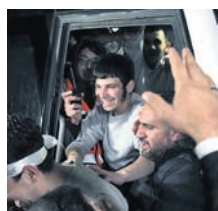




KAT'S OBJECTIVE

Katrina Kaif says she looks forward to not fall in her own traps of trying to maintain any image

LEISURE P2



ISRAEL, HAMAS ABIDE BY TRUCE

Israeli forces and Hamas fighters abide by a truce for a fifth morning Tuesday, after a 4-day ceasefire was extended

INTERNATIONAL P10



SC NOD FOR WFI POLL

WFI's election date likely to be announced today after the SC set aside the stay imposed by Punjab and Haryana HC

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

'Ama Bank' for unbanked GPs

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday launched 'Ama Bank', an ambitious initiative of the state government for providing 15 banking services through CSP (customer service point) Plus outlets in over 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats of Odisha. Odisha is the first state in the entire country to conceptualise and implement such a holistic scheme for financial inclusion. In the first phase, 750 CSP Plus outlets covering 30 districts were dedicated to the people. The initiative will be implemented in a phased manner to cover all 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) within FY 2023-24.

Sri Lanka offers free tourist visa to Indians

Colombo: Aimed at boosting the tourism sector, Indian tourists - the largest inbound group - to Sri Lanka, would receive free tourist visas with immediate effect, the Department of Immigration and Emigration has announced here. The facility follows a Cabinet decision from October to issue free tourist visas to travellers from India, China, Russia, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, and Thailand amidst efforts to rebuild the debt-trapped island nation's tourism sector that had slumped since the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings.



NIGHTMARE ENDS: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami greets a rescued worker coming out of the collapsed Silkyara Tunnel, in Uttarkashi district, Tuesday

LIGHT AT LAST

All 41 workers rescued from collapsed Silkyara tunnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Uttarkashi, Nov 28: Rescue workers pulled out all 41 workers trapped in Uttarakhand's Silkyara tunnel in a multi-agency rescue operation that hovered between hope and despair for almost 17 days. Instead of being brought out on wheeled stretchers through a steel tube that lined the 60-metre rescue shaft, the labourers crawled out of it, according to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. He and Union minister V K Singh welcomed the workers as National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) men helped them in getting out safely. An ambulance with the first of the 41 workers left the mouth of the tunnel around 8 pm, about an hour after rat-hole mining experts dug through the last stretch of rubble. There was hugging and cheers as the ordeal ended. Some local villagers burst crackers. Outside the tunnel, some chanted "Har Har Mahadev", "Bharat Mata ki Jai", and slogans in praise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Very happy: Naveen

As the news of successful rescue operation of labourers came in, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik thanked the various rescue teams that have been engaged for the operation over several days. The CM said, "it gives me immense pleasure to learn about the successful rescue operation and I am very happy that our workers will return home safe." Notably, of the 41 trapped labourers, there were five from Odisha. The state government had sent a team and the family members of the trapped Odia labourers to the rescue site of the Silkyara Tunnel.

and Dhami. Ambulances which had lined up at the tunnel ferried the workers to a community health centre where a special 41-bed ward had been set up. Before this, the workers were given a quick medical checkup inside the tunnel. CM Dhami said no worker was in a critical condition. But they will be kept under medical observation for some time before being sent home, he said.

He said the youngest of the worker was rescued first.

A portion of the under-construction on Uttarakhand's Char Dham route collapsed November 12, blocking the exit of the workers who were inside.

Food, medicines and other essentials were sent to them through a six-inch pipe pushed through the debris. Relief was felt far and wide over the safe evacuation.

As the rescue appeared imminent earlier in the day, families stationed in Silkyara were allowed inside the tunnel with their belongings so that they could travel with their loved ones to the medical centre.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the relief workers. "Everyone involved in the mission has created an amazing example of humanity and teamwork," he posted on X. "It is a matter of great satisfaction that these friends of ours will meet their dear ones after a long wait."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said he saluted the grit of the trapped workers for facing such a challenging situation for so long.

