



SHOCKING CLAIM

Former Hindi film actress Somy Ali says Salman Khan has mental health issues and he believes himself to be God

LEISURE P2



QATAR DEATH ROW

India says the appeal process against death sentence handed down to eight former Navy personnel is under process

NATIONAL P9



WAR MAY INTENSIFY

Israeli forces drop leaflets warning Palestinians to flee parts of southern Gaza, signalling a possible expansion of offensive

INTERNATIONAL P10

Aussies face India in final

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Nov 16: Australia have set up a 2023 Men's ODI World Cup title clash with India after beating South Africa by three wickets in a tense semifinal at the Eden Gardens here Thursday.

Travis Head top-scored with 62, before Steve Smith (30), Josh Inglis (28), Mitchell Starc (16 not out) and captain Pat Cummins (14 not out) thwarted the valiant challenge from South Africa to march into their eighth Men's ODI World Cup final, where they will take on India in a replay of the 2003 edition finale.

South Africa's spinners asked all sorts of questions but they failed to latch on their chances which were created by the bowlers. Australia's efforts meant David Miller's gritty century (101) went in vain.

Chasing 213, Head and David Warner were off to a flying start. However a comfortable chase turned into an interesting one when the Kangaroos lost half their side with the scoreboard reading 137/5. It was not the end of suffering for the Aussies as they had to deal with a couple of more hiccups when they lost Smith and Inglis to leave the match wide open. However, Starc and Cummins held their nerves to take Australia home with 16 balls to spare. **P12**



SAFE PASSAGE The suspension railway bridge in Pamban opens for fishing boats in Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

Cyclone to spare state

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, which is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Friday, will have no major impact on Odisha as it will move towards the Bangladesh coast, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday.

Uma Shankar Das, a senior scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, said though the system is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Friday, it will have no major impact on Odisha other than some rain in the coastal region.

"The system has started to recurve. There is every possibility of intense heavy rainfall in two Odisha districts - Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur - Thursday and a yellow warning has been issued. Neighbouring districts are also likely to experience rainfall," Das said. The deep depression was moving north-northeastwards at a speed of 20 kmph.

Currently, it lay centered around 420km east-southeast of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, 410 km from Digha in West Bengal, 540 km from Kheppura in Bangladesh and 270 km south-southeast of Paradip in Odisha at 1pm.

"The system is likely to continue to move north-northeastwards, intensify further into a cyclonic storm over the next 24 hours and cross the Bangladesh coast between Mongla, Kheppura early Saturday," the IMD said. **More P3**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



... and for the commentary, dear, would you prefer it in English, Hindi, or a communal language?

Doc leads Jajpur drug syndicate

DENTIST AMONG 3 HELD FOR BROWN SUGAR TRAFFICKING

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: A narcotic drug trail ended at a doctor's clinic in Mahaveer Vihar of Jajpur town, much to the surprise of the district police investigating a brown sugar bust, Thursday.

Nigamananda Khatua, a dentist, was among three persons arrested for allegedly running a drug syndicate in the district. The other two accused were identified as Sandip Kumar Mallick of Sinduraimuhan and Ratnakar Dixit of Siddheswar in the district.

It all began after the Jajpur Town police, acting on a tip-off, carried out a raid near Sinduraimuhan in the district headquarters town Wednesday evening and rounded up Mallick and Dixit. A search on their person led to the seizure of 25 grams of brown sugar.

During interrogation, the duo revealed that they had procured



the narcotics from Nigamananda, following which the doctor was arrested Thursday, police said.

Jajpur sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Satyabrata Lenka said, "The dentist is the kingpin of the racket and used to trade in brown sugar in the area." The SDPO said that police have been keeping a strict vigil on drug peddling and will bring to book those involved in such illegal activities.

The three were forwarded to a local court and later remanded to judicial custody after their bail pleas were rejected.

Just a day before (Wednesday), a Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) team took a panchayat

samiti member and four college students into custody from Jeypore in Koraput district for their alleged involvement in ganja trafficking.

A team from the NCB regional office in Bangalore conducted a raid on a rented residence in the Parabeda area of Jeypore, and rounded up the students residing there.

Nevertheless, the involvement of professionals and students in narco trade, of late, has sent alarm bells ringing in the state's security corridors and necessitated a complete overhaul of strategy to deal with and bring about a curb in the emerging trend.

Since 2020, the Odisha Police has seized more than 73 kg of brown sugar/heroin, 202 grams of cocaine, more than 116 quintals of ganja/marijuana and 750 grams of opium. More than 183 drug dealers/peddlers have been arrested in connection with these seizures.

17 get life term for immolating couple

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: A local court in Jajpur Thursday sentenced 17 people to life imprisonment after holding them guilty of immolating a couple on suspicion of practicing sorcery in the district in 2020.

Jajpur Additional District and Sessions Judge Hrusikesh Acharya also slapped a penalty of Rs 10,000 on each of the convicts, public prosecutor Rajat Kumar Rout said.

The court convicted the 17 after examining as many as 20 witnesses and other evidence in connection with the case, Rout said.

According to the case details, residents of Nimapali village under Kalinganagar police limits in Jajpur believed the couple - Shaila Balmuj and Sambari Balmuj - was evil and responsible for the death and ill-health of some of the fellow villagers.

In order to take revenge, some villagers barged into the house of the couple during the late hours of July 7, 2020 and attacked the duo on suspicion of practicing sorcery.

They later set the couple's



Jajpur Additional District and Sessions Judge Hrusikesh Acharya also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on each of the convicts

Some villagers had barged into the house of Shaila Balmuj and Sambari Balmuj at Nimapali village under Kalinganagar police limits in Jajpur during the late hours of July 7, 2020 and killed them on suspicion of practicing sorcery

house on fire in which the man and his wife were charred to death.

On being informed, police rushed to the spot to initiated investigation into the matter.

The police had registered a case in connection with the incident and arrested as many as 17 villagers.

RBI tightens credit norms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 16: The Reserve Bank Thursday tightened norms for consumer credit as it asked banks and NBFCs to assign a higher risk weight for unsecured personal loans, a move aimed at making the lenders more cautious on such advances.

The risk weight on unsecured consumer loans has been raised by 25 percentage points.

The new regulations, however, will not be applicable on housing loans, education loans, vehicle loans and loans secured by gold and gold jewellery, the Reserve Bank said in a circular.

A higher risk weight means that lenders need to set aside more funds as a safety net for consumer loans, which could make such credit more expensive. In simple words, a higher risk weight restricts banks' lending capacity.

The move comes within a month of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das flagging concerns over a high growth seen in consumer credit segment. **More P11**

123456: Most common password in 2023

About 70% of passwords in this year's global list can be cracked in less than a second, according to NordPass

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 16: In 2023, '123456' topped the list of most common passwords among Indians and worldwide, a new report said Thursday.

According to password management solution provider NordPass, people used the weakest passwords for their streaming accounts in 2023.

Words that refer to a specific location were also found in people's passwords. Internet users globally frequently search for country or city names, and India is no exception, with 'India@123' ranking high on the country's list. The word 'admin', which, most

likely, is one of the passwords that people do not bother changing, made it to the list of this year's most common passwords in India and many other countries, the report found. Last year's global winner 'password' did not leave Internet users' passwords. In India, 'password', 'Pass@123', 'Password@123', and similar variations appeared among the most common passwords this year.

To find out about passwords Internet users employ for different platforms, researchers analysed a 6.6 TB database of passwords, exposed by various stealer malware, which experts consider a huge threat to people's cybersecurity.

The word 'admin' which most likely is one of the passwords that people do not bother changing, made it to the list of this year's most common passwords

Last year's global winner 'password' did not leave Internet users' passwords this year as well

31% of the world's most popular passwords consist of purely numerical sequences like '123456789', '12345' and '000000'

To find out about passwords Internet users employ for different platforms, researchers analysed a 6.6 TB database of passwords, exposed by various stealer malware, which experts consider a huge threat to people's cybersecurity

"The scariest part is that victims might not even realise that their device is infected. Bad actors tend to hide malware in



well-crafted phishing emails, imitating a legitimate organisation, such as your bank or your company," said Tomas

Smalakys, CTO at NordPass.

Almost a third (31 per cent) of the world's most popular passwords consist of purely numerical sequences, such as '123456789', '12345', '000000', and others. According to the report, as many as 70 per cent of the passwords in this year's global list can be cracked in less than a second.

Researchers suggested Passkeys as a new form of authentication for better security. "This technology will help eliminate lousy passwords, thus making users more secure. However, as with every innovation, passwordless authentication will not be adopted overnight," Smalakys said.

SHORT TAKES

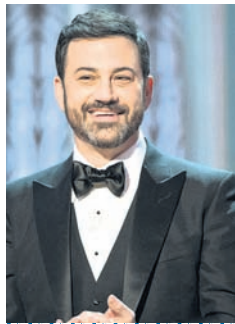
Biden calls Chinese President 'dictator'

Woodside: US President Joe Biden said he had not changed his view that Chinese President Xi Jinping was effectively a dictator, a comment likely to land with a thud in Beijing after the two leaders held straightforward summit talks after months of preparation. Biden held a solo news conference after four hours of talks with Xi on the outskirts of San Francisco. At the end of the news conference, he was asked whether he still held the view that Xi was a dictator, something he said in June. "Look, he is. He's a dictator in the sense that he's a guy who runs a country that is a communist country that's based on a form of government totally different than ours," Biden said. **P10**

Kalahandi man sets moneylender afire

Bhawanipatna: A man poured petrol on a 55-year-old man and set him on fire after he demanded the repayment of ₹2 lakh loan in Kalahandi, police said Thursday. The victim has suffered 60 per cent burns and is undergoing treatment at VSS Medical College and Hospital. The incident took place when the accused, after initially refusing to repay the borrowed money, called up the victim Wednesday and asked him to come to a location on the outskirts of Bhawanipatna town, promising him repayment of the loan, a police officer said. However, when the victim reached the spot, the accused, along with another associate, poured petrol on him and set him ablaze.

leisure



KIMMEL TO RETURN AS HOST FOR 96TH OSCARS

Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is set to return as host of the 96th Oscars, the Academy announced. For this year's ceremony, Kimmel will also be joined by his wife and Jimmy Kimmel Live! co-head writer, Molly McNearney, who earned an Emmy nomination for her work as a writer.

KATONA RE-ENACTS ICONIC PAM ANDERSON SCENE

British singer Kerry Katona set social media on fire as she stripped down to a thong for her latest upload, sending her fans wild. She looked sensational as she posed up a storm in a picture taken while she was on holiday in sunny Spain, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Career decisions and money matters will keep you busy today. And after all the work, you will want to spend some leisure time and take it easy. A leisure trip may materialise, which will put you in high spirits. Ganesha says indulging in group projects will help you make new friends.

TAURUS
You have a hectic day ahead, says Ganesha. You will be immersed in your work all day long and will love doing so. A lot will get done by the end of the day. Make sure you do not stretch your neck or take unnecessary risks. That will be bad for business. Stick to basics. Do not be innovative or speculative. Be prepared for new challenges that are due to come up shortly.

GEMINI
An extremely productive and fulfilling day awaits you. Along with your daily routine, you will also concentrate on your household issues. You will feel the need to have someone to call your own. You may find yourself in two minds over things like marriage and partnership. It is a good day to sell something, says Ganesha.

CANCER
An awareness of optimism and idealism will mark your activities this day. You may benefit by traversing from one terrain to another. You will be liberal and generous with ideas; your internal beauty will blossom.

LEO
You are fond of travelling. You will make plans for a trip or a journey and will include your family and friends in your schemes. For those in artistic fields, you will receive critical acclaim. A progressive day awaits, says Ganesha.

VIRGO
It is not the time to rest on your past laurels, and you will have to carry on with your work unabated. You will have to keep your focus steady and remain organised to get the same level of success that you had in the recent past. Ganesha advises you not to neglect your relationships, as they are the cornerstones of your success and tranquillity.

LIBRA
Ganesha says that today you shall make your competitors and enemies envious of your success in business. Beware, as they shall try to hurt or put down your reputation in varied ways. Instead of having a fight with them you should try to be politically correct and take care of matters using your intelligence. This afternoon can bring in a new love in your life that will be very good for you.

SCORPIO
You are in a dilemma and feel like standing at a crossroads of life. Some important decisions of life need time and that's what you want right now. However, keep personal life and work separate to avoid confusion and disturbance. As per Ganesha's advice, it's all right if decision making takes some time, but avoid taking hasty decisions.

SAGITTARIUS
The pressing needs of your loved ones call for extra attention today. You may have a few family friends over for lunch or dinner, and end up chatting a good deal with them. Ganesha says an intimate tête-à-tête with your better half would fare you well.

CAPRICORN
The day will sail smooth, but your mind will wreak havoc by forcing you to act on the spur of the moment, says Ganesha. However, this will not ruin your reputation with bosses and peers. You may also see some of your dreams come true, but don't fly too high; you may climb up the ladder of success but with every step you leave behind there is always one more to go. Concentrate on your work a little more and the goal will certainly seem closer.

AQUARIUS
Your dream house or car may well be on its way! The stars proclaim that it's a good time to acquire new assets. So bring out those attractive brochures and check out your loan prospects. A perfect way to end an exciting day will be an evening at a quiet temple, says Ganesha.

PISCES
A good day awaits you. You will finish your work and beat your deadlines by miles on account of the luck favouring you. There are chances that a family holiday, which has been in the planning for a long time, will eventually come to fruition today, says Ganesha.



Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas was recently in India, and used the chance to meet people from the industry to decide her next move in the Hindi film industry and with the *Don* franchise on her mind.

After making the official announcement about Ranveer Singh taking forward the *Don* franchise in the upcoming sequel instead of actor Shah Rukh Khan, filmmaker Farhan Akhtar has turned all his attention to *Don 3*.

"The team of *Don 3* has indeed approached Priyanka Chopra to revisit her character. In fact, the first few meetings also took place when Priyanka came to India recently for another professional commitment. She used her time in India to align the talks and figure out her next project in the Hindi film industry," says a source.

In the *Don* franchise, Chopra featured as Roma Bhagat, also known as Junglee Billi. The insider adds, "Priyanka has a very close bond with Farhan, and is trying to make it work and checking her schedule."

"Since *Jee Lee Zara* could not happen for Priyanka and Farhan, both the teams are trying to make *Don 3* work. Priyanka enjoys working with Farhan, and has shown her interest. If things fall in place, it will be a reunion of the *Bil Dhadakne Do* gang, and that's something to look out for," says the source.

PEEECEE IN TALKS FOR DON 3!



NANA APOLOGISES FOR WHACKING TEENAGER

Varanasi: A day after Nana Patekar smacked a pesky teenage boy for attempting to click a selfie, the veteran actor Thursday profusely apologised, terming it as a case of "mistaken" identity, though the purported act was part of his upcoming film *Journey* sequence.

Under massive fire for apparently losing his cool and roughly whacking the young boy who sneaked in from behind to click a selfie with him Wednesday, Patekar said the scene on the viral video was actually a rehearsal for a sequence on similar lines.

"We had done one take when a person comes from behind and asks, 'Will you sell me your hat', and I whack him saying 'stop such nonsense' and pushed him off. I thought he was our boy, so I hit him, saying 'stop such nonsense, get out of here', and the shaken boy ran off..." Patekar explained, sounding embarrassed. Belatedly realising the goof-up that snowballed into a social media troll army pouncing Patekar for hitting the innocent boy on his "chhota dimaag" (small brain), the film unit people shouted behind the boy and some persons went after him. Patekar also praised the people of Varanasi who had showered so much love and affection during the ongoing shooting there.

People can hate you for no reason: Rubina

Mumbai: In a recent tweet, actor Rubina Dilaik expressed her discomfort with the prolonged bursting of crackers during Diwali, after which social media users accused her of being anti-Hindu. The *Bigg Boss 14* winner shares that the reason behind her outburst was that she has a very smooth routine otherwise. "I sleep around 8:30-9:00pm and wake up by 6:30 am. I do my puja, pre-natal yoga and begin my day. Especially for Diwali, we did our puja in the evening and met our friends."

"According to Sanatan dharma, Diwali is a festival of earthen lamp and lights. It hasn't been mentioned in our scripture that that people can hate you for no reason." She also clarifies that her intention was not to oppose the traditional celebrations but to address the inconvenience.



Somy calls Salman abuser of women

Mumbai: Former actress Somy Ali has spoken about her equation with ex-beau Salman Khan and called him a "coward, sadist and a narcissistic abuser of women." She has also spoken about the superstar's involvement in banning her show *Fight Or Flight*.

"(Salman Khan's) first girlfriend was a young lady named Shaheen, then came Sangeeta Bijlani, and I was his third girlfriend. We never got married as the closest he got to marriage was with Sangeeta given their wedding cards had already been printed when I entered his life, but that relationship broke up because of me and I am not proud of that fact."

"But as karma has it, the same happened to me with his countless affairs and I also suf-



fered unimaginable abuse at the hands of Salman, physical, verbal and sexual," she said in statement. She claims that Salman has a "knack for changing girlfriends every seven years, but if I am not mistaken and you would know this as a reporter better than me, he has been quite consistent with Iulia Vântur. If there's any truth to that, I genuinely wish them both all the best."

The *Anth* actress also said, "We do not speak because I absolutely detest him as a human being. He's a cowardly man who hides what he truly is, which is a sadist and narcissistic abuser of women. He treated me worse than a dog in front of his family, friends and even his house help which is why they all disrespected me and treated me poorly including his bodyguard, Shera."

"Salman has mental health issues and he believes himself to be God. His fans are illiterate masses who have no idea how much he has abused all his girlfriends and recently he sent his PR Team to the Discovery + office in Mumbai and had my docu-series on my NGO banned all over India," claimed the actress, sounding upset.

