



## UNPLEASANT PAST

Ananya Panday recalls her insecurities highlighting the distressing experiences of being bullied during her high school years

LEISURE P2



## SPY SATELLITE

N Korea launches a rocket in what may be its third attempt to put a spy satellite into orbit

INTERNATIONAL P10



## ADVANI REIGNS SUPREME

Indian cueist Pankaj Advani secures the IBSF World Billiards Championship title for a staggering 26th time

SPORTS P12



**ENTERTAINING ENCOUNTER:** Players in action during the 2026 FIFA World Cup second round qualifiers match between India and Qatar at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. The hosts suffered a 0-3 defeat against the Asian champions

## 2 dead, one critical in Bargarh lynching

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bargarh, Nov 21:** In a shocking incident, two youths were beaten to death while another sustained critical injuries in an organised attack by some locals over suspicion of mobile thieves at Sahutikra area under the Town police limits, here, Tuesday. Another youth accompanying them managed to escape.

The deceased were identified as Bijay Bag, 20 and Biku Jal, 22, of Pandripathar area under the Town police limits in the area. Both the bodies have been kept at the morgue of the district headquarters hospital.

Suraj Karmi, 22, who was accompanying them, sustained critical injuries in the attack and was taken the district headquarters hospital. Later, he was shifted to the VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla in Sambalpur district. Doctors treating him stated his condition to be critical.

The irate mob also set the bike of the victims on fire. Chatters were abuzz that the incident occurred after locals suspected the foursome of stealing mobile phones. They gave them a chase and assaulted them brutally with sticks.

On being informed, police rushed to the spot, but, by then, the condition of three youths had already become critical. Police rescued them and rushed them to the Bargarh Urban Community Health Centre in the town where doctors pronounced Bijay dead.

An investigation has been launched into the incident Bargarh Rural police station IIC Ismail Ekka said.

## NCERT panel for Ramayana, Mahabharata in textbooks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** Epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata should be included in social sciences textbooks and the Preamble of the Constitution written on classroom walls, a high-level National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) panel has recommended, according to its chairperson CI Issac.

The seven-member committee, which was constituted last year, has made several

recommendations for its final position paper on social sciences, which is a key prescriptive document for laying down the foundation for the development of new textbooks.

The NCERT has not taken a call on the recommendations yet. "The panel has stressed on teaching epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata in the social sciences syllabus to students. We think that students in their teenage years build their self esteem, patriotism and pride for their nation," Issac said.

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## Winter Session begins

**Bhubaneswar:** The Winter Session of the Assembly Tuesday began with obituary references to five former members and two slain jawans. Senior BJD leader Saluga Pradhan was elected unopposed as the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. The ruling BJD and Congress also held their legislature party meetings to prepare their strategies for the session, which will continue till December 30. As soon as the House assembled, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik moved a condolence motion, which was supported by BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi, Congress legislature party leader Narasingha Mishra and CPI (M) member Laxman Munda. The members paid tributes to former Speaker Maheswar Mohanty and ex-deputy minister Saraswati Pradhan among others.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I had to lie about India win. The correct prediction would have the so-called nationalists baying for my blood

# Light in the tunnel

Day 10: Men trapped in Uttarkashi tunnel come on camera; focus back on drilling through rubble

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Uttarkashi/New Delhi, Nov 21:** As the first visuals of the 41 workers trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel emerged Tuesday, officials said the focus of the multiple-agency rescue mission remains on digging horizontally through the debris of the collapsed stretch.

However, rescue workers continued to prepare for other options - including drilling from above the tunnel to reach the workers trapped inside for nine days.

Horizontal drilling through the debris was put on hold last Friday afternoon after the heavy duty auger machine encountered a hard boulder, making rescue agency consider other approaches as well.

But Tuesday, remarks by National Disaster Management Authority member Lt General (retd) Syed Ata Hasnain, Road Transport and Highways secretary Anurag Jain and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami made it clear that resuming this paused



operation was the main priority. At the disaster site in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district, a video clip captured by an endoscopic camera sent in through a new six-inch wide pipeline brought hope to relatives who are camping there for days.

The pipeline was pushed late Monday through 53 metres of debris - the collapsed stretch of the under-construction tunnel on the Char Dham route.

In the video released by rescue agencies, the workers wearing

yellow and white helmets are seen receiving food items sent to them through the pipeline and talking to each other.

Officials watching them on a screen are heard giving instructions, asking them to clean the lens. The workers are told to come near the camera and use walkie-talkies, apparently sent down earlier. The camera is then pulled back up so that water can be released under pressure to clean the pipeline.

Relatives have talked earlier

to the trapped workers through the four-inch compressor tube that already existed. Food items like dry fruit were also being sent through that thinner pipe.

But the new 'lifeline' has come as a morale booster. Communication is much better and larger quantities of food can now be sent in. According to officials, food items like dalia, khichdi, sliced apples and bananas can be sent in through the new pipeline. Also, mobile phones and chargers could also be sent to the workers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to CM Dhama Tuesday, the second day in a row, to enquire about the progress of the rescue effort.

In Delhi, NDMA member Lt General (retd) Hasnain said simultaneous efforts are being made on five fronts to save the workers.

International tunneling expert Arnold Dix, who is at the site, said vertical drilling demanded precision. While drilling from the top, even a small mistake could mean missing the tunnel, he said.

## Naveen inaugurates AIFF-FIFA Academy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 21:** In a major boost to development of football in India, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, along with FIFA's chief of Global Football Development Arsene Wenger, inaugurated the AIFF-FIFA Talent Academy at Kalinga Stadium here, Tuesday.

The inauguration was held on the sidelines of the 2026 FIFA World Cup second round qualifiers between India and Qatar.

A total of 50 under-14 football players - including 15 from Odisha - from across the country will be selected for training at the facility to be headed by a FIFA-appointed coach, officials said.

Naveen said, "Football is a popular game in India, especially among the younger generation. There is a lot of talent in football in India, and with proper coaching facilities, our team can perform very well in the future."

"I'm happy that we are able to partner with FIFA and AIFF to create such an academy. Odisha will support football projects



and work in close collaboration with AIFF for football promotion in India," he said.

5T Chairman VK Pandian, Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera, All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey, Chief Secretary PK Jena, Development Commissioner Anu Garg and Sports Commissioner-cum-Secretary R Vineel Krishna were among those present at the programme.

Earlier in the day the AIFF and the state government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the AIFF-FIFA Talent Academy at the premises of Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. **MORE P12**

## Parl panel nod to Hindi names for proposed criminal laws

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** A parliamentary panel has held that the Hindi names given to the three proposed criminal laws is not unconstitutional, dismissing criticism against the move by some political parties and their leaders.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs headed by BJP MP Brijlal has taken note of the wording of Article 348 of the Constitution, which says that the language to be used in the Supreme Court and in the high courts, as well as for Acts, Bills and other legal documents shall be in English language.

"The committee finds that as the text of the Sanhita is in

English, it does not violate the provisions of Article 348 of the Constitution. The committee is satisfied with the response of the Ministry of Home Affairs and holds that the name given to the proposed legislation is not in violation of Article 348 of the Constitution of India," the panel said in its report submitted to Rajya Sabha.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS-2023), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS-2023) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA-2023) were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11.

The proposed laws will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively.

## Vir Das wins first Emmy for best comedy

THE ACTOR-COMEDIAN SHARES TROPHY WITH BRITISH TEEN SITCOM 'DERRY GIRLS' SEASON 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** Actor-comic Vir Das has become the first Indian to win the International Emmy Award for his Netflix stand-up special 'Vir Das: Landing' in the best comedy category and has dedicated the honour to his home country, India.

The 51st International Emmy Awards Gala was held at the New York Hilton Midtown in New York City late Monday night.

This was the second nomination and maiden win in the segment for Das, who shared the trophy with popular British teen sitcom 'Derry Girls' season three.

Das said he has immense gratitude holding the International Emmy trophy for best comedy for 'Vir Das: Landing', his fourth

stand-up special with the streamer.

"This one is for my team and for Netflix without whom this wouldn't have been possible."

"This journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, and to win this accolade for my fifth special with Netflix feels like a culmination of passion, perseverance, and the undying support of people around the globe who have given so much love to 'Vir Das: Landing'," the comedian said in a statement.

Das, also known for films such as 'Go Goa Gone' and 'Delhi Belly', won the award for 'Vir Das: Landing', a show about what it means to be truly global while looking for home. His last stand-up special 'Vir Das: For India' was nominated for an



International Emmy in the best comedy category in 2021.

This award is not just a recognition of his work but a celebration of the diverse stories and voices from India, he said.

"Stories that make us laugh, reflect, and, most importantly, unite. This one is for India, for Indian comedy and for the community of artists at large," the comic added.

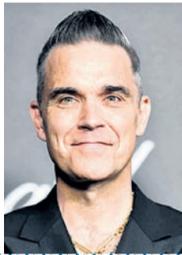
The other nominees in the best comedy category were 'El Encargado' from Argentina and French show 'Le Flambeau' season two. Every year, the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences conducts the International Emmys with the aim to honour 'the world's best television'.

Renowned producer Ekta Kapoor was honoured with the International Emmy Directorate Award for significant contribution to the world of arts and entertainment. Before Kapoor, media baron Subhash Chandra was presented with the Directorate Award in 2011. Shefali Shah and Jim Sarbh were the other Indian artists to be nominated at the annual international awards ceremony.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	65930.77 ↑ 275.62
NIFTY	19783.40 ↑ 89.40
DOLLAR	83.34 ↓ ₹0.04
EURO	91.19 ↑ ₹0.11
GOLD	₹61,209 ↑ ₹552
SILVER	₹ 73,287 ↑ ₹643

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 27.7°C	28.6°C
	MIN 20.4°C	21.0°C
Humidity	86%	79%
Rainfall	0.6mm	Nil
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	

# leisure



## ROBBIE WANTED TO BE A FOOTBALLER

English singer and songwriter Robbie Williams wanted to be a footballer but now realises he has the 'best job' in the world as he continues to sell out stadiums more than three decades into his pop career.

## NICHOLAS HOULT IN TALKS TO PLAY LEX LUTHOR IN SUPERMAN: LEGACY

Actor Nicholas Hoult may play the Man of Steel's arch nemesis - Lex Luthor in *Superman: Legacy*, completing the core cast for the superhero reboot, with David Corenswet and Rachel Brosnahan already set to play Clark Kent and Lois Lane, reports Variety.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
If you are about to begin some important work, today is not the day, says Ganesh. But keep yourself motivated, despite minor problems. Do something you've never done before. Think out-of-the-box: grow your own mint, make some chocolates.

**TAURUS**  
You are hard working by nature but get highly frustrated when things do not end the way you had imagined, feels Ganesh. This may lead to anger against the system or the order in which things work. You will vent your frustration on your routine by longing for an alternate lifestyle, wishing and hoping for more relaxation and perhaps a spontaneous vacation.

**GEMINI**  
You are likely to take your time and read a situation carefully before you take any important decisions, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you may go on a pleasure trip to recharge your batteries.

**CANCER**  
Both your physical and mental health will remain stable today, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you may meet one of your clients for lunch. It is an auspicious day to propose and finalise wedding dates, hopes Ganesh.

**LEO**  
Necessity is the mother of invention, and today, you will draw from your large pool of scientific and technological knowledge to achieve your goals at work. Family matters will keep you occupied in the afternoon, but do not let that come in the way of your evening activities that get your blood flowing through the veins, such as dance or music lessons.

**VIRGO**  
The tempest of anger runs wild. You are most likely to blow hotter than Mount Vesuvius ever did, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you may chalk out a big business plan. Peers will stand by your side at the workplace. But in the evening, try spending your time meditating and cooling those nerves, advises Ganesh.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says the first blush of love will make your mind blissful today. You will be able to gain closeness with your beloved today. The afternoon will see you try to take part in religious matters. Ganesh says that today will be a good day to listen to religious discourses and make your mind and heart follow God.

**SCORPIO**  
Power packed day in store for you, according to Ganesh. Your flamboyant attitude at work would leave your team mates awestruck. Your energy level is at an all-time high, which would find its way to the dance floor in the evening.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A delightfully emotional experience would stir up your soul today. Later perhaps, success will touch your feet either through the electronic media or through a brilliant idea. Love will steam and bubble as you expect to be asked out by your prospective life mate, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You will do a commendable job solving complicated problems at work, says Ganesh. In keeping with the circumstances, you will be spontaneous in coming up with solutions to pressing issues; and so accurate you may be in your assumptions about a likely situation that in future, your peers and subordinates will blindly accept whatever proposal you table.

**AQUARIUS**  
Explore the world today, as luck is standing by your side and everything you touch will turn into gold, be it in your business or profession, foresees Ganesh. You are trying too hard to succeed, and you may get tempted to compromise on your moral values.

**PISCES**  
You will find yourself in a good mood today. Your co-workers will also enjoy being around you. You will be able to influence people for the positive with your respectful demeanor and your sense of humor. You could find yourself splurging on yourself at a spa or a beauty parlor, says Ganesh.

## Big B nostalgic about pre-smartphone era

**New Delhi:** Top actor Amitabh Bachchan, who is known for sharing anecdotes from his personal life, once again got nostalgic on the sets of *Kaun Banega Crorepati 15*, and shared how during his childhood days there were no smartphones, and had limited options as a child. In the juniors special segment of the quiz-based reality show, Big B welcomed Shreyashee Banerjee from Sundargarh, Odisha to the hot seat.

During the episode, the actor displayed Shreyashee's report card which said she dislikes smartphones.

Amitabh said: "You dislike smartphones. Why do you dislike smartphones?"

The contestant said: "It just contains a few apps. We surf them at short intervals. Our

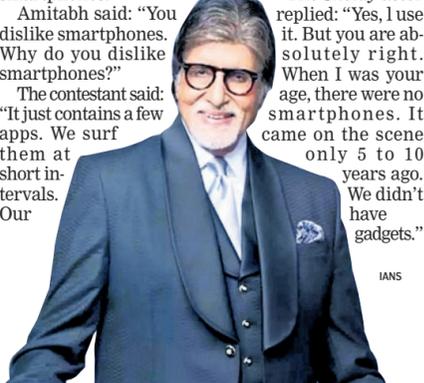
real world is far better where we can discover unlimited things. And we are discovering."

"My parents also use smartphones. My dad uses it for his work and my mom relaxes on a sofa after work and checks her smartphone. I don't like the fact that they remain busy with their work and don't spend time with me," she shared.

Big B said to her parents: "Her complaint is now public. Please be attentive towards her."

The little girl then asked Amitabh Bachchan: "Are you also addicted to the smartphone?"

The *Sholay* actor replied: "Yes, I use it. But you are absolutely right. When I was your age, there were no smartphones. It came on the scene only 5 to 10 years ago. We didn't have gadgets."



## Radhika on being a juror at TBNFF

**Mumbai:** Actress Radhika Madan attended the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (TBNFF) as a juror recently and remarked that her whole perspective had changed on films as she was now the one who was judging.

Thankful for the opportunity of being able to attend the prestigious affair, Radhika penned a heartfelt note, expressing her gratitude to the jury, the organisers, and reflected on her own personal growth.

Expressing her appreciation for the platform that allowed her to celebrate, the actress penned a note on her Instagram, and wrote: "The perfect end to the most amazing 12 days of my life! Watching more than 16 films,

meeting some phenomenal individuals and creating a lifetime of memories. I was here last year with Sanaa, I know how it feels to be on the other side with the nerves, anticipation and anxiety and now being on this side, as a Jury member I realised how limited my view was last year."

Concluding her remarks, Radhika added, "For taking the blame (when the film doesn't win/work) and owning the success (when it does) it can never be done alone. It's always viewing a film as an amalgamation of every aspect of film making coming together as a whole and creating magic. There is no formula."

# Ananya recalls her insecurities

**Mumbai:** Ananya Pandey candidly addressed the challenges she faces dealing with body shaming and the pervasive negativity prevalent on social media platforms. In a heartfelt interview with Elle, she reflected on her insecurities, notably highlighting the distressing experiences of being bullied during her high school years.

Ananya confessed that she continues to grapple with body insecurities, citing instances when comments or her personal feelings would trigger bouts of insecurity regarding her physique.

Expressing concerns about the bad impact of social media, Ananya revealed the toll of constant information overload, admitting how the negativity gradually builds up. In response, she has adopted a firm approach, taking charge of her mental well-being

by actively muting or unfollowing pages that provoke feelings of anxiety or sadness, a decision she described as growing 'quite ruthless.'

The *Liger* actress shed light on the discomfort she felt due to her physique and the derogatory comments she endured. Despite these challenges, she emphasized her journey toward self-acceptance, stating, "Now I am comfortable in my skin."

Recalling incidents where she felt uncomfortable and ridiculed for her slender frame, Ananya bravely shared her

struggles with body image and how such experiences in school have fortified her against the impact of online trolls, fostering resilience in the face of adversity.

On the work front, Ananya Pandey's previous outing was with the movie *Dream Girl 2*.



## Kriti: Sets have always been my happy place

**Mumbai:** Kriti Kharbanda, who recently made news for her glam look at a Diwali bash, took to her social media to share her excitement with fans as she begins the shoot schedule for her next *Risky Romeo*.

Kriti expressed her enthusiasm for the upcoming shoot in a social media post where she tagged the entire team of the film including the producers, as she wrote, "@abirsenguptaa @anushreemehtaa @mesunnysingh I'm coming to you! #riskyromeo Let the adventure begin!"

The actress is gearing up to embark an interesting journey as the shoot of the film kicks off on November 22. Excited about the film, Kriti had earlier shared about signing up for the venture saying, "Sets have always been my happy place and I can't wait to face the camera. I am very excited and really looking forward to working with this wonderful team. I've always given priority to the script and character, and I look forward to the challenge Abir has set for me. This script of *Risky Romeo* is special for more reasons than one and I can't wait for the world to see it unfold."