17 TRAUMATIC DAYS

- **NOV 12:** 41 labourers get trapped inside Silkyara-Dandalgau under-construction tunnel
- **NOV 13:** Contact established with trapped workers through a pipe
- **NOV 14:** Steel pipes brought to tunnel site for insertion through the rubble
- **NOV 15:** Auger machine airlifted from Delhi
- **NOV 17:** Machine drills about 24 m; fifth pipe hits obstacle
- **NOV 19:** Drilling remains suspended; Gadkari reviews rescue operation
- **NOV 20:** PM Narendra Modi speaks to CM Pushkar Dhami
- **NOV 21:** First video of trapped labourers released
- **NOV 22:** Horizontal drilling of 800 mm diameter steel pipes reaches about 45 metres
- **NOV 23:** Iron obstruction removed
- **NOV 24:** 25-tonne machine restarts and drilling resumes
- **NOV 25:** Auger machine blades stuck in debris
- **NOV 26:** Vertical drilling of 19.2 m done
- **NOV 27:** Rat-hole mining experts roped in
- **NOV 28:** Rescue workers break through the last stretch of the rubble at about 7pm. First labourer evacuated

IIC in Vigilance net; ₹37 lakh cash seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday arrested Koraput's Boipariguda inspector in-charge (IIC) Susanta Satpathy after recovering Rs 37.27 lakh in unaccounted cash from his possession, an official said.

According to Koraput Vigilance superintendent of police (SP) Pradyumna Kumar Dwibedi, Satpathy was intercepted while he was travelling from Boipariguda to Cuttack by a bus Monday evening.

"After getting information that Satpathy will travel to his home in Cuttack city in a private bus with ill-gotten cash, I sent two teams to nab him," said Dwibedi.

During a search, the Vigilance team seized Rs 2.70 lakh from his possession after he failed to explain the source of the cash, the SP added.

The team, Monday evening, raided his office chamber at Boipariguda police station and found another Rs 1.80 lakh. Nearly Rs 3 lakh more was seized from his official quarters in Boipariguda, the Vigilance SP said.

The police inspector was also holding another government quarters in Cuttack, where Rs 29.77 lakh in cash was seized Tuesday morn-



ing, he said, adding, that a case has been registered against the IIC and he was arrested.

Details of immovable and movable assets are being investigated, Vigilance sources said.

Satpathy joined government service as a constable under Bhubaneswar district police in 1999 and then got himself selected as a sub-inspector of Odisha Police through direct recruitment in 2008.

In July 2023, he was promoted to the rank of an inspector and in August this year, he was transferred as Boipariguda IIC. Earlier, departmental proceedings were initiated against him in 2012, 2018 and 2020 for misconduct and dereliction of duty.

He was placed under suspension in January 2020 during his posting in Rayagada district, the source said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Going to a temple won't help you, sir. All the photographers have already been booked by your opponents

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	66174.20 ↑ 204.16
NIFTY	19889.70 ↑ 95.00
DOLLAR	83.39 ↑ ₹0.02
EURO	91.31 ↑ ₹0.36
GOLD	₹62,056 ↑ ₹516
SILVER	₹75,053 ↑ ₹247

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	30.2°C	29.8°C
TEMP MIN	18.5°C	18.0°C
Humidity	73%	81%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	

Laser scanning of Ratnabhandar starts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Nov 28: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Tuesday began the laser scanning of the outer walls of Srimandir Ratnabhandar in Puri and documented 37 spots of the temple treasury.

The laser scanning was carried out in the presence of temple managing body members and 15 core committee members. A team of technicians and engi-



neers from Mumbai have installed the camera on a tripod and conducted scanning of the northwest portion of the structure. On Wednesday, the team will operate over the south portions. It will take about four days to take a full scan image of the walls, sources said.

It will take at least a week to process the images and to find results which will be submitted to the temple authority, ASI sources said. ASI Superintending Archaeologist DB Garnaik said the team documented 37 spots.

