who I am." AGENCIES



Kritika bats for artisans

Mumbai: Actress Kritika Kamra has now ventured into the world of helping revive local arts and helping local artisan communities from Madhya Pradesh. She said that she has immense respect for the artisans who keep Chanderi craft alive.

Kritika said: "Chanderi has always been known for its exquisite handloom art, and growing up in this town, I have immense respect for the artisans who keep this craft alive."

Together with her mother, Kritika has started a fashion initiative that empowers

local artisans from her hometown of Chanderi.

She said: "Starting this initiative with my mother was a way to honor that tradition while also giving back to our community."

Kritika was visiting Chanderi where she realised the hard work of these artisans and wanted to do something to extend support to them.

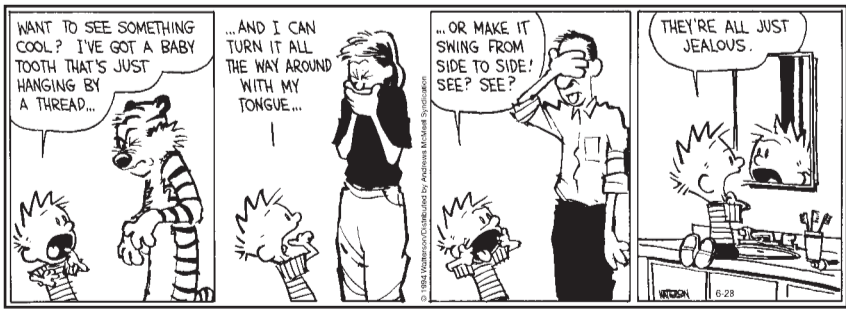
"We wanted to create a platform where these talented artisans can showcase their work to the world. It's more than just a business for us—it's a way to empower our people by providing them with opportunities and a sense of pride in their craft."

Through this initiative, Kritika aims to celebrate the rich heritage of Chanderi while also supporting the local economy. IANS

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

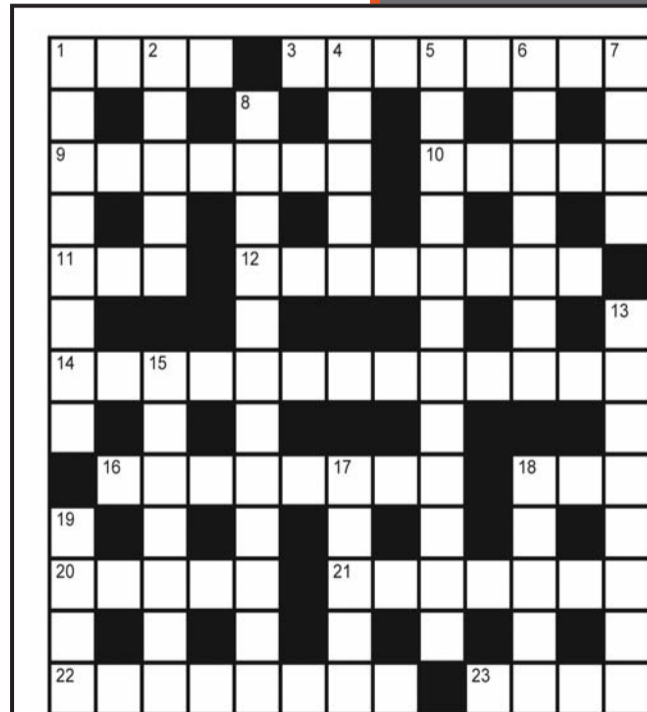


BREVITY



FUN post

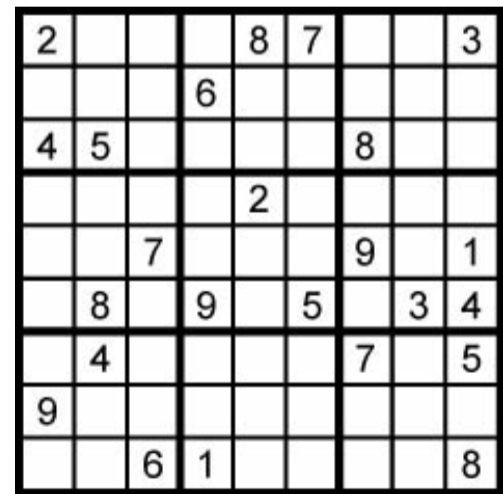
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Tailless amphibian
 - 3 Takes command
 - 9 African feline
 - 10 Come clean (3,2)
 - 11 Sticky stuff
 - 12 Krypton, e.g. (5,3)
 - 14 Chinese restaurant handout (7,6)
 - 16 African desert
 - 18 Wool weight
 - 20 Cover story?
 - 21 Kind of produce
 - 22 Bouffe
 - 23 Nucleus
 - 4 Arête
 - 5 Defects, especially in one's character
 - 6 Viborg locale
 - 7 Gullible sorts
 - 8 Skillful in mind games
 - 13 Cephalalgia
 - 15 Understand
 - 17 Up in the air
 - 18 Ballroom dance
 - 19 Sainly glow
- Down**
- 1 Shakespeare's fat, cowardly knight
 - 2 Stench

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

TWIN CITY COPS PUT ON ALERT AS 'DANA' NEARS COAST

Ahead of the impending cyclone, twin city Police Commissioner Sunil Dev Datta Singh Tuesday chaired a preparatory meeting attended by the inspectors under Bhubaneswar and Cuttack UPD, and directed them to ensure the stock of necessary equipment to tackle exigencies, if any, arising out of the impact of 'Dana'. Singh asked the cops to ensure stock of equipment like ropes, tree-cutters, fire extinguishers and torches in order to handle mishaps. He asked police officers to not avail any holiday until the cyclone is over. The police commissioner, through a videoconferencing, said inspectors have been instructed to keep ready alternative plans to rescue stranded citizens. The police stations under which there are many low-lying areas and potholes have been kept on alert, and IICs have been asked to prepare rescue plans before the cyclone strikes.



downtown

800 RELIEF SHELTERS READY TO HOUSE EVACUATED PEOPLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: As the well-marked low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression Tuesday and moved towards the eastern coast with the likelihood of turning into a severe cyclonic storm, the state government has kept ready around 800 cyclone shelters for people who will be evacuated from vulnerable areas.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari Tuesday said officials have so far visited 250 cyclone relief centres where people will be housed after evacuation.

Food, water, medicine, electricity and other essentials have been kept in readiness for the people to be evacuated due to the impending cyclone, he said.

Apart from 800 cyclone shelters, the minister said an additional 500 temporary shelters have been made ready including schools and colleges. The officials at the ground level have been instructed to make arrangements for women in cyclone shelters where women police will be deployed, he said.

He said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has stressed on 100 per cent evacuation of people from vulnerable areas to ensure "zero casualty" in the impending cyclone. The minister said the government has also prepared a list of pregnant women who are expected to deliver in a fortnight. All those women are being shifted to the nearby hospitals in order to avoid any difficulty during the calamity.

Replying to a question on willingness of the people to shift to cyclone shelters, the minister said that some people are reluctant to vacate their houses for the reasons of theft. Police have been directed to intensify patrolling in villages where people will be evacuated to cyclone shelters, he said.

Asked about the situation if the cyclone changes its track as forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the minister said the state government has also studied that aspect. "In the past it has



ADMIN ON TOES

- Food, water, medicine, electricity and other essentials have been kept in readiness for the people to be evacuated due to the impending cyclone
- An additional 500 temporary shelters, including schools and colleges, have been kept ready
- Keeping in view the possibilities of re-curve, the state government has already identified certain places and made adequate arrangements at vulnerable places
- Expectant mothers are being shifted to nearby hospitals in order to avoid any difficulty during the calamity

been noticed that cyclones change their anticipated tracks. Therefore, keeping in view the possibilities of re-curve, the state government has already identified certain places and made equal arrangements at vulnerable places. A red alert has been issued for nine districts and orange warning for heavy rain in some districts. Therefore, there should be no fear in this regard," the minister said.

The state government has already ordered closure of schools in Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhubaneswar, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar,

Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Angul, Khurda, Nayagarh and Cuttack districts for three days from Wednesday, as a precautionary measure against the cyclone, an official said.

The state government has also cancelled the leave of all staffers from October 23 to 25. In a letter to all the departments, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Deorajan Kumar Singh has asked them to remain prepared to tackle the challenges of the impending calamity.

Pujari said 51 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and 218 Fire Services teams have

so far been deployed in vulnerable locations. Similarly, 20 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been mobilised, while five such teams have reached Bhubaneswar from Bathinda Tuesday night. The minister said districts have been earmarked as red, orange and yellow zones keeping in view the possible impact of the cyclone.

Stating that October 24 and 25 are two crucial days for the state, Pujari said a red alert of heavy to very heavy rain and wind has been issued for Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhubaneswar, Kendrapara,

Coordinate cyclone rescue operations: CM to MLAs

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi urged all MLAs to visit respective constituencies and coordinate rescue operations at the ground level ahead of impending cyclone 'Dana', official sources said, Tuesday.

The CM said all the legislators cutting across parties should try their best to stay with the people. IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that the entire eastern coast - from Odisha's Puri to West Bengal's Sagar Island - is likely to be impacted by the impending cyclone. A depression over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and cross the Odisha-West Bengal coasts between Puri and Sagar Island in the early hours of October 25 with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph, according to the IMD.

Taking to X, Majhi said, "It is essential that all the MLAs should remain present in their respective constituencies in order to coordinate with the administration for relief and rescue operations being done in view of the cyclone and heavy rainfall situation."

He directed the state administration to ensure 100 per cent evacuation of people from the vulnerable areas. As per the IMD



forecast, 14 districts are likely to be affected by the impending storm and heavy rainfall.

Meanwhile, the state government assigned six IAS officers the responsibility to supervise the rescue and relief operations in as many districts.