Produced by Anushree Mehta, *Risky Romeo* is neo-noir comic tragedy which promises to be a unique blend of romance and suspense, and Kriti's post has only heightened the anticipation about this venture.



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

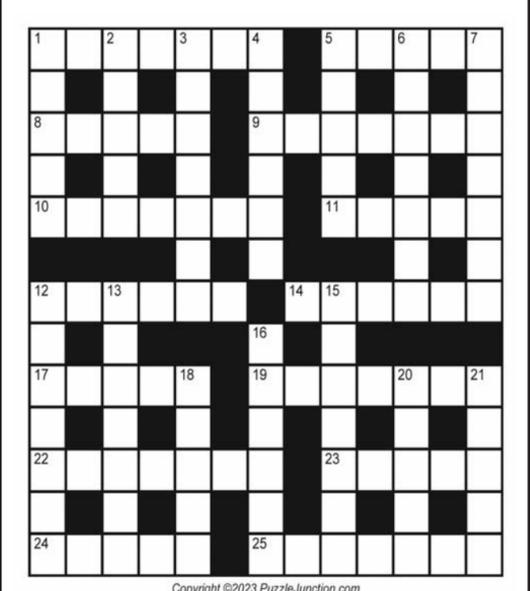


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



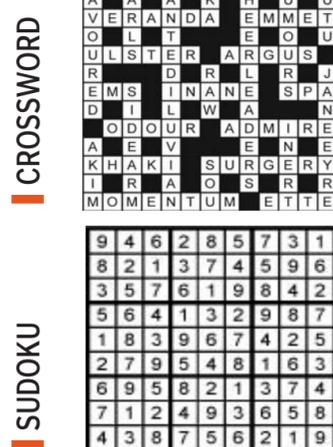
- Across**
- 1 Square-rigged sailing ship
  - 5 Fools
  - 8 Thespian
  - 9 Olga Korbut, e.g.
  - 10 Music hall
  - 11 Requires
  - 12 Nest site
  - 14 Weather report
  - 17 Discomfit
  - 19 Peach grove
  - 22 Printing dagger
  - 23 Ruth's mother-in-law
  - 24 Stinks
  - 25 Mexican peninsula
  - 4 Lump of gold
  - 5 Fiend
  - 6 Tableland
  - 7 Appease
  - 12 Sleeping room
  - 13 Abstemious
  - 15 Concise
  - 16 Racetrack worker
- Down**
- 1 Payola
  - 2 Shop tool
  - 3 Inconsistent
  - 18 Flip side?
  - 20 Skyward
  - 21 Condescend

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## 2,817 WILD ANIMALS DIED IN 5 YRS

40 PER CENT POSTS IN FOREST DEPARTMENT LYING VACANT: MINISTER AMAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 21:** Four tigers, 430 elephants and 31 leopards were among 2,817 wild animals that died in the state during the last five years, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat said Tuesday.

Replying to a question by BJP member Kusum Tete, Amat told the Assembly that these deaths,

DHENKANAL FOREST DIVISION LOST THE HIGHEST (231) NUMBER OF ANIMALS, FOLLOWED BY CHILIKA WILDLIFE DIVISION (220) & ATHAGARH FOREST DIVISION (155)

which happened between 2018-19 and 2022-23, were caused by various reasons, including diseases, electrocution, rail and road accidents, poaching and poisoning.

While 639 wild animals died in 2018-19, 475 died in 2019-20 and 586 died in 2020-21. The state recorded



532 deaths in 2021-22, and 585 deaths in 2022-23, the Forest Minister said in a written reply. Dhenkanal forest division lost the highest (231) number of animals, followed by Chilika wildlife division (220) and Athagarh forest division (155), he added.

Replying to another question, Amat said that of the total 12,621 sanctioned posts in the Forest department, 5,058 are lying vacant, which is 40.07 per cent. There are 210 vacant posts in Group-A, 410 in Group-B, 4,001 in Group-C and 437 in Group-D, he said.

### House gets new Deputy Speaker

Senior BJD leader Saluga Spradhan was Tuesday elected unopposed as the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

The two-time MLA from G Udayagiri constituency in Kandhamal district filed his nomination paper Monday and was the lone contestant for the post.

Speaker Pramila Mallik declared Pradhan elected uncontested as the deputy Speaker of the Assembly.

With this development, the Assembly now has a Dalit Speaker and a tribal deputy Speaker. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik congratulated Pradhan and said, "The Assembly is an exalted pillar of democracy. All of us should uphold the dignity of this august House by our conduct. I request all our honourable members to extend their support and cooperation wholeheartedly to the deputy speaker in discharging his duties."

Pradhan, after his election, said, "I will try to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly. I will respect the opinions of members of both ruling and opposition parties."

Senior Congress MLA Dasarathi Gamang and BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi, both tribals, congratulated Pradhan and vowed to cooperate with him.

The post of deputy Speaker had fallen vacant after the resignation of Rajanikant Singh November 8 citing personal reasons.

### EMPOWERING WOMEN

Mission Shakti Block Level Federation group leaders during a photo op with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, on the eve of their visit to Dubai



### POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## System in place for crowd control, elderly care: SJTA

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 21:** After drawing flak from several quarters for failing to manage the huge crowd in front of Puri Srimandir and urging elderly devotees not to visit the shrine, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) and the district administration Tuesday said that steps are being taken to control the crowd and help the elderly devotees.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das said that a public address system has been put in place Tuesday to inform devotees at regular intervals about the crowd situation from Lion's Gate to Marichikote Chhak, about 500 metre away. The Grand Road will be barricaded between the two points, he added.

Das said devotees may also come to the information centre at the Lion's Gate and assess the situation before entering the temple.

Puri Collector Samarth Verma said the administration has engaged more volunteers since Tuesday to help the elderly devotees. Temporary toilets have been set up for devotees on both sides of the Grand Road, which leads to the temple, he added.

It was also decided that makeshift shops on the road will be closed for five days during 'Panchuka' (the last five days of Kartika month) in view of the heavy rush of devotees visiting temple.

A total of 40 platoons of the police will be deployed during 'Panchuka' and vehicular movement will not be allowed on the Grand Road towards the temple, Verma said.

DIG (Central Range) Ashish Singh said necessary measures are being taken to ensure the safety and security of the devotees during the five days.

Meanwhile, the opposition BJP and Congress Tuesday held the state government responsi-



MAKESHIFT SHOPS ON THE ROAD WILL BE CLOSED FOR FIVE DAYS DURING 'PANCHUKA' IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY RUSH OF DEVOTEES VISITING TEMPLE

40 PLATOONS OF THE POLICE WILL BE DEPLOYED DURING 'PANCHUKA' AND VEHICULAR MOVEMENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON THE GRAND ROAD TOWARDS THE TEMPLE

TEMPORARY TOILETS HAVE BEEN SET UP FOR DEVOTEES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE GRAND ROAD, WHICH LEADS TO THE TEMPLE

tees. SJTA chief administrator's appeal to elderly devotees to refrain from entering the temple with a crowd has added fuel to the ongoing debate.

The Congress hit out at the Odisha government Tuesday and termed the SJTA chief's appeal as 'illegal'.

BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said his party will raise the issue in the Assembly. "It is unfortunate that the SJTA appealed to the elderly people not to visit the temple. It is not acceptable," he added.

The SJTA chief later said his statement was misinterpreted. "We welcome devotees of all sections, including elderly persons. Shed and other arrangements are made for the smooth darshan of the deities," he said.

BJD leader Sudhir Samal said that the state government will open all the gates of the temple at the "appropriate time".

"It is natural that the number of devotees increases during the month of Kartika. For this some problems are created," Samal said.

Another BJD leader said that three temple gates barring the Lion's Gate (Singhadwara) are closed due to the ongoing heritage project work.

### Obituary references on Day 1 of Winter Session

**BHUBANESWAR:** The Winter Session of the Odisha Assembly began with obituary references to five former members and two slain jawans, Tuesday.

The ruling BJD and opposition Congress also held their legislature party meetings to prepare their strategies for the session, which will continue till December 30.

As soon as the House assembled, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik moved a condolence motion, which was supported by BJP whip Mohan Majhi, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra and CPI(M) member Laxman Munda.

The members paid tributes to former Odisha Assembly speaker Maheswar Mohanty, ex-deputy minister Saraswati Pradhan, ex-government chief whip Ajaya Kumar Jena, former MLAs Rabi Das and Yudhistir Samantaraya, and slain jawans Saroj Kumar Das and Prakash Chandra

Sial, who hailed from the state. The House offered one-minute silence to the departed souls.

"Mohanty was a popular leader with high organisational skills. He played an important role in the development of Puri. As the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly, he had set high standards to uphold the parliamentary democratic tradition," Patnaik said.

As a minister, Mohanty left an indelible mark on the functioning of various departments he held, the CM said.

Majhi said Mohanty was an able and unbiased Speaker and he had taken strong decisions to protect the dignity of the House during his stint. CLP leader Narasingha Mishra said, "Mohanty was the best Speaker I have seen in this House and he had given many historic rulings during his tenure." The Speaker adjourned the proceedings till Wednesday.

BJD AND CONGRESS HELD THEIR LEGISLATURE PARTY MEETINGS TO PREPARE THEIR STRATEGIES FOR THE SESSION, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TILL DECEMBER 30

## Green crusader Sneha Shahi on a mission

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 21:** The adverse impact of climate change is now being felt globally while global warming has become a major cause of concern. Given the backdrop, Dharitri, the most credible and impartial regional daily of Odisha which is turning 50 this year, initiates steps to create awareness among the youth about this most urgent issue of climate change by hosting the third edition of Dharitri Youth Conclave November 24, 2023 at the Rail Auditorium here.

This year's conclave brings together youth icons and environmentalists to discuss climate emergency and the path ahead. The expert panelists include environmentalist Sneha Shahi, managing editor of Down To Earth magazine Richard Mahapatra, conservationist and Forest Man of India Padma Shri Javav Payeng, and environment activist & founder of Environmental Foundation of India (EFI) Arun Krishnamurthy.



One of the brightest examples of youths fighting to save the earth from pollution is Sneha Shahi. Hailing from Gujarat, Sneha is one of the 18 young activists affiliated with UNEP's Plastic Tide Turner Campaign and winner of the Youth for Earth Award.

Growing up in Gujarat, Sneha was always a girl who showed keen interest in environmental activities. In 2019, Sneha led a team of volunteers to clean up the Bhukhi stream, linked to Vishwamitri river in Vadodara,

to remove 700 kg of plastic waste, following which crocodiles that were part of the waters, began to appear regularly.

Sneha, who is pursuing her PhD in Extreme Hydrological Events at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, is on a mission to re-



live the waterbody. "The best advice I can give young people is to channel their empathy and passion into working towards a greater cause. The planet is dying and there are solutions, but there is no implementation. So, if people can work towards effective execution of plans and policies, that would be wonderful," she opined.

### Richard Mahapatra to grace Youth Conclave

Down To Earth managing editor Richard Mahapatra will be among the expert panelists of the 'Dharitri Youth Conclave 2023 - Climate Change: The Path Ahead' scheduled to be held November 24. Associated with the fortnightly since 1997, Mahapatra has writing extensively on rural affairs and development matters. His reporting analyses and discusses development at village level in the wider context of national and global changes. Launched by environmentalist Anil Agarwal in 1992 with a commitment to make people aware of the challenges of environment and development and create informed change agents, the magazine is being assisted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). Noted environmentalist Sunita Narain, also the director general at CSE, is the current editor of Down To Earth.



## Sapan tried to kill my daughter earlier: Madhusmita's mother

HUBBY ATTACKS WIFE IN CITY

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 21:** The mother of Madhusmita Das, 26, who was stabbed by her husband at her office in Baramunda area here Monday, alleged Tuesday that accused Sapan Kar, 35, had made several attempts earlier to kill her daughter. She also stated that Sapan's brother had recently threatened over phone to eliminate the entire family.

Sapan has been arrested produced before a local court here, said the police.

Meanwhile, Madhusmita, a native of Khaira area in Balasore district, had lodged a

complaint with Soro police in 2018 following which a case under Section 498 A (Husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) of IPC was registered.

Bharatpur police officials have registered a case under Section 307, 324 and 341 of IPC in connection with Monday's incident.

Speaking to media, the victim's mother said, "Sapan asked my daughter to meet outside her office and sign the divorce papers. My daughter agreed and met him outside the office. Following a heated exchange between them, Sapan attacked her with a knife multiple times." Assistant Commissioner of

Police (ACP) Zone-II PK Rout said, "The police team reached the spot on receiving information from office staff about the incident. A critically injured Madhusmita was rushed to Capital Hospital where she is being treated."

Sources said Madhusmita and Sapan - parents of a 5-year-old boy - were living apart after marriage due to marital discord. After receiving news of his uncle's death, Sapan arrived in Bhubaneswar from Pune, where he was working at a restaurant.

Sapan had informed Madhusmita to attend the final rites of his uncle. However, Madhusmita failed to attend the ceremony which angered Sapan and prompted him to commit the crime, said police officials.

## Singapore received 94,332 Indian tourists in Oct

A total of 94,332 Indian tourists visited Singapore in October, up from 81,014 in the preceding month, according to a media report Tuesday.

India was rated as a third tourist-generating market for Singapore, overtaking Malaysia and Australia.

"A total of 94,332 Indian tourists visited Singapore in October, up from 81,014 in the preceding month. It took over countries such as Malaysia and Australia," said the data released by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB).

Malaysia, which came in fourth, with 88,641 tourist arrivals, down from 89,384 in September.

Australia, which rounded out the top five, was the source of 88,032 visitors, down from 104,497 in the preceding month. So far in 2023, Singapore has



THE NEXT LARGEST SOURCE COUNTRY WAS CHINA, FROM WHICH 1,22,764 VISITORS HAILED IN OCTOBER, DROPPING FROM 135,677 IN SEPTEMBER

welcomed some 11.3 million visitor arrivals, against the 12 million to 14 million arrivals that STB expects to hit in the full year, according to the media reports.

Overall, Singapore's international visitor arrivals slipped month on month for the third consecutive month to 11,25,948 in

October, the report said.

This was a touch lower than the 11,30,757 visitors posted in September - but still 37.8 per cent higher than the 816,833 visitors recorded in October 2022.

Tourism arrival patterns in 2023 reflect seasonal trends - a boost in July and August from inbound Chinese arrivals, before

tapering in September and October - which were also observed pre-pandemic, said DBS Bank analyst Geraldine Wong.

Indonesia was again the top source of visitors to Singapore in October, with 1,80,881 tourists visiting from the country. This marked a jump from 1,75,601 tourists in September.

The next largest source country was China, from which 1,22,764 visitors hailed in October, dropping from 135,677 in September.

Wong noted nuances in the Chinese outbound footprint in recent months due to safety concerns travelling to both Thailand and Japan.

"This may have diverted some footprint into Singapore instead in the immediate term," the report quoted Wong as saying.

However, she believes that this was not enough to offset the seasonality patterns.

FUND STACK 3.0

Rai: Building ecosystem with optimal resources

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: Startup Odisha, an initiative of the MSME department, kick started Fund Stack 3.0, a two-day annual startup investment summit here, Tuesday.

The programme began with a roundtable featuring industry stalwarts including Startup Odisha executive chairman Omkar Rai and MSME Principal Secretary Saswat Mishra along with representatives from SIDBI. Speaking on the occasion, Rai said, "The goal of Fund Stack 3.0 is to seamlessly channel capital to startups through strategic connections with prominent investors. The core purpose of this event is to not only unlock funding opportunities for our startups, harness the Odisha Growth Startup Fund effectively but also to provide mentorship and guidance to our startups from notable investors. We are committed to building an ecosystem with optimal, built-in resources that empower startups in the state to not only grow but also thrive."

Mishra, in his address, said, "With Fund Stack 3.0, we invite investors to infuse capital into the growing startup ecosystem of the state. This is an excellent time to invest in our state as we have grown from strength to strength in every sector over



the last couple of years."

The session engaged in exploring the intricacies of Odisha's evolving startup ecosystem, delving into the advantages of the Odisha Startup Grant Fund (OSGF), and shedding light on the driving forces propelling the state's entrepreneurial growth.

Thereafter, significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were forged with Equanimity Ventures and Sanchi Connect, marking the initiation of impactful strategic partnerships geared towards fostering innovation in the region.

The collaboration with Equanimity Ventures focuses on the preparation of startups for investment, ensuring their readiness for the dynamic landscape. Concurrently, the partnership with Sanchi Connect is tailored to empower startups

through a comprehensive acceleration programme, facilitating their growth trajectory.

Further, the day unfolded with vibrant Panel Pitching sessions hosted across multiple meeting rooms. Startup luminaries showcased their innovations to prominent investment firms such as Unicorn India Ventures, Mumbai Angels, Orios Ventures, IvyCap Ventures, Startup Xseed, Inflection Point Ventures, Indian Angel Network, and more.

As many as 50 startups from various industries such as DeepTech, HealthTech, Edutech, E-commerce and food aggregators participated in the programme. As the day progressed, the summit reached a pivotal moment with top 20 startups getting an opportunity for exclusive one-on-one meetings November 22 marked by speed dating and networking sessions.

MoU for modeling of Brahmani river delta

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: State Water Resources department (DoWR) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IIT, Guwahati to conduct a physical and mathematical river modeling study for the Brahmani River delta rejuvenation, informed an official Tuesday.

The MoU was signed by Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty of the department and Sibasish Dutta of IIT, Guwahati in presence of DoWR, Commerce and Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu and development commissioner-cum-additional chief secretary Anu Garg.