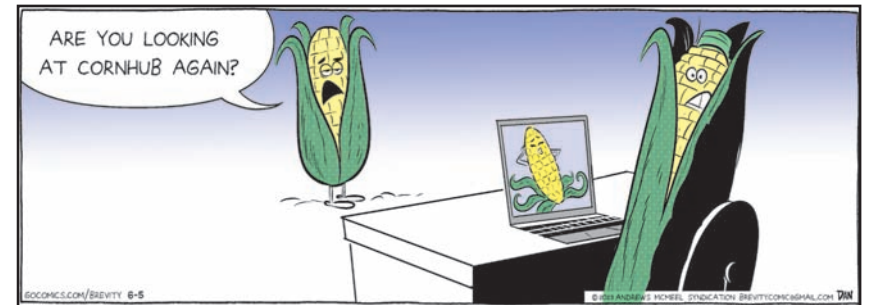
PEANUTS



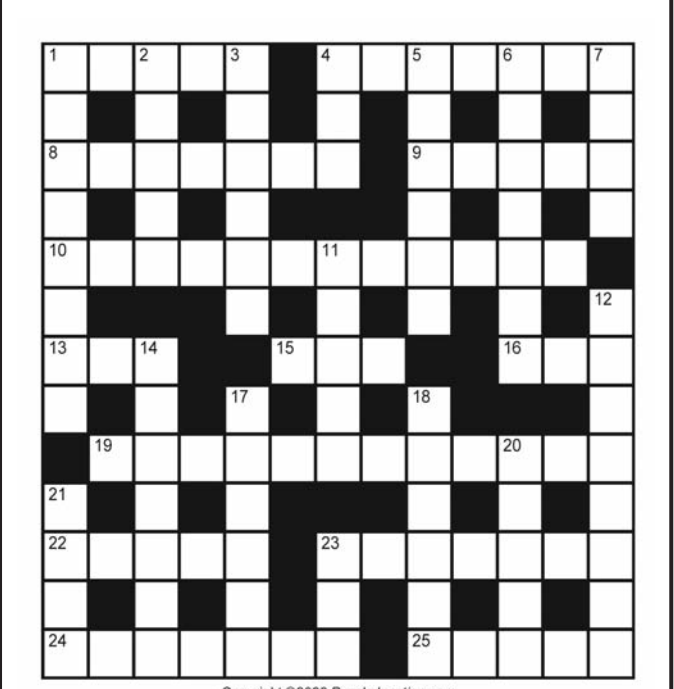
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
1 Aspirations
4 Fussy
8 France's "City of Popes"
9 Summary
10 Mutual understanding (6,6)
13 Journal
15 Like sushi
16 Pub fixture
19 Mediocore (3-2-3-4)
- Down**
22 Deadly snake
23 Party feature
24 House of hops
25 Refuse
1 Common ailment (4,4)
2 Spectrum maker
3 Ra, for one (3,3)
4 Wetland
- 5 With-challenged
6 Palm tree dropping
7 Puppy sounds
11 Colossal
12 Great wealth
14 Complain
17 Ocean trip
18 Easygoing
20 Golf clubs
21 Sign of healing
23 Dark horse

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

O	E	M	M	C	B
A	D	A	G	I	O
A	U	K	N	A	G
A	S	P	I	R	I
X	T	R	G		
M	O	R	E	L	E
A	N	R	O	Z	O
A	W	E	O	U	Z
A	B	A	D	A	R
P	R	I	O	R	E
D	X	S	L	D	E

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Collectors put on alert

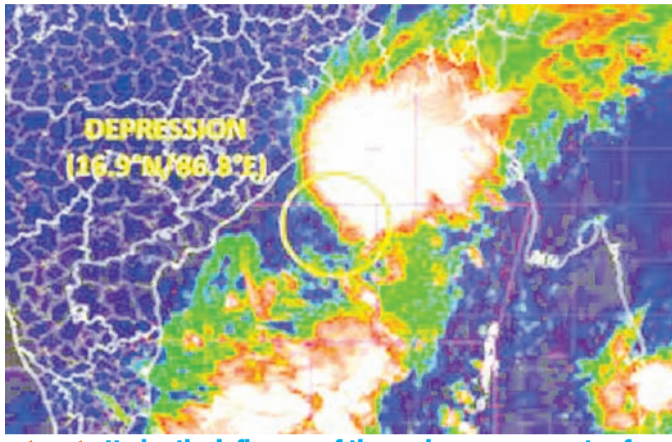
FISHERMEN ASKED NOT TO VENTURE INTO DEEP SEA TILL NOVEMBER 18

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) has put all the district Collectors in the state on alert even as the IMD made it clear that the deep depression over Bay of Bengal, which is likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm by Friday, will have no major impact on Odisha.

As a precautionary measure, fishermen have been advised against venturing into deep seas till November 18 as sea conditions will remain rough during the period.

Uma Shankar Das, a senior scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, said under the influence of the cyclone, many parts of Odisha, particularly the coastal region, will experience wind blowing between 40 kmph and 70 kmph.



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UMA SHANKAR DAS | SENIOR SCIENTIST, RM CENTRE, BHUBANESWAR

"The system has started to re-curve. There is every possibility of intense heavy rainfall in two Odisha districts -

Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur-Thursday and a yellow warning has been issued. Neighbouring districts are also likely to ex-

perience rainfall," Das said.

He also said there will be no major changes in the maximum and minimum temperatures in the coming days in Odisha.

The deep depression was moving north-northeastwards at a speed of 20 kmph, IMD said Thursday.

It lay centered around 420km east-southeast of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, 410 km from Digha in West Bengal, 540 km from Khepupara in Bangladesh and 270 km south-southeast of Paradip in Odisha at 1pm Thursday.

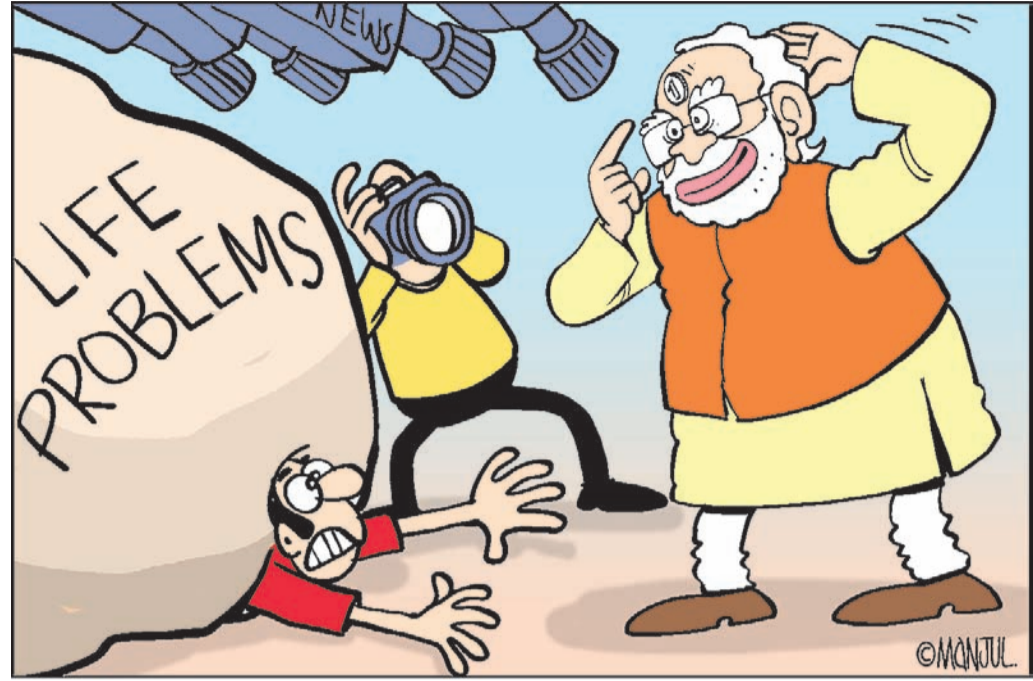
The system is likely to continue to move north-northeastwards, intensify further into a cyclonic storm over the next 24 hours and cross the Bangladesh coast between Mongla and Khepupara in the early hours of Saturday.

MARITIME FEST PREP

An artist decorates a boundary wall at Baliyatra Lower Ground in Cuttack ahead of the maritime festival in the Silver City, Thursday



POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Bribery: 2-yr jail for ex-principal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The special judge, Cuttack district, sentenced a former principal of Biraja Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya in Jajpur to two-year jail term in a bribery case, Thursday.



Surenranath Mishra has also been slapped with a fine of ₹5,000 by the court.

In default of payment of the fine, the convict will undergo an additional rigorous imprisonment of 6 months for the offence registered under U/S 13(2) and 7 of PC Act, 1988, the court said.

Following the court's order, the vigilance will now move the competent authority for stoppage of Mishra's pension.

The former principal reportedly came under the scanner of vigilance sleuths for demanding and accepting a bribe from the complainant for issuance of College Leaving Certificate (CLC).

Nandankanan ropeway ride begins Saturday



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The much-awaited ropeway facility at Nandankanan Zoological Park will be inaugurated by Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat, Friday.

However, visitors will have to wait till Saturday to get to ride the aerial ropeway, sources said.

Initially, the ropeway will have four cabins for visitors. Eight more cabins will be added later. After the installation of 12 cabins, around 500 people can ride the ropeway every hour.

The work for the project started in October 2021 following an agreement between Nandankanan Zoo and Kolkata-based Damodar Ropeway Infra Limited (DRIL) for the ropeway construction at an investment of around ₹13 crore. The deadline set for making it functional was fixed at 18 months.

The ropeway, which will start from the zoo campus and culminate at the Botanical Garden covering a distance of 626 metre, has been constructed with mono-cable pulsed with two towers. Each of the 12 cabins has the capacity to accom-

INITIALLY, THE ROPEWAY WILL HAVE FOUR CABINS FOR VISITORS. EIGHT MORE CABINS WILL BE ADDED LATER

AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF 12 CABINS, AROUND 500 PEOPLE CAN RIDE THE ROPEWAY EVERY HOUR

THE WORK FOR THE PROJECT STARTED IN OCTOBER 2021 FOLLOWING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN NANDANKANAN ZOO AND KOLKATA-BASED DAMODAR ROPEWAY INFRA LIMITED (DRIL) FOR THE ROPEWAY CONSTRUCTION AT AN INVESTMENT OF AROUND ₹13 CRORE

THE DEADLINE SET FOR MAKING IT FUNCTIONAL WAS FIXED AT 18 MONTHS

modate three to six persons.

Notably, the ropeway has been developed around the 'jungle' theme and features intricate tribal art from the region, and highlights the natural flora and fauna. "It will not only provide visitors with a thrilling ride over the jungle, but also an immersive experience that showcases Odisha's art and culture," an official said.

JSW won't surrender Jajang iron ore mine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: JSW Steel Thursday said it has withdrawn the application to surrender one of its iron ore mines in Keonjhar district.

The company had in September submitted a notice to surrender the mining lease of Jajang iron ore mine, which it had acquired through auction.

"The company upon considering demand and supply scenario of iron ore in India, has today (Thursday) withdrawn its application for the Final Mine Closure Plan submitted on 1st September 2023 before the Indian Bureau of Mines for the purpose of surrender of Jajang Iron Ore Block located in the district of Keonjhar, Odisha," the company said in a filing to the BSE.

JSW Steel was declared a preferred bidder for Jajang iron ore block in Odisha in 2020.



"Due to un-economic operation, the company had submitted a notice for surrender of mining lease on 1.9.2023 in respect of one mine, namely Jajang Iron Ore Block... Out of the 4 iron ore mining leases it has in Odisha, which were acquired through auction in 2020," the company said.

The Sajjan Jindal-led firm had bagged the iron ore mine in the auction of blocks in Odisha. The block holds estimated reserves of 39 million tonnes.



A DAY FOR FOURTH PILLAR: Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Minister Pradip Kumar Amat among others admire the newspapers put on display at an exhibition organised by I&PR department on the occasion of National Press Day at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Guv, CM greet journalists on National Press Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Chief Minister Naven Patnaik and Governor Raghubar Das extended warm greetings to the media fraternity on the occasion of National Press Day, Thursday.

Stressing the role and significance of free press in a democratic country, newly-appointed Governor Ragubar Das exhorted the fourth pillar to keep up the spirit of unbiased journalism and build an informed society.

Similarly, the Chief Minister also extended warm greetings to journalists and mediapersons on National Press Day. He said, "Free press is the cornerstone of

democracy and gives voice to the people. Let's pledge to safeguard the independence of the fourth pillar of democracy and empower the people with unbiased information."

Meanwhile, Assembly Speaker Pramila Mallik at an event organised by National Journalist Welfare Board at Soochana Bhawan said that role of press is very important as they are medium for giving right information to the citizens.

In another event organised by Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department on the theme 'Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence' I&PR Minister Pradip Kumar Amat said that AI has own set of challenges and ethical questions;

Maintain sanity in news coverage: Mayor

BHUBANESWAR: In the endeavour to get 'exclusive news', journalists must not breach professional limits, Mayor Sulochana Das said.

Addressing a group of journalists on the 'National Press Day' at the BMC headquarters Thursday, Das, a former scribe, underlined the importance of 'sanity' in news coverage.

"Personal vendetta has crept into today's news organizations, be it from the owner's side or reporters. This has destroyed the essence of free press," Das said adding, "As a former jour-

nalists and media professionals must use it wisely and

commit to greater commitment to the principles of truth.

People with obesity burn more energy at night: Study

WHILE PREVIOUS RESEARCH HAS SUGGESTED CIRCADIAN RHYTHM MISALIGNMENT AFFECTS ENERGY METABOLISM AND GLUCOSE REGULATION, THOSE STUDIES HAVE LARGELY INVOLVED PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE A HEALTHY WEIGHT

more energy during the night, when most people sleep.

It also found that during the day, those with obesity have higher levels of the hormone insulin - a sign that the body is working harder to use glucose, an energy-packed sugar.

"It was surprising to learn how dramatically the timing of when our bodies burn energy differed in those with obesity," said Andrew McHill, Assistant Professor at Oregon Health & Science University in the US.

"However, we're not sure why. Burning less energy during the day could contribute to being obese, or it could be the result of obesity," McHill added.

Obesity is defined as having a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or more. Being overweight or obese increases the risk for health conditions such as high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes.

Daily schedules and when people sleep, eat and exercise can also affect health, by either complementing or going against the



The study published in the journal 'Obesity' found people who have a healthy weight use more energy during the day, when most people are active and eat, while those who have obesity spend more energy during the night, when most people sleep

It also found that during the day, those with obesity have higher levels of the hormone insulin - a sign that the body is working harder to use glucose, an energy-packed sugar

body's natural, daily rhythms.

Every 24 hours, people experience numerous changes that are triggered by the human body's internal clock. These changes normally occur at certain times of the day in order to best serve the body's needs at any given hour. While previous research has sug-

gested circadian rhythm misalignment affects energy metabolism and glucose regulation, those studies have largely involved participants who have a healthy weight.

To explore this further, McHill and team organised a study that included people of different body

sizes. A total of 30 people volunteered to participate in the study, which involved participants staying at a specially designed circadian research lab for six days.

The study followed a rigorous circadian research protocol involving a schedule designed to have participants be awake and sleep at different times throughout each day.

After each period of sleep, volunteers were awakened to eat and participate in a variety of tests for the remaining time of each day. One test had participants exercise while wearing a mask that was connected to a machine called an indirect calorimeter, which measures exhaled carbon dioxide and helps estimate energy usage. Blood samples were also collected to measure glucose levels in response to an identical meal provided during each day.

Next, the research team plans to explore eating habits and hunger in people who are obese, as well as those who have a healthy weight.

Request for Proposal from Interested Organisations for Training under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (2023-24)

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship skill development scheme of Government of India under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), as the Implementing Agency, solicits applications from various organisations including Industries, Industry Associations, Community based organisations, Start-ups etc. for skill development training under PMKVY 4.0 (2023-24).

For further information please see Notice section of www.nsdindia.org or www.pmkvyofficial.org.

CBC 63113/12/0001/2324

Together we will realise CM's vision: Pandian



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: "Odisha is witnessing remarkable progress in various fields under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and we will work together to serve people and realise his vision," Nabin Odisha and 5T Chairman VK Pandian said at a meeting with members of several public and private organisations at Naveen Niwas here, Thursday.

About 20 representatives belonging to various service associations met the 5T Chairman and wished him for his elevation to the cabinet rank.

Expressing their happiness over his new responsibilities, they appreciated his hard work and promptness in fulfilling the dreams of Chief Minister. "We have absolute confidence in you and will support you in your endeavours," they said in unison.

Those who met the 5T Chairman included Khurda MLA Jyotindra Nath Mitra along with local people; Mamta Bisoi led Biju Mahila Janata Dal from Ganjam, Special Development

Council chairpersons and WODC members.

The representative of organizations included Odisha Sadak Paribahan Sramika Mahasangha, All Utkal Primary Teachers Federation, All Odisha Asha Karmi Samukhya, Nikhila Odisha Paika Mahasangha, the Odisha State Non-Gazetted Officers' Co-ordination Committee, East Odisha Industrial Development Council, All Odisha ICDS Graduate Contractual Lady Supervisor Association, Odisha Vocational Teachers' Association, All Odisha Ayush Assistant Employees Association, Non-Government Aided and Un-Aided Colleges Teaching & Non-Teaching (+2 & +3) Employees Association, Odisha Government Homoeopathy Services Association, Odisha Government Ayurvedic Physicians' Association (OGAPA), Odisha Jaganata Sahayaka Sangha, All Odisha Laboratory Assistant Association, BOA Employees Welfare Association and Periodical Editors and Publisher's Association.

Boudh farmers meet ICAR-CIFA scientists

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) organised a one-day Farmer-Scientist Interface program on fresh water aquaculture in Boudh, Thursday. The program mainly focused on enhancing skills of men and women Scheduled Caste (SC) fish farmers in the villages of Boudh district under Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) Project.