While Minor Minerals Director K Sudarshan Chakravarty will oversee the arrangements in Balasore, R&DM department Additional Secretary Trilochan Majhi will supervise the operations in Bhubaneswar. Likewise, Tourism department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Balwant Singh has been deployed in Puri, PR&DW department Director-cum-Additional Secretary Vineet Bharadwaj in Mayurbhanj, OAVS State Project Director Yamini Sarangi in Jagatsinghpur and Tourism Director Samarth Verma in Kendrapara.

Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Cuttack October 24 and Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Bhubaneswar and Keonjhar October 25.

As per the state's advisory, tourists in Puri have already started leaving the pilgrim town Tuesday. This apart, the Puri district administration was discouraging tourists from visiting the town from Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Health Services Director Bijay Kumar Mohapatra said that the government has suspended the leaves of the health service providers.

Essential medicines like anti-snake venom, fever, diarrhoea and other common diseases are kept in readiness in cyclone shel-

ters where people are kept after evacuation. This apart, provision of safe drinking water is made for the people keeping view the possible spread of waterborne diseases in the possible cyclone-affected areas.

The Energy department has made arrangements to ensure supply of electricity immediately after the cyclone, said the department secretary Hemant Sharma. Urban Development department secretary Usha Padhee has directed the department officials and civic bodies to take measures against water-logging and ensure supply of safe drinking water to the people in all places.

ECoR cancels 198 trains

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: In view of the impending cyclone 'Dana', East Coast Railway (ECoR) is proactively preparing to mitigate potential impacts on train services and to ensure safety and security of passengers. The ECoR has cancelled at least 198 trains for safety reasons.

ECoR has activated a round-the-clock disaster management cell at Rail Sadan and divisional headquarters in Khurda Road, Visakhapatnam and Sambalpur. These teams would work for early restoration of train services and railway infrastructure that are likely to be affected by the impending storm.

ECoR General Manager Parmeshwar Funkwal chaired a preparatory meeting and advised all the principal heads of the departments of ECoR and Divisional Railway managers to take necessary steps for ensuring zero risk to passengers. He emphasised on deployment of special teams for early restoration of tracks, signaling system and electrification etc., to ensure quick restoration of the train services after the cyclone.

ECoR has positioned specialised teams for swift restoration of tracks, signaling systems, and electrification processes. In the event of power outage, diesel locomotives will be on standby mode to ensure continued train operations.

Emergency control rooms are operational around the clock, equipped with satellite phones to maintain communication during the crisis. With a red alert issued for coastal areas, ECoR is closely monitoring conditions at all the stations between Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam.

"In light of the cyclone threat, ECoR had to take the difficult decision to cancel around 198 train services," Funkwal said.

These adjustments are necessary to minimise risks and ensure the safety of passengers.

Passengers are encouraged to stay informed by checking for updates through official channels.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Lalit Das OSSSC new chairman

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: Former IPS officer Lalit Das has been appointed as chairman of the Odisha Subordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC), an official statement said, Tuesday.

Retired IAS officer Uddhaba Chandra Majhi and former OAS officer Saroj Kumar Mishra were named members of the OSSSC, which started functioning from November 2012, it said.

The commission was formed to regulate the method of recruitment in all Group C civil posts and services under different district offices of the state government, officials said.

'Dana': Tiger reserve, nat'l park shut

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The state government Tuesday announced the closure of two of its ecological hotspots - Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district and Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) in Kendrapara district - in view of an impending severe cyclonic storm 'Dana'.

Both the Mayurbhanj and Kendrapara districts have been identified as 'Red Zone' as the IMD forecast a severe cyclonic storm will cross the east coast between October 24 night and 25 morning. These two districts could bear the brunt of the calamity, officials said.

The Forest department has announced that the BNP and STR will remain closed to visitors and tourists from October 23 to October 25.

According to BNP authorities, the date of reopening will be decided keeping in view the prevailing situ-

ation in the areas. The cyclonic storm is likely to hit the coast during the night of October 24 or morning of October 25.

According to the forecast, the cyclone is likely to trigger heavy to extremely heavy rain accompanied by high-velocity wind of 100 to 110 kilometres per hour.

"This is to inform all the visitors or tourists that Similipal Tiger Reserve will remain closed for them from October 23 to 25 due to a possible cyclone storm likely to hit Odisha," an official notification said, adding that there will be no entry or exit from the Tiger Reserve for visitors or tourist vehicles during this period. "The Tiger Reserve will be reopened after assessment of the situation," the notification said.

As per the forecast made by the IMD, the cyclone is likely to cross between Puri in Odisha and Sagar Island in West Bengal.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN REGIONAL MEDIA
Odisha Edition
A Conclave by Editors Guild of India in association with Press Club of Odisha
26 October, 2024 9:30 AM - 3 PM
Master Canteen Chhak, Bhubaneswar

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Keynote Address Mr. N Ram (Former Editor-in-Chief, The Hindu)

Challenges for Journalists in a State Mr. Tapan Mishra (Samaja) Ms. Tanaya Patnaik (Sambad) Mr. Gopal Mohapatra (Prameya) Moderator: Mr. Ruben Banerjee (EGI)

Journalism in the Digital Era Mr. Navin Das (Nirbhay) Mr. Jajati Karan (Ommcom News) Mr. Manoranjan Mishra (Newsroom) Moderator: Mr. Sandeep Sahu (Senior Journalist)

Media Studies and Journalism in Indian Education Dr. Achyuta Samanta (Founder KIIT University, KISS foundation)

Media Laws, New Criminal Laws, and the Challenges for Independent Journalists Special Address Justice Ananga Patnaik (Former Judge, Supreme court) Discussion Mr. Sanjay Hegde (Advocate, Supreme Court) Mr. Paranjay Guha Thakurta (Senior journalist, writer) Moderator: Mr. Anant Nath (President, Editors Guild of India)

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Odisha bags best state in 5th National Water Awards



egories have been selected for the 5th NWA, 2023.

The awards, were presented in nine categories, including best state, best district, best village panchayat, best urban local body (ULB), best school or college, best industry, best water user association, best institution (other than school or college) and best civil society.

Odisha was followed by Uttar Pradesh, while Gujarat and Puducherry shared the third place.

Speaking on the occasion, President Murmu voiced serious concerns about the alarming depletion and pollution of groundwater as she stressed the vital role of collective responsibility in preserving water resources.

Lauding Odisha, Murmu underscored the need for immediate and collective efforts to safeguard water supplies.

"Groundwater is being rapidly depleted and pollution is making the situation worse," Murmu said during her address while conferring the National Water Awards.

Murmu praised the National Water Awards as a commendable initiative, aimed at promoting awareness and recognising excellence in water conservation efforts across various sectors.

Garg, while accepting the award, attributed the success to joint efforts by Department of Water Resources (DoWR) officers, engineers and all those associated with execution of different schemes and programmes of DoWR.

water conservation and rain-water harvesting structures, 10,800 reuse and recharge structures.

The state has completed 68,700 watershed development and 21,000 wastewater treatment plants and renovated 11,000 traditional water bodies.

To encourage states and people to adopt the best water usage practices, the 1st National Water Award was launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2018, while the second, third, and fourth National Water Awards were given for the years 2019, 2020 and 2022.

The awards were not given in the year 2021 due to the Covid pandemic.

For the year 2023, the 5th National Water Awards was launched October 13, 2023, on the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and a total of 686 applications were received.

The applications were scrutinised and evaluated by a jury committee.

Based on the reports, a total of 38 winners, including joint winners, covering nine different cat-

President Droupadi Murmu, while lauding Odisha, underscores the need for immediate and collective efforts in water conservation across various sectors

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Oct 22:

Odisha was conferred with the 5th National Water Award (NWA) by the Ministry of Jal Shakti as the state secured first rank in the best state category among all states and UTs for its exemplary work in the field of water conservation and management.

On behalf of the state, Development Commissioner Anu Garg received the award from President Droupadi Murmu in an event held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi Tuesday.

According to a press statement issued by the ministry, the state, the first winner in the state category, has made exemplary strides in water conservation by creating about 53,000



REMEMBERING THE LEGEND: Padma Shri Mamang Dai delivers the 1st Jayanta Mahapatra Memorial Lecture organised by Ketaki Foundation at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. Notable writer Devdas Chhotray and Ketaki Foundation trustee Rabinendra K Swain were present on the dais

FAO launches GEF 7 FOLUR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: The department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), conducted a one-day state inception workshop for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 7-cycle project titled 'Promotion of Sustainable Food Systems in India through Transforming Rice-Wheat Systems in Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh' at the Krushi Bhawan here.

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo graced the event as chief guest and highlighted the strong alignment between the GEF-funded project and state government's priority on promoting sustainable agriculture.

Other attendees included Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Handloom and Textiles and Handicrafts Development principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee and Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development director Nikhil Pavan Kalyan.

Deo noted that the project's objectives and strategies closely align with the state's vision for a sustainable, more resilient, and food- and nutrition-secure



Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo greets FAO representative Takayuki Hagiwara

future.

FAO representative Takayuki Hagiwara highlighted the project's innovative approach, focusing on embedding sustainable farming practices, in collaboratively managed landscapes to preserve ecosystem services and global environmental values. He assured attendees of FAO's close coordination with the state government to achieve project outcomes successfully.

In Odisha, the project aims to promote sustainable rice farming, conserve soil and water resources, improve farmers' resilience to climate challenges, and enhance their access to markets and technology. The project will be implemented in Ganjam and Kalahandi.

Officials from various departments, including the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), FAO regional and country office staff, and other public and private stakeholders joined the programme. The primary goal of the workshop was to foster a shared understanding of the project's goals and objectives in the state.

The five-year (2023-2028) GEF 7 FOLUR Impact Programme seeks to accelerate country's transition towards a new model of sustainable agriculture, promote healthy landscapes and ecosystems, and deliver multiple global environmental benefits.

Evacuate people from low-lying areas: BMC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 22: A coordination meeting was organised by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) here Tuesday to deal with imminent cyclone 'Dana'. The meeting, chaired by BMC Commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, attended by Additional Commissioner Shubendu Kumar Sahu, City Engineer Vilas Kumar Behera and Zonal Commissioner Kailash Chandra Das among others.