"The MoU will help us with construction of proposed in-stream storage structures (ISS) in the rivers which will ultimately ensure water availability to the people of the area," said Minister Sahu at the signing event.

Notably, Brahmani, the 2nd largest river of Odisha, forms at the confluence of Sankha and South Koel rivers at Rourkela in Sundargarh. Catchment is contributed by Odisha (57 per cent), Jharkhand (40 per cent) and Chhatisgarh (3 per cent). The



river flows through Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jajpur and Kendrapara. At 130 km of the river's flow, a dam has been constructed at Rengali and a barrage at Samal about 35 km downstream of Rengali Dam. The released water from Samal barrage, as well as that from intermediate catchment, flows into the deltaic area at Pankapal. Then the water bifur-

cates into two arms, Brahmani to the right and Kharasuan to the left. "Kharasuan draws major chunk of water flow as the Brahmani bed is at higher level compared to that of Kharasuan. This leads to continuous siltation and less or no flow even during medium flood as well as non monsoon period," informed the official.

To ensure flow in both the rivers, the department has proposed to take rejuvenation work through construction of Integrated ISS at Jenapur and Jokadia. "Model study is felt necessary prior to construction of the structures for ascertaining any unseen technical aspects for proper functioning of the structures and proportionate distribution of flow to rejuvenate the river system," said the official.

BPUT holds 22nd Foundation Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: The Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT) observed its 22nd Foundation Day in Rourkela, Tuesday.

The occasion was graced by Vedanta Ltd president Tapan Kumar Chand while BPUT vice chancellor Amiya Kumar Rath presided over the function.

In his address, Chand paid rich tributes to the legendary and visionary architect of modern Odisha, Biju Patnaik.

He also wished the students asking them to front lead the efforts in creating employment opportunities by becoming employer rather than employee.

He said that young technocrats of BPUT should develop strong industry connect through industry visit, internship and outreach engagements to understand the need of industry and develop their product accordingly. University Register Poonam Minz presented the annual report. TCS Chief Architect and Partner Swarup Rath spoke on qualities of a good professional and the benefit of listening.

OUTR vice chancellor Bibhuti Bhushan Biswal was also present on this occasion.



IN MEMORIAM: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pays floral tributes at the statue of former chief minister and 'Utkal Keshari' Harekrushna Mahatab on his 124th birth anniversary at Odisha Legislative Assembly in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

BMC training for SDA members

Bhubaneswar: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) launched its capacity-building training program to educate slum dweller association (SDA) members on varied aspects related to community development. The program is set to cover three zones of the City by December end. Additional Commissioner Zone III, Suryawansi Mayur Vikash at South East Zone office inaugurated the program here, Tuesday. The exercise is aimed at skilling individuals for effective management of Jaga Mission in slums across the City. The training is scheduled for a smooth run through comprehensive guidance to three key members from each SDA such as President, Secretary, and Treasurer. During the session, experts will address SDA members for successful implementation of initiatives under nine verticals of JAGA mission which includes-Road, Drain, IHT (Toilet), In-House Electricity, Street Light, Piped Water Connection, Parichaya, Open Space Development, and Child Play Equipments.

2 awards to state for sanitation initiatives

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: For its initiatives to ensure welfare of sanitation workers and make the sector more inclusive, Odisha has won two awards at the Annual India Sanitation Coalition (ISC) - FICCI Sanitation Awards ceremony in New Delhi recently.

Housing and Urban Development department's 'GARIMA programme' for safety, dignity and welfare of core sanitation workers (CSWs) won in the 'best skilling initiative in sanitation' category while Meghna Sahoo, president of Transgender Swikruti SHG, that manages the faecal sludge septage plant (FSTP) at Basuaghai in Bhubaneswar, was awarded in the 'Women Changemakers in Sanitation' category.

Senior officials from the H&UD department attended the award ceremony along with the awardees.

"The Housing and Urban Development Department had



launched the GARIMA Scheme in 2020 to empower sanitation workers across the value chain. The scheme ensures the dignity and welfare of 20,000 core sanitation workers exposed to hazardous working conditions including close contact with faecal sludge in toilets, septic tanks and sewer treatment facilities," said a department official.

Meghna Sahoo, at the helm of self-help group (SHG) Swikruti, played a pivotal role in managing the operation and maintenance of the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) and de-sludging services for BMC. The SHG efficiently oversees 10 cesspool vehicles, extending doorstep services across the city.

E-Office launched in 52 govt offices

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 21: In a move to usher in more efficient, effective and transparent inter-government and intra-government transactions and processes, the Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena launched e-Office in 52 government offices including 41 subordinate offices, here Tuesday.

The e-Office is being implemented under the 5T initiative of the General Administration and Public Grievances Department.

The offices where e-Office was

launched included Directorate of Fisheries, Startup Odisha: OSIC Ltd, MS Law University, Rajendra University, Odisha Coal & Power Ltd, Animal Disease Research Institute, Veterinary Officers' Training Institute, Odisha Livestock Resource Development Society, and Frozen Semen Bank and Odisha Biological Product Institute.

It is worth mentioning here that e-Office has been implemented in 1016 offices in Odisha. It is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Programme of the government.



E-Office is developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and implemented by CMGI in Odisha.

E-Office is built as single reusable system by bringing together independent functions and systems under a single framework to enhance transparency, increase accountability and transform the government

work culture and ethics.

Appreciating the efforts of the Centre for Modernizing Government Initiative (CMGI), Jena, said, "I am glad to know that CMGI has progressed a lot in implementation of e-Office in more than 1,000 government offices. CMGI, the administrative reforms wing of General Administration and Public Grievance department has been instrumental in this endeavour. It has improved service delivery and governance by way of moulding knowledge and technology in the perspective of procedural requirements."

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, I have corrected my Son name from Vysya Raju Jigyash Kumar Raju instead of Vysyaraju Jigyash Kumar Raju. Henceforth I shall be known as Vysyaraju Jigyash Kumar Raju for all purpose.

I ABHILIPSA SUBHADARSINI, W/o. BISWAJIT PANDA, Resident of Plot No. 215, Subhadravihar, Nuagaon, PS-Dhauli, Dist- Khordha, BBSR, PIN-751002, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.38, Dtd.08.07.2019 that now onwards I shall be known as ABHILIPSHA SUBHADARSINI for all future purposes.

Problematic screen use hits attention, higher-level thinking

Problematic screen use impairs a range of cognitive processes, in particular the ability to concentrate and the so-called executive functions, which include impulse control, planning, organisation and problem solving, a study shows.

The research, published in the journal Neuropsychology Review, is an overview of more than 30 studies of people who fall into the broad category of disordered screen use.

The classification includes excessive gaming, internet browsing, or use of social media or smartphones, that result in serious negative effects on the person's life.

These effects can include deterioration in mental health, poorer performance at school or work, social isolation and relationship problems, and neg-

lect of personal health or hygiene, the researchers said.

Disordered screen use shares characteristics with behavioural addictions like problem gambling, and some people may even develop symptoms of severe dependency like those associated with addictions to alcohol and illicit substances.

The researchers from Macquarie University in Australia identified 43 studies that assessed the neuropsychological effects of disordered screen use, ultimately including 34 in their analysis.

Twenty of the 34 included studies were on online and offline gaming, 12 were on internet use, and one each on social media and smartphone use, the researchers said.

The bias towards gaming and internet use were due to these platforms having been around



longer, while smartphones and social media are relative newcomers to the screen-use landscape.

The research mostly looked at young males, and tested a total of 58 different neuropsychological measures, with most examining attention and executive functioning.

"This is the first time anyone has reviewed all the available evidence together," said study lead author, Mic Moshel from Macquarie University.

"The studies used different tests, which makes it more difficult to compare apples with ap-

ples, but there was clear evidence across the board of a reduction in cognitive performance in people with disordered screen use," Moshel said.

While there is an effect, the researchers noted that the extent of that reduction is unclear because only eight of the studies

assessed the severity of symptoms.

Previous research has shown that children and adolescents are the most vulnerable to disordered screen use, and developing brains are highly sensitive to cognitive impairment.

While cognitive impairment resulting from some other causes can be remediated, if left untreated, it can compound over time, the researchers said. Moshel says mild traumatic brain injury provides a good analogy, as it can lead to reduced cognitive performance that affects their ability to learn.

"If it is not remediated quickly and effectively, then you have what is called the widening of the gap, where you see an increasing distance develop between these children and their peers academically," the researcher added.

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# Murmu asks students to innovate

ENGINEERS, TECHNOCRATS HAVE VITAL ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE NATION, SAYS PRESIDENT

PNN & AGENCIES

**Sambalpur, Nov 21:** President Droupadi Murmu said engineers and technocrats will play a vital role in making India a developed nation by 2047 and urged students to strive to become agents of positive change, advocates of diversity and champions of integrity here Tuesday. Murmu made the observations while addressing the 15th annual convocation of Veer Surendra Sai University (VSSUT) of Technology at Burla.

Murmu said that the Centre has set a target to make India a developed nation before 2047. She asserted that technology can accelerate the pace of development. "Therefore, technocrats and engineers will play an important role in making India a developed nation," she stated.

Murmu asked the students to be mindful of the fact that their success will not solely



## Prez visits in-laws' place at Pahadpur

**Baripada:** President Droupadi Murmu walked down memory lane Tuesday when she reached Pahadpur village in Mayurbhanj district to inaugurate a skill training centre. The President, who got married to Shyam Charan Murmu, a banker, in 1980, had her in-laws' house at Pahadpur village. She later donated a major portion of the property to the SLS (Shyam-Laxman-Sipun) Trust named after her late husband and two sons. As soon as she reached Pahadpur, Murmu went to the SLS memorial and offered floral tributes to her husband and two sons. While her husband passed away in 2014, her two sons Laxman and Sipun died over the next few years.

be measured by their personal achievements. She asserted it will be gauged by the positive impact they will make on the lives of others. She urged students to work for the progress of the nation and to innovate.

"I urge upon the students to strive to become agents of positive change, advocates of diversity and champions of integrity," the President said. "The development of the country de-

pends on the contribution of the youth," she added.

The President expressed satisfaction over VSSUT students developing a special Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV). It received appreciation from ISRO. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the university and ISRO for further research.

Murmu noted that an innovation and incubation centre

has been established on the campus of VSSUT. She appreciated students and faculty for their creative work.

Earlier in the day, Murmu flagged off three trains from the Badampahar Railway Station in Mayurbhanj district. The three trains are Badampahar - Tatanagar MEMU, Badampahar-Rourkela Weekly Express and Badampahar-Shalimar Weekly Express.



**SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT:** Visitors going around a science exhibition held at the St. Mary's Higher Secondary School at Jajpur Road in Jajpur district, Tuesday

## MAN GETS LIFER FOR MURDER



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, Nov 21:** Bhadrak district court's additional district judge Ashish Kumar Tripathy convicted Tuesday, Arun Maharana for murder and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The judge also slapped a fine of ₹5,000 on the convict. If he fails to pay the fine, Arun has to undergo an additional six months in prison, the order said.

According to case diary, Ajay, son of Arjun Parida of Mirzapur village, was going to Dhamnagar on a bike May 26, 2018, while accused Arun was driving his auto-rickshaw from the opposite direction. He intentionally crashed his three-wheeler into Ajay's bike. As Ajay fell down, Arun stabbed him repeatedly with a knife. A profusely bleeding Ajay died on the spot.

Rabindra Jena and Biswambara Sarangi witnessed the entire incident. They informed Ajay's father who reached the spot and took Ajay to Dhamnagar hospital where doctors referred him to Cuttack. During the journey, Ajay narrated the entire incident to his dad. He died while undergoing treatment.

The deceased's father then lodged a complaint against Arun at Dhamnagar police station. Police arrested Arun after registering a case (No-88/218), informed additional public prosecutors Surjyakanta Kuanr and Arun Kumar Mishra.

# Illegal mining of black stones rampant

MINERS WHOSE LEASE TERMS HAVE EXPIRED NOW TARGETING MINES THAT HAVE SHUT DOWN

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Nov 21:** Leaseholders have allegedly found a new way to plunder black stones from mines in Dharmasala block of Jajpur district after the Odisha government slapped a penalty of ₹320 crore on errant miners in various phases following satellite mapping, sources said here Tuesday.

Instead of illegal lifting of black stones stopping, it is now occurring in a far more rampant manner. In a bid to escape satellite mapping and fines, the leaseholders are looting black stones worth crores from mines that have been shut down and are not within their lease areas.

Moreover some leaseholders, who have been penalised are allegedly smuggling large quantities of black stones without any proper transit pass. The broad daylight loot is taking place in five quarries on Aruha hill under Dharmasala block sources alleged.

Sources said that penalty worth ₹19.86 crore was collected from errant miners in 14 districts by March, 2022 on charges



of excess mining than the permissible limits and its transportation and sale without transit passes. However, the collection of fines was quite disappointing in Jajpur and 15 other districts.

The district administration decided to conduct satellite mapping of the lease areas and issued notices to collect penalties from the errant leaseholders after the matter was raised in the state Assembly and publication of media reports.

The steps taken by the dis-

trict administration had a huge impact as many influential and prominent leaseholders who were penalised were denied any further lease of the mines. Yet looting continues unabated.

The rampant loot of black stones from Aruha hill is a case in point. Leaseholder Trinath Jena was slapped with a penalty of ₹10 crore for mining black stones from three quarries on the hill, more than the permissible limits. Another leaseholder Manoj Samal was slapped with a fine of ₹8.63

crore for extracting black stones more than he was allowed to do so. Leaseholder, Sarat Jena was slapped with a penalty of ₹1.88 crore on charges of excess mining. It should also be stated that the lease agreements of Jena and Samal had expired when they were fined.

Despite the non-renewal of lease, Jena allegedly continues to extract black stones worth crores on a daily basis. He is also transporting it without proper documents, said sources.

They also pointed out that there are many whose lease terms have expired, but still continue to plunder black stones. They added that the rampant plundering is taking place in connivance with tehsil and Mines department officials.

When contacted, Jayprakash Nayak, deputy director of Minor Minerals department said that 92 out of 198 quarries in the district have been given on lease. He said that the department is failing to stop illegal mining due to lack of staff. He however, added that steps will soon be taken against illegal miners.

## Fake zarda worth ₹2.5 lakh seized

**Bhadrak:** Police here Tuesday seized more than ₹2.5 lakh of fake zarda and raw materials from an auto-rickshaw during a raid at Helasahi under Puruna Bazar police limits in this town.

However, the driver of the auto-rickshaw and the main accused of the business firm managed to flee from the spot, said ASI Gouranga Mallick. Police have seized the auto-rickshaw (OD 22 G 2659), 180 tin cans zarda, 10 pieces of packaging materials, another 100 pieces of tin cans of a different brand of zarda, 10 cans of Shivdata zarda, two zarda manufacturing machines, one packaging machine and two weighing machines, an official said. Bhadrak town DSP

Asuman Dwibedi said at a press conference then a manhunt has been launched to arrest the masterminds fake racket.

**Bank of Baroda**  
CORRIGENDUM  
In pursuant to the Vehicle E-Auction Notice published on 01.11.2023 in Orissa Post Newspaper of Patia Branch, the correction is to be made and read as: Vehicle No- QD33AC5723 instead of OD33AC5727 and IFSC Code- BARB0DBPTIA instead of BARB0DBPATIA. Expect this all the matters remain unchanged.  
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Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.  
Sd/- Manager  
Fincare Small Finance Bank

## HUBBY HELD FOR KILLING WIFE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Morada, Nov 21:** In a shocking incident a man hacked his wife to death at Nalagaja village under Rasagobindapur police limits in Mayurbhanj district Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Parbati Tudu and the accused Jitu Tudu, both residents of the same village.

Locals informed that both Jitu and his wife were not on good terms



for the past few months. The two had a heated argument Tuesday. In the

heat of the moment, Jitu grabbed a knife and repeatedly stabbed Parbati leading to the latter's death on the spot. After committing the crime, Jitu tried to flee from the village, but villagers managed to catch him and tied him to a tree and informed the police. Cops arrived at the village and arrested Jitu before sending the body for post-mortem. A case has been registered in this regard, police said.

## Chhath celebrated with pomp in Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Nov 21:** With morning prayers Monday, the four-day Chhath celebrations for the more than one lakh Bihar population residing in this town ended. The Rourkela Municipal Corporation had made meticulous arrangements for smooth conduct of the rituals and celebrations at the water bodies in this city and also on the banks of the river.

The president of Bihar Sanskritik Parihad (BSP), Neeraj Chaturvedi informed that the number of devotees had increased manifold this year. "Every year there are 10,000-15,000 devotees who observe penance on the occasion of Chhath. This year the number was well over 30,000," Chaturvedi said.

The BSP which has more than 10,000 members activated volunteers to manage the river banks as well as the ponds. "Water bodies play an important role in Chhath rituals. The city administration had identified 18 ghats where puja rituals were performed. Volunteers were present to help women who celebrated puja with their families," Chaturvedi said. He added that the decorations around the ghats had been done by the BSP



and post-ritual cleaning of the water bodies will also be carried out by its members.

Chhath puja is celebrated over four days. The first day is called either 'nahai' or 'khae'. On this day those who observe penance wash wheat and keep it under the sun for drying, informed Mukesh Sinha, a scribe. The second day is known as 'Kharna'. "This is the most difficult stage where the ladies who observe penance, cook and eat in the evening. However, they have to eat in complete silence and bereft of any sound," Sinha informed.

The third day is unique because the ladies pray to the setting sun and early morning the following day they break their fast by offering prayers to the rising sun, Sinha said.

He asserted that cleanliness is the most important aspect of the rituals. "In Bihar even the roads are sprinkled with water on which the brati ladies walk to the water body," informed Sinha.