The scientists from ICAF-CIFA underlined the importance of aquaculture and utilization of the latest technology for maximizing productivity in ponds.

They urged the women beneficiaries in particular to take up carp seed rearing in order to obtain high-quality fish seeds for their own ponds and to sell in far-off marketplaces for the greatest possible profit.



Abinash Mohanty, Chief Executive, ANANYA, Bhubaneswar participated in this programme and added another layer of practical insight into the economic aspects of aquaculture. Lipsa Pattnaik, DFO, Boudh, informed about important schemes being run by the government in freshwater aquaculture.

Nrusingha Chandra Swain, Collector & District Magistrate, Boudh, encouraged the farmers practice fish farming by using the advanced technology to enhance their livelihood.

Around 200 beneficiaries attended the program. The scientists present on this occasion were Chandrakanta Misra, Sangram Ketan Sahoo, Gour Sundar Saha and Durga Prasad Rath.



BALANCING ACT: Artistes perform on the concluding day of 5th Lasya Labanya Dance Festival organised by Biswanath Sangeetalay Cuttack at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Our children have immense talent: CM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Suravi 2023, the three-day State Level Children's Day Festival, concluded at the Unit-9 Government Boys' High School here, Thursday. Attending the event on the last day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said that our children have immense talent, asking the students present there to refine their thought processes.

During the event, more than 3,549 students were given Odia Bhasa Brutti Puraskar (Odia language scholarship award) for securing high marks in Odia in the board exam. "Each student got Rs 5,000 and the top five students were felicitated by Chief Minister. They were Subhasmita Das, Naina Pradhan, Prabhasini



Mishra, Subhankar Patabandha and Dibiyasha Palei," informed a government official.

Notably, the award was launched to motivate students of the state to pursue Odia language and culture more seriously.

School and Mass Education Minister Sudam Marndi also attended the concluding ceremony. He said that 5T transformation of schools is a high point for the state government. "The School and Mass Education department has been focusing on 5C: con-

nect, collaborate, contribute, create, and celebrate for the holistic development of children. Let's pledge for the physical, mental and intellectual growth of children," said Marndi.

"The four clubs introduced for class IX and X students from the current academic session, Jigyansa, Sahitya Srujani, Kaushali, and Kridangan cover a wide spectrum of disciplines and will ensure well-rounded educational experience and development of the students," he said.

As many as 2,000 students and 1,200 teachers participated in the festival. Students visited several monuments during the festival and held a shadow session of the United Nations along with other cultural programme.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Sundargarh, I Niraj Kumar Sa, R/o- Rourkela Road, Khamaripada, PO/Dist.: Sundargarh declare that my actual and correct name is Niraj Kumar Sa. But in my passport vide No. L5118624 my name has been mentioned as Niroj Kumar Sa as per my educational certificate. Hence Niraj Kumar Sa and Niroj Kumar Sa is one and same person. Similarly my father's actual and correct name is Satrugan Sahu. But in the passport issued in favour of my father, the name has been mentioned as Satrugna Sa instead of Satrugan Sahu. Hence Satrugna Sa and Satrugan Sahu is one and same Person.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Sundargarh, I Niraj Kumar Sa, R/o- Rourkela Road, Khamaripada, PO/Dist.: Sundargarh declare that in my passport bearing No. L5118624 where my name is entered as Niroj Kumar Sa as per my educational certificate. That Niroj Kumar Sa and Niraj Kumar Sa is one and the same person. Now I want to Renew my above passport and entering my name as Niraj Kumar Sa in place of Niroj Kumar Sa.



DRUMMING SKILL: Students take part in State Level Inter School Band Competition organised by Department of School and Mass Education at Unit-VI Government Girls' High School in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

ODISHA RESEARCH CONCLAVE Industry, universities discuss partnerships

THE ODISHA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL (OSHEC), UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPT, OVERSAW THE THREE-DAY CONCLAVE

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: At the Odisha Research Conclave that concluded at Sambalpur University Thursday, Higher Education Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak and commissioner-cum-secretary Aravind Agrawal held discussions about industry-academia partnership with participation of state university vice-chancellors and several industry leaders.

The highlight of the three-day event was commitment from industries to provide internships to university students, facilitating hands-on learning experiences aligned with industry requirements.

"The industries also expressed their intent to support research activities at the universities. In return, universities will address challenges highlighted by industries through research initiatives," said an official.

Some 400 researchers from universities and autonomous colleges of the state attended the conclave, where they showcased their research works. The Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC), under supervision of the higher education department, oversaw the three-day conclave.

"The conclave is an initiative to create a vibrant research culture in state public universities. It is a platform for dissemina-

tion of knowledge through discussions among researchers and policy makers," added the official.

To strengthen the research base both in natural sciences and social sciences, the state government has taken several initiatives such as 'Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivization Plan (OURIIP)', which is now re-configured to 'Mukhyamantri Research and Innovation Fellowship Programme (MRIP)' 2023 and 'Odisha Higher Education Plan for Equity and Excellence (OHEPEE)'.

"Under these programmes, financial assistance is provided to young faculty members and research scholars to pursue their research work. At ORC, researchers shall present their findings for review by peers and experts. This will give them the much needed exposure and help in building a vibrant research ecosystem in the state," added the official.

Global study reveals devastating impact of tobacco in India

India, along with six other countries, loses 1.3 million lives every year to cancers caused by smoking tobacco, according to a study.

The study, funded by Cancer Research UK, showed that together the seven countries -- India, UK, US, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa -- represented more than half of the global burden of cancer deaths every year.

In addition to smoking, three other preventable risk factors - alcohol, overweight or obesity, and human papillomavirus (HPV) infections caused almost 2 million deaths combined, said researchers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC),

Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and King's College London.

Analysing the years of life lost to cancer, the team found that the four preventable risk factors resulted in over 30 million years of life lost each year.

Smoking tobacco had by far the biggest impact - leading to 20.8 million years of life being lost, the study said. Across the globe, cancer is increasingly impacting low- and middle-income countries.

The analysis shows that new cancer cases are expected to rise by around 400 per cent, from 0.6 million to 3.1 million per year in low-income countries over the next 50 years. Very-high-income countries like the UK are pro-



jected to see an increase of around 50 per cent over the same time period.

"These numbers are staggering, and show that with action on a global scale, millions of lives could be saved from preventable cancers. Action on to-

bacco would have the biggest impact," said Ian Walker, executive director of policy and information at Cancer Research UK.

Further, the findings, published in the journal eClinicalMedicine, showed that in India, there were more premature deaths from head and neck cancer in men, and gynaecological cancer in women. This is because cervical screening is less comprehensive in India than in the UK and US, which would explain why there are more premature deaths from gynaecological cancers due to HPV infection in India.

The higher number of years of life lost to head and neck cancer in men in India could be ex-

plained by smoking habits being different to those in the UK, with the general population smoking different tobacco products.

The study also marked gender differences - in India, China and Russia, rates of years of life lost to tobacco smoking and alcohol were up to nine times higher in men than women. Meanwhile, being overweight or obese, and HPV infection, led to more cancer deaths and years of life lost in women than in men.

Rates of years of life lost to HPV were 11 times higher in women than men in India, which highlights the urgent need for improved access to cervical screening and the HPV vaccination in these countries.

Clerk held for taking bribe from teacher

Jajpur: Vigilance sleuths Thursday arrested a clerk of a government high school on charges of receiving a bribe from a retired teacher in Jajpur district. He was apprehended by the Vigilance sleuths while accepting a bribe of Rs 4,000 from a retired teacher, an official said. The Vigilance department said that the teacher after retiring from the service, had approached the clerk to prepare his pending arrears bills and pension papers to get post-retirement benefits. The accused had demanded Rs 4,000 from him to get his pension paperwork done. The retired teacher then contacted the anti-corruption wing for the same. The clerk was caught red-handed by the Vigilance sleuths when he was taking the bribe from the retired teacher in his office, the department said. The entire bribe money was recovered from the accused and seized by the sleuths.

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Man sentenced to life for killing cop

Berhampur, Nov 16: A court in Ganjam district sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing a police officer about 13 years ago. The District and Sessions Court, Aska Judge PK Choudhury Wednesday sentenced Sushant Behera of Berhampur to life imprisonment and acquitted Sunil Behera, a co-accused in the case due to lack of evidence. The court has also issued a warrant against Sameer Panda, another accused in the case, as he did not turn up at the court on the day of judgment, said public prosecutor Trilochan Parida. The court pronounced the verdict after examining 22 witnesses and verifying some murder-re-



lated documents, he said. According to the prosecution, the accused persons had shot Manoranjan Mishra, the then officer-in-charge of Sheragada police station November 26, 2010, on Hinjili-Sheragada road. Mishra was returning on his motorcycle after conducting patrolling on that night. The accused persons shot dead Mishra after a heated argument. He was rushed to the nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Mahanadi water to quench thirst in Ganjam

A mega drinking water project will come up in Bhanjanagar for safe drinking water supply to households in 10 blocks of Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK
Chhatrapur, Nov 16: Mahanadi water will soon quench the thirst in Ganjam district as the state government has approved a mega drinking water project which will provide piped drinking water supply to the district's residents by drawing water from the river. Reports said water will be drawn from Mahanadi via neighbouring Khurda district to Bhanjanagar in Ganjam. River water will be stored there in an intake structure for supply of drinking water to residents of 10 blocks under Ganjam district. In the first phase, 38.86 cusecs of water will be drawn from the river for supply to an intake structure to be built under the direct supervision of the superintending engineer of Rural

Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department in Bhanjanagar for the drinking water project. The matter came to the fore after Sasmitha Mishra, Under-Secretary of Water Resources department, wrote letters to the Ganjam Collector (letter no-31221) and the superintending engineer of RWSS division in Bhanjanagar (letter no-31218) apprising them of the development. Mishra asked the two senior officials to take necessary steps on the issue and expedite the process. Sources said that a mega drinking water project will be established in Bhanjanagar under the direct supervision of superintending engineer, RWSS in Bhanjanagar. As a result, residents of 10 blocks in Ganjam



district will be able to get safe piped drinking water connection. The drinking water project is scheduled to become functional by 2024 following which water will be supplied to the households. An intake structure will be built near Karipokhari in Chamundia panchayat near Subalaya in Bhanjanagar to store the river water. Later, the RWSS in Bhanjanagar will supply this river water through pipelines to households in 10 blocks. However, the letter from the under-secretary has strictly warned that the river water will

only be used for supply of drinking water. The water level will be measured by installing water flow meter and sensor while a treatment plant will also be established along with the intake structure to filter the water before supply. The superintending engineer has also been asked to make an audit of the amount of water lifted from the river and its utilisation every three months. Stringent action will be taken if the order is violated, the letter from the under-secretary has warned. Notably, the RWSS department in Bhanjanagar in June had urged the state Water Resources department to establish a mega drinking water project under its jurisdiction.



MATTER OF FAITH: Women perform 'arati' as part of rituals on the occasion of Naga Chaturthi on Dadhibaman Temple premises at Mohantypada in Sambalpur, Thursday

Labourer dies in steel plant blast

POST NEWS NETWORK
Rourkela, Nov 16: One labourer died and two others were admitted to hospital with critical injuries following a blast in a private steel plant at Kulunga IDC near Rourkela in Sundargarh district. The deceased has been identified as Chinmay Behera from Jajpur. Sources said, the injured have been shifted to Burla for critical care as their condition deteriorated. Sources said the explosion occurred Wednesday in the furnace of a private induction furnace plant Subha Ispat Pvt Ltd in Kulunga Industrial Development Council area around 3.30am while the workers were sleeping in the workers' restroom. The explosion was so intense that a portion of the furnace was totally blown away.

Chinmaya, the night shift in-charge in his early thirties, died within no time and two other workers, one of whom hailed from Bihar, received severe injuries. It is believed that the workers came in contact with flying hot silica from the furnace and the gas from the boiler, which leaked. Though the exact reason of the blast is not yet known, it is suspected that the blast occurred due to a leakage in gas pipe. Assistant director of boiler Bibhu Prasad informed that an investigation was on. "So far we have not received any complaint about the plant from anyone. So, now that we have a case in hand we will definitely look into all the angles. The two injured are in serious condition in ICU. Once they recover, we will further our enquiry," he said.

Truck runs over 2

Barbil: Two bikers were run over by a truck Thursday on National Highway-520 near Tonto airstrip under this police limit in Keonjhar district. The deceased are yet to be identified while the driver of the unknown truck which ran over them has escaped with the vehicle. Police after preliminary investigation suspected that the mishap occurred when the duo riding a motorcycle (OD-09A-2564) was on their way to Bhadrāsahi area from Rugudi end.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
(1) Tender Notice No. 36-SBP-TRD-01-2023-24, Date : 09.11.2023
NAME OF WORK : ELECTRICAL TRD WORKS FOR PROVISION OF 12M WIDE FOB, EXTENSION/RAISING OF PLATFORM, IMPROVEMENT TO PLATFORMS AND ADDITIONAL PF SHELTER AT KHARAR ROAD (KRR) & HARIHANKER (HSK) STATION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT SCHEME.
Approx. Cost (₹) : 29,07,845.48, EMD (₹) : 58,200/-

(2) Tender Notice No. 36-SBP-TRD-02-2023-24, Date : 09.11.2023
NAME OF WORK : ELECTRICAL TRD WORKS FOR PROVISION OF 12M WIDE FOB, EXTENSION/RAISING OF PLATFORM, IMPROVEMENT TO PLATFORMS AND ADDITIONAL PF SHELTER AT TITLAGARH (TIG), KESINGA (KSG) & BHAWANIPATNA (BWIP) STATION UNDER AMRIT BHARAT SCHEME.
Approx. Cost (₹) : 27,56,206.96, EMD (₹) : 55,100/-
Completion period: 8 Months (for all tenders).
Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1530 Hrs. on 01.12.2023 (for all tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.reps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/ PR-78/O/23-24 Sambalpur

AILING FEMALE ELEPHANT DIES

Kamakhyaganar: A sick female elephant which was undergoing treatment succumbed to its illness at Khairamunda rural forest under Ghagramunda forest beat and Mahabiro forest range in Dhenkanal forest division, Thursday. Forest officials found out that the animal was suffering from some disease, Wednesday. Later, veterinarian Pradip Kumar Singh was rushed in from Angul and treatment started. However, the pachyderm died Thursday despite all efforts by the veterinarian to cure it. Mahabiro ranger Haresh Chandra Kishan said a post-mortem was conducted on the carcass and a probe has been launched to ascertain the actual reason behind the elephant's death.



3 held for printing fake currency notes

Bhawanipatna, Nov 16: Police Thursday busted a fake Indian currency notes (FICN) racket and arrested three youths on charge of printing fake currency notes and circulating them in the market under Borda police outpost limits in Kalahandi district. The accused were identified as Santosh Bhoi, 26, from Bhawanipatna, Kanha Mohapatra, 22, from Borda area and Mantu Chandan, 24, from Rajinpur area in the district. Bhawanipatna SDPO Sunaram Hembram said. A currency note printing machine and fake currency notes worth ₹9,000 were seized from their possession. The accused were taken for interrogation and later produced in the court, the SDPO said. Police said they registered a case after some residents lodged a complaint November 14 on circula-

A currency note printing machine and fake currency notes worth ₹9,000 were seized from their possession
tion of fake currency notes in the market under K Gaon police limits. An investigation was launched into the charges jointly by K Gaon and Borda police. During the probe, police found that the accused had purchased a printing machine. During trial, he first printed notes of ₹500 and ₹200 denominations amounting ₹10,000 and released those in the local market and waited to see people's response. However, luck ran out for the accused as some people identified the fake notes and lodged a complaint in the K Gaon police station.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KARANJIA
E-mail: seerwkaranjia@yahoo.com
1st CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. RWDKNJ-11/2023-24
No.O-1536: The Tender Call Notice vide Bid Identification No. RWDKNJ-11/2023-24 vide Superintending Engineer, letter No.5120, dated 04.11.2023 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
R.W.Division, Karanjia
OIPR-25086/11/0019/2324

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District Employment Exchange, Malkangiri (emp.mkg@rediffmail.com)
No.K-28:- Applications are invited from the willing applicants for enrolling themselves in LAKSHYA Coaching Centre established in District Library Campus, Malkangiri for pre-recruitment coaching for competitive examinations. The application form can be downloaded from the District Website of Malkangiri (<https://malkangiri.nic.in/>)
(Sd./ District Employment Officer, Malkangiri)
OIPR-17030/11/0006/2324

GOVT. OF ODISHA No.A-842:
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER JAJPUR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JAJPUR
Office Phone No.06728-222222, Email:jpt. Irrigation@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No.09/2023-24
1. Name of Work : Restoration Works.
2. Total No. of Packages : 15 (Fifteen) Nos. of Packages only.
3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.32.44 Lakh to Rs.6.31 Lakh.
4. Mode of Payment of EMD (Bid Security) & Bid Cost : The bidders shall transfer the required amount of EMD (Bid Security) and cost of Bid by Online through electronic payment as per Govt. of Odisha WDOM No.17254/WVE, Dated 05.12.2017 as Mentioned in DTCN. Upto 6 (Six) Calendar Months.
5. Period of Completion
6. Other details as follows:
I. Procurement Officer : Superintending Engineer, Jajpur Irrigation Division, Jajpur.
II. Period of Online Bidding : Dt.20.11.2023 from 10.00 Hrs. to Dt.02.12.2023 upto 17.00 Hrs.
III. Date, Time & Place of opening of both technical & Financial for the Work : Dt.04.12.2023 at 11.30 Hrs. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Jajpur Irrigation Division, Jajpur.
IV. Date of Transparent Lottery : Dt.12.12.2023 at 11.00 Hrs. to be Conducted (if Required) : in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Jajpur Irrigation Division, Jajpur.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Jajpur Irrigation Division
OIPR-32130/11/0013/2324