Keeping in view the weather forecast of heavy rains accompanying the cyclone, Patil asked officials to evacuate the people from low-lying areas in the City and shift them to various shelters. All zonal commissioners have been instructed to make arrangements for shelters in various schools and Kalyan mandaps with food, drink and medicine facilities.

The Commissioner suggested that all departmental officers should coordinate and work harmoniously at the right time to deal with any situation. 24-hour control room at the BMC headquarters will be operational from Wednesday for emergency assistance. Officers of various departments including Fire, health, WATCO, TPCODL, National Highways Authority, and ODRAF were present on the occasion.



REGALING POSE: Artistes perform during 8th Guropoojan Utsav organised by Angika Dance Academy at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

Kolkata airport gears up to tackle cyclonic storm

Kolkata:

Authorities of the Kolkata airport have started preparations to tackle any situation arising out of a possible cyclonic storm that could hit coastal areas of West Bengal and Odisha October 25, a senior official said Tuesday. The standard operating procedures such as inspection of the airport infrastructure and the drainage system, checking and servicing of all installations are being carried out, he said. "I am also scheduled to hold a meeting with various stakeholders at the airport soon," Director of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Pravat Ranjan Beuria, told PTI. A well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression Tuesday, as it rolled towards the eastern coast with the likelihood of turning into a severe cyclonic storm, the IMD said. The depression is likely to further intensify into a cyclonic storm by October 23 and a severe cyclonic storm by October 25, it said. "We are expecting heavy rainfall, which may cause inundation in and around the airport premises. We are working closely with the state government to handle the situation," Beuria said. Asked about the possible impact on flight operations, he said it will depend on the situation after the cyclone makes landfall. "For the moment, the airport officials are following the standard operating procedures," he added.

CLASSIFIED

Centre enforces new amendments to RPwD

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 22: The government has enforced new amendments to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) rules, which aims to streamline the application process for disability certificates and Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Cards to improve accessibility and provide more efficient services for persons with disabilities.

Under the new rules, individuals with specified disabilities can apply for disability certificates and UDID cards through the UDID Portal, submitting applications to their district medical authorities or medical facilities where they are undergoing treatment.

The amendments also introduce color-coded UDID cards, signifying different levels of disability: White for disabilities below 40 per cent, Yellow for

40 to 79 per cent and Blue for those with 80 per cent or higher disability.

Additionally, the new rules ensure that medical authorities must issue disability certificates and UDID cards within three months of a diagnosis.

If an application remains unresolved for over two years, it will be deemed inactive and the applicants will need to reapply. Permanent certificates will be issued for those with irreversible disabilities, while time-limited certificates will be granted to individuals whose conditions may improve.

The Central government introduced these amendments after reviewing public feedback, with the aim of simplifying the process for obtaining official disability documentation.

Earlier in July, the government had sought suggestions from stakeholders on the matter.

LOST

ବସ୍ତାବିକ ନିଖୋଜ ଅମ୍ଭେ ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ତନାକ ରାଉତ, ବୟସ ୩୩ ବର୍ଷ, ସ୍କୁଲ ଚାକର/ରକ୍ତାକାଶ ନିହାରି, ଗ୍ରାମ ରାଉତିକା, ଥାନା ସୁନ୍ଦର, ଜିଲ୍ଲା: ବେଳୁଆଣ୍ଡା ଖେଡ଼ିଆଣ୍ଡା ଜଗାଲପାଟଣା ରେ, ଘୃତ୍ନି ବେଳୁଆଣ୍ଡା ସହର ଶାନ୍ତି ଥାନା ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ କରକୋପାଳ ସାହିର ଗଣେଶ୍ଵର ମିଶ୍ରଙ୍କ ପୁଅ ଶଶୀକାନ୍ତ ମିଶ୍ରଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ଏକ ପତ୍ର ଏବଂ ବଦଳା ଗ୍ରହଣ କରି ନିଜ ଘରକୁ ଫେରୁଥିବାବେଳେ କୌଣସି ଘ୍ରାମରେ ଏହା ଚଳୁବନ୍ଧରେ ହଜି ଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ବଦଳା ହାଇ ଖାଉ ନଂ ୧୩/୧୬ ଏବଂ ହାଇ ପୁଟ ନଂ ୧୧/୮୬ ଉଡାପତା ବସ୍ତାବିକ ଅମ୍ଭେ ନିତ୍ୟ ନିତ୍ୟ ନିତ୍ୟ ଶାନ୍ତି ନିହର ବୋଲି ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି । ସହର କରାଯାଇଅଛି ରେ, ଏହା ବସ୍ତାବିକ ରହିଯାଇଥାଉ। ଏହାକୁ ନେଇ ସୁନ୍ଦରାପୁର ଚଳାକ କିଛି ଭାବରେ ସୁନ୍ଦରାପୁରରେ ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରିବା ପରେ ଥାନାରେ କିଛି କେସ ନଂ ୧୭/୨୪ରେ ମାମଲା ରୁଜୁ କରାଯାଇଛି। ସୁନ୍ଦର ଥାନାରେ ବସ୍ତାବିକ ନିଖୋଜ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରାଯାଇଛି ଯାହା ବସ୍ତାବିକର ବାମରେ ଆସିବ ବୋଲି ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।

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2 Tadoba tigers identified for relocation to Similipal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandrapur (Maha), Oct 22: Authorities have identified two tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra and started the process to capture the two felines for relocation to the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), an official said Tuesday.



NTCA and other agencies. The move will go a long way in improving the genetic diversity of the closed tiger population in STR which at present has around 27 tigers and 12 cubs.

the reserves have already launched the field work to observe the movement of the two tigers and the pattern of their activities," he said.

The capture of non-troublesome tigers is a big task and officials are on the field to work on the project. After the two tigers are captured, they will be shifted to the STR, Ramgaokar said.

To support the translocation and supplementation project, a separate team of frontline staff and officials from STR is also undergoing training at Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in Maharashtra.

There are nearly 100 tigers in TATR. Sources said TATR has been chosen for the purpose as tigers from this landscape are said to have some genetic similarities with those of Similipal.

The state government has plans to bring five tigers - three for Debrigarh and two for Similipal - from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, respectively.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has given the nod to the proposal for translocation of two felines from the TATR to the STR in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, TATR field director Jitendra Ramgaokar said.

A high-level meeting of authorities of both the tiger reserves was recently held to prepare an action plan for the relocation of the big cats.

In order to supplement the big cat population, the STR had put forth the demand for two tigers before the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest,

Dhanu Jatra's Kansa fame suspended from govt job over bribery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Oct 22: The district administration Tuesday suspended Hrusikesh Bhoi, a hearse driver at the district headquarters hospital here on charge of demanding bribe to transport the body of a deceased.

Bhoi, who is well-known for his portrayal of King Kansa's character during the famous Dhanu Jatra in Bargarh, has been suspended by the district health department for allegedly demanding ₹3,000 from the deceased's family to transport the body from Bargarh District Headquarters Hospital to Badasahajbahal village in Gaisilat block.



Following the allegation, Nirupama Sarangi, Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of Bargarh, lodged a complaint. A criminal case (322/24) under section 308(2) of BNS has been registered against Hrusikesh at the Bhatli police station. The CDMO initially served a show cause notice to Bhoi and formed an inquiry committee following the approval of the District Collector.

Bhoi was suspended on basis of the report of the committee, said Sarangi.

With the 10-day Dhanu Jatra festival set to begin January 3, people are eagerly waiting for the committee's decision on whether Hrusikesh will be allowed to reprise his role as Kansa in what is considered the world's biggest open-air theatre.

CLYCLONE DANA Villagers pin hope on Mangrove cover

BHITARKANIKA HAS WITHSTOOD THE ONSLAUGHT OF SEVERAL CYCLONES IN THE PAST INCLUDING THE 1999 OCTOBER SUPER CYCLONE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Oct 22: With the IMD indicating that a severe cyclonic storm will cross the Odisha coast near Bhitarkanika National Park, locals Tuesday exuded optimism that the rich mangrove forest cover would become a saviour for them once more.

The park had withstood the onslaught of several cyclones in the past including the 1999 October Super Cyclone.

"We are quite hopeful that the well-protected mangrove cover here will ensure the safety of humans, flora and fauna as these species are gifted with capacity to withstand high wind velocity," Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division, Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav said.

According to the Met office, a depression over the east-central Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and cross the Odisha-West Bengal coasts in the early hours of October 25 with a wind speed of 100-110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph.

"We are a bit scared. Still, we are hopeful that the mangrove may save us again. The coastal woodland has the capacity to withstand the wind velocity up to 200 kilometres per hour," said Pradip Das, a resident of Dangamal village lying close to



the national park.

Though there are no definite signs of a cyclone striking the region, the people here hope that the forest cover will protect them with minimal damage as had been the case in the past.

"We pray that the forest withstands the onslaught this time also," said Kamalakanta Nayak of Talchua village.

The lush green luxuriant mangrove cover often acts as a protective barrier against cyclones and tidal surges. It is because of the mangroves that the coastal hamlets lying on the fringes of the national park could not be impacted by cyclones in the past. In the 1999 Super Cyclone, the area was saved as the trees bore the onslaught of gusty wind, officials said.

Mangrove trees with their intricate root system stabilise the coastline, reducing erosion from storm surges, currents, waves, and tides, said the DFO.

The flora and fauna of the park were unharmed in the recent Amphan cyclone. The villages on the close periphery of

We are a bit scared. Still, we are hopeful that the mangrove may save us again. The coastal woodland has the capacity to withstand the wind velocity up to 200 kilometres per hour PRADIP DAS | RESIDENT, DANGAMAL

The national park were also saved as the mangrove cover acted as a buffer zone in protecting the human settlements, Yadav added.

Bhitarkanika is one of the richest storehouses of mangrove genes. Researchers have come across 11 of the 70 mangrove species, which were at elevated threat of extinction in the world, in Bhitarkanika.

Odisha is endowed with a reserve of a mangrove forest area of 231 square kilometres with a major chunk lying in Bhitarkanika. It stands second only to Sundarbans in West Bengal.