## RSP supplying pipes for tunnel rescue ops

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Nov 21:** Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) is supplying special pipes for the rescue operations that are being conducted to bring out the workers trapped due to a tunnel collapse in Uttarakhand. Tuesday was the 10th day of the operations with both the Uttarakhand government and the Centre leaving no stone unturned to safely rescue the 41 trapped labourers.

RSP is also playing its part in the rescue mission. It is supplying pipes that are being airlifted to the airport closest to the rescue site. The pipes are being airlifted by a large cargo aircraft. The first two sorties of supplying the pipes were conducted Monday. The third dispatch of pipes took place Tuesday.

The pipes manufactured by RSP will be used at the Silkyara tunnel in which 41 persons are trapped. Rescue teams will use the pipes after holes have been drilled on the wall of the debris, sources informed here Tuesday. They however, remain tight-lipped about the process through which the pipes will be used. An official said, "The pipes are of greater width than normally used for construction."

Sources however, confirmed that three sorties of pipes have been sent by RSP. Two sorties were carried out Monday and one Tuesday, people in the know of things informed.



**Bank of India** Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015 [Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Concerned Branches** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Co-applicant/Guarantor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-applicant/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-applicant/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Concerned Branches** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-applicant/Guarantor	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Properties
<b>RANIHAT BRANCH /</b> Borrower: M/s. Guru Maharaj Filling Station, Prop.: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, Address-1: At: Kotsahi, Tangi, Dist.: Cuttack-754022, Odisha, Address-2: At/PO.: Professor Pada, Dist.: Cuttack-753003, Odisha / Guarantor: Mrs. Snigdha Pattanayak, W/o.: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, At/PO.: Professor Pada, Dist.: Cuttack-753003, Odisha	₹ 1,59,14,304.11 + interest & expenses thereon	28.07.2023 / 18.11.2023	1) All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Sub Plot No.: 157 & 158, Rev Plot No.: 395/807, Khata No.: 323/14 having Area: Ac. 0.055 Dec. at Kalyani Vihar, Mouza: Kantilo within the registration Sub-Dist.: Jatni, P.S.: Bhubaneswar Thana No.: 53, Dist.: Khurda, registered in the name of Mrs. Snigdha Pattanayak, W/o.: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, vide RSD No.: 294/2002, Plot No.: 157 is Bounded by North: Sub Plot No.: 156, South: Sub Plot No.: 158, East: Sub Plot No.: 172, West: Road, Plot No.: 158 is Bounded by North: Sub Plot No.: 157, South: Sub Plot No.: 159, East: Sub Plot No.: 171, West: Road, Plot No.: 159 is Bounded by North: Sub Plot No.: 1650/4793 of Area: Ac. 0.051 Dec, Plot No.: 1651/4792 of Area: Ac. 0.002 Dec., Plot No.: 1649/4794 of Area: Ac. 0.001 Dec., Khata No.: 725/2122 at Mouza: Kalarahanga, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, P.S.: New Capital, Dist.: Khurda, registered in the name of Mrs. Snigdha Pattanayak, W/o.: Mr. Tanmay Pattanayak, vide RSD No.: 5281/2000, Bounded by North: Road, South: Sub Plot No.: 126, East: Sub Plot No.: 133, West: Sub Plot No.: 135
<b>BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Mr. Amulya Baral, S/o.: Karunakar Baral / Co-applicant: Mr. Milu Baral, S/o.: Karunakar Baral, Both are At: Machhia Diandi, PO.: Brahmagiri, Dist.: Puri, PIN-752011	₹ 21,53,720.43 + interest & expenses thereon	29.08.2023 / 18.11.2023	All that part & parcel of the Land and Building situated at Khata No.: 5, Plot No.: 113, Mouza: Machhia Diandi, Tahasil: Brahmagiri, P.S.: Brahmagiri, Dist.: Puri, SRO: Brahmagiri, Area: Ac.0.060 Dec, Ac.0.010 Dec. & Plot No.: 728, area: Ac. 0.06 Dec. out of Ac. 0.07 Dec., Mouza: Badaola, Thana: Astaranga No.: 113, Tahasil: Astaranga, SRO: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, PIN-752109, Total Area: Ac. 0.09 <sup>58</sup> Dec. out of Ac. 0.17 Dec., Standing in the name of Mr. Rabindra Pradhan, Bounded by North: Brahmananda Sahoo, South: Izimile Road, East: Village Road, West: Rabindra Pradhan
<b>SASTRI NAGAR BRANCH /</b> Borrower: Mr. Rabindra Pradhan, S/o.: Balaram Pradhan, At: Badagola, P.O.: Sisa, P.S.: Kakatpur Police Station, Puri - 752109	₹ 52,94,493.76 + interest & expenses thereon	01.03.2023 / 21.11.2023	All that part & parcel of the Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 129, Plot No.: 727, Area: Ac. 0.03 <sup>58</sup> Dec. out of Ac. 0.010 Dec. & Plot No.: 728, area: Ac. 0.06 Dec. out of Ac. 0.07 Dec., Mouza: Badaola, Thana: Astaranga No.: 113, Tahasil: Astaranga, SRO: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, PIN-752109, Total Area: Ac. 0.09 <sup>58</sup> Dec. out of Ac. 0.17 Dec., Standing in the name of Mr. Rabindra Pradhan, Bounded by North: Brahmananda Sahoo, South: Izimile Road, East: Village Road, West: Rabindra Pradhan

Ac. 0.06 Dec. out of Ac. 0.07 Dec., Mouza: Badaola, Thana: Astaranga No.: 113, Tahasil: Astaranga, SRO: Kakatpur, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, PIN-752109, Total Area: Ac. 0.09<sup>58</sup> Dec. out of Ac. 0.17 Dec., Standing in the name of Mr. Rabindra Pradhan, Bounded by North: Brahmananda Sahoo, South: Izimile Road, East: Village Road, West: Rabindra Pradhan

**Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 22.11.2023**

**Authorised Officer, Bank of India**

FOCUS ISRAEL-PALESTINE

# ONE WAY FORWARD

Is there any possibility of peace between Israel and the Palestinians, or must we simply get used to periodic wars that deny both sides the tranquility and stability they seek?

It is easy to be pessimistic. The history of the region is littered with failed peace plans, collapsed diplomatic conferences, and thoroughly disillusioned mediators. Everything seems to have been tried, and nothing seems to have worked. Everyone is left assigning blame to anyone but themselves.

Yet to give up on diplomacy is to accept the unacceptable: eternal war. That is why, even amid the horrors of the latest Gaza war, talk of an eventual two-state solution remains alive and has actually grown louder.

At his November 3 press conference in Tel Aviv, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken went further in describing a lasting solution than any US official has in a long time – if ever. A two-state solution, he averred, is “the only guarantor of a secure, Jewish, and democratic Israel; the only guarantor of Palestinians realizing their legitimate right to live in a state of their own, enjoying equal measures of security, freedom, opportunity, and dignity; the only way to end a cycle of violence once and for all.”

Blinken is right. Ensuring an “equal measure of security, freedom, opportunity, and dignity” for everyone between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean is the only ultimate solution. European leaders acknowledged this reality back in 1980 with the Venice Declaration. The nine members of the European Community (at the time) proclaimed that, “the Palestinian people, which is conscious of existing as such, must be placed in a position, by an appropriate process defined within the framework of the comprehensive peace settlement, to exercise fully its right to self-determination.”

By that time, Arab governments had given up on trying to erase the state of Israel.



Extremists on both sides want to control all of the land between the river and the sea by whatever means necessary. If either is allowed to gain further ground, this war will become even deadlier than it already is

Following their failure in the 1973 Yom Kippur War, they finally agreed to make peace. But as the Venice Declaration recognized, true regional peace would not be possible until the Palestinian issue was settled.

In the optimistic early 1990s, the Oslo Accords showed what was possible. Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat (an extremist) and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (an ex-general) shook hands on the White House lawn. The path to a two-state solution had been established, even if crucial details remained to be settled.

But the Oslo process eventually failed, owing to opposition boiling up among Israelis and Palestinians alike. The earlier optimism gave way to Palestinian terrorism and illegal Israeli settlements, and it has been downhill ever since. While successive US administrations have made repeated attempts to revive the peace process, none has made it a top priority. Until October 7, the Biden administration had left the issue on a back burner, hoping that the region would remain calm while it concentrated on other matters.

For its part, the European Union long maintained a forward-looking commitment to the Middle East peace process, and

issued a detailed pronouncement, in December 2009, calling for “a two-state solution with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.” But Europe’s interest in the issue also waned over time. Though there were various reasons for this, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu’s consistent efforts to make serious peace talks impossible surely played a significant role.

Moreover, politicians in America, Europe, and Israel began to convince themselves that the Palestinian issue could simply be forgotten, since more Arab countries had begun to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel. “If the Arab world no longer cares about the Palestinians,” they thought, “Why should we?”

Now that the political quagmire and humanitarian disaster in Gaza has returned the issue to the fore, it is clear that there can be no resolution without some decisive steps toward a two-state solution.

But we should not harbour any illusions. The obstacles are huge. Among the most concerning is the apparent increase in support for violence among Palestinians who have grown frustrated to the point of despair. Hamas is not the only or-

ganization that sees terror as the best way forward. In the West Bank, too, the Palestinian Authority has lost control of some areas where it is supposed to provide security and order.

Another major obstacle is the inclusion of fundamentalist Jewish settlers within the current Israeli government. There are now an estimated 700,000 people living in illegal settlements scattered across territory that is supposed to belong to a future Palestinian state. Many of these settlers are armed, and since October 7 have been violently forcing hundreds of Palestinians from their homes. Some even dream openly of demolishing the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, so that they can rebuild the biblical Temple in Jerusalem (which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC, and again by the Romans in 70 AD).

Extremists on both sides want to control all of the land between the river and the sea by whatever means necessary. If either is allowed to gain further ground, this war will become even deadlier than it already is.

The key, then, is to use the renewed prospect of a two-state solution to galvanise moderate forces on both sides – and to do so fast, before more people succumb to fatalism or despair. Such a reopening will not happen without strong, sustained international engagement by the US, the EU, and the other Arab states. With Russia having ostracised itself with its war of aggression against Ukraine, the international community will need a new format to replace the previous Middle East Quartet (the EU, the US, the United Nations, and Russia).

Though upcoming elections in the US and elsewhere may divert attention next year, the issue should be made a top priority thereafter. We must never give up on diplomacy. We have now been reminded of what the alternative looks like.

The writer was Sweden’s foreign minister from 2006 to 2014 and prime minister from 1991 to 1994. @PROJECTSYNDICATE



Carl Bildt

TO GIVE UP ON DIPLOMACY IS TO ACCEPT THE UNACCEPTABLE: ETERNAL WAR

Change yourself if you wish to change the world.

THE MOTHER



## El Loco

A political earthquake has taken place in Argentina with the Argentines electing Far-right outsider Javier Milei, 53, as their new President. The Left-wing politics that has been spreading its wings in Latin America – Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, Mexico and Peru – has stumbled in Argentina. This has sent such joy among Ultra-right politicians that their most conspicuous leaders at the moment, former US President Donald Trump and former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, did not waste time to congratulate Javier Milei on his spectacular victory proving pollsters wrong by securing nearly 56 per cent in the decisive run-off, ahead of his Left-wing rival, Sergio Massa, with 44 per cent. Trump needed such a turn of events close to his country which will elect its President a few months later. Hence, he mouthed his own slogan that resonates with Milei’s brand of politics: Milei would “Make Argentina Great Again.” Bolsonaro did not lag behind and said “hope would shine again in South America.”

In fact, Milei’s convincing victory represents the danger of Far-right political outfits forming governments in one European country after another and in other continents leading to the shrinkage of space for liberal, democratic politics. Perhaps, it is a commentary on the intolerant political credo of Milei that he is sometimes dubbed “El Loco” (the madman) by his critics. The madness of his agenda is evident in his promise of drastic changes, including ditching the local currency, the peso, for the US dollar and “blowing up” the central bank in order to prevent it from printing more money which, he argues, is driving inflation.

He has also proposed cutting the welfare budget and slashing bureaucracy by closing the ministries of culture, women, health and education, among others. Spending for women’s uplift and empowerment, public health and education has become a taboo for Far-right politics. He iterated his political programme immediately after winning the election and said he would privatise Argentina’s state energy company, YPF, and the country’s public broadcasters. The privatisation mantra is one of the cardinal principles that Far-right politicians follow. No wonder Milei unveiled his scheme of things in this direction by asserting that everything that “can be put” into the hands of the private sector, will be in the hands of the private sector. The only rider for his scheme of things regarding YPF is that before privatising it, the state-run energy company would have to be “rebuilt.” He did not, however, say how long that process could take.

The president-elect also made no bones about his plan to “cut down” public works to “zero,” while those already in progress would be put out to tender so that “there would be no more state spending.”

On social issues, his programmes are an echo of what Trump, Bolsonaro or any other Far-right politician wants to achieve – loosen gun laws, abolish abortion and allow the sale and purchase of human organs. Incidentally, abortion was legalised in Argentina in 2020.

It is an irony of history that Far-right outfits are catching the imagination of a majority of people because of the disastrous failure of the liberal, democratic model of governance. People are increasingly being disenchanted with the latter and in their quest for something new they are reposing their faith in Far-right leaders and parties. The same pattern is being seen in Argentina. Milei’s victory comes amid a deep economic crisis which has seen annual inflation rise to 143 per cent, whereas 40 per cent of Argentines live in poverty. Milei has been able to aggressively sell his idea of “doing away with the political caste,” meaning defeating established parties with whom the voters were fed up. The hallmark of Far-right politics is precisely to cash in on the anger of the people with the failure of the political establishment to deliver.

He struck a chord in the people’s heart when he exhorted the electorate to stop the process of the impoverishment of Argentina which is now ranked 130 with about half the population being poor and another 10 per cent destitute.

Milei is expected to face roadblocks to his extreme measures as his party controls just 38 of 257 seats in Argentina’s lower house and eight of 72 in the senate. His showmanship, political rhetoric and weird ideas of tantric sex which he loves to articulate in public may have swayed the people, but Argentina has embarked on a risky journey under this man.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all. HELEN KELLER
- What we know is a drop, what we don’t know is an ocean. ISAAC NEWTON
- The purpose of life is finding the largest burden that you can bear and bearing it. JORDAN B. PETERSON

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1943: Lebanon proclaimed its independence from France; however, it did not become wholly independent until 1946.
- 1963: John F. Kennedy assassinated. The 35th President of the United States was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald, while travelling in a motorcade in Dallas, Texas. He was the 4th American president to be assassinated while in office. The other 3 were Abraham Lincoln, James Abram Garfield, and William McKinley.
- 1986: With a second-round knockout of Trevor Berbick, 20-year-old Mike Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in boxing history.
- 1995: Toy Story released. Produced by Pixar, the movie which follows the adventures of human-like toys, was the world’s first feature-length computer-animated movie. Considered to be one of the best animated films ever released, Toy story won 3 Oscars including Best Original Screenplay, Best Original Score, and Best Original Song.
- 2005: German politician Angela Merkel was sworn in as the country’s chancellor, becoming the first woman to hold the post.

### LOL

#### A SMART DOG

A man went to the cinema the other day and in the front row was an old man and with him was his dog.

It was a sad funny kind of film, you know the type. In the sad part, the dog cried his eyes out, and in the funny part, the dog laughed its head off. This happened all the way through the film.

After the film had ended, the man decided to go and speak to the man.



“That’s the most amazing thing I’ve seen,” the man said. “That dog really seemed to enjoy the film.” The old man turned to him and said, “Yeah, it is. He hated the book.”

### IN JEST THIS

# You just can’t trust reviews anymore



Melvin Durai

FAKE REVIEWS HAVE BECOME SO RAMPANT THAT EVEN DOCTORS HAVE USED THEM

Believe it or not, humans have been providing reviews for thousands of years. It all started in prehistoric times when a middle-aged caveman named Oongah gave a young cavewoman named Phora a positive review after attending a small gathering and tasting her burned antelope.

“Phora cook yummy,” he told all his friends. His review was passed around through word of mouth: “Oongah say Phora cook yummy.”

But word of mouth can be unreliable, and Phora’s father gave Oongah a swollen lip when the review made its way back to him: “Oongah say Phora look yummy.”

Such word-of-mouth reviews existed for many centuries, but it wasn’t until the 20th century that they appeared frequently in print. Newspapers and magazines hired reviewers to give readers their expert opinions on movies, plays, albums, books and restaurants. Some of these reviewers were so influential that a positive review from them could propel a book up the best-

seller charts and a negative review could propel the author into public relations.

Expert reviews worked well, but the experts couldn’t review everything. A restaurant reviewer could visit the new upscale restaurant serving crispy fried gizzards on porcelain plates, but who would take the trouble to review the dingy diner serving crispy fried lizards on paper plates? A book reviewer could give five stars to the latest page-turner from Stephen King, but who would review the latest gas burner from IKEA?

The internet quickly filled the void, of course. It allowed consumers to leave ratings and reviews on various sites such as Google, Amazon, Yelp and many others. Before long, almost every product and service was subjected to ratings and reviews. Consumers couldn’t avoid seeing them. If you were thinking of buying a particular rice cooker, you’d be pleased to read a review that said, “Perfect rice, perfect price.” But you’d be hesitant to purchase the appliance if you read a review that said,

“Price was too high, rice was too dry.”

If you owned a motel and your average rating was between one and two stars, you might suddenly find all your rooms empty. Motel owner: “Oh no, our last customer left us a positive and negative review.”

Teenaged son: “How can it be both positive and negative?” Owner: “Well, here’s the positive part: ‘Everyone at the motel is very friendly.’ And here’s the negative part: ‘Even the cockroaches are friendly.’”

Son: “That’s not good.”