UCO BANK Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

DEMAND NOTICE (for Immovable Property)
Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorised Officer against the following Borrower of UCO Bank, Athgarh Branch. The details are given below:

ATHGARH BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower	Balance due as per Demand Notice	Schedule of Mortgaged Properties	Demand Notice Date
Borrower : M/s. Mahalaxmi Stone Crusher, Prop.: Rakesh Kumar Sahoo, S/o: Late Babuli Sahoo, Add-1: At: Kangada Sahi (Birakishorepur), P.O: Athgarh, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN-754029. Add-2: At: Gandanali, P.O: Hindol, Dist.: Dhenkanal, PIN-759021	₹ 14,32,041.89 + Interest and other expenses thereon	1) All the hypothecated assets, viz. Current Assets including Stocks, Book Debts, Receivables, Consumable Stores & spares and Hypothecated Movable Plant & Machinery, 2) All that part and parcel of immovable property situated at Mouza: Gandanali, Thana: Rasol - 54, Tahasil: Hindol-178, Khata No.: 114/16, Plot No.: 2001/2174, Area: Ac. 1.390 Dec.	12.09.2023

You have committed default in repayment of loan and further interest at the agreed rate available from Athgarh Branch as mentioned in the above table. The Bank has issued notice under the said Act to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to the above mentioned party by Regd. Post with AD which could not be served. Due to irregularity in repayment of a such due, the debt has been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). You shall not transfer the above said property by sale, lease without obtaining written consent of the Bank. You are therefore, called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise the right of Enforcement of Security Interest as against the mortgaged secured assets given in the schedule as per securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. This notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action. **Your kind attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.**
Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 16.11.2023
Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

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

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagors/ Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	KHANDAGIRI BRANCH, MOB.: 9178286377 / Borrower: Mr. Jagannath Patnaik, S/o: Late Bipra Charan Patnaik, At: Plot No.: 248, Uppar Sahi, Jagamara, Bhubaneswar, Khurda-751030 / Total Dues: ₹7,35,393.24 as on 15.09.2023 + interest, costs and expenses from 16.09.2023, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Flat No.: 422, 4th Floor, Block-B, "Prabhujee Enclave", Plot No.: 401, 410, 410/995, Khata No. P.S: 253/106, Mouza: Kujimahal, AT/P.O.: Chandaka, P.S. Chandaka, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Total Area: 560 Sq.Ft., KISSAM: Homestead, standing in the name of Mr. Jagannath Patnaik, Bounded by North: Open Space, South: Corridor, East: Open Space, West: Flat No.: 423	₹12,39,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,23,900/- / ₹50,000/-
2.	KHANDAGIRI BRANCH, MOB.: 9178286377 / Borrower: Mr. Jagannath Patnaik, S/o: Late Bipra Charan Patnaik, At: Plot No.: 248, Uppar Sahi, Jagamara, Bhubaneswar, Khurda-751030 / Total Dues: ₹7,11,061.01 as on 15.09.2023 + interest, costs and expenses from 16.09.2023, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Flat No.: 105, 1st Floor, Block-B, "Prabhujee Enclave", Plot No.: 401, 410, 410/995, Khata No. P.S: 253/106, Mouza: Kujimahal, AT/P.O.: Chandaka, P.S. Chandaka, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Total Area: 560 Sq.Ft., KISSAM: Homestead, standing in the name of Mr. Jagannath Patnaik, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 399, 411 & 412, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 405 & 406, West: Plot No.: 400 & Road	₹12,39,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹1,23,900/- / ₹50,000/-
3.	TAMANDI BRANCH, MOB.: 7008280080 / Borrowers: Biranchi Narayan Patra & P. Ranjeet Kumar Patra, S/o: Biranchi Narayan Patra, Both are at Plot No.: L-1369, Dumduma, Phase-2, P.O.: Dumduma, P.S.: Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, PIN-751019 / Total Dues: ₹8,71,456/- as on 21.10.2022 + interest, costs and expenses from 22.10.2022, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of House No.: L-1369, OSHB, Khata No.: 1292, Plot No.: 1105/3376, Area: 1125 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, at Mouza: Dumduma, P.S.: Bhubaneswar 4, SRO: Khandagiri, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, standing in the name of Biranchi Narayan Patra, Bounded by North: L-1368, South: L-1370, East: L-1379, West: Road	₹49,35,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹4,93,500/- / ₹50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction : 27.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each
Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 26.12.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.
Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 26.12.2023 with prior appointment of the authorised officer
The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) <https://www.ibapi.in> (2) <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> (3) www.bankofindia.co.in
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 17.11.2023
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

Care not for time and success. Act out thy part, whether it be to fail or to prosper.

SRI AUROBINDO



AI Armageddon

It is no longer science fiction: the race to apply artificial intelligence to nuclear-weapons systems is underway – a development that could make nuclear war more likely. With governments worldwide acting to ensure the safe development and application of AI, there is an opportunity to mitigate this danger. But if world leaders are to seize it, they must first recognize just how serious the threat is.

In recent weeks, the G7 agreed on the Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems, in order to “to promote safe, secure, and trustworthy AI worldwide,” and US President Joe Biden issued an executive order establishing new standards for AI “safety and security.” The United Kingdom also hosted the first global AI Safety Summit, with the goal of ensuring that the technology is developed in a “safe and responsible” manner.

But none of these initiatives adequately addresses the risks posed by the application of AI to nuclear weapons. Both the G7 code of conduct and Biden’s executive order refer only in passing to the need to protect populations from AI-generated chemical, biological, and nuclear threats. And UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak did not mention the acute threat posed by nuclear-weapons-related AI applications at all, even as he declared that a shared understanding of the risks posed by AI had been reached at the AI Safety Summit.

No one doubts the existential risks posed by the use of nuclear weapons, which would wreak untold devastation on humanity and the planet. Even a regional nuclear war would kill hundreds of thousands of people directly, while leading to significant indirect suffering and death. The resulting climatic changes alone would threaten billions with starvation.

Nuclear history is rife with near-misses. All too often, Armageddon was averted by a human who chose to trust their own judgment, rather than blindly follow the information provided by machines. In 1983, the Soviet officer Stanislav Petrov received an alarm from the early-warning satellite system he was monitoring: American nuclear missiles had been detected heading toward the Soviet Union. But rather than immediately alert his superiors, surely triggering nuclear “retaliation,” Petrov rightly determined that it was a false alarm.

Would Petrov have made the same call – or even had the opportunity to do so – if AI had been involved? In fact, applying machine learning to nuclear weapons will reduce human control over decisions to deploy them.

Of course, a growing number of command, control, and communications tasks have been automated since nuclear weapons were invented. But, as machine learning advances, the process whereby advanced machines make decisions is becoming increasingly opaque – what is known as AI’s “black box problem.” This makes it difficult for humans to monitor a machine’s functioning, let alone determine whether it has been compromised, is malfunctioning, or has been programmed in such a way that could lead to illegal or unintentional outcomes.

Simply ensuring that a human makes the final launch decision would not be enough to mitigate these risks. As psychologist John Hawley concluded in a 2017 study, “Humans are very poor at meeting the monitoring and intervention demands imposed by supervisory control.”

Moreover, as Princeton University’s Program on Science and Global Security showed in 2020, leaders’ decision-making processes in a nuclear crisis are already very rushed. Even if AI is merely used in sensors and targeting, rather than to make launch decisions – it will shorten the already tight timescale for deciding whether to strike. The added pressure on leaders will increase the risk of miscalculation or irrational choices.

Yet another risk arises from the use of AI in satellite and other intelligence-detection systems: this will make it more difficult to hide nuclear weapons, such as ballistic-missile submarines, that have historically been concealed. This could spur nuclear-armed countries to deploy all their nuclear weapons earlier in a conflict – before their adversaries get a chance to immobilize known nuclear systems.

So far, no initiative – from Biden’s executive order to the G7’s code of conduct – has gone beyond a voluntary commitment to ensure that humans retain control of nuclear-weapons decision-making. But, as United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has noted, a legally binding treaty banning “lethal autonomous weapons systems” is crucial.

While such a treaty is a necessary first step, however, much more needs to be done. When it comes to nuclear weapons, trying to anticipate, mitigate, or regulate the new risks created by emerging technologies will never be enough. We must remove these weapons from the equation entirely.

This means that all governments must commit to stigmatize, prohibit, and eliminate nuclear weapons by joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which offers a clear path toward a world without such arms. It also means that nuclear-armed states must immediately stop investing in modernizing and expanding their nuclear arsenals, including in the name of making them “safe” or “secure” from cyberattacks. Given the insurmountable risks posed by the mere existence of nuclear weapons, such efforts are fundamentally futile.

We know that autonomous systems may lower the threshold to engage in armed conflict. When applied to nuclear weapons, AI is adding another layer of risk to an already unacceptable level of danger. It is critical that policymakers and the public recognize this, and fight not only to avoid applying AI to nuclear weapons, but to eliminate such weapons entirely.

The writer, a former Australian minister for international development, is Executive Director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. @PROJECTSYNDICATE



Melissa Parke

When applied to nuclear weapons, AI is adding another layer of risk to an already unacceptable level of danger



DK Giri

IT APPEARS THAT SINCE 1954, INDIA HAS ACCOMMODATED CHINESE INCURSIONS

Like many other countries, mainly the world powers and the aspiring ones, India’s foreign policy is presumably undergoing intense engagement in current international issues. Two surprising and shocking developments – the war in Ukraine over a year and the fighting in Gaza Strip over a month – have caused realignment in international politics. Foreign policy in India does not draw enormous public attention which it should as the Prime Minister wishes India to become ‘Viswa Guru’ (world leader). Public response currently is even less as the whole political leadership is engaged in elections in five states.

Interestingly, what is missing in the current debates on the wars between is the attitude and alliances of China which have undoubtedly a strong impact on India. On the Ukrainian war, India has sought to be neutral whereas China tacitly supports Russia. On the war in Gaza Strip, India has clearly sided with Israel on the issue of terrorism and with Palestine on humanism as the civilians continues to die and suffer.

It will be naive to assume that Beijing is indifferent to the serious developments in the Middle East if not instigating it through Iran. It is an open secret that Iran was perturbed by the prospect of Saudi Arabia and Egypt having formal relations with Israel like other Middle-Eastern countries have done. The 7 October terrorist attack was launched to derail the process of formalisation of Saudi Arabia and Israel bilateralism.

Where does the China angle in the current international politics place India? New Delhi cannot be indifferent to Chinese moves on the chess board of international politics as it is the prime target of Beijing. Indian foreign policy makers cannot ignore China’s ‘art of war’ against India. Let us remember that ‘The Art of War’ is China’s hallowed strategic manual which steers its relation-

FOCUS INDO-CHINA TIES

ART OF WAR



New Delhi has to do all it can to make the international community take cognisance of China’s belligerence and expansionism which constitute a threat to world peace and security

ship with India. Written by Sun Tzu about 2500 years ago, ‘The Art of War’ is a manual of how to deceive and defeat an enemy in a planned way.

Seven decades ago, Chou En-lai deceived Prime Minister Nehru before launching a full-scale war against India in 1962 on the border question. Beijing manipulated Nehru while annexing Tibet in 1950, got the better of Nehru’s insipid approach during the India-China negotiations on Tibet between 1951 and 1954. Nehru declined the US offer to India to become a permanent member of the UNSC and instead gave it away to China; and made a disastrous presentation at the India-China Summit in 1960.

From that Summit, Chou En-lai inferred that Nehru did not know where exactly India’s border in the Himalayas lay. He went back to Beijing and sent his army to incrementally occupy Indian territory quietly all along the 3,225 km long Himalayan border which culminated in Indo-China war in 1962. By the time China panicked hearing on 20 November 1962 that the British and the US air forces were going to pound China in support of India, it declared a unilateral ceasefire on 21

November 1962. Alas! By that time China had already annexed about 45000 sq km of Indian territory, all along the border from Ladakh to Assam, including the strategically important Aksai Chin, in Ladakh, which itself was about 38000 sq km. That was the time when the Indian Army was totally unprepared for a war with China.

Fast forward, if Chou En-lai took ten years to ‘know’ Nehru, Xi Jinping took only five years to ‘know’ Prime Minister Modi in the sense of Sun Tzu’s ‘The Art of War’. Recall that Xi Jinping chose to call at Modi’s private home in Gujarat, met his aged mother and went to the extent of swinging with Modi at the latter’s home. Later on, they were strolling in a lighter and relaxed mood in Mahabalipuram and Wuhuan; I call it ‘swing and stroll’ diplomacy. But sadly, while Xi was dining and swinging with Modi, Chinese troops were occupying at tri-junction point in Doklam. Furthermore, Xi was fostering anti-India feeling among India’s neighbours – Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Maldives. China helped Pakistan to build up nuclear weapons against India.

It appears that the Chinese leadership has deceived Modi

again as is evident from their aggressive incursion into Indian territory in Galwan, Pangong Lake and around, in violation of the agreement to preserve tranquility in the LAC. Modi made it worse for India by asserting that, “No one has intruded into Indian soil” which also implied legitimization of all 45000 sq km of Indian territory which is under Chinese occupation.

It appears that since 1954, India has accommodated Chinese incursions. This amounted to India’s appeasement policy towards China. For instance, accepting China’s annexation of Tibet without making any reference to the McMahon Line between India and Tibet; and in 1962, China occupied 45000 sq km of Indian Territory. China has been coercing India to forget the McMahon Line and accept the LAC to legitimise 45000 sq km of Indian Territory.

In the international context, as China acquires more power in economic, military and territorial terms, Beijing’s belligerence would pose a menace to world peace as Hitler’s Germany had posed in Europe in 1940s. The added factor is that a dictatorial Xi has now installed himself as a life-long President of China. History tells us that whenever China became strong, it practiced unabashed expansionism. India will certainly bear the brunt of China’s aggressive postures.

To prevent such a disastrous situation developing in Asia and the world on account of China’s belligerence, it is imperative for the international community to pay timely attention to China and curb its expansionist aspirations. New Delhi has to do all it can to make the international community take cognisance of China’s belligerence and expansionism which constitute a threat to world peace and security.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism. @NFA

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Global fund for climate justice



Avilash Roul

BETWEEN 2000 AND 2019, THE WORLD SUFFERED AT LEAST \$2.8 TRILLION IN LOSS AND DAMAGE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Under the UN guidance, a transitional committee (TC) on loss and damage due to climate emergency has clinched an agreement on operationalisation of a global fund for vulnerable countries and communities on 4 November in Abu Dhabi. Despite a formal objection from the US and reservations from other members in the 24-member based TC, the final approval is set for the COP28 scheduled in Abu Dhabi. If the \$100 billion pledge for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) headquartered at Seoul is still a distant mirage, will the Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund yet again on a voluntary basis be a resilient source for billions of deprived people and hundreds of countries?

During its fifth meeting, the TC - 14 developing countries and 10 developed countries, uncomfortably gathered a consensus on the text on the operationalisation of the L&D Fund. Since March this year, the talks witnessed deep divisions, discomfort and disquiet among the members throughout the five meetings and two workshops. The US has submitted a formal objection as there is no mention of voluntary contribution to the deal

which will be discussed at COP28. Is this the financial commitment of the largest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters? While developing countries called for an annual \$100 billion for the Fund, both the UK and Australia argued against any scale to be mentioned in the agreed text. A 2023 analysis found that, between 2000 and 2019, the world suffered at least \$2.8 trillion in loss and damage from climate change – costing around \$16 million per hour.

In the meantime, the UAE, the host of COP28, welcomed the agreement as clear and strong recommendations for the L&D Fund. What are the recommendations adopted in the text? The source of the Fund is not mandatory for developed countries. The recommendation only urged developed countries to continue to provide support, and encourage other nations (read China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia etc) to provide voluntary support for activities to address loss and damage. Thus, there are no financial obligations to the fund and it is voluntary. With non-committal to the L&D Fund and by rejecting references to liability, reparations, equity and common but differentiated responsibility in the

funding facility in the agreed text, the developed countries have taken away the pursuit of climate justice.

While there is indeed no consensus on the source of funding from developed countries, the developing countries in the TC have cajoled to compromise that the World Bank will host the Fund temporarily. Why are wealthy nations demanding that the Bank must administer the L&D Fund? With the largest shareholdings and corresponding voting powers, the developed countries would decide the allocation of funds. There is a high probability of co-financing the Bank’s standalone climate-related projects with the L&D Fund projects to ease the commitment of developed countries’ climate obligations.

Many representatives of vulnerable communities, civil society organisations and international environmental NGOs consider that the Bank is not a reliable host as it funds fossil fuel projects that exacerbate climate change. However, there is an example of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) which has been stationed at the World Bank since the 1992 Earth

Summit to provide small grants for environment protection, conservation and management. Why not the L&D Fund be hosted at the Green Climate Fund (GCF) managed by COP of UNFCCC? Since 2015, the GCF established in 2010 under the supervision of COP, has approved 243 projects in 129 developing countries amounting to \$13.5 billion in mostly climate mitigation. Even the GCF is not easily and timely accessible by the most affected countries and communities. Hosting the L&D Fund by the World Bank is a direct result of the Delhi G20 outcome. The G20-appointed panel recommended that the World Bank must accelerate and expand the climate portfolio.

During COP27 in Egypt last year, the hard-own deal on the L&D Fund for climate disasters for most vulnerable developing countries was the turning point in climate justice. But with the L&D Fund agreement, are we starting at the removal of words like ‘liability’ and ‘reparation’ from the climate justice lexicon during COP talks at UNFCCC?

The writer is a scientist at IIT-Madras.