Besides Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara, the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak,

Jagatsinghpur and Puri are also home to mangroves, otherwise known as coastal woodland.

While 82 square km area in Bhitarkanika is densely mangrove-infested, 95 square km area has moderate mangrove forest.

The coastal patches spread across 672 square km were declared as the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary in 1975. The core area of the sanctuary, with an area of 145 sq km, got the National Park tag in September 1998.

The park is famous for its lush-green mangroves, migrating birds and turtles, estuarine crocodiles and countless creeks.

The rich biodiversity of Bhitarkanika serves as a sanctuary for leopard, wild boar, jungle cat, fishing cat, hyena, sambar, striped palm squirrel and gangetic dolphin while the reptiles found comprise turtles including Olive Ridley sea turtle, crocodile, lizard, water monitors, python, and king cobra. Around 166 species of birds have been spotted in the park.

Baitarani Basin Chief Engr under Vig lens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 22: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday conducted raids and unearthed property worth crores in the possession of Baitarani Basin Chief Engineer Kailash Chandra Sahu.

During the simultaneous house searches in 10 places, the Vigilance detected one three-storeyed building, three flats and 28 plots in possession of Sahu. He has a cash deposit of ₹42,80,058 and owns one four-wheeler and three two-wheelers.

During the raids, the Vigilance department officials found a three-storied residential building measuring area around 8,821 sq ft under Mrutyunjaypur mouza in Jajpur district in Sahu's name. He has a flat in Jagannath Mansion Apartment at Bhoi Nagar in Bhubaneswar; another



in Dharma Heaven apartment at Mangalaghat in Puri district, a flat and a shop in Jagabandhu Bhawan at Dolipur in Jajpur district.

He owns 28 valuable plots including one in Cuttack, four in Khurda and 23 in Jajpur. Official sources said the measurement and valuation and assessment of the building, flats and plots are being carried out by the Vigilance Technical Wing.

NITR SAC holds event for World Food Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 22: The Student Activity Centre (SAC) of NIT Rourkela is the student's body which organises different kinds of activities, both academic and non-academic. An event 'Right to Food for a Better Life and Better Future' was organised at the PP Auditorium of the institute by the food tech society to mark the World Food Day 2024, in collaboration with the Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (AFSTI) Rourkela Chapter under the Department of Food Process Engineering. The event consisted of a range of engaging activities that promoted awareness and discussion on food security and sustainability.

Chief Guest Amit Agarwal, CEO of Grihashti Udyog emphasised the importance of sustainable practices within the food industry, calling for collective efforts to secure a healthier and more sustainable future.

Sabyasachi Mishra, HoD, Food Process Engineering, along with Rama Chandra Pradhan, associate dean of academics (PG & Research), and Vivek Kambhampati, faculty advisor of the food tech society, highlighted the significance of celebrating World Food Day. The students were encouraged to raise awareness and engage in discussions about food security and sustainability. Madhuresh Dwivedi delivered the vote of thanks.

WINGED GUESTS ARRIVE AT CHILIKA LAGOON BEFORE ONSET OF WINTER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Oct 22: Even though winter is yet to set in, winged guests have started to arrive at Chilika lake, the biggest water-fowl habitat in the country, an official said Tuesday.

The migratory birds have already started to arrive at the lake from the first week of the current month, which is the usual time of their arrival, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chilika Wildlife Division, Amlan Nayak said Tuesday. Their arrival was continuing daily, he said.

Migratory birds of different species like northern pintail, Eurasian wigeon, gadwall, black-tailed gadwall, northern shoveller, greater flamingo, common sandpiper, common coot, mongolian plover, common snipe, black winged stilt, etc have already swooped down in the lake, Nayak said.

The DFO said the arrival of migratory birds at the lake is as usual, even though the day temperature in and around the blue la-



goon was hovering at 32 to 35 degrees Celsius at present.

The onset of winter and some other causes in their native places might have forced the birds to fly to Chilika, he added.

Several birds are also seen flying in the sky near Chilika without settling on the lake. They might land once the water level recedes in the lake, Nayak said, adding, "We expected their number might be in large by the end of the current month."

The winged guests mostly from beyond the Himalayas in Northern Eurasia, Caspian region, Siberia,

Kazakh, Lake Baikal and remote areas of Russia and neighbouring countries visit the Chilika lake every winter and start their homeward journey before the onset of summer in the second week of March.

In the last winter, a total of 11,37,759 birds of 187 species visited Chilika and the majority of them settled in the Nalabana sanctuary area inside the lake.

To prevent bird poaching in the lake during the period, the wildlife division has set up 21 temporary camps in the lake. They have also hired around a dozen boats for pa-

The arrival of migratory birds at the lake is as usual, even though the day temperature in and around the blue lagoon was hovering at 32 to 35 degrees Celsius at present

The onset of winter and some other causes in their native places might have forced the birds to fly to Chilika

To prevent bird poaching in the lake during the period, the wildlife division has set up 21 temporary camps in the lake which have started functioning from Oct 1

trolling in the lake. Besides, they have decided to keep surveillance through drones like the previous year.

The camps have already started functioning from October 1 and will continue till the end of March. With the setting up of the camps, patrolling was also intensified in the lake. The drive to create awareness among the people to prevent bird poaching was also launched in the vulnerable areas, said the Forest official.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE PURI MUNICIPALITY, PURI. NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement. Notice No. 8694, Dated 19.10.24. No.C-805:1.Type of Work: Civil Work. 2. Total No. of works: 50 nos. of Individual Works. 3. Estimate Cost: Rs.254487/- to Rs.2550902/-.

EAST COAST RAILWAY WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF FULL TIME CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (CMP) (GDMO) AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL, MANCHESWAR, BHUBANESWAR. Employment Notice No. 02/2024-Med/MCS/CMP (GDMO), Date : 16.10.2024.

EAST COAST RAILWAY 'E' PROCUREMENT SYSTEMS. Tender Notice No. PCM/M/EP/2024-25/122, Date : 16.10.2024. SL. NO. 01: TENDER NO. 02241149, SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ITEM : HYDRAULIC DAMPER VERTICAL, QUANTITY : 523 NOS.

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

A NEW PARADIGM



Forests are vital not just for the carbon they store, but also for their role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting environmental health, and promoting economic growth and human development

With this year's global summits on biodiversity (COP16), climate change (COP29), and desertification (COP16) fast approaching, the consequences of the climate emergency are evident everywhere. Floods have ravaged Central Europe, super-typhoon Yagi has just struck Southeast Asia, and Hurricanes Helene and Milton have wreaked havoc in the southeastern United States. Hotter, drier conditions have created ideal conditions for wildfires like those that have raged across Brazil, South Africa, and Colombia, while droughts have pushed people into food insecurity this year in Africa.

If the scale and speed of our response to climate change are inadequate to the threat, this new normal will get only worse, jeopardizing hard-won development gains in low- and middle-income countries. In addition to curbing emissions from burning fossil fuels, one of the biggest priorities must be to protect and conserve the world's remaining tropical forests.

Tropical forests store significant amounts of carbon, and their demise would result in a massive 1° Celsius increase in global average temperatures, not to mention the loss of untold biodiversity and the depletion of ecosystem services such as atmospheric rivers that supply water to food crops around the world. Scientists warn that the degradation of several of these forests is approaching a tipping point where the remaining forest will be unable to sustain itself or recover.

Fortunately, such solutions are at hand. In Brazil, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's administration has already significantly curbed deforestation. Between August 2023 and July 2024, tropical forest loss in the Brazilian Amazon was cut by 46%, compared to the previous 12 months. And at the global level, Brazil, which holds the G20 presidency this year, has emphasized nature-based solutions to climate challenges as part of its agenda, paving the way for further progress at COP30 in Belém in 2025.

For its part, the World Bank Group is supporting similar public and private efforts across developing economies. The goal is to design strong policies, build credible institutions, and mobilize investments in the infrastructure that is needed to conserve and manage forests sustainably. Making forest finance more widely available and more affordable is key.

The World Bank Group is also working to turn the vast potential of carbon markets into an income stream for developing countries that are committed to reducing emissions and conserving their forests. Already, 15 countries are benefiting from a pipeline that could produce more than 24 million carbon credits by the end of 2024 – a win for both the climate and development. But those engaged in these efforts have long been dogged by the question of how to support

the conservation of standing forests over the long term. While forest carbon markets have created new revenue streams, they usually reward only those countries, communities, or project developers that are focused on reducing their emissions from deforestation. Thus, forests that are not under immediate threat offer no financial reward.

One solution is the proposed Tropical Forest Forever Facility, a large-scale, performance-based mechanism that would use blended finance to generate financial returns and reward countries for protecting their standing forests. Instead of carbon credits, the TFFF would provide predictable long-term financial support linked to a country's hectares of standing forests, thus aligning economic incentives with environmental outcomes.

Led by the Brazilian Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and in partnership with other tropical-forest countries, developed economies, and non-traditional sponsors, the TFFF aims to leverage sovereign and philanthropic funding to mobilize more private capital, thus expanding forest finance beyond purely public-sector tools. Crucially, it would

allow private investors to support a global public good by quantifying and verifying the underlying asset on terms aligned with their business models.

This is the kind of bold, innovative solution that we need if we want to make a real difference in the fight against climate change. One of the biggest advantages of the TFFF is that it is not expected to depend on scarce donor grants and recurrent replenishments. Instead, it would require a one-time, fully repayable investment from potential sponsors, who therefore would be presented with a conceptually novel development-aid model.

Those designing the TFFF are also studying how to simplify disbursement models (without any loss of rigor) through digital monitoring, reporting, and verification systems, and how to disburse enough annually to tip the scales away from deforestation. Finally, another important question that is coming into focus is how to improve access to such mechanisms for indigenous peoples, local communities, and other forest owners and stewards. The countries working on the TFFF intend to address these issues by COP30.

Forests are vital not just for the carbon they store, but also for their role in maintaining ecological balance, supporting environmental health, and promoting economic growth and human development. The period between COP16 in Cali and next year's COP30 in Brazil could be the perfect time to launch the TFFF and set the stage for a new era in forest-conservation finance. We must start properly rewarding countries that have controlled deforestation and redoubled our efforts to conserve existing forests for future generations.