Owner: “Our ratings are going down. Do you think you can get your girlfriend to give us a positive review?”

Son: “But dad, she has never stayed at our motel.”

Owner: “Just tell her to write some words about you. Something like this: smells great, very clean, no complaints whatsoever.”

As businesses received negative reviews, they realised that they could offset these reviews – even bury them completely – by generating positive reviews from

people who had not used their product or service. They could even buy these fake reviews from marketers.

Fake reviews have become so rampant that even doctors have used them. As the New York Times reported recently, an orthopedic doctor named Mark J. Mohrmann had to pay a \$100,000 penalty in a settlement with New York’s attorney general for using fake reviews.

Fake Review Watch, an industry watchdog, found that 19 people who claimed to be Mohrmann’s patients in reviews had quite coincidentally left reviews for the same moving company in Las Vegas.

The New York attorney general’s office told the New York Times that Mohrmann had “asked friends, family and employees to leave positive, five-star reviews” and that his wife had left some of the reviews.

I’m not sure what his wife wrote, but perhaps it was something like this: “I’ve been very satisfied with Dr. Mohrmann. He’s my favourite doctor. I wouldn’t trust my body to anyone else.”

### Amazing turnaround

Sir, Sports, at times can be extremely cruel and devastating to players more than the fury of nature. This painful fact will haunt the Men in Blue forever; who were absolutely dominant until the finals of the World Cup 2023, but eventually lost to Men in Yellow in the summit clash. Just over a month ago, the Aussies found themselves languishing at the very bottom of the points table, looking like a jaded unit, which seemed cooked and short of answers. But in an amazing turnaround, they managed to win nine games on the trot to become world champions. And it was a sort of poetic justice for Australia, as after losing to India and South Africa in the league stage, they stormed their way to the title, defeating the same two teams. It seems that Team India was destined to lose just one game in the WC, but unfortunately that game happened to be the final. Nevertheless, the Men in Blue had an outstanding tournament and made every Indian feel proud of their brilliant performance.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

### Political gimmick

Sir, The programme ‘EK Lakh Gita Path’ in Kolkata, the brainchild of the BJP, is nothing but a political gimmick. When the country is passing through so many crises and the Centre has failed to address the same, this sort of programme has no relevance to the public. Will Gita Path be able to ameliorate the untold sufferings of the people? The ruling party in the state has rightly remarked that the programme was strategically organised, with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Needless to add many such gimmicks are awaited.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

### Hope at last

Sir, It’s heartening that the rescue teams have installed a six-inch pipe to send food, medicines, and communication equipment to the 41 trapped workers in Uttarakashi. Till now, only a four-inch pipeline remained the lifeline for the trapped workers. We can feel reassured that Arnold Dix, an international tunnelling expert, is involved in the rescue operations at the tunnel collapse site. Families of trapped workers travelling to the tunnel collapse site from their home states will have their expenses covered by the Uttarakhand government.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

## 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](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)

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AIR EMERGENCY

# Delhi in throes of climate crisis

As Delhi faces this climate challenge head-on, it serves as a microcosm of the global struggle to create a sustainable and resilient future in the face of climate uncertainty



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** As the global community grapples with the far-reaching consequences of climate change, the Indian capital, Delhi, finds itself at the forefront of an escalating environmental crisis. The city, known for its vibrant culture and historical significance, is now grappling with a myriad of climate-related challenges that demand immediate attention.

Rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns further compound the problem. Delhi witnesses sweltering summers and unpredictable monsoons. Urban heat islands exacerbate the heat, affecting the health and well-being of the city's inhabitants.

"Climate change has also heightened concerns about water scarcity in Delhi. Changing precipitation patterns and increased demand for water pose significant challenges to the city's water supply," said Chandra Veer Singh, former scientist and environmentalist. In response, the Delhi Government led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has initiated projects to improve water management, exploring sustainable solutions such as rainwater harvesting and effi-

cient distribution systems. Waste management is another critical aspect of Delhi's climate action plan. The city is working towards reducing waste generation through awareness campaigns and innovative practices. Recycling initiatives, waste segregation at source, and the promotion of responsible consumption are key components of this comprehensive strategy.

To address these challenges, authorities are exploring sustainable solutions and intensifying efforts to promote public awareness. Initiatives such as afforestation drives, investment in renewable energy, and the promotion of eco-friendly transportation options are gaining momentum.

Additionally, civic engagement campaigns aim to empower residents to actively contribute to mitigating climate change.

However, experts emphasise the need for a comprehensive and collaborative approach involving not only government initiatives but also active participation from businesses, communities, and individuals.

As per the draft released in June this year on Delhi State Action Plan on Climate Change, by 2050, the city is likely to face economic losses amounting to Rs 2.75 trillion due to the impacts of climate change. In 2008, India introduced the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), prompting state governments to develop their own action plans aligned with the strategies outlined in the NAPCC, known as the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC).

# Assam Police observes Child Rights Week along with UNICEF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, Nov 21:** Celebrating Child Rights Week, Assam Police rolled out a series of outreach initiatives for children across the state in association with UNICEF, officials said Tuesday.

"The Assam Police has always believed in protecting and upholding the best interests of all children, who come into contact with our police system,"

Director General of Police Gyanendra Pratap Singh said. Through the 'Sishu Mitra Resource Centre', the state police force aimed to provide justice to every child in a timely manner as per the law, he added.

As a part of the 'Sishu Mitra Programme', which is one of the largest child-friendly policing programmes in the country, anchored by the Assam Police in partnership with UNICEF and UTSAH Child Rights

**THE CHILD RIGHTS WEEK CELEBRATIONS BY THE ASSAM POLICE COMMENCED NOVEMBER 14 AND CULMINATED MONDAY, WHICH WAS WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY**

Organisation, several outreach initiatives for children were rolled out, Special DGP Harmeet Singh said. "The Child Rights Week celebrations are a testi-

mony to our continuing commitment towards children. By prioritising children and through our programmatic interventions, we wish to build a more sustainable culture of child protection within our policing system," he said.

The week-long campaign was kickstarted with an essay-writing competition for children, themed around protection of children from child labour and Child Sexual Abuse Material

(CSAM). Besides, awareness programmes were conducted in schools, colleges and universities, covering almost 50,000 children of the state, said the Special DGP, who is also the convenor of the Sishu Mitra Programme. UNICEF's state chief Madhulika Johathan said, "Our engagement with the Assam Police, this children's week, has provided children with a powerful platform to advocate for their rights."

## Delhi HC concern for district courts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** The Delhi High Court Tuesday asked the city government to state if it would provide funds and land for the benefit of local commissioners who record evidence in trial courts here as it raised concerns on the lack of space for judicial officers.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan remarked that the Delhi government was not releasing funds and the high court itself was facing a "serious problem" in allotting courtrooms to new magistrates who would be joining office next year. "Our priority are courts. We don't have enough courts, 110 magistrates are going to be ready next year. We don't have space for them. It is a serious problem," said the bench, also comprising Justice Mini Pushkarna. The court observed that there was no free space in any district court complex in the capital and no project was in the pipeline for construction of new buildings. "No project is getting sanctioned. Nothing is in the pipeline. No infrastructure is getting sanctioned. They are not releasing the funds... If the Delhi government is willing to give funds, we have no problems," the bench remarked.

# Guwahati: High levels of carbon emission sets off alarm bells

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guwahati, Nov 21:** A large chunk of the population in Assam is breathing toxic air, with Guwahati topping the chart of the highest polluted cities in the state and also having one of the highest black carbon emissions in the country.

The idea of clear blue skies and clean air in this part of the country is in danger as a result of the ongoing problem of air pollution in Assam and other north-eastern states, according to a new warning from the Delhi-based Centre of Science and Environment.

Assam's five non-attainment cities - Guwahati, Nagaon, Silchar, Sivasagar and Nalbari -- have been identified by the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). These cities' pollution levels are higher than the recommended air quality guidelines.

Accordingly, the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) has been initiated to develop action plans to bring down the fine particulate matter (like PM10 and PM2.5) by 20-30 per cent within a stipulated time frame. An emission inventory study



has been initiated for Guwahati city, wherein the contribution of pollutants from different sectors like commercial, transportation, domestic and industrial sources shall be estimated.

Black carbon is just next to carbon dioxide in global warming potential and has an effect on global climate.

Rajarshi Sharma, a research scholar of the Air & Noise Research Lab of IIT Guwahati headed by Prof. Sharad Gokhale, studied emission levels of black carbon and found that fossil fuel burning (from transportation, industries, kerosene lamps for

lighting in residential use) is responsible for about 60 per cent of black carbon emission, while biomass burning (from firewood for residential use, cropland burning, forest fires, slash burning) contribute to about 40 per cent.

The total emission of black carbon is about 19.38 Gigagram (Gg) during 2018-19, of which 3.38 Gg is from Kamrup Metropolitan district only, which is also the highest black carbon emitting district.

The unplanned and open burning of solid waste disposal within the municipal boundary is the other factor hurting Guwahati. The quantity of harmful chemicals and black carbon released by burning waste materials is something that most people are unaware of.

According to a state government official, Guwahati has one of the highest levels of black carbon pollution in the world, which is concerning.

In the hills and valleys of the northeastern states, the high levels of air pollution brought on by widespread motorization, traffic jams, and the usage of solid fuel are creating a public health emergency.

## MCD to hike minimum wages of employees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** The AAP-led MCD has decided to increase the minimum wages of employees, a civic official said Monday.

Monthly minimum wages for unskilled workers of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will be increased to Rs 17,234 from Rs 16,792. The wage will rise to Rs 18,993 from Rs 18,499 for semi-skilled workers and to Rs 20,903 from Rs 20,375 for skilled workers.

Dearness allowance will be paid to all MCD workers starting April 1, the officials added.

The AAP had announced dearness allowance for all MCD employees with effect from April 1. A government proposal on increasing the minimum wages will be tabled for approval in the next MCD House meeting.

The accumulated dearness allowance for civic employees will be released after it is approved by the House, the MCD official said. According to the proposal, the minimum salary for non-matriculate employees will be hiked to Rs 18,993, matriculate but not graduate to Rs 20,902 and graduate and above to Rs 22,744. Dearness allowance for these employees will be Rs 494, Rs 546 and Rs 598 per month, respectively.

# DELHI POLICE ADDS 5 NEW STALLIONS IN FORCE



## Delhi L-G clears home guard files

**Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena Monday cleared the enrolment of more than 10,000 new home guard personnel and directed officials to provide 10 bonus points to ex-civil defence volunteers, the Raj Niwas said in a statement. Saxena said this as he chaired a meeting to review the enrolment of 10,285 new home guard volunteers, they said.**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** The Delhi Police has bought five new horses for its Mounted Unit. With the addition of these five stallions, the number of horses in the force has reached 18.

These horses, aged between five and six years, have been bought from the Indian Army and have been kept at the unit located at the Old Police Lines (OPL) in north Delhi.

The Delhi Police will use them for annual sports meet, VIP duties and ceremonial functions like the Independence Day and the Republic Day parade, said an official.

"They were bought recently from the Army's breeding centre in Hempur in Uttarakhand and Saharanpur in Uttar

Pradesh. The price of horses ranges between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 6 lakh each," said a police officer and added among these five, two are mare and others are male.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Provisioning and Logistics) Vinit Kumar, the procurement of these stallions are the part of the process of buying more horses for the unit. As per plan, 10 more horses will be bought in the coming months, Kumar said.

The Mounted Unit of the Delhi Police had 95 horses when it was formed in 1930. The unit was neglected for years due to which the number of horses came down to five. In these years, the horses were bought but also got retired, an officer of the unit said.

In 2021, the force had decided to revive

the unit by buying 15 horses. Last year, the force bought 15 horses and named them as - Arjun, Akash, Abhimanyu, Tilak, Shakti, Chetak, Saya, Bala, Vajra, Virat, Tagion, Dhruv, Jihan, and two mares Tara and Krishma. However, two of them were retired a few months later due to some medical problems.

"These horses were also bought from the Indian Army and we gave each of them different names. The naming of each animal depends on their activities and behaviour. The new ones will also be named soon," another officer said.

Earlier, these stallions were mostly used for law and order duties. But these days, the police majorly depends on riot control vehicles and other gadgets to control the crowd.

The police had used these horses for maintaining law and order during the Trilokpuri riots in 2014. They were also used during the search operation for a missing JNU student in the jungle area of the university campus in 2016.

Another officer said

the mounted unit is currently doing the preparation for All-India Sports Meet, which is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad in December. At least, eight horses are being trained to participate in the games like tent pegging, jumping hurdle and dressage.

## DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TEXTILES, BARGARH

E-mail: ddtbargarh@gmail.com  
No. 3967 Dated: 20.11.2023

### CORRIGENDUM

No. PP-65: Due to unavoidable circumstances the last date of receipt of Tender Papers for Tentage & allied works is extended up to Dt. 28.11.2023 till 5.00 p.m. during working days of Office hour at the Office of Deputy Director of Textiles, Bargarh. The sealed tender papers (Technical bid) shall be opened on dt. 29.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of Deputy Director of Textiles, Bargarh and presentation shall be carried out for evaluation and after that the price bid shall be opened in the presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives. If it is found that the quoted amount of L-1 party will exceed the budget limit of the particular head then the party may be called for negotiation. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.  
Sd./- Deputy Director of Textiles, Bargarh  
OIPR-31032/11/0007/2324

Government of Odisha No. O-1560:

## Office of the Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division, Dhenkanal

E-mail: eerwdivisiondhenkanal@yahoo.co.in

### e-Procurement Notice No. 12/Building Works/2023-24

- Name of the Work : Building Works
- Total No. of Works : 04 (Four) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 38.94 to 37.77 lakh (Approx.)
- Class Contractor : 'B' & 'C' Class
- Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Calendar Months
- EMD Required : As mentioned in the Annexure at Column-04
- Online bidding : 24.11.2023 at 11.00 AM to 01.12.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Last date & time of seeking tender clarification : 30.11.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.
- Date & Time of opening of tender (Technical & Financial Bid) : 02.12.2023

Other details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>  
Sd./- Executive Engineer R.W. Division, Dhenkanal  
OIPR-25101/11/0019/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. A-872

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RENGALI LEFT BANK CANAL DIVISION

A/P.O.: Kamakhyanagar, Dist.: Dhenkanal, Odisha, PIN - 759018  
Ph.: 06769-270771 Email ID: eerlbcdivision@gmail.com

### e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. RLBCD-P\_-04/2023-24

1	Category of Work	"Civil Construction Works"
2	Total No. of Works	06 (Six) Nos.
3	Estimated Cost	Varies from Rs. 14.35 Lakhs to Rs. 4.94 Lakhs
4	Period of Completion	60 Days to 30 Days
5	Class of Contractor	"D" & "C" or equivalent grade/class
6	Cost of Bid Document/Mode of Payment	Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 2,000/- (Non-refundable)/ Online through Electronic Payment Mode (Internet Banking/NEFT/RTGS of Designated Banks and their Aggregator Banks)
7	EMD/Bid Security Amount/Mode of Payment	Varies from Rs. 14,350/- to Rs. 4,940/-/ Online through Electronic Payment Mode (Internet Banking/NEFT/RTGS of Designated Banks and their Aggregator Banks)
8	Other Details:	
(i)	Procurement Officer	Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanagar
(ii)	Availability of Bid Documents for Online Bidding	23.11.2023 from 10.00 hours to 07.12.2023 upto 17.00 hours
(iii)	Date, time & Venue of Bid Opening (Online)	On 08.12.2023 at 11.00 hours in the O/o, the Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanagar (through online)
(iv)	Date, time & venue of transparent lottery for finalization of bids, if required	On 13.12.2023 at 11.00 hours in the O/o, the Superintending Engineer, Rengali Left Bank Canal Division, Kamakhyanagar.

\*Further details can be seen from the Government of Odisha website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Superintending Engineer R.L.B. Canal Division, Kamakhyanagar  
OIPR-32298/11/0007/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (AGRI.)

Southern Zone, Brahmapur, RITE Campus, Rangelunda, Ganjam No. 887 Date: 21.11.2023

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification Number / Tender Call Notice No. SE (A) S/2-05 of 2023-24

No. L-259: The Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur who has been authorized as the procuring officer for the projects of Southern Zone, Brahmapur is directed to invite percentage rate bid on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the Civil Construction works (including IE and PH works) under Southern Zone. The costs of the projects are around 54 lakhs (Excluding GST & LC). Bid document consisting of detailed tender call notice, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded from <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 23.11.2023 at 11.00 hours to 04.12.2023 at 17.30 hours. The bid will be opened on 07.12.2023 at 11.30 hours onwards in the O/o, Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur, RITE Campus, Rangelunda. All other details regarding term and conditions, corrigendum from time to time if any, DTCN etc. can be seen and downloaded from <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur  
OIPR-01504/11/0007/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. b-51

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION, BERHAMPUR

Email Id: eenhbam@gmail.com

### INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) (e-Procurement)

Bid Identification No. EE-NH-BAM/10/2023-24

No. 3005 Dated: 17.11.2023

- The Executive Engineer, N.H. Division, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road/Building work as detailed in the table below.
- Nature of Work : Road
- No. of Work : 2 Nos.
- Tender Cost : Rs. 6000/-
- Class of Contractor : 'B' Class, 'C' Class & 'D'
- Availability of Bid document in portal : 23.11.2023 of 12 hours to 17 hours upto 08.12.2023
- Date of Opening of Bid : 12.12.2023 at 11 A.M.
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in the e-tender website only.