WISDOM CORNER

- Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished. LAO TZU
- Weak men act to satisfy their needs, stronger men their duties. NASSIM NICHOLAS TALES
- No need to hurry. No need to sparkle. No need to be anybody but oneself. VIRGINIA WOOLF

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1869: After 10 years of construction, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt. The canal connected Europe to Asia without ships having to go all the way around Africa.
- 1989: A week after the fall of the Berlin Wall, a demonstration of by students commemorating International Students Day in Prague was violently shut down by riot police. The incident led to mass strikes and nonviolent around the country that ended communist rule in erstwhile Czechoslovakia.

Unorthodox reshuffle

Sir, This refers to “Cameron gets cabinet role in big political comeback,” OrissaPOST, Nov 14. Ever since Rishi Sunak became the British Prime Minister, he has tried to bring calm to the chaotic government he inherited. His predecessor Liz Truss’ policies had left the economy in dire straits and his governing Conservative Party was still struggling to recover from the turmoil of Boris Johnson’s premiership before Truss. Meanwhile, despite his aim of steadying the ship, Sunak has struggled to tell a convincing story of exactly what his political personality is and to which brand of Conservatism he belongs to. That might all have changed on Monday when Sunak surprised the Westminster establishment by appointing former PM David Cameron as his new foreign secretary. He did so after sacking Suella Braverman – a firebrand from the right of the party who recently described pro-Palestinian demonstrations as “hate marches” and called homelessness a “lifestyle choice” – as home secretary. The appointment of Cameron and sacking of Braverman might suggest that Sunak is finally showing his true colours and throwing his lot in with the moderates – thereby distancing himself from the culture wars and tub thumping of Johnson, Truss and, indeed, Braverman. Whatever the truth behind Sunak’s unorthodox reshuffling of his top team, he doesn’t have long before it needs to start having an impact on his political fate. The next election is looming and his party is still a long, long way behind in the polls.

N Sadasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Justice expected

Sir, This refers to the news report “AAP to file complaint against BJP,” OrissaPOST, November 16. The Election Commission is expected to do proper justice to the complaint lodged by the AAP against the BJP for derogatory posts on its social media against party boss and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The BJP has no right to tarnish the image of the Chief Minister, but the ground reality is that no action has been taken against the BJP by any of the central agencies and this deserves condemnation.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Guv returns Bills, TN govt set to adopt them again

At least 12 Bills were pending with the Raj Bhavan besides four official orders and a file related to the premature release of 54 prisoners



AGENCIES

Chennai, Nov 16: Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has returned Bills sent to him by the government for his assent and the state is all set to get them passed again in a special sitting of the Assembly November 18.

Speaking to reporters at Tiruvannamalai, Speaker M Appavu said a special sitting of the Assembly will be held Saturday.

On the purpose of the special meet, he said he has learnt that Governor Ravi has returned to the government several Bills sent to him for his assent.

The state government intends

getting such Bills adopted again immediately, and hence the Assembly will meet November 18, he added.

The DMK government had accused the BJP-appointed Governor of deliberately delaying the bills' clearance and scuttling the state's development by "undermining the elected administration".

The DMK regime has recently approached the Supreme Court accusing the Raj Bhavan of sitting over bills passed by the Assembly.

At least 12 Bills were pending besides, four official orders and a file related to the premature release of 54 prisoners. The num-

ber of Bills returned to the government by Governor Ravi is not clear. The Assembly had been adjourned sine die in October.

The apex court November 10 had termed as a "matter of serious concern" the alleged delay by Governor Ravi in giving assent to Bills passed by the Assembly. It sought the Centre's response on the state government's petition accusing the Raj Bhavan of 'sitting over' 12 bills.

Replying to a query about the Supreme Court's observation, Appavu said that the special session has been convened only to pass the Bills again and not to discuss the apex court's observation or any other issue.

The Speaker mentioned that the special law against online rummy and the Bill against NEET were returned in the first instance by the Governor. However, after these laws were passed again in the Assembly, the Governor either approved them (in the case of online gambling) or sent them to the President for approval (Bill against NEET).

"As per the law, the Governor cannot return those Bills that are passed once more in the Assembly. Only those Bills that have been returned by the Governor will be passed again in this special session," he said.



People purchase fruits for Chhath Puja celebration, in Noida, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

HC reserves orders on OPS' appeal on using party name

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 16: The Madras High Court Thursday reserved orders on an appeal filed by Paneerselvam against the order of a single judge granting an interim injunction.

The bench reserved orders after hearing arguments from Senior Counsels Arvind Pandian and Abdul Saleem, appearing for Paneerselvam and Vijay Narayan, representing AIADMK

Mohammed Shaffiq reserved orders without specifying any date, on an appeal filed by Paneerselvam against the order of a single judge granting an interim injunction.

The bench reserved orders after hearing arguments from Senior Counsels Arvind Pandian and Abdul Saleem, appearing for Paneerselvam and Vijay Narayan, representing AIADMK

Paneerselvam and some of his aides were expelled from the party last year at a meeting of the general council

general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami. Justice N

Satishkumar had November 7 granted the interim injunction on a petition filed by Palaniswami, which sought to restrain OPS from using the party's name, flag, symbol and letterhead.

Paneerselvam and some of his aides were expelled from the party last year at a meeting of the general council, the AIADMK's highest decision-making body.

Will Amethi see Rahul, Smriti faceoff in 2024?



THE LARGESSE SENT BY SMRITI IRANI AND RAHUL GANDHI TO AMETHI DURING DIWALI HAS STOKED FRESH SPECULATION OF THEIR INTENTION TO SEEK ELECTION FROM THE SEAT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amethi, Nov 16: Diwali has confirmed that Amethi in Uttar Pradesh can look forward to a high profile and much awaited face off in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Amethi MP Smriti Irani and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi have sent out their festive wishes along with gifts to the voters in Amethi.

Rahul Gandhi represented Amethi in the Lok Sabha three times before he was defeated by BJP's Smriti Irani in 2019.

According to sources, while Smriti has sent mobile phones, wall clocks and sarees to the residents of Amethi, Rahul has sent pairs of shirt and trousers along with sweets for distribution among the residents in the constituency.

BJP spokesperson in Amethi, Govind Chauhan said the gifts from Smriti were essentially distributed among the socially down-trodden, poor, and physically challenged people.

"We ensured that the gifts reached the needy," he said, adding that different households were given different gifts.

Chauhan said that the gesture from Smriti was nothing new. "She has been doing selfless public service throughout the year and all festive seasons," he

stressed. Meanwhile, a video of BJP's former Amethi president Daya Shankar Yadav has gone viral, in which he can be heard saying that people need to reciprocate the gesture by giving their votes to Smriti Irani, who was like their "didi" and "beti".

"Agar bahan-beti uphaar bheje to usko liya jata hai... Badle mein aashirwad ke saath kuch na kuch diya jata hai, nahi to paap lagta hai. Agar didi ne hume gift diya hai to humein unko vote dena hai (If a sister and daughter send a gift, we need to take it and then reciprocate by giving her blessings. Otherwise, it is a sin. If Didi has given us gifts, then we should bless her

Chauhan maintained that there was "nothing wrong" in what Yadav said.

"He only meant to say that people should come even closer to Smriti, who works for the people of the constituency round the year," he said.

The Congress district chief in Amethi, Pradeep Singh, meanwhile, said that the gifts from Rahul were sent to roughly 5,000 households in the constituency.

"He has been sending gifts to the party functionaries of Amethi in the past too. This time, the reach has been extended to more people in the constituency," Singhal said.

"People of Amethi are like his family and there is nothing wrong with sending gifts to family members on a festival," he said.

The largesse sent by Smriti Irani and Rahul Gandhi to Amethi during Diwali has stoked fresh speculation of their intention to seek election from the seat. It may be recalled that about three months ago, UP Congress president Ajay Rai had claimed that the people of Amethi wanted Rahul to contest for the seat in 2024.

CM Adityanath urged to recognise 8,000 madrasas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 16: The Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board Thursday wrote to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urging him to start the process of giving government recognition to more than 8,000 madrasas in the state.

UP Madrasa Education Board chairman Iftikhar Ahmed Javed, in his letter to Adityanath, said that not a single madrasa has been recognised in the state in the last eight years due to the state government not giving its nod.

"To assess the facilities available at the madrasas of the state, the government had conducted a survey last year in which it was found that 8,449 madrasas do not have the recognition of the Madrasa Education Board. On November 15 this year, one year has passed since the report of that survey came out," he said.

Javed said the situation has now become such that some people have started calling unrecognised madrasas as 'illegal'.

He requested the chief min-



ister that the process of giving recognition to the unrecognised madrasas should be started soon so that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas' can be strengthened.

Javed in his letter pointed out that the future of about 7.5 lakh children studying in these unrecognised madrasas is in dark.

"About 95 per cent of the children in these madrasas come from backward sections of the Muslim society. The prime minister has talked about the welfare of this Pasmada community," he said.

Javed told PTI that a board

meeting was held September 12 this year in which he requested madrasa board's registrar Priyanka Awasthi and director J Reebha to start recognition of the madrasas.

He added that both the officials had talked about seeking guidance from the government but no process has begun yet.

Javed said the education department officials are now talking of stopping the operation of unrecognised madrasas and initiating legal action of imposing fines on them.

In UP, there are about 25,000 madrasas in which about 16,000 are recognised by the board.

UP seeks private investment for revamp of monuments

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Nov 16: The Uttar Pradesh government will be inviting private investment to the tune of ₹490 crore for the conservation and upkeep of nine historic monuments.

The state tourism department will also seek private investment for the operation and maintenance of 10 Rahi tourist bungalows.

A government spokesperson said that the nine shortlisted monuments will be converted to luxury hotels and boutique restaurants.

"An action plan has been drawn up and already put in motion. As per that, an investment of ₹100 crore each will be sought for Lucknow's Chhattar Manzil, Mirzapur's Chunar Fort and Jhansi's Barua Sagar Fort. The department of tourism has been made in-charge of this project and it has already begun the process of identifying the implementing agencies," said the spokesman.

In addition to this, private investment of ₹50 crore each will be sought for Kothi Gulistan-e-Alam, Kothi Darshan Vilas and Kothi Raushan-ud-Daula -- all in Lucknow.



The remaining three monuments or sites of historical importance, for which ₹30 crore each will be invested by private agencies, are Jal Mahal in Mathura's Barsana, Shukla Talab in Kanpur Dehat and Tikaitrai Baradari in Kanpur Nagar.

Meanwhile, the tourism department will also seek private sector participation in the redevelopment of tourist bungalows, by giving them out on lease for development and operation.

These include Dewa Sharif in Barabanki, Hargao in Sitapur, Kanthala in Shamli, Kachla in Badaun, Chunar in Mirzapur and Bhupiya Mau in Pratapgarh. The process for identifying investors has already started.

Sanitary workers fight twin banes of casteism, apathy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Vadipatti, Nov 16: "I have been cleaning human faeces for 35 years for extremely low wages. Already my life is very bad, they made it miserable by not paying me for almost 16 months," laments M Pitchaiyammal (50), a part-time sanitary worker at Mannadimangalam village in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu.

Similarly, her son M Parthiban (27) did not receive his wages for 15 months, citing a lack of proof of attendance. Both allege that they have not been given the opportunity to sign the attendance register despite repeated attempts. "Whenever we visit, the panchayat office is either locked or the panchayat secretary would tell us that the register was not present," they claim.

In this case, the panchayat office is about three km from their village Ayyappanayakanpatti and the travel time, including the bus wait time, is not less than an hour. So, they usually try to sign once a week or fortnight.

Pitchaiyammal came to Ayyappanayakanpatti as a child bride. She initially helped her mother-in-law who was a sanitary worker. After her demise, Pitchaiyammal and her husband P Murugan (55) took up the work.

The illiterate couple from Malai Kuravar community, a Scheduled Tribe, does not exactly know how long they have been doing this job. "When I was married, I was just 15. Now I am 50. As soon as I came, they made me clean faeces," says Pitchaiyammal, looking at her husband with a satirical smile. "However, as per the records, I started working about 25 years back."

The couple made a few hundred rupees initially, but now Murugan earns ₹8,500 and Pitchaiyammal ₹7,500 a month. Parthiban, who had dropped out after class eight, has been in the job for three years. He earns ₹7,200 per month. Besides Parthiban, the couple has three daughters.

In the villages of Tamil Nadu, the preference to employ sanitary



workers in other menial jobs has always been less due to the stigma associated with their work such as cleaning public toilets, open defecation and sewage drains. Hence, they rely on whatever they make through sanitary work.

After not receiving wages for March last year, Pitchaiyammal and Parthiban received partial payments by April-end. But neither of them knew that it would take another 15 months for the next payment. Pitchaiyammal, who has no idea about the Gregorian calendar, says the

Tamil calendar has entered into the 16th month since she last received wages.

Though manual scavenging is prohibited by law in India, Pitchaiyammal and Parthiban claim that they manually remove the defecation around public toilets in the panchayat.

The state has 21 municipal corporations, 122 municipalities and 529 town panchayats, all categorised as urban local bodies. Last December, Chief Minister MK Stalin launched in Madurai the Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme, meant to

benefit 53,301 sanitary workers in urban local bodies, of which 18,859 are permanent employees.

This October, the state government announced the formation of the corpus fund of ₹50 crore (Rs 10 crore from government and rest mobilised by urban local bodies and state public sector undertakings). Again, there was no mention of rural local bodies, which accounted for about half the state population. By looking at the number of urban sanitary workers, it can be assumed that the per capita allocation under the corpus fund would be a meagre ₹938.

As for rural local bodies, Tamil Nadu has 37 district panchayats that are divided into 388 block panchayats, which in turn are further divided into 12,525 village panchayats. In the recent months, the district administrations have been calling for enrolment of sanitary workers with the welfare board to make them eligible for various financial assistances. However, many sanitary workers are yet to know about it.



Delhi Government workers defoam the water of River Yamuna by spraying anti-foaming chemicals, at Kalindi Kunj



President Droupadi Murmu during an interaction with a group of students from Ladakh attending the National Integration Tour at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi



People buy bamboo baskets and other bamboo items from a roadside shop for upcoming Chhath Puja festival, in Guwahati, Assam



Polling officials with EVMs and other election material leave for poll duty ahead of Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, in Bhopal



Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande reviewed the Validation Exercise of a Strike Corps in the Deserts and was briefed by GOC-in-C Southern Command on the realistic training being carried out



A large banner reads "Biden Ceasefire Now" as fake white body bags with roses placed on them, representing those killed in the escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, are displayed in front of the White House



Farmers collect water chestnuts from a water body in Nadia district of West Bengal



President's Bodyguard during a ceremony for presentation of Standard of Bodyguard and Regimental Standard of the President's Bodyguard (PBG) to the PBG at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi

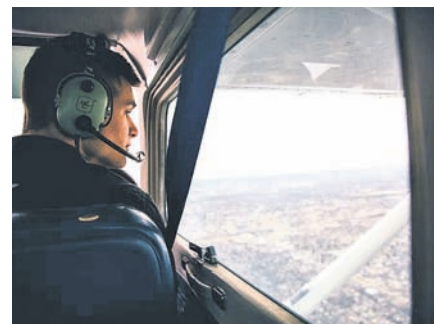


The country has to be made a superpower. The villages, poor labourers and farmers have to be freed from fear, hunger, terror and corruption. Our country has to be made a world leader. We have to make a self-reliant India and only the BJP can fulfil this dream

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

PILOT DIES DURING TRAINING SESSION

A senior Air India pilot died Thursday morning after showing signs of discomfort during a training session at the Delhi airport, according to officials. The pilot appears to have suffered a cardiac arrest, they added



of the day quote

The NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited), which comes under the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, was monitoring the tunnel even after its construction

PUSHKAR SINGH DHAMI | UTTARAKHAND CM

It is not the time to show teeth but a time to bite. And the bite must be strong because those who are serving with high ethical standards must be encouraged only by those not doing so being visited with exemplary consequences

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

The work of clearing the foam on the Yamuna river is going on. Using boats, Delhi Jal Board teams are spraying chemicals and enzymes to remove the foam, and it will be cleared in one or two days

ATISHI MARLENA | MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF DELHI

SHORT TAKES

Subrata Roy cremated

Lucknow: The last rites of Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy were performed at Baikunth Dham, on the banks of the Gomti river here, Thursday. A procession carrying the body left Sahara Shahar in Gomti Nagar for Baikunth Dham, where in the presence of Sahara Group employees and a number of dignitaries, the last rites were performed. Roy's sons were not present during the cremation and the last rites were performed by his 16-year-old grandson, Himanc Roy, sources in the family said. Prominent among those seen during the cremation included Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav, Congress leader Pramod Tiwari and actor and Congress leader Raj Babbar.

TN: Five dead in tanker-car collision

Tiruppur (TN): Five persons, including three women, were killed in a collision between a petroleum tanker and a car at Manakadavu in Dharapuram in the district, police said Thursday. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin conveyed his condolences over the deaths and announced a solatium of ₹2 lakh each for the kin of the deceased. The occupants of the car died in the head-on collision with the petroleum tanker at Manakadavu, police said. The tanker was approaching Dharapuram from Coimbatore while the car was proceeding to Dharapuram from Palani when the accident took place.

'Rlys to introduce 3K new trains in 5 years'

New Delhi: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Thursday said he is working on a plan to introduce 3,000 new trains in the next four-five years to raise the railways' passenger capacity from 800 crore to present to 1,000 crore. Vaishnaw also said that decreasing travel time is another target of his ministry.

8 buildings gutted

Bhaderwah/Jammu: Six multi-storied houses and two commercial buildings were gutted in a massive fire that broke out in the Bhaderwah belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Thursday, officials said. There was no casualty in the blaze, which broke out at Green Colony in the Chinnotia area of Bhaderwah at 4.45 am due to a short circuit, they added.