Ajay Banga is President of the World Bank. Fernando Haddad is Minister of Finance of Brazil.

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Ajay Banga & Fernando Haddad

IN ADDITION TO CURBING EMISSIONS FROM BURNING FOSSIL FUELS, ONE OF THE BIGGEST PRIORITIES MUST BE TO PROTECT AND CONSERVE THE WORLD'S REMAINING TROPICAL FORESTS

Putin's BRICS Show

On paper the BRICS summit being held in Kazan, Russia, from 22 October to 24 October aims at strengthening multilateralism for "just" global development and security. But, in reality it is a great opportunity for Russian President Vladimir Putin, locked in a prolonged war with Ukraine, to showcase that he is not as isolated in the international community as the West wants the world to believe. His objective may run counter to the ostensible efforts of China, India, Brazil and the Arab world to find a way to end the war in Ukraine. Putin seems to be too eager to use the rising clout of the BRICS group, which now accounts for 45 per cent of the world's population and 35 per cent of its economy, for his own security. The fact that China accounts for over half of BRICS' economic strength bolsters Putin's hope to achieve his goal in Ukraine because of his bonhomie with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The West has called Putin a pariah since he invaded Ukraine and imposed tough sanctions on Russia intended to isolate the country's economy from global markets. Hosting the BRICS summit in this backdrop helps Putin fend off the pressure being put by the West. He is greeting 20 heads of state, including Xi, Narendra Modi and Iranian President Masoud Pezesh. This is one of the large-scale foreign policy events ever in Russia.

The loud and clear message that Putin is sending out to the world, especially the West, is that attempts to isolate Russia and severely cripple its economy through sanctions have failed since he has so many friends across the globe forming the BRICS bloc. This grouping is often described as a counterweight to the Western-led world and the G7 countries as it has expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia, too, has been invited to join. Russian officials have even indicated that another 30 countries want to join BRICS or seek closer ties with the bloc. Some of these nations will take part in the summit.

But, the real aim of Putin is to convince BRICS members to find an alternative to the dollar for global payments. The Russian economy is facing multitude of problems primarily due to the payment crisis in its cross-border trade and payment made in the US dollar which is the main currency in the global market. Russia's main interest lies in breaking the dominance of the US dollar. It wants BRICS countries to create an alternative trade mechanism and cross-border settlement system that does not involve the dollar, the euro or any of the G7 currencies. If it succeeds in the endeavour, the sanctions imposed by the US-led West could be greatly neutralised.

However, it is easier said than done. The roadblock to this ambitious project of Putin is that many members of the BRICS grouping are keen on maintaining good and stable political and economic relations with the West. As such they are unlikely to take any decisive step in evolving an alternative system of payment curbing the control of dollars.

China too can ill afford to antagonize or even ignore the affluent West since most of its high end products are consumed there, not in Africa, South America or even Asia. India too is a low end product market for China. Also, unlike Russia which has got embroiled in a seemingly unending war with Ukraine in which it has failed to make much headway, China can be seen as a clever nation interested in exploiting global markets and winning economic battles, rather than fighting actual wars using guns and bullets. This focus of China might, eventually, manifest to make it discreetly distance itself from the current Russian aim. If that happens sooner than later, Putin could very well be dethroned from his position of power.

There are other problems afflicting the BRICS bloc that prevent it from becoming a really effective global grouping. There are internal conflicts among the member countries that defy solutions. For example, the relations between China and India often get strained over border disputes and encroachment of territories, this notwithstanding the latest understanding between the two countries which has now stipulated India to withdraw beyond the pre-Galwan conflict LAC. There is also tension between two of the newest members, Egypt and Ethiopia, while Shi'ite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia have long been regional rivals despite recent thaw in their relations.

However, the importance of BRICS is slowly, but steadily rising because of super-power rivalry. If developed countries stick together for their mutual interests under US leadership, third world countries could possibly want Russia to be on their side to safeguard their interests. How far Russia will be able to act beyond its borders is a question that time alone can answer.

WISDOM CORNER

Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better take things as they come along with patience and equanimity

CARL JUNG

Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood. All is riddle, and the key to a riddle is another riddle

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

In oneself lies the whole world and if you know how to look and learn, the door is there and the key is in your hand. Nobody on earth can give you either the key or the door to open, except yourself

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

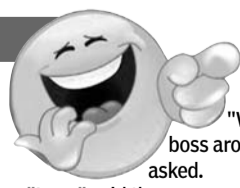
THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1942: The British, led by Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, launched a successful infantry attack against the Germans at El-Alamein, Egypt, during World War II.
- 1944: During World War II, U.S. forces under the leadership of Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., commenced a decisive air and sea battle against the Japanese on the central Philippine island of Leyte.
- 1956: The International Atomic Energy Agency was created with the purpose of increasing the contribution of atomic energy to world peace.
- 1964: Jean-Paul Sartre Turns Down Nobel Prize. The French existentialist philosopher and writer published a letter in the newspaper Le Figaro to explain why he did not want to accept the Nobel Prize for Literature he had been awarded the day before on October 22. In his letter, he said he did not want to take sides in the East and West struggle of the Cold War, by accepting an award that was given out by Western institutions.
- 1983: Beirut barracks bombing. Two bombs exploded in front of American and French barracks during the Lebanese Civil War, killing about 300 French and American military personnel. Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the bombings

LOL

Giving away a horse

A retiring farmer in preparation for selling his land, needed to rid his farm of animals. So he went to every house in his town. To the houses where the man is the boss, he gave a horse. To the houses where the woman is the boss, a chicken was given. He got toward the end of the street and saw a couple outside gardening.



"Who's the boss around here?" he asked.

"I am," said the man.
"I have a black horse and a brown horse," the farmer said, "which one would you like?"
The man thought for a minute and said, "The black one."
"No, no, no, get the brown one," the man's wife said.
"Here's your chicken," said the farmer.

IN JEST THIS

Anyone can be a victim of catfishing

The new Netflix documentary "Sweet Bobby: My Catfish Nightmare" made me realise how easy it is to become a victim of catfishing and how vulnerable many people are. Catfishing, as you probably know, is what happens when you have an online romance with someone who looks drop-dead gorgeous, but when you meet them in person, they look like a dead catfish.



Melvin Durai

IF THE PERSON TRYING TO DEVELOP AN ONLINE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU LOOKS LIKE AN ACTOR OR MODEL, BE SUSPICIOUS

No, that's not exactly what it means. Catfishing is when someone creates a fictitious online persona or fake identity to lure another person into a relationship. Romance scams often involve catfishing. These schemes are based on an adage that humans have known for centuries: one of the easiest ways to steal someone's money is to first steal their heart.

But financial gain is not always the motive for catfishing, as "Sweet Bobby" illustrates. The documentary portrays the decade-long scheme that lured

Kirat Assi, a Punjabi woman in Britain, into a relationship with a doctor named Bobby Jandu.

It began as an online friendship, then progressed into a romance and eventually an engagement. The perpetrator (no spoilers here) created dozens of fake online profiles to carry out the catfishing scheme and even convinced Assi that the man of her dreams couldn't meet her in person or communicate with her fully because he was in a witness protection program in the US. (Many an American man has been invited to the wedding of a former girlfriend and written in response: "Wish I could be there, but the Justice Department has put me in a witness protection program.")

In Assi's case, the perpetrator's motive isn't clear, but it appears to be manipulation or control. Indeed, some people engage in catfishing to harass other people, bully them or take revenge. Some suffer from low self-esteem or loneliness and enjoy

being a totally different person online who can attract other people. A person with low self-esteem can portray themselves online as attractive and confident, taking advantage of another person with low self-esteem.

But you don't have to suffer from low self-esteem to be a victim of catfishing, especially when the scheme is as elaborate as the one that entrapped Assi. That's why it's important to know some of the warning signs. Here are just a few of them:

1. The photos look perfect. If the person trying to develop an online relationship with you looks like an actor or model, be suspicious. Ask yourself if someone so attractive would be looking for love online. If so, wouldn't they pursue all the other people using fake photos?

2. The photos remain unchanged. If the person is not sharing new photos of themselves in various environments, it might mean that they don't

have complete access to that beautiful face.

3. The person refuses to video chat with you. They make excuses for not appearing in video, such as being in a witness protection program, suffering from video-phobia, or not being quite ready to take such a big step in the relationship. (Going from texting to a video chat is like going from a heart emoji to a blowing-a-kiss emoji.)

4. The relationship progresses too fast. If you became online friends a week ago and they're already proposing marriage, you may want to unfriend them immediately.

5. They ask for money. Most catfishing schemes are conceived for financial gain. But before they can swindle you, they need to win your trust. This can be done in many ways, including turning down your offers to help when they're in trouble. Eventually, of course, you'll discover that what they truly love is not you but your money.