Sd./- Executive Engineer N.H. Division, Berhampur  
OIPR-34082/11/0008/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BARGARH IRRIGATION DIVISION, BARGARH

e-Procurement Notice No. CDT-06/2023-24, dt. 20.11.2023

No. A-874: Bid Identification No. CDT-06 (01)/2023-24 to CDT-06 (07)/2023-24 (Online)

1.	Nature of Work	Improvement of Canal, Cannal Service Road and repair & renovation of buildings	
2.	No. of Works	07 (Seven) Nos.	
3.	Class of Contractor	B, C and D Class Contractor	
4.	Bid Identification No.	CDT-06 (01-07)/2023-24	
5.	Estimated Cost	Rs. 5.64 Lakhs to Rs. 25.39 Lakhs (Approx.)	
6.	Period of Completion	45 days to 90 days	
7.	Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	Dt. 24.11.2023 at 10.00 A.M. to Dt. 04.12.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.	
8.	Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	Dt. 04.12.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.	
9.	Date of Opening of Bid	Dt. 05.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	
10.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Bargarh Irrigation Division, Bargarh-768028, email id: eecanalbgh11@gmail.com	

Procurement Officer	Name of the Division	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking of clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	Date, Time and place of lottery if required
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Bargarh Irrigation Division, Bargarh	Bargarh Irrigation Division, Bargarh	CDT-06 (01)/2023-24 to CDT-06 (07)/2023-24 (online)	Dt. 24.11.2023 at 10.00 AM	Dt. 04.12.2023 upto 05.00 PM	Dt. 05.12.2023 upto 01.00 PM	Dt. 08.12.2023 at 11.00 AM in the office of the S.E., Bargarh Irrigation Division, Bargarh

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation/erratum of tender can also be seen in the said website. 2. Further details can be seen from Government website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.  
OIPR-32461/11/0007/2324 Sd./-Superintending Engineer, Bargarh Irrigation Division, Bargarh

## Delhiites will soon be able to 'book' a bus

**New Delhi:** The Delhi residents will soon be able to book seats in an AC bus as the government gives its go-ahead to the premium bus aggregator scheme. The Delhi government has notified the Delhi Motor Vehicles Licensing of Aggregator (Premium Buses) Scheme, 2023, marking a historic milestone in India's transportation sector, the government said in an official statement Tuesday. The scheme introduces the nation's first-ever aggregator scheme exclusively tailored for premium buses, it said.



A player of Government Degree College, Tangmarg plays during the match against Women's College, Srinagar at the 3rd edition of Inter-college Women's Volleyball Tournament, in Srinagar



Forest department officials rescue a baby crocodile in Pondicherry



King Charles III and President of South Korea Yoon Suk Yeol during the ceremonial welcome at Horse Guards Parade, central London, on day one of the state visit to the UK



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during World Fisheries Day celebrations at Vidhana Soudha, in Bangalore



Visitors during the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa



Sikhs stage a protest in New Delhi after a video of the Kartarpur Project Management Unit holding a dance party on the premises of the Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Punjab province surfaced online



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during a public meeting ahead of Rajasthan Assembly elections, at Mavli in Udaipur district



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with Reliance Industries Chairperson Mukesh Ambani during the inaugural session of the 7th Bengal Global Business Summit, in Kolkata

## of the day quote

Holding simultaneous elections will be beneficial for the public as the revenue saved will be used for development work



RAM NATH KOVIND | FORMER PRESIDENT

The government is committed towards boosting creative economy, mentoring outstanding artists and encouraging youngsters to achieve cinematic excellence



ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

The government and the civic corporation will do whatever they can to reduce Mumbai's pollution. The civic body has been directed to do cloud seeding if required



EKNATH SHINDE | MAHARASHTRA CM

## SHORT TAKES

### Rape survivor hacked to death

**Kaushambi (UP):** A 20-year-old rape survivor was hacked to death allegedly by the accused, who was out on bail, and his three brothers after she refused to withdraw her complaint, a police official said Tuesday. The incident occurred in Derha in Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh on Monday, the official said, adding that the four siblings are absconding and police are conducting raids at their possible hideouts to nab them. SHO of Mahewa Ghat police station Rajnikant Rajput said that in May 2022, a rape case was registered against Pawan Nishad on the basis of the complaint lodged against him by the victim and he was sent to jail.

### Privileges panel summons Bidhuri

**New Delhi:** The Privileges Committee of Lok Sabha has summoned BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri next month over his objectionable remarks against BSP member Danish Ali. The committee has also called Danish Ali to give oral evidence on December 7. Bidhuri has been asked to appear on the same day after the BSP MP deposes before the panel. On an earlier occasion, Bidhuri had not appeared before the committee while expressing his inability to do so. Bidhuri had made remarks against Ali during the Special session of Parliament in September when the House was discussing the success of the Chandrayan-III mission.

### Man arrested

**New Delhi:** Almost two months after pro-Khalistan graffiti was found on a flyover here, Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a 38-year-old man from Haryana, officials said Tuesday. The accused has been identified as Malak Singh alias Malik, a resident of Kurukshetra in Haryana, they said. He painted the graffiti in Delhi and other parts of the country at the behest of Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, the chief of banned organisation Sikhs for Justice, police said.

### Student gangraped

**Gorakhpur (UP):** A minor girl was gangraped while she was returning from Chhatt Puja with her family members here, police said Tuesday. Two men -- Deepak and Upendra -- were arrested in connection with Class 10 student's gangrape, they said. According to police, the girl was returning from Chhatt Puja with her family members when two persons of the area kidnapped her and took her to a deserted house and gangraped her. When her 12-year-old brother found her missing, he started searching for her and reached the crime spot where the accused thrashed him.

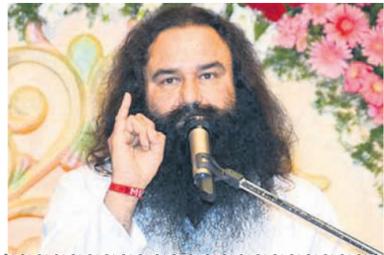


Nothing can be more inappropriate and condemnable that some informed minds monetise ignorance of the people for political equity. That cannot be allowed

JAGDEEP THAKUR | VICE PRESIDENT

### RAM RAHIM OUT OF JAIL ON FURLOUGH AGAIN

Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh walked out of the Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak district Tuesday after he was granted a 21-day furlough. It is his third temporary release from jail this year



## NATIONAL HERALD PROBE

# ED attaches assets worth ₹752 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday said it has attached immovable assets and equity shares worth about ₹752 crore as part of its ongoing money laundering investigation against the Congress-promoted National Herald newspaper and companies linked to it.

The provisional attachment order came as the elections in five states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram are in progress and the counting of votes is scheduled to be held December 3.

The Congress called the agency action as "petty vendetta tactics" and dubbed the ED a "coalition partner" of the BJP which, it claimed, is staring at a certain defeat in the assembly polls. The federal probe agency alleged in a statement that in this case the shareholders and donors of the Congress were "cheated" by the office-bearers of AJL and the party.

A provisional attachment order has been issued by the federal probe agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL) and Young Indian (YI). The National Herald is published by AJL and owned by Young Indian Private Limited.



The property attachment order reflects the BJP's desperation to divert attention from its certain defeat in the ongoing Assembly polls in five states. No BJP coalition partner - CBI, ED or I-T Department - can prevent the impending defeat of the BJP... These petty vendetta tactics shall not frighten the Indian National Congress in any way

ABHISHEK SINGHVI | CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON

Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are majority shareholders of Young Indian with 38 per cent shares held by each one of them.

In the statement, the ED said it has issued an order to provisionally attach properties worth ₹751.9 crore in the money laundering case being investigated under the PMLA. Under the law, such a provisional order has to be approved by the Adjudicating Authority of PMLA in a time period of six months following which the ED can take possession of the attached properties.

Investigation revealed that Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL) is in possession of proceeds of crime in the form of immovable properties spread across many cities of India such as Delhi, Mumbai and Lucknow to the tune of ₹661.69 crore and Young Indian (YI) is in possession of proceeds of crime to the tune of ₹90.21 crore in the form of investment in equity shares of AJL, it said.

National Herald's immovable assets include office premises at ITO in Delhi and one near Kaiserbagh in Lucknow. The

## Stop false and misleading ads, SC warns Patanjali

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** The Supreme Court Tuesday cautioned Patanjali Ayurved, a company co-founded by yoga guru Ramdev and dealing in herbal products, against making "false" and "misleading" claims in advertisements about its medicines as cure of several diseases.

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

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

During the brief hearing, the bench asked Patanjali Ayurved not to publish misleading claims and advertisements against modern systems of medicine.

It said the bench may also consider imposing a fine of 1 crore on every product if a false claim is made that it can cure a particular ailment.

The top court asked the counsel appearing for the Centre to find a remedy to the issue of misleading medical advertisements where claims are being

made about medicines that offer perfect cure of certain diseases. The bench will now take up the plea of IMA for hearing on February 5, next year.

The top court, while issuing notices on the plea, had come down heavily on Ramdev for criticising allopathy and allopathic practitioners, saying he needed to be restrained from abusing the doctors and other systems of treatment.

"What happened to this Guru Swami Ramdev Baba?... Ultimately we respect him as he popularised yoga. We all go for this. But, he should not criticise the other system. What is the guarantee that Ayurveda whatever system he is following will work? You see the type of advertisements accusing all the doctors as if they are killers or something. Huge advertisements (have been given)," the bench headed by the then CJI NV Ramana, since retired, had said.

IMA had referred to several advertisements which allegedly projected the allopath and the doctors in poor light, saying that "disparaging" statements have also been made by firms, engaged in the production of ayurvedic medicines, to mislead the general public.

These commercials say that the medical practitioners themselves are dying despite taking modern medicines, the counsel for the IMA had said.

IMA had said that a concerted effort was being made to discourage the vaccinations, including the COVID-19 jab drive, and the use of allopathic medicines in the country.



An Asiatic lion rests inside an enclosure at Jambu zoo, at Nagrota near Jammu

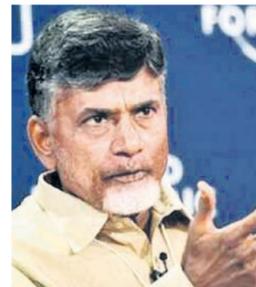
PTI PHOTO

## AP govt moves SC against bail to Naidu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** The Andhra Pradesh government Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against a high court order granting regular bail to TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in the Skill Development Corporation scam case.

Seeking direction to set aside the high court verdict, the state government said that the accused (Naidu) is an "influential person" and "has ensured that two of his key associates (including a government servant) have al-



ready fled the country. "The accused is therefore clearly obstructing the con-

duct of the investigation and, therefore, ought not to be granted bail," it said.

On November 20, the Andhra Pradesh High Court had granted bail to Naidu while noting that the discretion to grant bail should be exercised judiciously in a humane and compassionate manner.

The state government, in its appeal, said that the high court in its 39-page verdict has not only conducted a "mini trial" but has also "completely erred", rendering findings that are completely contrary to the record.

## SC MIFFED OVER STUBBLE BURNING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** Farmers are being made "villains" and they have not been heard, the Supreme Court observed Tuesday while hearing a matter related to stubble burning which affects the air quality in the Delhi-National Capital Region.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia also suggested why should there be any purchase under the minimum support price (MSP) system from farmers who indulge in crop residue burning, irrespective of the fact that citizens and children were affected due to pollution.

Though the Punjab government informed the apex court about the steps taken by the authorities to control crop residue burning, senior advocate Aparajita Singh, who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the pollution matter, flagged that even on Sunday, more than 700 farm fire incidents were reported in the state. "What are they (authorities) doing?" Singh told the bench.

Justice Dhulia observed, "The only person who can answer this is the farmers. He can tell you why he is doing it. He is not here. The farmer is being made a villain and the villain has not been heard." "He (farmer) must be



The amicus said the states must ensure that farmers get the machines used for disposing of the crop residue

The top court was hearing a matter related to crippling air pollution that chokes Delhi-NCR every winter

having some reasons," Justice Dhulia said.

The top court was hearing a matter related to crippling air pollution that chokes Delhi-NCR every winter.

During the hearing, the bench suggested, "Why should on the MSP basis, anything be taken from farmers who enlighten the fire?"

It said people, despite the observations from the court and counselling, still keep on burning fires in farms.

"Then the stick must also follow the carrot. Why should there be any purchase under the MSP system from people who have lit the fire?" the bench suggested, asking why should people who continue to violate the law be allowed to benefit monetarily.

## EX-STUDENT OPENS FIRE IN SCHOOL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thrissur, Nov 21:** A former student of a private school here on Tuesday barged into his alma mater brandishing a gun, terrorising staff and students, following which police took him into custody. According to the school staff, he fired a couple of rounds after roaming inside the institution. No one was injured.

A former student, Jagan, went to the Vivekodayam school at Thrissur and took out a gun from his bag after entering the staff room and later went to various classrooms, terrorising students and staff.

Police said the accused has been taken into custody and an investigation is on. Meanwhile, District Collector V R Krishna Teja rushed to the school soon after the incident and took stock of the incident. He said it was an isolated incident and asked the parents not to worry as the situation was taken care of.

"A young person has come to the school. He was a bit unsteady and used his pistol and fired two or three rounds. That's what the school authorities have told us. He was taken into custody. It's an isolated incident and an investigation is on. There is no need to worry. We are all here. He will be produced before the doctor," Teja told the media.

The age of the accused could not be ascertained immediately. The visuals of the accused sitting inside the staff room of the school brandishing a gun which he took out from his bag is being telecast by television channels.

## HC quashes rape case after victim, accused agree to marry

The victim and her father appeared before the Court of Justice Hemant Chandangoudar and submitted an affidavit stating that they had no objection to the quashing of the proceedings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Nov 21:** The Karnataka High Court quashed a case of rape, and charges under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act against an accused, after the victim -- who is now a major -- expressed her intention to marry him. The court ordered that the marriage take place within one month.

The man was also ordered to be released from judicial cus-

tody. The victim and her father appeared before the Court of Justice Hemant Chandangoudar and submitted an affidavit stating that they had no objection to the quashing of the proceedings.

The affidavit stated that the victim was now a major by age and added, "I am in a romantic relationship with the petitioner, and intend to marry him, and to live a happy married life with him and he has agreed to the



same."

It further said, "Through this affidavit, I undertake and express my wish to marry the petitioner herein, and accordingly I have no objection in allowing

the above-captioned petition and to this Hon'ble Court exercising its power and quashing the proceedings pending against the petitioner herein."

The accused was also pro-

duced in the court and the HC noted in its judgment that "the petitioner has stated that he is willing to solemnise his marriage with the survivor, and the sexual intercourse between them was consensual since they were in relationship."

The HC also noted that the victim had turned hostile in her cross-examination in the trial and "nothing is elicited from the survivor by the prosecutor to support the case of the prosecution." The court said it would be an abuse of process of law for the trial to continue.

"The survivor who is present before this court has stated that she intends to solemnise her marriage with the accused, and if the criminal proceedings are

allowed to be continued, it would result in incarceration of the accused which would cause more agony and misery to the survivor rather than securing the ends of justice. Therefore, the continuation of the criminal proceedings will not subserve the ends of justice and will be an abuse of process of law," the HC said.

The trial against the accused was set aside on condition of him marrying the victim within a month. The HC said, "This order is subject to the condition that the petitioner-accused shall solemnise his marriage with the survivor within one month from today, and register the same before the competent authority."

# international



To British Indians, I want to express my admiration and respect for everything you do for our country. Without your efforts, this country would be diminished in so many ways  
KEIR STARMER | UK OPPN LEADER

## SL PARLIAMENT PASSES 2024 BUDGET

Sri Lanka's Parliament Tuesday approved the 2024 budget, emphasising the need for tough reforms until the full recovery of the cash-strapped island nation's economy. Although Sri Lanka has managed to control its hyperinflation in the ongoing economic crisis, its economy is far from being fully recovered



## of the day quote

The operational level cooperation of our militaries, which I think is as critical as any equipment, and our countries discuss ways to deepen our science and our technology partnerships to harness technology with the global good instead of technology that harms us than divides us, we need technology that can connect us and protect us  
ERIC GARCETTI | AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

Everything that can be in the hands of the private sector will be in the hands of the private sector  
JAVIER GERARDO MILEI | ARGENTINE POLITICIAN

This week's three-day joint air and maritime exercise was a significant initiative to boost interoperability between the two  
BONGBONG MARCOS | PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### India sends relief materials to Nepal

**Kathmandu:** Three weeks after back-to-back earthquakes rattled the remote western mountain region killing over 150 persons, Nepal Tuesday received the fourth tranche of emergency medical aid and equipment for the quake-affected families. As part of the continued "humanitarian efforts" as first responder to support people of the Himalayan nation in their times of need, India has regularly sent aid to Nepal since the 6.4-magnitude earthquake November 3 that jolted Jajarkot and Rukum districts killing 153 people and injuring over 260 others.

### Li Qiang to attend virtual G20 Summit

**Beijing:** China Tuesday announced that Premier Li Qiang will attend the virtual G20 Leaders' Summit at India's invitation and hoped that the meeting will address global challenges through cooperation and make positive contributions to economic recovery.

### India slams Pak in UNSC

**United Nations:** India has dismissed an "unwarranted and habitual" reference to Kashmir made by Pakistan during a Security Council meeting here. India's retort came at the UN Security Council open debate on 'Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Promoting Sustaining Peace through Common Development'.

### Shooter wounds 4

**Beavercreek (Ohio):** A shooter opened fire Monday night at a Walmart in Ohio and wounded four people before killing himself, police said. The attack was reported at around 8:30 pm at the Walmart in Beavercreek, a town of about 50,000 in the Dayton metropolitan area.

### Xi calls for ceasefire

**Beijing:** Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday called for a ceasefire in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict for lasting peace and security and said that the two-state solution is the way out for durable peace in the region. Addressing the BRICS extraordinary virtual summit on the Palestine-Israeli issue, Xi said the fundamental way out of the recurring Palestinian-Israeli conflicts is to implement the two-state solution, restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation, and establish an independent State of Palestine.