TUNNEL RESCUE

New equipment raises hopes

The plan is to insert 800 mm- and 900 mm diameter pipes – one after the other – with the help of the giant drill till an escape passage is created for the workers stranded beyond the collapsed portion of the under-construction tunnel



Security personnel at the under-construction tunnel between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri national highway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi, Nov 16: A heavy-duty drilling machine bored through 12 metres of rubble of the collapsed tunnel on the Char Dham route in Uttarakhand Thursday, raising hopes for the rescue of 40 workers trapped inside for over four days.

Officials said in the evening that a six-metre section of a steel pipe had been inserted into the bored passage. Another section was being welded into it.

After a smaller drilling machine failed to do the job, IAF's C-130 Hercules planes brought the US-made auger machine, in parts, from Delhi to an airport 30 kilometres away Wednesday. The 25-tonne piece of equipment was installed overnight. Before making this fresh rescue attempt, a 'puja' was held outside the Silkyara tunnel Thursday.

Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways V K Singh, who visited the rescue site, set "two of three days" as the "outer limit" for the new

machine to get the job done.

But Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who said Thursday that all tunnel projects in the state will now be reviewed, appeared more optimistic.

"I have been told that the new drilling machine has already penetrated five to seven metres through the debris," Dhami told reporters earlier in the day in Dehradun. "We hope it would soon reach the trapped workers, drilling at the rate of five to 10 metres every hour."

At first, when the 30-40 metre portion of the tunnel collapsed on Sunday morning, rescue workers had tried excavating the rubble using an earth moving machine.

The stretch with the debris begins 270 metres from the mouth of the tunnel at its Silkyara side.

The trapped workers are safe, and being supplied with oxygen, medicines, food items and water through pipes, Navayuga

Engineering Company's spokesperson G L Nath said. The company is building the tunnel on behalf of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL).

Union minister Singh talked to the trapped workers. "The people's morale is high," he told reporters later, adding that they knew that the government is putting in all efforts to get them out.

He said experts in the country and abroad have been consulted on the rescue operation. The minister said the site where the tunnel is being constructed has been stable for the past four and a half years.

In Dehradun, the chief minister Dhami said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is constantly monitoring the situation.

The Uttarakhand government has decided to review all under-construction tunnels in the state, he said.

INDIANS ON DEATH ROW IN QATAR

Appeal process under way: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: India Thursday said the appeal process against the death sentence handed down to eight former Indian Navy personnel by a Qatari court is under process and it was hopeful of a positive outcome from it.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India is engaged with the Qatari authorities on the matter and that the government will continue to extend all legal and consular assistance to the Indian nationals.

The eight Indians were October 26 given death sentences by Qatar's Court of First Instance. India described the ruling as "deeply" shocking and vowed to explore all legal options in the case.

Days later, an appeal was filed against the death sentence.

"The case is currently in a legal process there. As we mentioned, an appeal has been filed in Qatar's Court of Appeal. We are also engaged with the Qatari authorities on the matter and we will continue to extend all legal and consular assistance (to them)," Bagchi said.

"I would again urge everyone not to engage in speculation considering the sensitive nature of the case," he said.

The judgement in the entire process has been made confidential by the Qatari side. "The appeal process is un-



India calls for peace over Myanmar clashes

India Thursday called for cessation of fighting between Myanmar's military and anti-junta groups near the Indo-Myanmar border that has triggered an influx of Myanmarese refugees to Mizoram. There have been mounting hostilities between Myanmar's anti-junta groups and government forces in several key towns and regions near the border with India in the last few weeks, fuelling concerns in the Indian military establishment about the possible spillover effect. At his weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi expressed deep concerns over the incidents of violence close to the Indo-Myanmar border.

derway and we would hope for a positive outcome," Bagchi said replying to a question on the matter at his weekly media briefing.

He also described as "factually incorrect" some reports that suggested the appeal in the case has been adjudicated.

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

India again calls for de-escalation of situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: With Israel continuing its military offensive in Gaza in retaliation to last month's attacks by Hamas, India Thursday once again called for de-escalating the situation and underlined the need for observing international humanitarian law in the face of increasing civilian casualties in the conflict.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at his weekly media briefing that India is looking at sending more humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

Israel has been carrying out a massive military operation in Gaza following the unprecedented and multi-pronged attacks on Israeli cities by Hamas militants October 7.

Asked about New Delhi's view on Israeli troops undertaking an operation at the Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City, Bagchi said the issue is not about one particular facility and that India has always underlined the need for following international law.

"The issue is not about one facility or a specific facility. India has always underlined the need for civilian casualties to be avoided, for humanitarian law to be observed, and to encourage any efforts to provide humanitarian relief to those caught in the conflict," he said.

"We have also, on the larger issue, talked about efforts to de-escalate the situation, deliver humanitarian assistance, our concern at the humanitarian (situation and) increasing civilian toll," he said.

21 injured in UP train fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Etawah (UP), Nov 16: Twenty-one people were injured in a fire in a coach of a passenger train early Thursday, just hours after a blaze in an express train in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district.

The fire was reported around 2:40 am when the Delhi-Saharasa Vaishali Express was passing through an area under the Friends Colony police station, Etawah Superintendent of Police (SP) Sanjai Kumar said.

Earlier, Wednesday, a fire broke out in the New Delhi-Darbhanga Special Express train, damaging three coaches & injuring eight passengers

Fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire in the train's S-6 coach was doused, police said. The 21 injured passengers were taken to different hospitals for treatment, according to the Office of the Uttar Pradesh Relief Commissioner.

SNIPPETS

ED issues summons to Singham

New Delhi: A fresh summons was issued by the Enforcement Directorate to China-based American millionaire Neville Roy Singham for questioning in connection with a money laundering probe linked to online news portal NewsClick, officials said Thursday. The 69-year-old businessman, who is accused of spreading Chinese propaganda in India, is stated to be currently based in Shanghai. The summons were sent to Singham recently on his personal email ID and also through the Chinese diplomatic channels after the ED routed them through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the officials said. This is understood to be the second summons issued to Singham by the ED. The first was issued last year after the federal agency launched its investigation in 2021.

Uddhav-led Shiv Sena writes to ECI

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray Thursday said that after Union Home Minister Amit Shah promised that the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh will arrange a trip to Ayodhya for the state's people if it retained power, the Sena has written to the Election Commission of India asking whether it has relaxed the Model Code of Conduct. The letter written by the Shiv Sena (UBT) accused the ECI of practising "double standards" in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Speaking at a news conference here, Thackeray said the 1987 bypoll in Vile Parle assembly constituency in Maharashtra was fought on the issue of Hindutva which led to the poll body revoking Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's voting rights.

Assam Rifles vehicle targeted in Manipur with IED

Imphal: Militants triggered a low-intensity Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast under an Assam Rifles mine-protected vehicle in Manipur's Tengnoupal district Thursday morning, officials said. The paramilitary force's vehicle was on routine patrolling in the district's Saibol area when it was targeted around 8.15am, they said. "A team of Assam Rifles personnel were on routine patrolling duty in the area when a low-intensity IED went off under the vehicle. None of the soldiers present inside the armoured vehicle was injured," they added. Police said soon after triggering the explosive, the gunmen fired indiscriminately at the vehicle. "The soldiers retaliated. There is no information if any of the attackers have been injured or killed," police said. Assam Rifles have begun an operation to track the perpetrators.



RISKY JOURNEY: People travel by an over-crowded train to reach their hometowns ahead of the Chhath Puja festival, near Patna railway station, Bihar

PTI PHOTO

4, including fake doctor, held as patients die after surgeries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The Delhi Police Wednesday said three doctors and a fake doctor have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the surgeries of two patients who died in a clinic in south Delhi's Greater Kailash.

Police said the three doctors -- Neeraj Agarwal, who runs the Agarwal Medical Centre, Jaspreet

Singh and Agarwal's wife Pooja - and former laboratory technician Mahender Singh were arrested Tuesday.

Police said the accused were arrested following complaints received in October. The attendants of the two patients had alleged that Agarwal and three others were involved in performing surgeries of vital organs of various patients, without following proper

medical procedure.

According to the complainants, Agarwal is a physician, but performs surgeries as he possesses fake documents. A probe revealed that seven complaints were submitted to the Delhi Medical Council against Agarwal Medical Centre, Neeraj and Pooja Agarwal since 2016. In all the cases, patients had died due to alleged negligence, Chaudhary said.

AIR EMERGENCY IN DELHI

Vehicular emissions largest contributor

Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena came down heavily on the AAP governments in Punjab and Delhi Thursday, alleging that the former is playing "truant" on the issue of stubble burning and the latter involved in "over-hyped events" like the odd-even road-rationing scheme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Delhi's air quality worsened within the severe category on Thursday as unfavourable meteorological conditions hindered the dispersion of pollutants.

Recent findings from a joint project by the Delhi government and IIT-Kanpur found that vehicular emissions accounted for about 38 per cent of the capital's air pollution Wednesday. This reduced to 25 per cent Thursday.

Secondary inorganic aerosols - particles such as sulfate and nitrate that are formed in the atmosphere due to the interaction of gases and particulate pollutants from sources like power

plants, refineries, and vehicles - is the second major contributor to Delhi's foul air, accounting for 30 to 35 per cent of the air pollution in the city over the last few days.

Calm winds and low temperatures are allowing accumulation of pollutants and relief is unlikely over the next few days, an official at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

An improvement in the wind speed November 21 onwards might bring air pollution levels down, he said.

Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index, recorded at 4 pm every day, stood at 419 Thursday. It was 401 Wednesday, 397 Tuesday, 358 Monday and 218



Sunday, 220 Saturday and 279 Friday.

Neighbouring Ghaziabad (376), Gurugram (363), Greater Noida (340), Noida (355) and Faridabad (424) also recorded very poor to

severe air quality.

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

and above 450 severe plus.

Delhi's air quality dropped over the last few days despite the state government implementing stringent measures, including a ban on construction work and the entry of diesel-guzzling trucks into the city, to control pollution.

According to IQAir, a Swiss company that specialises in air quality monitoring, Delhi was the most polluted city in the world Thursday, followed by Baghdad and Lahore.

A system developed by the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology to identify the contribution of different pollution sources showed stubble-burning accounted for 7.5 per cent of the air pollution in

the capital on Thursday. It is likely to come down to 3.5 per cent on Friday and 3 per cent on Saturday.

An official of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) had earlier said stringent measures, including a ban on construction work and the entry of polluting trucks in the national capital, under the final stage of the central government's air pollution control plan called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will continue until further orders.

The Delhi government Thursday set up a six-member special task force to ensure strict implementation of measures outlined in the GRAP in the capital.



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

DANGEROUS HEATWAVE IN BRAZIL

It's still spring in Brazil, but a dangerous heatwave is sweeping across large swathes of the country, forcing Rio de Janeiro's vendors off the streets due to health alerts and driving up energy demand amid reports of power outages



of the day quote

We vow to keep up military support for Ukraine
DAVID CAMERON | BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY

I will sign a treaty with the Rwandan government to close loopholes in the plan, including a block on Rwanda sending migrants home
RISHI SUNAK | UK PM

The country wants to strengthen cooperation with the United States to combat climate change
HUANG RUNQIU | CHINA'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Driver arrested

Tokyo: Police in Japan said Thursday they arrested a driver after a vehicle crashed into a temporary barricade near the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo, injuring one police officer. Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department said they arrested a 53-year-old man on suspicion of obstructing official duties. The man was unemployed and a member of a right-wing group, police said. Tokyo police said the suspect suddenly drove into the street where police officers were on duty at the barricade set up to secure the Israeli Embassy, injuring an officer in his 20s. His injury was not life-threatening, police said. Media reports said he had a hand injury.

4 militants killed

Peshawar: Four wanted militants, including a "high-value terrorist commander", were killed by security forces in restive northwestern Pakistan, the army said Thursday. During an intelligence-based operation in the general area, Badaber, Peshawar, the troops effectively engaged the militants and four terrorists were "sent to hell" including a "high-value terrorist commander", the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) - the media wing of the army - said in a statement. It identified the slain terrorists as Samiullah alias Shenay, terrorist commander Salman alias Ahmed, terrorist Imran alias Muhammad and terrorist Hazrat Umar alias Khalid". The militants were "wanted by law enforcement agencies," it said.

IHC extends stay on jail trial of Imran

Islamabad: A Pakistan high court Thursday extended until November 20 the stay against the jail trial of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in the cipher case. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) bench comprising Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Justice Saman Rafat Intiaz extended the stay during the hearing of 71-year-old Khan's intra-court appeal against the jail trial. The appeal was filed against a single-member bench of the same court which last month upheld the trial of Khan in the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi where he has been incarcerated.

Muizzu to be sworn in today

Male: Maldives President-elect Mohamed Muizzu will take oath of office Friday at a ceremony in the capital Male, where India would be represented by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju. Muizzu, a close associate of former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen who forged close ties with China during his Presidency from 2013 to 2018, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September. He is due to take over the office on Friday after which he is expected to outline his foreign policy priorities.

Israel signals wider offensive in Gaza's south

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Khan Younis, Nov 16: Israeli forces dropped leaflets warning Palestinians to flee parts of southern Gaza, residents said Thursday, signalling a possible expansion of their offensive to the zone where most of the territory's population has fled to escape Israel's bombardment and ground assault. Meanwhile, soldiers continued searching Shifa Hospital in the north, in a raid that began early Wednesday. They displayed guns they say were found hidden in one building, but have yet to release any evidence of the central Hamas command centre that Israel has said is concealed beneath the complex. Hamas and staff at the hospital, Gaza's largest, deny the allegations.

Broadening operations to the south — where Israel already carries out daily air raids — threatens to worsen an already severe humanitarian crisis in the besieged territory. Over 1.5 million people have been internally displaced in Gaza, with most having fled to the south, where food, water and electricity are increasingly scarce. It's not clear where else they could go, as Egypt refuses to allow a mass transfer onto its soil.

The territory was cut off from the outside world again Thursday, when all communication services shut down because of a lack of fuel, according to the Palestinian telecoms provider. The war, now in its sixth week, was triggered by a wide-ranging Hamas attack into southern Israel on October 7 in which the militants killed over 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and captured some 240 men, women and children. Israel



The leaflets dropped in areas east of the southern town of Khan Younis, warned civilians to evacuate and said anyone in the vicinity of militants or their positions "is putting his life in danger." Similar leaflets were dropped over northern Gaza for weeks ahead of the ground invasion

Even as Israel signals a wider offensive, it has yet to put forth a long-term plan, aside from saying it will maintain security control over Gaza indefinitely

responded with a weeklong air campaign and a ground invasion of northern Gaza, vowing to remove Hamas from power and crush its military capabilities.

More than 11,200 Palestinians have been killed, two-thirds of

them women and minors, according to Palestinian health authorities. Another 2,700 have been reported missing, with most believed to be buried under the rubble. The official count does not differentiate between civilian and militant deaths, and Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.

The war has inflamed tensions elsewhere. On Thursday, gunmen shot and wounded four people at a checkpoint on the main road linking Jerusalem to Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. The three attackers were killed, according to police, who said the assailants had assault rifles, handguns and hatchets, and were preparing a large-scale attack in Jerusalem.

UNSC overcomes deadlock, adopts resolution

United Nations: The UN Security Council has called for urgent humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout Gaza to allow unhindered humanitarian access in the strip, finally overcoming deadlock and adopting a resolution in the month-long Israel-Hamas conflict. The 15-nation Council adopted a resolution on Wednesday that called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups, especially children, as well as ensuring immediate humanitarian access. The Malta-drafted resolution was adopted with 12 votes in favour, none against and three abstentions from Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

26 DEAD IN CHINA FIRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Nov 16: A fire ripped through a building of a coal mine company in north China's Shanxi province Thursday, killing at least 26 people and injuring 38, state media reported.

The fire started on the second floor of the five-story building located in Lishi District of Lyuliang City at around 6.50 am (local time). The on-site rescue operation ended at 1:45 pm (local time) on Thursday, according to the information office of the city.

An earlier report by the state-run Xinhua news agency said 60 people were sent to the hospital for treatment. Chinese President Xi Jinping who is currently in the US has ordered all-out efforts to rescue the injured.

Xi, who is currently visiting the US, asked authorities to inspect and remove risks in key industries to safeguard people's lives and property as well as social stability, official media reported.

The building belongs to a private coal mine company. Industrial accidents are common in China due to lax safety standards and poor enforcement, the report said.



Biden calls Xi 'dictator'



REUTERS

Woodside, California, Nov 16: US President Joe Biden said Wednesday he had not changed his view that Chinese President Xi Jinping was effectively a dictator, a comment likely to land with a thud in Beijing after the two leaders held straightforward summit talks after months of preparation.

Biden held a solo news conference after four hours of talks with Xi on the outskirts of San Francisco. At the end of the news conference, he was asked whether he still held the view that Xi was a dictator, something he said in June.

"Look, he is. He's a dictator in the sense that he's a guy who runs a country that is a communist country that's based on a form of government totally different than ours," Biden said. Last March Xi clinched a third term as president when nearly 3,000 members of China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, voted unanimously for him in an election in which there was no other candidate.

Xi is considered the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, after a decade of consolidating power in policy-making

When Biden made a similar dictator reference in June, China called the remarks absurd and a provocation

Biden held a solo news conference after four hours of talks with Xi on the outskirts of San Francisco

ing and the military and stifling media freedoms. There was no immediate reaction from the Chinese delegation, which had come to the United States to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco. Hundreds of critics of Beijing marched through the city's downtown around noon, chanting "free Tibet" and "free Hong Kong."

When Biden made a similar dictator reference in June, China called the remarks absurd and a provocation. But the spat did not prevent the two sides from holding extensive talks aimed at improving strained relations, which culminated in Wednesday's meeting.