A welcome first step

Sir, This refers to "Pact with China on LAC patrolling," Orissa Post, Oct 22. The clarity on contours of the patrolling agreement between New Delhi and Beijing would be known in weeks ahead. It is expected to set the ball rolling towards 'disengagement' and 'resolution of issues' along LAC and border areas. Relations between the two nations have remained on thin ice, in a state of heightened military preparedness since the 2020 deadly conflict in eastern Ladakh. Bilateral talks between the two have been limited to talking disengagement since 2020, even as India has engaged with China consistently on multilateral fora. The step forward has taken over 20 rounds of military negotiations over the last 53 months and many numbers of multi-level meetings between foreign affairs officials. The slackening stance of Beijing as an aggressive unbending adversary is no doubt influenced by its own domestic challenges, especially a slowing economy and costs of maintaining a highly militarised border. Beijing also no doubt has in its focus New Delhi's deepening strategic and military ties with Washington and steadily growing defence trade. The word 'stable' finds more frequent mention now than the phrase 'status quo ante'. But as things stand, and regardless of both Beijing's commitment, and the restraint that surrounded Monday's announcement, it's a very welcome first step.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Unanswered question

Sir, This refers to the news report "Remarks on PM's degree: SC upholds summons issued to Kejriwal" (Orissa Post, Oct 22). The apex court has in its wisdom dismissed Kejriwal's plea to quash summons asking him to face trial in a defamation case over his alleged remarks on the Prime Minister's educational qualification. But the pertinent question remains unanswered what is exactly the educational qualification of our Prime Minister? The government of India has the moral duty to get the people of India informed about the educational qualification of the Prime Minister. The suppression of the material fact creates unnecessary doubt in the minds of the public who never miss a chance of belittling the Prime Minister.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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PROCUREMENT CRISIS

Punjab CM orders paddy lifting

Despite the chief minister stating that farmers should not be allowed to face any sort of inconvenience in mandis, paddy growers claimed that the crop was not being lifted from mandis, leading to a glut in grain markets



Farmers under the banner of Bharti Kisan Union (Doaba) Monday blocked a stretch of the national highway-44 near a sugar mill in Phagwara for an indefinite period to protest the tardy paddy procurement

Protesting farmers led by BKU (D) president Manjit Singh Rai sat on the highway, blocking routes of Phagwara-Nakodar and Jalandhar-Ludhiana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 22: Under attack from farmers and Opposition parties over the delayed paddy procurement and lifting, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Monday issued directions to officials to ensure the lifting of crops from mandis across the state.

Meanwhile, Food Minister Lal Chand Kataruchak said over 24 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has arrived so far, in mandis, of which 22.50 lakh MT has been procured.

Almost 4.12 lakh MT has been lifted from mandis so far, he further said.

Chairing a meeting here to review procurement operations in the state, Mann said paddy should be lifted at the earliest in the state so that farmers do not have to face any inconvenience.

Farmers of the state have played a key role in making the country self-reliant in food production, he said.

In this process, the food growers have even overexploited the only available natural resources of the state in terms of water and fertile soil, said Mann.

Despite the chief minister stating that farmers should not be allowed to face any sort of inconvenience in mandis, paddy growers claimed that the crop was not being lifted from mandis, leading to a glut in grain markets.

They have also claimed that despite paddy procurement operations starting October 1 in the state, farmers were facing hardships in selling their crops.

Farmers under the banner of

Bharti Kisan Union (Doaba) Monday blocked a stretch of the national highway-44 near a sugar mill in Phagwara for an indefinite period to protest the tardy paddy procurement.

Protesting farmers led by BKU (D) president Manjit Singh Rai sat on the highway, blocking routes of Phagwara-Nakodar and Jalandhar-Ludhiana.

Party leader Satnam Singh Sahni in Phagwara said, "Our paddy was not being procured nor being lifted from mandis. We have brought a large number of trolleys laden with un-

sold paddy to prove it. We will continue blockade till purchase of paddy was started in all mandis".

Delegation of Samyuta Kisan Morcha met Mann October 19 and gave an ultimatum to him, saying if the state government could not ensure smooth paddy procurement within four days, they would announce a "big decision".

Paddy lifting from mandis has been affected after the state rice millers refused to mill the paddy till their demands were met.

Rice millers have also expressed concern over the out-turn ratio (post-milling yield) of the PR-126 paddy variety, claiming that it will lead to huge losses.

They have said that the out-turn ratio of this variety is less than 67 per cent, a ratio which has been fixed by the Centre.

They are demanding that they should be allowed to give 64 kg of rice out of one quintal of paddy because of less yield in the PR-126 variety.

The state rice millers have also complained of space crunch for storing the fresh paddy crop and want the Centre to liquidate the existing wheat and paddy stock to create sufficient space.

However, minister Kataruchak said 11 lakh MT of space has been created for storing food grain.

Move your share of paddy from Punjab: Mann to Centre



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Tuesday said he spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and urged him to address the issues of the state rice millers by moving the paddy belonging to the Centre stocked in state. Paddy lifting from mandis in Punjab is hit since the state rice millers have refused to mill the crop till their demands are met. "Today, I spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and urged him that the issues of rice millers and 'arthiyas' (commission agents) be addressed at the earliest," Mann said. The CM said the demands of the rice millers and 'arthiyas' are related to the Central government. Mann said Punjab contributes the maximum into the central pool of the crop, adding, the state will contribute 180 lakh metric tonnes of paddy this year. He also stressed on moving 130 lakh MT rice from last year – belonging to the Centre and stocked in Punjab – to other states to create more space.

Himachal CM opens 24x7 cybercrime reporting station

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 22: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Monday inaugurated a 'CY-Station' of the cyber wing of the state police in Shimla to facilitate real-time registration of complaints, particularly in cases of financial frauds.

Equipped to handle cybercrime-related complaints more efficiently, the CY Station would function 24x7, the chief minister said in a statement.

It would also facilitate the blocking or lien marking of defrauded amounts through the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS), the statement said.

The citizens can register cybercrime related complaints through the toll-free number 1930, it added.

"The data centre will act as the nodal hub for overseeing the functioning of the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal's (NCRP) district database and serve as a key decision-making unit for future strategies," Sukhu said.

The CY-Station is equipped with modern technology to ensure swift response by trained operators besides having automatic facilities for call recording to ensure effective follow-up measures, the statement said.

The data centre's network infrastructure would serve as a strategic link between Himachal Pradesh's cyber infrastructure and the centralised NCRP.

In cases where a complaint is reassigned with a bank or a financial institution seeking some correction, the data centre will ensure immediate action in coordination with the complainant.

The chief minister also said the state government is making dedicated efforts to modernise the police force by incorporating advanced technologies into its operations.

The initiative aims to enhance the efficiency, transparency and responsiveness of the police force, he added.

By adopting modern tools and technologies, the police will be able to address the emerging challenges more effectively, streamline the processes, and foster stronger community relations for a safe and secure Himachal Pradesh, the statement concluded.

Blind Persons' Association protests in Shimla

The association have also been demanding that the government should provide them with reservation and promotions as promised in a notification issued in 2021 and also extend the retirement age of all specially abled persons to 60 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 22: The Himachal Blind Persons' Association held a 'chakka jam' near the Himachal Pradesh Secretariat here Tuesday in protest against the non-fulfilment of their demand of filling the backlog in government jobs for visually impaired people.

The protesters blocked the Sanjauli-Chotta Shimla road for about 30 minutes. There was also a minor scuffle between them and police personnel.

"We have been demanding for the filling of backlog posts for blind people for 362 days," member of the association Rajesh Thakur said.

He said three to four meetings were held with authorities



Security personnel try to remove members of the Blind Persons' Association during a protest against the Himachal Pradesh government, in Shimla

but no solution has come out. "Only Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Health and Family Welfare Minister Dhani Ram Shandil can answer why our demands are not being accepted," Thakur added.

The members of the association also warned that they came prepared with warm clothes and blankets, and would not leave the spot unless their demands were met and the government gave a written assurance.

Alleging that some police personnel threatened them, Thakur said the chief minister and police would be responsible if anything happened to the protesters in the night.

The association have also been demanding that the government should provide them with reservation and promotions as promised in a notification issued in 2021 and also extend the retirement age of all specially abled persons to 60 years.

'Crop residue management machinery unviable for small farmers'

FARMERS DEMANDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE THE CROP RESIDUE MACHINERY IS AVAILABLE IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS AT THE VILLAGE LEVEL SO AS TO CHECK STUBBLE BURNING INCIDENTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Oct 22: Amid concern over the rise in stubble-burning incidents in Punjab, a demand for financial incentives to manage paddy stubble is emerging from farmers who assert that it is not financially viable for small cultivators to buy crop residue management machinery to clear their fields.

They also said as the window for Rabi crops like wheat is very short after paddy harvest, many farmers are forced to set their fields on fire to quickly clear the straw for sowing the next crop.

Many farmers were of the view that the minimum support price on alternative crops like maize, pulses etc should be guaranteed so as to wean away growers from the water-guzzling paddy

crop.

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for the rise in air pollution in Delhi after the harvesting of the paddy crop in October and November.

As the paddy harvesting is progressing in the state, the incidents of stubble burning are picking up in the two foodgrain growing states, prompting the state authorities to register FIRs and impose fines on erring farmers.

With over 31 lakh hectares of paddy area, Punjab produces around 180-200 lakh tonnes of straw every year.

Crop residue management machinery like super seeder, smart seeder, happy seeder, paddy straw chopper, shredder, mulcher, hydraulic reversible mould board plough and zero till drill under

STUBBLE-BURNING MENACE



the in-situ (mixing crop residue in fields) management method and baler and rake under the ex-situ (using stubble as fuel) management method are made available on subsidy.

The rate of subsidy on these machines for individual farmers is 50 per cent of the cost of the equipment and 80 per cent for cooperative societies and panchayats.

Bharti Kisan Union (Lakhnowal) General Secretary Harinder Singh Lakhnowal said farmers want financial incentives for the management of paddy stubble.

"We are demanding ₹3,000 per acre for managing paddy straw," said Lakhnowal.

He pointed out that it was not economically feasible for small farmers to buy crop residue management machinery for the management of straw.

"A tractor having 60 HP capacity is required to run crop residue management machin-

Himachal changes criteria for Van Mitra recruitment



THE GOAL OF THE VAN MITRA SCHEME IS TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL COMMUNITIES' INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST AREAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Oct 22: The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet Tuesday decided to do away with the 10-mark personal interview criteria in the recruitment of Van Mitra in the Forest department.

It also decided to set up a Cabinet sub-committee to review the operations of parking facilities run under the public-private partnership (PPP) model in Shimla City.

The Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu decided to go ahead with the recruitment of 2061 Van Mitra in the Forest department by eliminating the 10-mark criteria for personal interview, a statement issued here said.

The goal of the Van Mitra scheme is to strengthen local communities' involvement in the protection, conservation, and development of forest areas. Van Mitras (friends of forest) receive incentives for maintaining and protecting plantations.

Men and women in the age group of 18 to 25 with matriculation and 10 plus as minimum qualification who are residents of Gram Panchayat/urban Local Body within the jurisdiction of the forest beat and have good physical and mental health are eligible to apply for the post, the statement said.