# Israel in preparation for next stage of war

The front line of the war, now in its seventh week, has shifted to the Jabaliya camp, a dense warren of concrete buildings near Gaza City that houses refugees from the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation and their descendants

AGENCIES

**Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Nov 21:** Israeli troops battled Palestinian militants in an urban refugee camp and outside the gates of a nearby hospital Tuesday as the army expanded operations across northern Gaza, where residents have been without electricity, water or access to humanitarian aid for weeks.

The Israeli military Tuesday announced the completion of the encirclement of Jabaliya city, signaling their readiness to intensify the conflict in an attempt to gain control of one of the last major Hamas strongholds in the northern Gaza Strip, reported Times of Israel.

The front line of the war, now in its seventh week, has shifted to the Jabaliya camp, a dense warren of concrete buildings near Gaza City that houses refugees from the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation and their descendants.

Israel has been bombarding the area for weeks, and the military said Hamas fighters have regrouped there and in other eastern districts after being pushed out of much of Gaza City. Fighting has also intensified outside the Indonesian Hospital on the outskirts of Jabaliya, where a strike killed 12 people Monday.

Health officials said Tuesday that hundreds of patients and displaced people are trapped inside with dwindling supplies after some 200 were evacuated the day before.

Israel continues to strike what it says are militant targets across Gaza, including in the southern evacuation zone, often killing women and children, and officials have said it may soon expand its operations in the south.

**FIGHTING AROUND HOSPITALS**  
Tens of thousands of



### Israel designates LeT as terror organisation

**JERUSALEM:** Israel Tuesday reaffirmed its declaration of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as a 'terror organisation' ahead of the 15th year anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in which 166 persons, including six Jews, were killed. "Yes, I can confirm it. It's not a new thing and it is actually from 2013. It was recently re-published because of a bureaucratic error but it is not a new thing," Israeli foreign ministry spokesperson, Lior Haiat, told PTI. Haiat's statement came after a press release by the Embassy of Israel in India earlier in the day said: "To symbolise the marking of the 15th year of commemoration of the Mumbai terror attacks, the state of Israel has listed Lashkar-e-Taiba as a 'Terror Organisation'."

Ministry in the West Bank. Officials there say another 4,000 are missing. Their counts do not differentiate between civilians and combatants. Israel says it has killed thousands of militants.

**TALKS ON HOSTAGES**  
Israel, the United States and Qatar, which mediates with Hamas, have been negotiating for weeks over a hostage release that would be paired with a temporary cease-fire and the entry of more humanitarian aid.

The leader of Hamas said Tuesday that a truce agreement with Israel was close, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he hoped for good news soon about hostages, the most optimistic signals so far of a deal to pause fighting and free captives.

Netanyahu said: "We are making progress. I don't think it's worth saying too much, not at even this moment, but I hope there will be good news soon", according to remarks released by the Israeli prime minister's office.

Netanyahu would convene his war cabinet from 1600 GMT "in light of developments in the matter of the release of our hostages", his office said, followed by meetings of his wider security cabinet and the full cabinet.

**RISING TOLL**  
More than 12,700 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, according to the Palestinian Health

Palestinians in the north had sheltered in hospitals, but those have steadily been emptied out as the fighting has reached their gates, and most are no longer operational.

**SNIPPETS**  
**Stampede at military stadium kills 37**  
**Brazzaville (Republic of Congo):** A stampede at a military stadium has left at least 37 people dead in Republic of Congo after large crowds of young people responded to a recruitment appeal, authorities said Tuesday. Long lines have formed outside recruitment centers each day over the past week as young people have sought to join the army, one of the few institutions offering work in Republic of Congo.

**Putin to participate in G20 virtual summit**  
**Moscow:** Russian President Vladimir Putin will attend the extraordinary virtual G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by India on Wednesday, the Kremlin said Tuesday. Putin did not attend the G20 Summit in person in New Delhi in September. He was represented by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. "On November 22, 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin will take part in an extraordinary summit of the Group of 20 (via video link)," state-run Tass news agency quoted a Kremlin statement as saying.

**Same sex couple welcomes baby they 'both carried'**  
**London:** A same-sex couple has become the first in Europe and second in the world to have a baby they both carried. The baby boy, named Derek Eloy, was born in Palma, Majorca, October 30 to parents, Estefania, 30, and Azahara, 27. While Azhara carried her son for nine months, the egg that went on to produce him was fertilised in Estefania's womb. Notably, the couple embarked on their journey to parenthood in March, seeking assistance at a fertility clinic.

# North Korea makes 3rd attempt to launch spy satellite

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Tokyo, Nov 21:** North Korea has launched a rocket in what may be its third attempt to put a spy satellite into orbit, according to South Korea's military.

A rocket was launched late on Tuesday, the military in Seoul said, but no further details were immediately available.

North Korea says it needs a spy satellite to deal with what it calls increasing US-led military threats. South Korea retrieved debris from the first launch and called the satellite too crude to perform military reconnaissance.

Japan's coast guard said North Korea notified Tokyo of its plan to launch a satellite sometime between Wednesday and November 30.

The notice identified three maritime zones where debris from the rocket carrying the satellite may fall.

Two are in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and China and the third in the Philippine Sea, Japanese coast guard spokesperson Kazuo Ogawa said.

Ogawa said the areas are the same as the ones North Korea identified for its failed satellite launches in May and August, implying the third attempt would have a similar flight path.

North Korea has given Japan the launch information because Japan's coast guard coordinates and distributes maritime safety information in East Asia.

The North's notification came a day after rival South Korea warned it to cancel its launch or face consequences. South Korea's

In North Korea's two previous attempts, rockets carrying satellites failed because of technical reasons



military suggested Seoul would suspend a 2018 inter-Korean agreement to reduce tensions and resume front-line aerial surveillance and live-firing drills in response to a North Korean satellite launch.

UN Security Council resolutions ban any satellite launches by North Korea because they are seen as a cover for testing its

### Pak court strikes down notification to keep Imran in judicial lockup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Nov 21:** The Islamabad High Court Wednesday declared null and void the official notification of the Pakistan government for the jail trial of former prime minister Imran Khan in the cipher case in which he is charged with leaking state secrets.

The two-member bench issued its reserved judgment on an intra-court appeal by the former prime minister against the single bench verdict of the same court that had turned down the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's appeal against his trial in the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

The trial is being held in the Adiala Jail, where 71-year-old Khan has been kept since September 26 when shifted there from District Jail, Attock.

The Ministry of Law issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) for the jail trial of Khan as requested by the Interior Ministry and special court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain August 29.

Earlier in the morning, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) panel of justices Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb and Saman Rafat Imtiaz heard the intra-court appeal of Khan and reserved the judgment after completing the hearing process. According to the short verdict, the government's notification of August 29 to hold the jail trial of Khan was declared illegal. However, the court stated that there was no bar on the jail trial of an accused in case of extraordinary circumstances and it was up to the judge to keep such trial open or in-camera.

The two-member bench said that the trial judge should give a ruling in favour of a jail trial and the government following the ruling should issue a notification for the same.



# Zelensky claims to survive 5 Putin assassination bids



AGENCIES

**Kyiv, Nov 21:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he has lost count of assassination attempts he's survived, comparing them to bouts of Covid.

In an interview with the British tabloid The Sun, he said that he's survived "no fewer" than five or six attempts on his life since Russia invaded Ukraine last year, but that each subsequent attempt makes it less intimidating.

NBC News could not independently verify Zelensky's claims about attempts on his life.

"The first one is very interesting, when it is the first time, and after that it is just like Covid," Zelensky said.

"First of all, people don't know what to do with it and it's looking very scary. And then after that, it is just intelligence sharing with you detail that one more group came to Ukraine to [attempt] this."

Zelensky regularly moves around the country, visiting front lines and liberated cities, under strict security. In the capital, Kyiv, he works out of a high-se-

curity complex. In the early days of the war, he said he and his family were primary targets of Russia, but Ukraine has rarely publicly revealed any attempts on his life.

In August, Ukrainian authorities said they detained an informant who was sharing intelligence with Russia as part of a plot to assassinate Zelensky.

When Russia invaded Ukraine at the beginning of 2022, it was widely expected to overrun the country quickly.

The initial success of the Ukrainian counterattack, and the failure of Russian forces to oust the democratically elected government in Kyiv, has given way to what his top general calls a stalemate.

Zelensky told the Sun that Russia still "wants very much" to topple him from power, and he claimed to even know the codename of its latest mission to oust him; its deadline, he said, is the end of the year.

"The name of operation is Maidan 3. It is meant to change the president," he said. "Maybe it's not by killing. I mean it's changing. They will use any instruments they have."

The Ukrainian leader regularly moves around the country, visiting front lines and liberated cities, under strict security



MIRACLE ESCAPE

A Navy plane flying in rainy weather overshot a runway Monday at a military base in Hawaii and splashed into Kaneohe Bay, but all nine aboard were uninjured, authorities said. The Coast Guard responded, but rescue operations were quickly called off, said Petty Officer Ryan Fisher, a Coast Guard spokesperson. "It sounds like all parties involved were rescued," he said

GETTY IMAGES

# business

## of the day quote

I believe, we are as a company future-ready, both in terms of access to technology, access to well-accepted products across various powertrains as also access to the ability to bring these products to market

**VIKRAM GULATI**  
TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR COUNTRY HEAD

We aim to cultivate a more equitable and sensitised society for the differently abled and want them to see their true capabilities

**UN SOO KIM**  
HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA MD & CEO

In line with India's

decarbonisation goals, we remain committed to deliver in excess of 45 GW by 2030. Adani Green continues to have the largest operating renewable portfolio in India with 8.4 GW capacity

**AMIT SINGH** | ADANI GREEN ENERGY CEO

## SHORT TAKES

### FDI equity inflows dip 24% to \$20.48bn

**New Delhi:** Foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflows in India declined 24 per cent to USD 20.48 billion in April-September 2023, dragged by lower inflows in computer hardware and software, telecom, auto and pharma, according to government data. FDI inflows stood at USD 26.91 billion during the first six months of the last fiscal. Inflows during January-March 2023 also contracted 40.55 per cent to USD 9.28 billion. During April-June last year, it declined 34 per cent to USD 10.94 billion.

### Titan plans to hire over 3K

**Mumbai:** The Titan Company Tuesday said it is planning to add over 3,000 employees in the next 5 years across domains including engineering, design, luxury, digital, data analytics, marketing and sales among others. The company is looking for professionals with specialised skills such as data analytics, cyber security, product management, digital marketing and other new-age skills amongst others, a company statement said. "We are embarking on an exciting journey towards becoming a ₹1,00,000 crore business in the next 5 years. Our aggressive hiring strategy of adding 3,000 people in the next 5 years reflects our dedication to hire a diverse and talented workforce," Titan said in a statement.

### Wipro, NVIDIA partner for AI

**New Delhi:** IT major Wipro Tuesday announced a collaboration with NVIDIA to help healthcare companies accelerate the adoption of generative artificial intelligence (AI). Wipro will leverage NVIDIA's AI software for enterprises for the production of AI across its current portfolio of healthcare solutions in the affordable care act (ACA), Medicare, and Medicaid, the company said in a statement. Wipro Enterprise Future President and Managing Partner Nagendra Bandaru said the collaboration will allow the companies to deliver AI-enabled innovation for the healthcare industry at scale and drive healthcare solutions with advanced computing capabilities. The integration of these technologies with Wipro's Enterprise Generative AI (WeGA) framework will enable Wipro to co-develop and deploy custom models for speech and translation AI, as well as other LLMs.

# WEF for multi-stakeholder climate action at COP28

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) Tuesday said it will advance multi-stakeholder initiatives for enhanced climate solutions at the 28th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC beginning later this month.

In a statement, the Geneva-based international organisation for public-private cooperation said it will focus on key priority action areas, including industry decarbonisation and net zero, energy transition, food, nature and innovative finance.

The COP28 is taking place from November 30 to December 12, 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and is expected to push for an urgent call to action to the global climate crisis.

During the climate summit, the WEF will convene heads of state, ministers, business leaders, philanthropy and civil society to advance climate action.

"We have to take a holistic approach to address the environment crisis, with people at the heart of the agenda, focusing on restoring and protecting nature ecosystems, strengthening community resilience in the face



of water stresses and extreme temperatures, while stopping the pollution of our land, sea and water," Gim Huay Neo, Managing Director, World Economic Forum said.

He noted that fostering a sense of inter-dependence, mutual trust and support as well as active collaboration between governments, the private sector, philanthropy, civil society and communities is needed to build a more harmonious relationship among communities and with the planet.

"COP28 is an opportunity for the World Economic Forum to provide a platform for multi-stakeholders to take stock on

**The hypocrisy around renewable energy propagated by developed countries stands exposed and the West, which is itself dependent on 75 per cent fossil fuels, cannot lecture us.**

**RK SINGH** | UNION POWER MINISTER

progress, enhance partnership efforts and explore new ideas and solutions together to safeguard our global commons," the WEF MD added.

The discussions in Dubai will build on outcomes from the Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Meetings 2023, which reflected on progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals and created momentum in addressing the climate and nature crises and advancing an inclusive energy transition.

As part of the COP28 programme, the Forum will hold several sessions aligned to the meeting's thematic areas.

# TCS to take \$125mn hit to Q3 earnings over US lawsuit

**US SUPREME COURT REJECTS FIRM'S APPEAL AGAINST \$140MN PUNITIVE DAMAGES ORDER**

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Tuesday said it would make a \$125 million provision in its third-quarter results in relation to a trade secret lawsuit filed by U.S.-based Epic Systems.

Epic had filed the lawsuit against TCS in 2014, alleging the information technology (IT) services provider stole its intellectual property while it was contracted to implement Epic's healthcare software.

The US Supreme Court Monday rejected TCS' appeal against a verdict passed by the District Court of Wisconsin, the company said in a statement.

Epic had originally secured a \$940 million award against TCS from a Wisconsin federal jury in 2016, in what was one of the biggest trade secret verdicts in US history.

The following year, this was more than halved to \$420 million - of which \$140 million comprised compensatory damages and \$280 million was punitive.



This was based on a Wisconsin law that allows punitive damages of up to double the compensatory damages.

In a subsequent appeal by TCS, the punitive damages were lowered to \$140 million in 2022. The Tata group company then appealed the punitive damages, and the petition was denied Nov 20.

In its appeal to the US Supreme Court against the punitive damages, TCS said it paid the compensatory 'unjust enrichment award' after the first appeal, plus interest and costs.

The decision to make a provision in its results also comes amid a soft demand environment for IT services, as high inflation has led to clients tightening their wallets in key markets such as the U.S. and Europe through the last year.

Industry heavyweights such as Infosys and Wipro trimmed their revenue forecasts last month, while TCS posted weak second-quarter results.

# ED'S ₹9,300CR FEMA NOTICE AGAINST BYJU'S

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday said it has issued a foreign exchange violation show cause notice of more than ₹9,300 crore against edtech major BYJU's and its CEO and co-founder Raveendran Biju.

The federal probe agency mentioned multiple grounds for charging the company and its chief promoter that included charges of "failing" to submit documents of imports against advance remittances made outside India; failing to realise proceeds of exports made outside India by delayed filing of documents against the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received into the company, among others.

It said in a statement that a show cause notice has been issued to the registered company of BYJU's - Think & Learn Private Limited - and Raveendran with respect to the contraventions of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to the tune of ₹9,362.35 crore.

Post final adjudication, the ED has powers to penalise FEMA violators up to three times the value of the amount mentioned in the show cause notice.

The agency said statements of Raveendran and BYJU's chief financial officer were recorded after it carried out searches in this case at three premises, including at Raveendran's house, at Bengaluru in April.

It said the action was undertaken after complaints were received regarding the foreign investment received by Think & Learn Private Limited and the "business conduct" of the company.

The company, in the complaint, was stated to have made significant foreign remittances outside India and investments abroad which were allegedly in contravention of provisions of FEMA, 1999 and caused loss of revenue to the government of India, the ED said.

On conclusion of the investigation, the ED said, it was found that Think & Learn Private Limited and Raveendran have "contravened" the provisions of FEMA by failing to submit documents of imports against advance remittances made outside India; by failing to realise proceeds of exports made outside India; by delayed filing of documents against the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received into the company; by failing to file documents against the remittances made by the company outside India and by failing to allot shares against FDI received into the company.

After the April searches, the ED had said that "the company (Think & Learn Pvt. Ltd.) has not prepared its financial statements since 2020-21 fiscal and has not got the accounts, audited which is mandatory." The searches found that the company received foreign direct investment (FDI) to the tune of about ₹28,000 crore during 2011-2023.

"The company also remitted about ₹9,754 crore to various foreign jurisdictions during the same period in the name of overseas direct investment," the agency had said.

# Markets recover from 2-day decline

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 21:** Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded Tuesday after two days of decline following buying in select metal and banking shares and a bullish trend in the US markets on easing rate hike worries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 275.62 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 65,930.77 as its 18 components advanced while 12 declined. During the day, it jumped 427.21 points or 0.65 per cent to 66,082.36.

The broader Nifty went up by 89.40 points or 0.45 per cent to 19,783.40. As many as 30 NSE shares gained while 20 closed in the red. JSW Steel was the lead gainer among Sensex shares, rising by 1.76 per cent. Tata Steel rose by 1.45 per cent, and Titan by 1.44 per cent. Oil major Reliance Industries advanced 1.24 per cent, helping the indices snap two days of losses.

Among banking shares, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank gained. Sun Pharma, Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors and Bajaj

Finserv also advanced. NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, State Bank of India and Larsen & Toubro were among the laggards.

The US dollar index eased by 0.10 per cent to 103.33 ahead of the release of the Fed minutes later in the day. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.20 per cent and midcap index gained 0.14 per cent.