Still, Biden's opinion of the Communist Party was a topic of the Wednesday meeting. Xi told Biden that the negative views of the Communist Party in the United States were unfair, a U.S. official told reporters after the meeting.

Spain's Pedro Sanchez secures another term



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Nov 16: Spain's acting Socialist prime minister, Pedro Sanchez, was reelected by a majority of legislators in a parliamentary vote Thursday, allowing him to form a new minority leftist coalition government.

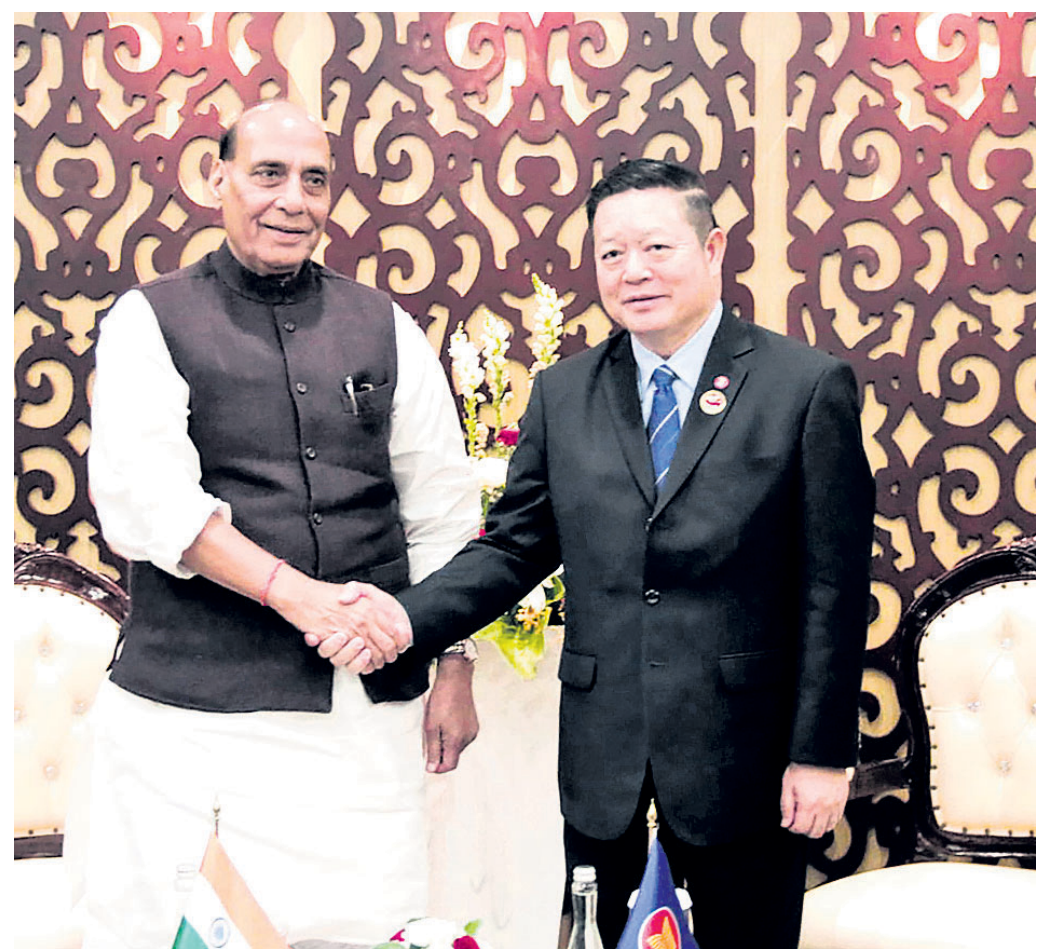
Sanchez was backed by 179 lawmakers in the 350-seat lower house of parliament. Only right-wing opposition deputies voted against him. The vote came after nearly two days of debate among party leaders that centred almost entirely on a highly controversial amnesty deal for Catalonia's separatists that Sanchez agreed to in return for vital support to get elected prime minister again.

Sanchez won the vote after

clinching the support of six smaller parties — including two Catalan separatist parties — in recent weeks, allowing him to achieve the majority of lawmakers needed to be reelected and form another minority coalition government with the left-wing Sumar (Joining Forces) party.

Spain's inconclusive national elections on July 23 left a highly fractured parliament. The centre-right Popular Party received the most votes in the elections but failed to get enough support to form a government because of its alliances with the far-right Vox party, which finished third.

The Socialists finished second with 121 seats. It remains to be seen if Sanchez can maintain enough support to last the next four years. The amnesty deal that Sanchez's Socialists signed with two key Catalan separatist parties that command 14 votes would clean the slate for hundreds of Catalan separatists in legal trouble following the northeast region's illegal 2017 secession bid that sparked Spain's biggest crisis in decades.



Defence minister Rajnath Singh and Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto during a meeting on the sidelines of the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus, in Jakarta, Thursday

In wartime Russia, soaring prices bite as election looms

While many families across the world are grappling with price rises, the peculiarities of Russia's wartime economy have spurred high inflation for millions of Russian voters ahead of the 2024 election

REUTERS

Sredneuralsk, Russia, Nov 16: For Darya Stepanova, a mother of two who lives in a small town on the eastern side of the Ural mountains, soaring prices for everything from baby food to nappies have forced her family to cut back on most treats and eating out.

The Stepanov family is one of millions of Russian families having to cut back due to the significant changes forced on Russia's economy by the war in Ukraine and the myriad sanc-

tions imposed by the West.

Stepanova, 34, her five-year-old son and newborn son, try to make ends meet on the 50,000 roubles (\$550) a month her husband Sergei earns. When she goes through the snow to the shops, she inspects the prices to search for bargains.

"I can see how everything has become more expensive in the course of just these past five years," Stepanova said in her flat in Sredneuralsk, a town on the shores of Lake Iset about 25 km (15 miles) north of the Urals city of Yekaterinburg and 1400



km (870 miles) east of Moscow. "Before you could buy food worth a thousand roubles for three or four days easily, but now when you go to the shop a thousand roubles is nothing - you can only buy food for everyday needs,

like milk, yogurt, bread and that's it - your thousand has flown away"

Baby milk has quadrupled in price over the five years since her first child, she said, while the price of prams has tripled to 60,000 roubles. Prices for dis-

posable nappies and baby food have at least doubled, she said.

The family's income has not risen by anything like that while the rouble has fallen against the US dollar since February 2022, when President Vladimir Putin ordered troops into Ukraine, making imported goods more expensive in rouble terms. "There is no money left for treats," Stepanova said. "Of course you can live without them but life is less fun."

While many families across the world are grappling with price rises, the peculiarities of Russia's wartime economy have spurred high inflation for millions of Russian voters ahead of the 2024 election. The family did not want to discuss politics, Ukraine or who was to blame for the price rises so it is not immediately

clear just what longer-term impact the tougher conditions will have on voting in Russia. Putin is expected to run in next year's election, a move that would keep him in power until at least 2030.

The West imposed what it called the toughest sanctions ever on Russia in an attempt to undermine its economy and force Putin to change course over Ukraine but he refused and has goaded the West for failing to stoke an economic crisis.

Russia, the world's biggest exporter of natural resources, has continued to sell its oil to world markets and the government has hiked military spending to a post-Soviet record while weapons production has soared - as have salaries for contracted soldiers willing to fight.

business

of the day quote

Two more Japanese banks are set to join 10 foreign and 16 local banks in the tax-free GIFT City, where more than 550 businesses with assets worth USD 47 billion have registered and begun operations

K RAJARAMAN | CHAIRMAN, IFSCA

There was a popular belief that we will never review the delisting regulations and we will always stay with the reverse book building process. We have a consultation paper that was floated, we have got a lot of feedback and at the next board meeting we are taking that proposal to our board

MADHABI PURI BUCH | CHAIRPERSON, SEBI

The NHPC project win is set to strengthen Gensol's market position, elevate our technical capabilities, and pave the way for growth and collaboration in the renewable energy sector

ALI IMRAN NAQVI | CEO-OP & PROJECT MANAGEMENT, GENSOIL ENGINEERING

SHORT TAKES

Windfall tax cut

New Delhi: The government Thursday cut the windfall profit tax on crude oil produced in the country and on exports of diesel in line with softening international oil prices. The tax, levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty or SAED, on domestically produced crude oil has been reduced to Rs 6,300 per tonne from Rs 9,800 per tonne, according to an official notification. SAED on the export of diesel was reduced to Re 1 per litre from Rs 2 per litre. The levy on the export of jet fuel or ATF and petrol will continue to be zero. The new tax rates came into effect from Thursday.

Hero's festive high

New Delhi: Hero MotoCorp Thursday said it recorded highest-ever sales in a festive season by retailing more than 14 lakh two-wheeler units in the 32-day period this year. The country's largest two-wheeler maker achieved the sales mark between the first day of the Navratras and Bhai Dooj November 15. Riding on robust demand across rural markets as well as steady retail off-take in key urban centres, the company registered a 19 per cent growth over the previous year, and surpassed its previous highest retail of 12.7 lakh units which was recorded in the festive period of 2019, Hero MotoCorp said in a statement.

Air traffic rises

New Delhi: Domestic air passenger traffic in the country recorded an annual growth of nearly 11 per cent to 1.26 crore in October, according to data. The traffic stood at 1.14 crore passengers in October 2022 and at 1.22 crore passengers in September this year. The data released by aviation regulator DGCA showed that IndiGo carried 79.07 lakh passengers, garnering a domestic market share of 62.6 per cent in October. The market share was lower compared to 63.4 per cent registered in September.

Malco's new unit

New Delhi: Vedanta's arm Malco Energy Ltd has set up a new unit in Saudi Arabia for copper business at an investment of 1,00,000 Saudi riyals (Rs 22.19 lakh). "Malco Energy Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, has incorporated a new wholly-owned Subsidiary in the name of 'Vedanta Copper International VCI Company Limited,' metal and mining giant Vedanta said in a filing to BSE.



India is, in my view, the best if not one of the best markets in which to be invested but one has to be globally diversified

MARK MOBIUS | PARTNERS, MOBIUS CAPITAL

'SAHARA MATTER WILL CONTINUE FOR SEBI'

Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch Thursday said the Sahara matter will continue for the capital markets regulator even after the death of the group's founder Subrata Roy. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Ficci event, Buch said for Sebi, the Sahara matter was about an entity's conduct and added that it will continue regardless of whether an individual is there or not



UNSECURED LOANS

RBI stricts norms for banks, NBFCs

Banks credit outstanding to the personal loans segment was Rs 48,26,833 crore at end-Sept this year, up nearly 30% YoY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 16: The Reserve Bank Thursday tightened norms for consumer credit as it asked banks and NBFCs to assign a higher risk weight for unsecured personal loans, a move aimed at making the lenders more cautious on such advances.

The risk weight on unsecured consumer loans has been raised by 25 percentage points.

The new regulations, however, will not be applicable on housing loans, education loans, vehicle loans and loans secured by gold and gold jewellery, the Reserve Bank said in a circular.

A higher risk weight means that lenders need to set aside more funds as a safety net for consumer loans, which could make the such credit more expensive. In simple words, a higher risk weight restricts banks' lending capacity.

The move comes within a month of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das flagging concerns over a high growth seen in consumer credit segment.

In the circular, the RBI said, "It has been decided to increase the risk weights in respect of consumer credit exposure of commercial banks (outstanding as well as new), including personal loans, but excluding housing loans, education loans, vehicle loans and loans secured by gold and gold jewellery, by 25 percentage points to 125 per cent."

A similar raise has been effected in case of credit card receivables, as per the circular on 'Regulatory measures towards consumer credit and bank credit to NBFCs (non-banking financial companies)'.

Now, the risk weights on credit card exposures have been increased by 25 percentage points to 150 per cent and 125 per cent for banks and NBFCs, respectively.

On bank credit to NBFCs, the circular said the risk weights on such exposures of banks too has been increased by 25 percentage points (over and above the risk weight associated with the given external rating) in all cases where the extant risk weight as per external rating of NBFCs is below 100 per cent.

The RBI also asked all the entities regulated by it to review their extant sectoral exposure limits for consumer credit and put in place, if not already there, Board approved limits in respect of various subsegments under consumer credit.

"In particular, limits shall be prescribed for all unsecured consumer credit exposures," the circular said.

Further, all top-up loans extended by regulated entities against movable assets which are inherently depreciating in nature, such as vehicles, should be treated as unsecured loans for credit appraisal, prudential limits and exposure purposes.

RBI flags inflation fears

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 16: A Reserve Bank Bulletin Thursday said retail inflation has moderated due to monetary policy action and supply side interventions, but "we are not out of the woods yet and have miles to go".

An article on the state of the economy in the November Bulletin also noted that the global economy is showing signs of slowing down in the ongoing quarter as manufacturing languishes while services sector activity appears to have reached the end of its post-pandemic expansion.

Going forward, it said tightening financial conditions is a significant risk to the global outlook.

"In India, the momentum of the change in GDP is sequentially expected to be higher in Q3, 2023-24, with festival demand remaining ebullient," the article authored by a team lead by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said.

The authors said investment demand appears to be resilient with the government's infrastructure



WE ARE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET AND HAVE MILES TO GO, SAYS CENTRAL BANK

Retail inflation declined to 4.87% in Oct from 5.02% in Sept

spending, an uptick in private capex, automation, digitalisation, and indigenisation providing a boost.

Referring to the headline inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI), the article said a combination of monetary policy action and supply side interventions guided inflation down from the high reaches to which it had climbed through the first seven months of 2022-23.

In fact, November 2022 was the first month when headline in-

Car makers break festive season records

Vehicles sold worth Rs 1.3trn during the festive period between Onam, Bhai Dooj

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 16: The automobile industry witnessed a surge in sales during the festive period between Onam and Bhai Dooj, achieving a record turnover of Rs 1.3 trillion, as per reports.

Driven by consumer demand, companies retailed 1.14 million vehicles, averaging nearly 13,000 units daily. This success reflects the car industry's recovery after Covid-19-related disruptions. During the same period last year, the Indian car industry recorded a turnover of Rs 85,700 crore.

SUVs drove demand during this festive season, contributing significantly to the year's turnover. Maruti Suzuki highlighted the growing consumer inclination toward feature-loaded

Firms retailed 1.14mn vehicles, averaging nearly 13,000 units daily with SUVs taking major chunk in sales

SUVs. The average price for these vehicles this year was Rs 11.5 lakh, up from Rs 10.5 lakh last year.

Even after Covid-19-related restrictions were lifted in 2021, the car industry faced challenges due to supply constraints, specifically semiconductors. These restrictions were caused by the war in Ukraine and curbs on certain supplies from China. However, the supply is normalising now, especially for mainstream players, and the industry is jumping back with new sup-

India to grow 6-7.1% during '24-26: S&P

India's economic growth prospects should remain strong over the medium term, with GDP expanding 6-7.1 per cent annually in fiscal years 2024-2026, S&P Global Ratings said Thursday. In a report titled 'Global Banks Country-By-Country Outlook 2024', S&P said the banking sector's weak loans will decline to 3-3.5 per cent of gross advances by March 31, 2025, on the back of structural improvement, including healthy corporate balance sheets, tighter underwriting standards and improved risk-management practices. Interest rates in India are unlikely to rise materially, and this should limit the risk for the banking industry, it added. The report said that global uncertainties will have a lesser impact on the Indian economy. Slower global growth and external demand will weigh on economic activity and could fuel further inflation. However, given that India is domestically oriented, the agency expects the economic growth to be less affected, it added. "Economic growth momentum to continue. India's economic growth prospects should remain strong over the medium term, with GDP expanding 6-7.1 per cent annually in fiscal years 2024-2026," S&P said. India's real GDP rose 7.8 per cent year-on-year in the June quarter, up from 6.1 per cent in the March quarter.

flation dropped back into the RBI's tolerance band of 2-6 per cent in the whole calendar year.

"We are not out of the woods yet and have miles to go, but readings of around 5 per cent and 4.9 per cent in September and October, respectively, are a welcome relief from the average of 6.7 per cent in 2022-23 and 7.1 per cent in July-August 2023," it said.

The article further said India's external sector has remained viable, with a modest Current Account Deficit (CAD) financed

by resilient capital flows, one of the least volatile currencies in the world and a healthy level of foreign exchange reserves.

The momentum of growth has picked up, taking GDP well above pre-pandemic levels to becoming the fifth largest economy in the world at market exchange rates, it added.

"Steadfast policy initiatives are showing results, with the financial sector exhibiting soundness and supporting the credit needs of a resurgent economy," it said.

Markets continue rally for 2nd day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 16: Equity benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher for a second straight day Thursday following gains in IT, tech and consumer durable shares amid a mixed trend in global equities.

Softer-than-expected US inflation data and easing bond yields have also brought optimism in equity markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 306.55 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 65,982.48. During the day, it jumped 682.44 points or 1 per cent to 66,358.37. The Nifty gained 89.75 points or 0.46 per cent to 19,765.20.

The rupee declined by 14 paise to settle at 83.23 against the US dollar Thursday.

FPIs' investment value in equities rises

This could be attributed to the good performance of the domestic equity markets as well as strong net FPI inflows

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: The value of foreign portfolio investors' holdings in domestic equities reached \$651 billion in the three months ended September 2023, which was 15 per cent higher than the year-ago period, according to a Morningstar report.

According to the report, the value of FPIs' investments in Indian equities rose from \$566 billion as of September 2022 to \$651 billion at the end of



FPIs NET SELLERS IN SEPTEMBER, THE FIRST TIME IN SIX MONTHS THROUGH THE MONTH, THEY SOLD ASSETS TO THE TUNE OF \$1.78BN

September 2023.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the value of such investment rose 4 per cent from \$626 billion recorded in the three months ended June this year.

Despite the growth, FPIs' contribution to Indian equity market capitalisation fell marginally during the quarter under review to 16.95 per cent from

17.33 per cent in the previous quarter.