It said a Cabinet sub-committee to review the operations of parking facilities run under the PPP model would be headed by Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi with Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh, Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh, and Town and Country Planning Minister Rajesh Dharmani as members.

Shimla MLA Harish Janartha will be a special invitee. The committee will review the operations of Lift Parking, Chhota

■ The Cabinet decided to create and fill up 150 posts of nursing personnel posts and create and fill six posts of Associate Professor posts, 10 posts of Assistant Professors in different departments Dr Radhakrishnan Government Medical College and Hospital Medical College Hamirpur

■ In order to promote the use of electric vehicles and reduce reliance on fossil fuel vehicles, the Cabinet approved involving private players to expand the EV charging station network along the state's six green corridors where 77 EV charging stations are already operational

Shimla Parking, Sanjauli Parking, New Bus Stand Parking and Tutikandi Parking.

It also decided to amend the Eco-tourism Policy 2017 to align with the recent amendments in the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) 2023, aimed at promoting and developing eco-tourism activities in the state.

The Amended Forest Conservation Act (FCA) 2023 exempts certain specified forest lands for activities like zoos and safaris, besides eco-tourism facilities, silvicultural operations and any other purpose specified by the Central government.

With a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) during disasters and emergencies, the Cabinet decided to transfer the administrative control of SDRF to the Additional Director General (Home Guards and Civil Defence) and also approved the deputation of Home Guards to the SDRF for a maximum period of two years to ensure its smooth operation.

The Cabinet has decided to accept the recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, headed by Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi, concerning the 450 MW Shongtong-Karcham Power Project including the directive to the company to ensure project completion by the financial year 2026-27.

The tender for the project was awarded in 2012 but the construction of the project was delayed due to several reasons and Chief Minister Sukhu had asked the company to complete the project by July 2025.

Shongtong Hydroelectric Power Project would generate 1,579 million units of electricity annually worth ₹1,706 crore.

residue on fire to prepare fields for sowing the next crop," he said.

Farmers also said they have very little time after paddy harvesting to sow the next crop and therefore they resort to burning the residue in order to clear their fields.

They demanded that the government should ensure the crop residue management machinery is available in sufficient numbers at the village level so as to check stubble burning incidents.

"At least a baler per two villages should be made available so that small farmers can give their straw," said Mohali-based farmer Bhupinder Singh.

Many farmers also stressed that the government should ensure guaranteed MSP on crops other than paddy so they can switch over to other crops.

Punjab had witnessed a reduction of 30 per cent in the number of fire incidents at 71,159 in 2021-22 as compared to 76,929 in 2021-22 and a reduction of 26 per cent in such incidents at 49,922 in 2023-24 as compared to 71,159 in 2022-23.

national

of the day quote

We will not accept giving a ticket to someone linked to underworld don Dawood Ibrahim

NAWAB MALIK | NCP LEADER

Shame on such BJP politics and BJP's hunger for power, which conspires to incite riots... for politics. Every day new revelations are being made in the case of Bairaich violence and the BJP is not able to show its face

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

As some candidates had to keep up with the muhurat for filing of nominations, they have been allotted our party's A and B forms

AJIT PAWAR | MAHA DEPUTY CM

INDIA-CHINA TALKS

Restoring trust: Army chief

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Monday said Indian and Chinese soldiers will be able to resume patrolling in the way they had been doing before the border face-off began and the disengagement process with China has been completed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: India will look at disengagement and de-escalation of the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh after restoration of the status quo of April 2020, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said Tuesday, a day after New Delhi announced striking an agreement with Beijing to end the over four-year border row in the region.

In his first comment on the pact on patrolling along the contested frontier, Gen Dwivedi said the Indian military is trying to restore "trust" and both sides will have to "reassure each other" to achieve this objective.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri Monday announced India and China reached an agreement on patrolling along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough in ending the over four-year military stand-off. The announcement came ahead of a likely meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Russian city of



Kazan Wednesday on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. "As far as we are concerned, we want to go back to the status quo of April 2020. Thereafter, we will be looking at disengagement, de-escalation and normal management of the LAC," he said at an interactive session. "And, this normal management of the LAC will not just stop there. There are phases in that also," he added. In almost all the negotiations with China on

the border row, India has been insisting on restoration of the status quo ante of that existed before the border standoff erupted in early May of 2020. "This is what I am saying. This has been our stance since then and even today (it) remains the same. So, as of now, we are trying to restore the trust," the Army Chief said. "How trust will be restored. It will get restored once we are able to see each other, and we are

able to convince each other, look at the buffer zones which are there, which have been created, we are not creeping," he said. "And, both will have to reassure each other," he said.

The Army chief said resumption of patrolling would give some kind of advantage. "Patrolling gives you that kind of advantage and that is what is commencing. And, as we restore the trust, the other stages will follow through soon," he said. Meanwhile, China Tuesday confirmed that it has reached an agreement with India to end the standoff between the two armies in eastern Ladakh.

"Over a recent period of time, China and India have kept close communication through diplomatic and military channels on issues related to the China-India border," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said in Beijing. The ties between the two Asian giants nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

BANGALORE RAINS

1 dead, 17 trapped in building collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Oct 22: One worker was killed after an under-construction building collapsed in Babusapalya here Tuesday amid heavy rains, officials said.

Two rescue vans from the fire and emergency department have been pressed into rescue operations. The incident occurred at a time when the city is witnessing heavy downpour, they said.

"Approximately 20 people were trapped. One body has been recovered, 14 workers have been rescued and five are still missing," D Devaraja, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East Bangalore) told media.

It is a seven-storey building, he said. According to preliminary inquiry, the entire building collapsed following which people got trapped underneath, a fire department official said.

Bangaluru has faced record-breaking rainfall recently, with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) reporting an astounding 186.2 mm of rain



recorded at the GKVK observatory until 8:30 am Sunday, surpassing the previous highest 24-hour record of 178.9 mm set October 1, 1997. The ongoing downpour has severely affected public life, particularly in northern Bangalore.

The Bengaluru Urban district administration has declared holiday for schools and Anganwadi centres Wednesday in view of the heavy rains in the district.

In a statement, the Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore Urban Jagadish G said the decision has been taken as a precautionary measure and in the interest of students.

However, all the colleges and ITIs will function as usual.

Jagadish also said a general instruction has been given colleges not to use dilapidated and weak buildings for holding classes in order to avoid accidents.

He asked parents and college management to ensure that students should not go to low lying areas where there is water.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the college authorities should provide information to the students about dealing with natural calamities.

HC grants bail to Sachin Waze in corruption case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: The Bombay High Court Tuesday granted bail to dismissed police officer Sachin Waze bail in a corruption case also involving former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh.

A division bench headed by Justice M S Sonak granted bail to Waze and said the conditions for the same shall be set by the special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court.

The dismissed police officer will, however, continue to remain in jail as he is in judicial custody in the 'Antilia' bomb scare case lodged by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).



Waze, who is presently in judicial custody, had sought to be released on bail claiming that he is an approver in the case, and on the grounds of parity as well as citing that the other accused in the case are out on bail.

Waze's counsel Aabad Ponda had said keeping him in jail even after he was declared as an approver was violation of fundamental rights. He was declared an approver by the special CBI court in June 2022. Waze was arrested in March 2021 for his alleged role in the case of an explosives-laden vehicle found near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence 'Antilia' in south Mumbai and the murder of Thane businessman Mansukh Hiran.



A potter makes an earthen lamp ahead of the Diwali festival, on the outskirts of Agartala

J&K: Pak-based new terror outfit dismantled by security forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Oct 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's counter-intelligence wing carried out raids Tuesday in several districts of the Valley and busted a recruitment module of a new militant outfit believed to be a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) offshoot, officials said here.

They said the raids were carried out at 10 locations across Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kulgam, Budgam, Anantnag and Pulwama.

During the operation, police busted a recruitment module run by a newly floated terrorist organisation 'Tehreek Labaik Ya Muslim' (TLM), headed by a Pakistani terrorist handler known by his alias 'Baba Hamas', the officials said.

They added that the searches were conducted in pursuance of a search warrant issued by a



special NIA court in a case registered under various sections of the IPC and the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The case pertains to a larger conspiracy hatched by proscribed terrorist organisations operating within Jammu and Kashmir and across the LoC at the behest of Pakistani agencies. These outfits, in connivance with their sympathisers in the Kashmir valley, are continuously creating "new terror modules", the officials said.

Delhi's air quality slips further

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: A thick layer of smog enveloped the national capital Tuesday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) slipped further, even dropping to the "severe" category at 411 in Anand Vihar.

Air quality was recorded in the "very poor" category by 28 out of 36 pollution monitoring stations. The 24-hour average AQI was recorded at 327 at 4 pm Tuesday as against 310 a day earlier even as anti-pollution restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)-II came into force.

An AQI reading between 401-500 is classified as "severe" which affects healthy individuals and seriously impacts those with existing diseases.

PM2.5 was recorded at an alarming 129.3 micrograms per cubic meter, according to the



Central Pollution Control Board. PM2.5 refers to fine inhalable particles with diameters generally measuring 2.5 micrometres and smaller, posing the greatest risk to health.

The acceptable annual standard for PM 2.5 is 40 micrograms per cubic meter.

While Air quality in Anand Vihar slipped into the "severe" category, the AQI remained "very poor" in areas like Bawana, Dwarka, Jahangirpuri, Rohini, DTU, IGI Airport (T3), ITO, Mundka, Narela, Patparganj,

Rohini, Shadipur, Sonia Vihar, Wazirpur, Alipur, Ashok Vihar, Aya Nagar, Burari, Mandir Marg and Mundka.

Factors that contributed to Delhi's pollution on a high margin Tuesday included transportation, stubble burning, dust pollution and others.

Emissions from transportation accounted for approximately 11.45 per cent of Delhi's air pollution, according to the Centre's Decision Support System for Air Quality Management.