Among the indices, consumer durables jumped 1.34 per cent, commodities climbed 0.77 per cent, healthcare (0.59 per cent) and financial services (0.37 per cent). FMCG, industrials, IT, telecommunication and oil & gas were the laggards.

A total of 2,018 stocks advanced while 1,701 declined and 134 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, Seoul settled with gains while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.61 per cent to USD 81.82 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹645.72 crore Monday, according to exchange data.



# Economy lost momentum by 80-100 bps in Q2: Analysts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Nov 21:** The economy has likely decelerated by 80-100 bps year-on-year in the second quarter to 6.8-7 per cent, with utilities, services and construction sectors showing robust growth on the back of strong domestic demand, while external demand continues to remain weak, according to economists.

In a note, ahead of the Q2 GDP data release on November 30, domestic rating agency Icra economist has pegged the GDP growth at 7 per cent, while British brokerage Barclays see it at 6.8 per cent. We estimate that Q2 FY24 expanded by 6.8 per cent year-on-year, slower than the 7.8 per cent in Q2 FY23, but still showing robust sequential growth. Underlying growth trends continue to look robust with activity underpinned by domestic consumption, high levels of staled capex and strong growth in the utilities sectors, Rahul Bajoria of Barclays said in a note Tuesday.

He expects the growth rates to be driven by basic utility sectors (mining and electricity generation) and manufacturing, construction and public spending. These will likely help mitigate the loss of momentum in financial services and trade and transport. However, export growth is likely to stay weak but the overall impact of sustained improvement in services exports, coupled with lower imports, implies that the contribution of net exports to GDP was a much smaller drag in Q3 than it has been in the preceding quarters, he said.



For the full year, he expects GDP to clip at 6.3 per cent, with upside risks emanating largely from strong consumption demand, which is visible across a variety of high-frequency data. Credit growth, electricity consumption, and mobility indicators all paint a picture of economic resilience. Hence, we believe that the domestic economy will continue to drive growth, Bajoria added.

According to him, it is the domestic demand that is driving the economy, with services continuing to be the largest contributor to growth, despite slower expected growth in financial services and trade hotels and transport categories. Services growth is likely to moderate from double-digit levels in Q2, but still strong at 7.7 per cent.

He also expects industrial growth to pick up, led by utilities, manufacturing and construction. Within utilities, electricity generation, in particular, likely exhibited strong growth in Q2, as a delayed monsoon and patchy

rainfall increased power demand. Growth in manufacturing is also likely to improve sequentially, which was evident in 6.3 per cent IPP growth in Q2, supported mostly by growth in investment-related sectors like manufacturing of machinery, electrical equipment and vehicles.

Icra Rating chief economist Aditi Nayar expects growth to print at 7 per cent in Q2, exceeding the MPC estimate of 6.5 per cent. She sees GVA growth easing to 6.8 per cent in Q2, driven by the services sector at 8.2 per cent, agriculture at 3.5 per cent, and industry at 6.6 per cent.

Uneven rainfall, narrowing differentials with year-ago commodity prices, a possible slowdown in momentum of government capex due to the general elections, weak external demand and the cumulative impact of monetary tightening are likely to translate into lower GDP growth in Q2, she said, adding that as a result, FY24 GDP growth is likely to print in at 6 per cent, lower than MPC projection of 6.5 per cent for the fiscal.

# Khan Market among world's most expensive retail destinations

**NEW YORK'S FIFTH AVENUE RANKS AT TOP AND IS FOLLOWED BY MILAN'S VIA MONTENAPOLEONE AND HONG KONG'S TSIM SHA TSUI**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Nov 21:** Delhi's upscale Khan Market is the 22nd most expensive retail high street location in the world with an annual rent of USD 217 per square feet, according to Cushman & Wakefield. It ranked 21st last year.

Real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield Tuesday released its report, 'Main Streets Across the World' that examines prime retail rental rates in key cities globally.

"Delhi's Khan Market features amongst the top 25 most expensive main street markets in the world. With pre-pandemic to present growth (during September quarter) at 7 per cent and a 3 per cent year-on-year growth in rent in terms of INR, Khan Market ranked 22nd on the coveted global main street list," Cushman & Wakefield said in a statement.

New York's Fifth Avenue retains its top ranking as the world's most expensive retail destination. Milan's Via



Montenaполеone jumped a spot into the second place, displacing Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui, which slipped to the third position.

New Bond Street in London and the Avenues des Champs-Élysées in Paris retained the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

The biggest mover was Istiklal Street in Istanbul, which rose from the 31st to 20th position in response to inflation which caused rents to more than double over the past year, the consultant said.

Saurabh Shatdal, Managing Director, Capital Markets, Cushman & Wakefield India said, "Indian main streets, especially the prominent ones, have benefited from a dearth of space across quality grade retail malls. Main street rentals have grown by 10 per cent y-o-y average."

"One of the main reasons behind this is that while demand for retail space has been recovering strongly post pandemic, supply of grade A quality malls hasn't kept pace,"

Shatdal, who has recently been given the additional charge of Head Retail, said.

With an influx of premium brands into main streets, he said the demand for space in main streets experienced a fundamental uplift, both on rents and character.

"Given the momentum and strong demand being witnessed in the retail sector, we will continue to see traction in the segment in the coming months," Shatdal said.

Cushman & Wakefield noted that the top five most expensive main streets in India are Khan Market, Connaught Place (Delhi), Linking Road (Mumbai), Galleria Market (Gurugram), and Park Street (Kolkata).

# Qatar tame Blue Tigers



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 21:** India dished out a gritty display but suffered a 0-3 drubbing against dominant Asian champions Qatar in their second match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup second round qualifiers here Tuesday.

Qatar would have won by a bigger margin had they not missed several chances while dominating throughout the 90 minutes at the Kalinga Stadium. The visiting side scored through Moustafa Tarek Mashal (4th minute), Almeoz Ali (47th) and Yusuf Adurisag (86th).

India, who were seeking inspiration from their famous 0-0 draw against the same opponents four years ago, could barely create scoring chances. They did get a couple of opportunities at the fag end of the first half, but wasted them.

Igor Stimac's team is still in contention to finish second in Group A and qualify for the third round for the first time after a 1-0 win over Kuwait in their away match November 16.

The Indian defence was exposed quite early into the match as they conceded a goal in the fourth minute itself.

Off a corner, three Qatar players exchanged passes inside the

Indian box but none of the home side defenders could touch the ball. Moustafa Tarek Mashal then sent a low right-footed shot which beat goalkeeper Amrinder Singh, who was fielded by Stimac in place of Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, all ends up.

Akram Afif missed three chances which allowed India to go into the breather just one goal down. Afif failed to hit the target in the second minute with

just the Indian goalkeeper in front of the post. He also failed to find the target in the 14th, 22nd and 26th minutes.

With their backs to the wall, India tried to hit on the counter and they got two fine chances, and could have restored parity from the second one. Then, Udanta Singh and Anirudh Thapa had a nice one-touch neat exchange of passes but Lalengmawia Ralte failed to di-

rect his shot properly from the edge of the box.

Three minutes from the break, Thapa wasted an easier chance as he had only the Qatar goalkeeper Meshaal Barsham to beat after the ball landed on him following a defensive mistake. But Thapa somehow could only produce a weak low shot which missed the post by a wide margin.

If the fag end of the first half saw some fightback from India, Qatar nipped it in the bud by doubling the lead in the second minute (47th minute) of the second half with their prolific striker Almeoz Ali finding the target.

Thapa was taken off in the 63rd minute and Sahal Abdul Samad came in his place. Just two minutes later, Suresh Singh found him inside the Qatar box with a brilliant delivery but Samad's left-footed shot was wide of the far post.

Four minutes from regulation time, Qatar made it 3-0 (86th minute) with Yusuf Adurisag heading home after connecting a cross from Mohammed Albayati.

India next play their 2026 World Cup qualifiers match against Afghanistan at the neutral venue of Dushanbe, Tajikistan March 21 next year.



A stand full of spectators enjoy the match showing support for Team India at the Kalinga Stadium

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik (R) waves at the crowd ahead of the India-Qatar match in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

PICTURES: BIKASH NAYAK



# Wenger commits to 'dig out' talent



(From L): Sports secretary R Vineel Krishna, Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera, FIFA's chief of Global Football Development Arsene Wenger and AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey during the press conference at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Nov 21:** Legendary coach Arsene Wenger Tuesday committed himself to "digging out talent" in India and place the country on world football map, as he inaugurated the FIFA-AIFF academy here.

The former Arsenal manager, currently serving as FIFA's chief of global football development, did not give any time frame when India would start producing "great players" but made it known that without proper grassroots development, the country will remain as it is now.

"Our project is to identify talent in India, to put the best talent together, give them a good coaching programme, give them a good education and a good level of competition and make them great players," Wenger said.

"Our huge effort is to dig out talent and make them as good as they can be," he said after witnessing the signing of MoU between the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Odisha government.

FIFA has already recommended Spain's Sergi Amezcua Fontrodona - who was previously involved with developing football in China as project director - to be the academy head coach for two years and an Indian

■ 50 U-14 players - including 15 from Odisha - will be selected by the FIFA coaches in the first batch and they will get training at the academy for two years

■ Odisha government will take care of the boarding, lodging, accommodation and education of the players, while FIFA will provide the technical knowhow and the coaches

■ Sergi Amezcua Fontrodona has already been recommended to be the academy head coach for two years. He will be assisted by an Indian coach for a few months and a foreign assistant coach will be appointed in 4-5 months

With such a huge population, the potential in India is huge, for you to be on top of the world. That is what we want to achieve together. How long will it take, I don't know  
**ARSENE WENGER**

will assist him for a few months. A foreign assistant coach will be appointed in four-five months.

"But one thing is for sure, if we don't educate we will be where we are at the moment. With the quality of education, you get great players. Our target is to develop top level players here

and get India on the map among the best countries in the world," said the Frenchman.

He emphasised the necessity of catching players young if the country wants to reach the top level. "No country has more right over another country to be on the top of world. It's just down to educating your children (in football).

"India is a country which has invested a lot in education. It is a job you have to learn like any other job. And unfortunately, it starts at a very young age, you cannot start playing football at 15 years of age, you have to start at 5 or 6 years of age."

Wenger made a round of inspection of the academy, which is up for running with top-class facilities. It was initially planned as an Odisha state football academy.

"We just visited the facilities, the qualities of infrastructure are great. We delegate our own coach and develop a system over the years. Hopefully in the future, we will be rewarded if we do well. Our focus now is give this academy first and get the first players out in three-four years who can play at the top level."

Wenger and his team took stock of the facilities at the academy like the dormitories, dining area, study rooms, coaches rooms and common areas.

## WORLD BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP

# Advani bags 26th crown, beat compatriot Kothari



Sourav Kothari (L) and Pankaj Advani pose with their prizes, Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Doha, Nov 21:** Indian cueist Pankaj Advani rallied to win the IBSF World Billiards Championship title here Tuesday for a staggering 26th time, beating compatriot Sourav Kothari in the final.

Trailing 26-180 in the first hour, Advani rallied to defeat the 2018 world champion Kothari 1000-416 in a rematch of last year's title clash in Kuala Lumpur.

Playing back-to-back matches, Kothari took the initial lead and was going strong but faltered on a couple of easy chances to allow Advani recover from the deficit. From there, it got a little scrappy with both players exchanging visits between them and a couple of 150-plus breaks by Advani helped him stretch the lead while Kothari could not fully capitalise on the chances he got.

Advani fired in a break of 214, the highest of the match, and looked unstoppable after that. Advani maintained a healthy 250-point lead for a better part of the match. A 99 from Kothari brought the difference down to 150.

The ace from Bangalore then switched gears to extend the lead and reach the 1000-mark with an unfinished break of 199 to end the proceedings.

Describing the feeling as "unreal", Advani said: "I have won before so I know how it feels, but to repeat it year on year is

what makes all those hours of work on skill, body and mind totally worth it. To me, consistency is the hallmark of success and continuing to bring home world titles for the country is what drives me the most."

Advani will get no rest as he participates in the next edition of the World Billiards Championship, which is the short format, 150-up.

Kothari blamed fatigue for squandering his early lead. "My semifinals stretched on for almost five hours and I had to play the final with just a little more than an hour's break. So I guess I was fatigued," Kothari said. "I hope to make amends in the point-format now which begins later in the day," he added.

Kothari pulled off a close win against Dhruv Sitwala, prevailing 900-756 in a gruelling semifinal that stretched for about five hours.

Advani had won his first world title in 2003. The only player globally to win world titles in all formats of both billiards and snooker has maintained his superlative level of performance to keep India on top of the world in the 3-ball game.

While Advani has won the 'long format' for the ninth time, he triumphed in the 'point format' championship on eight occasions, besides winning the World Team Billiards Championship once.

# Prannoy, Satwik-Chirag advance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Shenzhen, Nov 21:** Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy progressed to the second round of China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament with a straight game win over Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen here Tuesday.

The 31-year-old, who had missed a couple of tournaments due to a back injury, registered a 21-18, 22-20 win over the World No.12 Chen in the opening round, thus avenging the loss that he suffered last week in Japan. The Asian Games bronze medallist will face either Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu or Denmark's Magnus Johannesen next.

Top seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who are the reigning Asian Games gold medallists, comfortably prevailed 21-13, 21-10 over England's Ben Lane and Sean Vandy to also make a good start. The Commonwealth Games champions will meet Japan's Akira Koga and Taichi Saito next.

## WARNER RESTED FOR T20S AGAINST INDIA, WADE TO LEAD SIDE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Melbourne, Nov 21:** The selectors have decided to rest David Warner for the five-match T20 series in India following Australia's ODI World Cup triumph in Ahmedabad.

Warner, who was Australia's leading run-getting with 535 runs in the triumphant campaign, was originally part of the squad to be led by Matthew Wade. The squad, for the series beginning in Visakhapatnam November 23, was announced last month. All-rounder Aaron Hardie has already joined the squad as Warner's replacement.

### THE SQUAD

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



Aakarshi Kashyap, the only Indian challenger in women's singles, found Zhang Yi Man of China too hot to handle, going down 12-21, 14-21 in 33 minutes.

Prannoy, World No.8, came into the match with a 4-7 head-to-head count but produced a gritty show to come up trumps against Chen.

Lagging 6-9 at one stage, Prannoy turned the tables with four straight points to make it 12-10. Chen came close at 12-14 but

the Indian didn't give much of a chance to his rival to comfortably pocket the opening game.

Chen tried to script a comeback and was 6-3 up early in the second game but a fighting Prannoy kept him on his toes, despite lagging for most part.

The Indian had managed to eke out an 8-6 lead but Chen moved to 12-10 and kept his nose ahead till 18-16 when Prannoy surpassed him to shut the door on his opponent.

# 'Stop clock' introduced in men's ODI and T20Is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, Nov 21:** Bowling teams in men's ODI and T20Is will be imposed a five-run penalty if the bowler exceeds the 60 second limit of bowling the next over for the third time in an innings, the sport's governing body ICC said Tuesday.

It will be used on a trial basis initially. The decision was taken at the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meeting here.

"The CEC agreed to introduce a stop clock on a trial basis in men's ODI and T20I cricket from December 2023 to April 2024. The clock will be used to regulate the amount of time taken between overs.

"If the bowling team is not ready to bowl the next over within 60 seconds of the previous over being completed, a 5-run penalty will be imposed the third



time it happens in an innings," said the ICC in a statement.

The ICC also made a change to its process of banning a pitch from international cricket. "Changes to the pitch and outfield monitoring regulations were also approved, including a simplification of the criteria against which a pitch is assessed and increasing the threshold for when a venue could have its international status removed from five demerit points to six demerit points over a five-year period," the ICC added.

# Major call to protect integrity of eves' cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ahmedabad, Nov 21:** In a major policy decision, the ICC Tuesday barred cricketers, who have been through any form of male puberty, from competing in international women's game regardless of whether or not they have undergone surgery or gender reassignment treatment.

The ICC said it was taking the decision to protect the integrity of international women's game and the safety of players. In a statement, the ICC said, "The ICC Board approved new gender eligibility regulations for the international game following a nine-month consultation process with the sport's stakeholders.

"The new policy is based on the following principles (in order of priority), protection of the integrity of the women's game, safety, fairness and inclusion, and this means any Male to Female participants who have been through any form of male puberty will not be eligible to participate in the international women's game



regardless of any surgery or gender reassignment treatment they may have undertaken."

Gender reassignment and treatment have been a hotly-debated topic in world athletics for years. The ICC, while firming up rules for gender eligibility for international women's cricket, left the issue at the domestic level in the hands of the member boards.

"The review, which was led by the ICC Medical Advisory

Committee chaired by Dr Peter Harcourt, relates solely to gender eligibility for international women's cricket, whilst gender eligibility at domestic level is a matter for each individual Member Board, which may be impacted by local legislation. The regulations will be reviewed within two years," said the ICC.

ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said the world governing body had arrived at the decision following "extensive con-

## Blow for Sri Lanka

**AHMEDABAD:** The ICC Tuesday moved next year's men's U-19 World Cup from Sri Lanka to South Africa. 11 days after the world governing body provisionally suspended the island nation's cricket board due to government interference. The international board met here and "confirmed the terms of the suspension" of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) and also the shifting of the age-group showpiece. In a statement, the ICC said, "After hearing representation from SLC, the ICC Board decided that Sri Lanka can continue to compete internationally both in bilateral cricket and ICC events after being suspended recently for breaching its obligations as a Member in particular the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and without government interference." However, funding to SLC will be controlled by the ICC and the ICC Board.

sultations". "Inclusivity is incredibly important to us as a sport, but our priority was to protect the integrity of the international women's game and the safety of players," Allardice added.