Picking up from the June quarter, foreign investors continued their buying spree in the Indian equity markets for the most part of the September quarter with a net infusion of \$5.38 billion.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) pumped \$5.68 billion into Indian equities in July on steady

earnings growth recovery, stable macro fundamentals, and the challenges faced by the Chinese economy and concerns over its recovery. Additionally, the resilient state of the domestic economy and the markets amid global uncertainty also attracted foreign investors toward Indian equities.

However, the pace of investments from FPIs ebbed substantially in August to \$1.48 billion on concerns on the global macro front on the back of higher crude oil prices and the resurfacing of inflation risks.

FPIs have been on a selling spree. While in October they were net sellers to the tune of \$2.95 billion, in November so far (till November 10), they have sold net assets worth \$697 million.

Hyundai rolls out high-performance EV

HYUNDAI EXPECTS THE IONIQ 5 N TO TOUCH AN ELECTRONICALLY LIMITED TOP SPEED OF 260.7 KMPH BUT DID NOT REVEAL AN ESTIMATE ON THE RANGE OFFERED

REUTERS

Los Angeles, Nov 16: Hyundai Motor unveiled its first high-performance electric vehicle (EV), an N sport variant of its IONIQ 5 crossover SUV.

The South Korean automaker said that the IONIQ 5 N, which will be available at its dealers in March 2024, will be followed by more electrified N models in the future.

The N brand is the company's high-performance brand, akin to AMG for the Mercedes and the M lineup for the BMW.

The IONIQ's N variant will be powered by dual motors producing 641 horsepower, nearly double the output of the most



powerful variant of the standard outgoing model.

Hyundai unveiled the performance EV in Los Angeles Wednesday, ahead of the Los Angeles Auto Show opening

Friday. Automakers such as Audi, Porsche and Tesla have been trying to redesign traditionally efficient EVs with sporty design cues and tougher compo-

nents to woo car enthusiasts who generally gravitate towards higher-performing combustion vehicles.

Rival Stellantis' also revealed a concept electric Dodge Charger last year, banking on the legacy of the almost 60-year muscle car brand pulling in EV-averse gearheads.

Hyundai expects the IONIQ 5 N to touch an electronically limited top speed of 162 mph (260.7 kmph) but did not reveal an estimate on the range offered.

The company, founded in 1967, launched the IONIQ 5 midsize crossover based on its Electric-Global Modular Platform (E-GMP) in 2021 to cash in on strong EV demand worldwide.

TIDBITS

Mahindras take U-turn, renew RE goals

Mumbai: Mahindras were on the verge of exiting from renewables due to high capital requirements, but are now looking at growing the business five times in the next five years, a top official said Thursday. A key change which prompted the rejig in plans and indeed opting for a ramp-up was introduction of the infrastructure investment trusts (Invits), Mahindra and Mahindra's managing director and chief executive Anish Shah said. Speaking at a Ficci event, Shah said the renewables business, for which the company has partnered with a global investor, will grow 5x in the next five years. He said the diversified grouping, which has interests in the automotive and tech businesses, looks at scale when looking at a new business and prefers not to be in a business at all if it cannot do anything on a large scale.

Tata Group floats first IPO in two decades

Mumbai: Tata Technologies Thursday fixed the price band at Rs 475-500 per equity share for its Rs 3,042 crore initial public offering (IPO). The maiden public issue will open for public subscription November 22 and end November 24. The anchor book of the offer will be opened for a day November 21, the company announced. This will be the first company from the Tata Group to float an initial share sale in nearly two decades. Tata Consultancy Services was the last IPO from the group in 2004. The IPO of Tata Technologies is entirely an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 6.08 crore equity shares by promoter, Tata Motors, and investor shareholders Alpha TC Holdings Pte Ltd and Tata Capital Growth Fund I.

Massive technical glitch hurts UCO Bank

New Delhi: As much as Rs 820 crore were credited to account holders of UCO Bank in what the lender described as an erroneous transfer and has initiated a process to reverse the same. The bank has recovered Rs 649 crore or 79 per cent of the amount erroneously credited to some accounts of the bank via Immediate Payment Service (IMPS). By taking various proactive steps, the bank blocked the recipients' accounts and has been able to recover Rs 649 crore out of Rs 820 crore which is about 79 per cent of the amount, UCO Bank said in a regulatory filing Thursday.

Jio cements position as telecom leader

New Delhi: India's largest mobile operator Reliance Jio added 32.4 lakh users in August, and its wireless subscriber tally topped 44.57 crore, according to data released by telecom regulator Trai. Bharti Airtel gained 12.17 lakh wireless subscribers in August, while cash-strapped Vodafone Idea lost 49,782 users. The mobile subscriber count of Bharti Airtel rose to 37.64 crore in August. Vodafone Idea (Vi), on the other hand, saw its wireless subscriber numbers dip to 22.82 crore during the month. Reliance Jio cemented its position as India's largest mobile operator, adding 32.45 lakh users in August and its wireless subscriber base swelled to over 44.57 crore, according to monthly telecom subscription data released by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai).

KANGAROOS HOP INTO FINAL

Virat, Rohit inspire Shubman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Mumbai, Nov 16: Being a youngster in a group of senior pros, opener Shubman Gill says batting maestro Virat Kohli's hunger and intensity on the cricket field inspires him, and he also strives to learn from Rohit Sharma when the skipper is at the crease with him.

Virat's record-breaking 50th ODI century against New Zealand powered India into the World Cup final here on Wednesday with the young Gill watching the legend achieve the historic feat from the dressing room after he had to retire hurt due of cramps at 80.

"Every time he comes on to the park, he does something special, and just how consistently he has been able to do it for the past 10-15 years is what is really inspiring," Gill told the media here after India defeated New Zealand by 70 runs.

"For me, it is not so much about the skill that he has but it is more about the hunger when he goes there and the intensity with which he plays the game, is what inspires me. To be able to have that consistently for as long as he has been doing, it is what really inspires me," said Gill.

Gill, who is billed to take over the mantle from the senior pro, said he shares some of the batting traits with Kohli. "Honestly, we just talk about the situation and how we want to play. I think our game is a little similar in style, because, he and I, we also like to keep (the scoreboard) running," Gill said.

"I am also a little busy, running singles, twos and hitting boundaries in between. I think we complement each other quite well so it works quite well in the middle," he added.

Gill added he goes through a learning process every time he bats alongside Rohit Sharma, whose fearless approach at the crease has set the tone early for

the team in almost every game in the World Cup.

"Everything about him really impresses me. I stand as a learner in the powerplay. He plays 10 overs; I play 15-20 balls," Gill said. "I rest and Rohit comes and does his thing. He scores a four here, a six there and I just watch," he added.

Gill admitted it is not easy facing the Indian fast bowlers even in the nets, indicating the Blackcaps would have had a tough time negotiating Mohammed Shami in the semifinal.

"It is very difficult. In the nets, it is like, if the wicket is good, it is difficult. But it is fun to play because even (Jasprit) Bumrah, (Mohammed) Siraj and Shami—they enjoy playing us in nets and it is definitely very challenging," he said.

Gill said players having clarity about the roles had helped India record a perfect-10 in this World Cup, adding that the bowlers had made a massive

contribution in the hosts' performance.

"We have been playing together for the past one year or so and, I think, we know our roles quite well and that has been the difference for me personally," he said.

"It has been our bowling attack -- the way they have bowled. They have always either defended the total or restricted the other teams to a below-par score. That has been the difference," Gill said.

The 24-year-old said losing muscle mass during the phase of illness had taken away some energy reserves, which resulted in him getting cramps when he was nearing his century Wednesday.

"I have honestly not really adjusted anything in terms of my batting but because I have lost a bit of muscle mass, I think the reserve that I used to have before the dengue has decreased a little bit," he said.

Australia will face India for the World Cup crown as the two sides will face off in the showpiece final for the second time after 2003, where the Kangaroos had come out victorious

and Starc came in handy. Earlier, under gloomy and windy conditions, South Africa showed familiar signs of choking when their top-four Quinton de Kock (3), Temba Bavuma (0), Rassie van der Dussen (6) and Aiden Markram (10) departed cheaply to have them reeling at 24/4 in 12 overs.

Mitchell Starc (10-1-34-3) and Josh Hazlewood (8-3-12-2) were breathing fire making full use of the conditions, but after a 40-minute rain delay, it was the Miller show – his sixth ODI century and the first one for Proteas in a World Cup knockout game.

His 95-run partnership with Heinrich Klaasen (47) gave South Africa the much-needed respite before part-time off-spinner Head (2/21) turned it on taking two wickets in two balls to dent South Africa's recovery.

After Klaasen, Gerald Coetzee (19) gave a fine support to Miller as they put together quick fifty-plus partnership for the seventh wicket. Running out of partners, Miller finally perished in the 48th over.

BRIEF SCORES

South Africa 212 (David Miller 101, Heinrich Klaasen 47; Mitchell Starc 3/34, Pat Cummins 3/51, Josh Hazlewood 2/12, Travis Head 2/21) lost to Australia 215/7 (Travis Head 62, Steve Smith 30, David Warner 29; Tabraiz Shamsi 2/42, Gerald Coetzee 2/47) by 3 wickets.



Travis Head plays a cut shot during his innings against South Africa, Thursday

Proteas did make a match out of it with a spirited bowling effort before Australia, as they often do, held their nerve to close out the game in 47.2 overs, setting up a mouthwatering showdown against fierce rivals India in Ahmedabad, Sunday.

Living with the chokers' tag for decades, South Africa came up short in another ICC knockout game but were able to take the game right down to the wire. They dropped as many as five tough catching chances, proving to be the difference in a low-scoring game.

Australian skipper Pat Cummins (14 n o) and Mitchell Starc (16 n o) survived some tense moments before taking the team over the line. The win extends Australia's remarkable run in the tournament, having bounced back from defeats in their first two games against

India and South Africa.

Australia began the chase on an aggressive with Travis Head (62, 48b, 9x4, 2x6), and his opening partner David Warner (29) slamming 60 runs in the first six overs. South African spinners brought their team into the game with Aiden Markram (1/23) dismissing Warner and Keshav Maharaj (1/24) ending Head's stay in the middle.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (2/42) then further complicated the matters by taking two big wickets of Marnus Labuschagne (18) and the dangerous Glenn Maxwell to spice up the contest.

At 137/5, Australia had Steve Smith (30) and Josh Inglis (28) in the middle and 74 runs to get before Gerald Coetzee (2/47) brought another twist into the game with twin strikes. In the end, the experience of Cummins



DAVID MILLER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 16: Five-time champions Australia excelled on the big stage yet again as they pulled off a scrappy three-wicket win to shatter South African dreams and reach their eighth ODI World Cup final here Thursday.

On a testing turner, David Miller absorbed extreme pressure on way to a rear-guard 101 (116b, 8x4, 5x6) and take South Africa to a fighting 212 after losing their first four wickets for 24 runs in the second semifinal.

It was a below par total but the

BECKHAM MESMERISED BY WANKHEDE EXPERIENCE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 16: He came, he saw and he left, mesmerised by the electric atmosphere at the Wankhede Stadium, where Rohit Sharma and his men crushed New Zealand to enter the World Cup final.

Football great David Beckham watched the iconic Virat Kohli smash a record-breaking 50th ODI century and Mohammed Shami take seven wickets to break the Blackcaps' resistance.

He was the toast of the crowd when he entered the hallowed ground accompanied by Sachin Tendulkar and cheered by thousands of spectators in the stands.

"Electric, passionate, incredible," is how Beckham described the atmosphere at the Wankhede, which left him unable to decide whether football or cricket fans were louder.

"You know what? I would always say, football fans. But being here today, I'm not so sure. The atmosphere is incredible. The fans are creating an electric atmosphere and they're very loud, so I'm not so sure," Beckham said in a video posted by BCCI Thursday.

Beckham, the Manchester United and Real Madrid icon known for his free-kicks, said the Wankhede experience had left him with goosebumps.

"I think, it's nice to step into a stadium and get goosebumps, and I felt that as soon as I walked into this stadium. There's something about it that maybe because I was walking with Sachin, maybe that made it feel even more special. But you can feel the energy within the stadium even when there wasn't that many people in at the start, you feel the energy," he said.

Williamson lauds 'incredible Shami', India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 16: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson doffed his cap to pacer Mohammed Shami and the India team after his side was outplayed in the World Cup semifinal here, saying that the bowling stalwart was one of the best in the world and Rohit Sharma's side the "best team".

India crushed New Zealand by 70 runs to book their place in the final to be played Sunday. New Zealand could only manage 327 chasing 398, with Shami producing a magical seven-wicket spell (7/57) for his unprecedented third five-wicket haul in the on-going edition (4 in total in WCs).

"He has been incredible. He has only played probably half the games and he might be close to top wicket-taker (position) and coming on first change, behind two outstanding new-ball bowlers," Williamson told the media after the loss.

"He is, without a doubt, one of the top operators in the world and the way he moves the ball and he keeps bringing the stumps into play. It has been quite phenomenal, really, the amount of wickets he has got in such a small amount of games in this tournament.

"That Indian team in all departments are firing without a doubt and I am sure they will be looking forward to their next opportunity in a few days' time," the Kiwi skipper added.

Terming India as the 'best team in the world', Williamson



said it is "tough" on the opposition to see all home team cricketers playing their best cricket.

"They are the best team in the world and they are all playing their best cricket, so that is tough. They have not missed a beat really," he said.

"To come into a semifinal, you go through your round-robin and you try and get to the stage and it starts again but the way they came out and played, yeah, shows the mindset that they have and the space that they are in," he added.

With Virat Kohli entering the record books by notching up his 50th ODI century and surpassing Sachin Tendulkar in the process, Williamson said it was tough to

find words to describe the modern-day great's brilliance.

"(I am) trying to find the words to describe it really, and not just that, actually the way he goes about it, it is about winning games for his team and he is getting close and there is a lot of attention and that comes with a lot of his success," he said.

"He is the best, isn't he? And he seems to be getting better, which is a worry for opposition all around the world, but you admire it," he added.

Williamson brushed aside the controversy around the pitch on which the match was played Wednesday. Hours before India's semifinal at the Wankhede, reports had emerged that the

Prannoy goes down as Indian challenge ends in Japan meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kumamoto (Japan), Nov 16: Indian shuttler HS Prannoy lost a closely-fought second round match against Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei to bow out of the Japan Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here Thursday.

The Asian Games bronze medallist Indian, who returned to action after recovering from a back injury, squandered an opening game advantage to lose 21-19, 16-21, 19-21 to World No.12 Chen in a 73-minute men's singles match that went down the wire. Prannoy's defeat brought curtains on India's campaign at the tournament.

The World No.8 Indian looked in control in the first game as he opened up a 40-lead and managed to stay 11-8 ahead at the break. Chen kept fighting to keep himself close but Prannoy sealed the opening game.

Chen got his act together after the opening reversal and took 5-0 lead quickly. Though Prannoy managed to draw parity at 10-10, Chen reeled off four quick points to create a gap, which the Indian couldn't bridge.

The Chinese Taipei player carried the momentum in the decider, leading 12-4 at one stage. Soon Prannoy produced his trademark fightback to slowly and steadily draw parity at 19-19. Chen, however, recovered in the nick of time to win the decider 21-19 and pocket the match.

Nadal 'will' return to tennis court

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Barcelona, Nov 16: Although the 2023 ATP Tour season is yet to reach its conclusion, with the ATP Finals nearing their final rounds in Turin, Rafael Nadal already has his mind on 2024. After a return to training a few weeks ago, having not competed since the Australian Open and undergone an operation on his iliopectas, the Spanish star has now confirmed that he will play again. He has been working tirelessly toward that goal in recent months.

"I'm well, training, and happy," said the 22-time Grand Slam champion Wednesday. "I'm at a good stage of my life. Until now I didn't know if I would play tennis again someday, and now I genuinely believe I will. I'm still not ready to say when, but



I'm able to train increasingly longer; and the progress is good," he explained.

"We know that the pain will never disappear, but I've taken a step forward," said the Spaniard. "That's a lot for me. Talking about tennis is another matter al-

together, as is the level I'll be able to play at. But the steps toward trying to play again have been big and positive, which is what we have been fighting for several months. I'm confident I'll be able to say something more specific in the coming weeks."

After picking up an injury at the Australian Open and then withdrawing from several tournaments, including Roland Garros, Nadal underwent an operation June 2 in Barcelona and started his long recovery period, from which he is now starting to emerge.

"I've always maintained hope that I would play again," said Nadal. "How much? At what level? It's difficult to answer that. I never lost hope I'd play. Things gradually become clear with the passing of the weeks. At the moment I'm on the right track."

NEHA EXTENDS LEAD IN THE 15TH LEG OF WPGT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 16: Neha Tripathi overcame an early double bogey to bring home a respectable 1-over 73 and extended her lead from two to four shots in the 15th Leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour (WPGT) at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club. Neha (72-73), twice winner this season, is looking for more as she chases the Hero Order of Merit honours. She is now 1-over 145 with one more round to go.

Neha is four shots clear of Ridhima Dilawari, who is still without a win this season. Ridhima had the best round of the day as none of the players have been able to break par on the iconic but challenging RCGC.

Tvesa Malik (74-77) slipped to third place after a horrific start with three bogeys in the first three holes and at 151 she is six shots behind Neha and two behind Ridhima.

Shweta Mansingh with five birdies had one of the better rounds of the day at 73 and rose to the fourth place at 8-over 152. Seher Atwal (79-74) and Khushi Khanijau (79-74) were tied fifth.

Neha began the second day with a birdie on the first, but immediately dropped a double bogey on the Par-3 second, which was playing to 150 yards. She got one shot back on Par-4 fifth and gained another shot with a birdie on the 11th. Then the birdies dried up and she also bogeyed the 12th and the 16th.