Muslim man can register more than one marriage: HC

A division bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Somasekar Sundaesan October 15 directed the deputy marriage registration office of the Thane Municipal Corporation to decide the application filed by a Muslim man in February last year seeking to register his third marriage with a woman from Algeria

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: A Muslim man can register more than one marriage as their personal laws permit multiple marriages, the Bombay High Court held in a case of a man seeking to register his union with his third wife.

A division bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Somasekar Sundaesan October 15 directed the deputy marriage registration office of the Thane Municipal Corporation to decide the application filed by a Muslim man in February last year seeking to register his third marriage with a woman from Algeria. The couple, in their plea,

sought direction to the authorities to issue them a marriage certificate, claiming that their application was rejected as this was the man's third marriage.

The authorities refused to register the marriage on the ground that under the Maharashtra Regulation of Marriage Bureaus and Registration of Marriage Act, the definition of marriage contemplates only a single marriage and not multiple unions.

The bench, however, termed the authority's refusal as "wholly misconceived" and said in the entire scheme of the Act, it does not find anything that would preclude a Muslim man from registering a third marriage.



"Under the personal laws for Muslims, they are entitled to have four wives at a time. Once this is the case, we are unable

accept the submission of the authorities that under the provisions of the Maharashtra Regulation of Marriage Bureaus

and Registration of Marriages Act, only one marriage can be registered, even in the case of a Muslim male," the court said.

The bench said if it were to accept the authorities' contention, then it would effectively mean that the Maharashtra Regulation of Marriage Bureaus and Registration of Marriages Act overrides and/or has displaced the personal laws of Muslims. "There is absolutely nothing in this Act to indicate that the personal laws of Muslims have been excluded," the court said.

It further noted that the same authorities had ironically registered the petitioner's marriage with his second wife.

The authority had also claimed that the petitioner couple had not furnished certain documents. The court then directed the petitioners to submit all relevant documents within two weeks. The court ordered that once these documents are submitted, the concerned authority of the Thane civic body shall give the petitioners a personal hearing and pass a reasoned order either granting marriage registration or refusing the same within ten days.

The bench directed that until then, no coercive steps should be taken against the petitioner woman whose passport expired in May this year.



F&O cannot be and should not be a national pastime which actually means that savings of retail participants move into the pockets of institutional hands

BHARTI AIRTEL TO INCREASE STAKE IN INDUS TOWER

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) Tuesday cleared Bharti Airtel's proposal to increase its stake in Indus Towers...



of the day quote

As we are serious about 'insurance for all', we must rethink how we distribute and market insurance products

The market is facing a muted demand. It is extremely clear that the growth in the F&B sector...

The capex has not revived. It's just that the basket, which is available to all of us is smaller.

Bear attack: Investors poorer by ₹9.19L-cr in single day crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

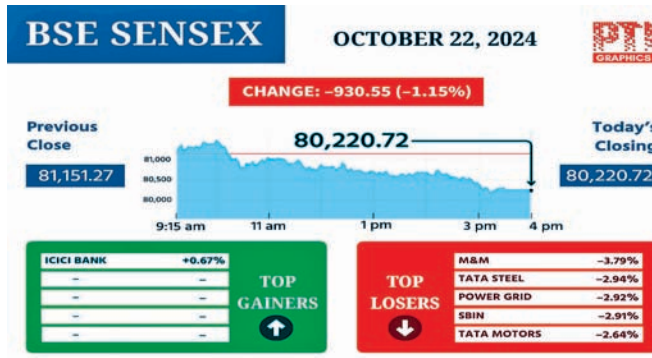
New Delhi, Oct 22: Investors' wealth eroded by a massive ₹9.19 lakh crore Tuesday as markets came under heavy sell-off...

Extending its previous day's decline, the BSE Sensex plummeted 930.55 points or 1.15 per cent to settle at 80,220.72.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by ₹9,19,374.52 crore to ₹4,44,45,649.22 crore (USD 5.29 trillion).

"There has been no respite from FIIs selling in local equities in the current month so far, which has been creating uncertainty among domestic investors.

In contrast, ICICI Bank, Nestle and Infosys were the gainers from the pack.



Hyundai Motor India makes muted debut

NEW DELHI: Shares of Hyundai Motor India Ltd, the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, Tuesday made a muted market debut...

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹2,261.83 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

"Rising US bond yield amid expectation of a modest rate cut by US Fed led to weakness in global markets and outflow of funds from emerging markets like India.

The BSE smallcap gauge tanked 3.81 per cent and the mid-cap index slumped 2.52 per cent.

A total of 3,428 stocks declined while 559 advanced and 71 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Q2 RESULTS CORNER

Bajaj Finance profit rises 13%

New Delhi: Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL) Tuesday reported a 13 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹4,014 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2024.

Zomato posts ₹176cr profit

New Delhi: Online food delivery firm Zomato Ltd Tuesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹176 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2024.

Paytm posts ₹928.3cr profit

New Delhi: One97 Communications, the parent of Paytm, Tuesday posted a net profit of ₹928.3 crore in the quarter ended in September 2024...

SEBI notice to Adani firm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL), the power transmission arm of the Adani group, Tuesday said it has received a notice from SEBI alleging wrongful categorisation of certain investors as public shareholders.

Without giving details, the firm in notes to its second-quarter earnings statement said it will respond to regulatory and statutory authorities by providing relevant information/clarifications.

SEBI's listing rule provides for listed firms having a minimum of 25 per cent of equity owned by public investors.

are generally clubbed as promoter holding.

Seven out of the 10 listed firms of Adani group had received show cause notices from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for alleged violation of related party transactions and non-compliance with listing regulations...

The SEBI notices were part of a probe that followed US short-seller Hindenburg Research making damning allegations of corporate fraud and stock price manipulation against the Adani Group in January 2023.

Silver zooms past ₹1 lakh-mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 22: Gold price rose by ₹350 to hit a fresh all-time high of ₹81,000 per 10 grams while silver soared ₹1,500 to record the ₹1 lakh mark in the national capital Tuesday amid a surge in demand...

Continuing its upward movement for the fifth straight day, silver bounced ₹1,500 to hit a fresh high of ₹1.01 lakh per kg against the previous close of ₹ 99,500 per kg on Monday.

"The current momentum in silver prices is driven by industrial demand, such as in expanding photovoltaic applications, followed by the jewellery and silverware segments," Arun Misra, CEO and Whole-time Director at Hindustan Zinc Ltd, said.

Additionally, gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped ₹350 to hit a fresh high of ₹80,600 per 10 grams. Meanwhile, the metal of 99.5 per cent purity had finished at ₹80,250 per 10 grams while gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹80,650 per 10 grams on Monday.



On the MCX, gold prices have risen and the bullish momentum continues to drive prices higher.

Bullion traders attributed the jump in precious metal rates to the rising consumption in industrial and wearable segments in the domestic market.

Furthermore, prices were led by growth concerns especially in China, coupled with escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia and the status quo on interest rates by most global central banks, traders added.

In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery rose ₹208 or 0.27 per cent to ₹78,247 per 10 grams.

MFI loans decline 2.3% in June qtr, NPAs rise: Report



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: Loan portfolio of microlenders reduced by 2.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter to ₹4.32 lakh crore in April-June while NPAs surged, a report said.

Notably, for the last few months, microfinance institutions, banks and small finance banks which extend MFI loans, have been reporting challenges on this portfolio, and the regulator has also flagged the same.

Over-leveraging among the borrowers is being flagged as a key aspect, impacting asset quality.

The report by Crif High Mark, a credit information company said, there was 17.2 per cent increase in the borrowers having more than five active loan accounts in June when compared with the year-ago period.

Nearly half of the rise in stress on an incremental basis when compared to the year-ago period came from borrowers who have five or more active loans, the company said.

FY25 at ₹79,000 crore while the number of loans disbursed fell 32.1 per cent to 1.62 crore.

On the asset quality front, all the three classifications -- overdue for up to 30 days, 31-180 days and over 180 days -- showed an uptick, with the largest stress being in the 31-180 days overdue advances where 2.7 per cent of the loans were unpaid as of June as against 2.1 per cent in March.

The company said Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Rajasthan showed the highest stress on the asset quality front, while West Bengal, Karnataka and Maharashtra witnessed the least increase.

Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh alone accounted for over a third of the incremental delinquency during the quarter when compared with the March quarter, it said.

Among the lender types, non-banking finance companies showed a 2.7 per cent growth in portfolio, while banks showed the steepest decline at nearly 5 per cent. Lenders seem to be preferring higher ticket size loans as the over ₹50,000 amount loans showed the strongest growth.

40% of blue-collar workers looking for job change: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 22: With attrition rate as high as 40 per cent in the blue-collar job segment, a recent report revealed that over 40 per cent of those interviewed are still actively seeking new opportunities.

Over 40 per cent of participants are currently employed but actively seeking new job opportunities, according to a report by blue-collar hiring platform WorkIndia.

The report revealed that the quest for a better salary is a significant motivator, with 22 per cent of respondents indicating that financial compensation is their primary reason for job hunting.

Additionally, 20 per cent of respondents cited career growth opportunities as a driving factor,



while another 20 per cent noted personal motivations such as relocation, completing education, or changes in family circumstances, it stated.

The report is an analysis based on inputs from 1,100 respondents on the WorkIndia platform.

It further revealed that many experienced candidates feel they need to be more fulfilled in their current roles, prompting them to explore better opportunities.

Concerns over layoffs or financial instability within their current employer often trigger candidates to seek new jobs, said the report.

Meanwhile, the potential for higher salaries and superior benefits remained a primary motivator for many as candidates increasingly prioritise organisations that align with their personal values, particularly regarding work-life balance and company culture.

These statistics highlighted a significant desire among blue-collar workers for roles that offer improved financial compensation and promise enhanced job satisfaction and career growth, it stated.

Another 16 per cent of the respondents reported that they are actively searching for job opportunities on behalf of others, said the report.

"This report sheds light on the evolving motivations of blue-collar workers in India. As we continue to support their job search journeys, we are committed to providing resources and opportunities that align with their aspirations for better compensation, career growth, and a fulfilling work environment," WorkIndia co-founder and CEO Nitesh Dugarwal added.