"The laser scan images will enable experts to detect weak points or cracks in the outer wall only. If the damage is huge and of serious nature then the scanning of inner walls will be taken up," he said.

Don't be so narrow-minded: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed a plea seeking a complete ban on artists from Pakistan to perform or work in India, and asked the petitioner not to be 'so narrow-minded'.

A bench of justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti said it was not inclined to interfere with the Bombay HC order which junked the plea filed by Faaziz Anwar Qureshi, who claims to be a cine worker and artiste.

"You should not press this appeal. Do not be so narrow-minded," the bench said.

The SC refused the submission to expunge certain remarks made by the high court against the petitioner. The petition had sought the court's direction to the Central government to impose a complete ban on Indian citizens, companies, firms and associations from employing or soliciting any work or performance, taking of any services, or entering into any association and so on with any Pakistani artiste.

BIHAR GOVT CUTS HINDU FEST HOLIDAYS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Nov 28: In what is being perceived as a minority appeasement strategy ahead of the Assembly and the Lok Sabha polls, the Mahagathbandhan government of Bihar has reduced the holidays on Hindu festivals while increasing the same for Muslim festivals.

Monday evening, the Education department issued a leave notification in this regard. Besides, it has also increased the summer vacation by 10 more days.

As per the fresh notification for year 2024, the Education department has made mandatory 220 days of studying for the students.

However, the holidays for Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Juha and Muharram were enhanced from 2 days to three.

Even the summer vacation has also increased from 20 days to 30 days for the year 2024.

Holidays for Hartalika Teej, Janmastami, Mahashivratri, Ram Navami, Saraswati Puja, Rakhi, Teej and Jitiya stand cancelled. Interestingly, the Central government announced a holiday on Janmastami, Mahashivratri, Ramnavami, with all Central government offices and banks closed every year. **MORE P9**

Cuban family biz makes flour from coconut amid shortages

Thousands of small businesses have taken root in Cuba since 2021, but many face persistent problems with financing, infrastructure, supply and workforce in the communist-run country which for decades shunned private enterprise

REUTERS

Havana, Nov 28: On a small farm outside Havana, a Cuban family-run business produces gluten-free flour from banana, coconut and yucca preferring locally-sourced ingredients to pricey imports as Cubans seek innovative solutions to a growing food crisis.

Cuba purchases most of the food it consumes from abroad, but revenues have plunged following the coronavirus pandemic, hampered by stiff US sanctions and floundering tourism, once a mainstay of the Caribbean island economy.

That has led some, such as 38-year old entrepreneur Gabriel Perez, to look for alternatives. "There is a crisis, that is un-



Entrepreneur Gabriel Perez, 38, poses for a photo as he checks slices of banana put to dry in his farmland in the rural outskirts of Havana, Cuba

deniable," said Perez, who recently sold a home and business to settle on farmland in the rural

outskirts of Havana. "But in Cuba it stems in part from a lack of culture around eating the

foods that we have at hand."

He points to Cubans' preference for rice, pork and beans, all locally available but many of which require machinery and agricultural inputs to grow at scale. His business, Bacoretto, dries and mills yucca, rice, banana and coconut into organic flour preferred by gluten-intolerant consumers, who have only recently been able to find food products tailored to their dietary needs in Cuba. Byproducts of their processes are used to make coconut oil, coconut-fiber rope, vinegar and fermented products and sweets, Perez said. Bacoretto is small and specialized, and its products available primarily in Havana. It produces 6 to 8 kilograms (13.2 to 17.6 pounds)

of flour a week, Perez said, in small batches, in addition to byproducts, with a staff of eight people.

Perez said the business, which took advantage of a 2021 decision to lift a ban on private companies in place on the island since shortly after Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, has struggled to find the financing it needs in cash-strapped Cuba.

Thousands of small businesses have taken root in Cuba since 2021, but many face persistent problems with financing, infrastructure, supply and workforce in the communist-run country which for decades shunned private enterprise. "To be profitable," Perez said, "technological capacity needs to be increased and better machinery is needed."

leisure



ROBERT DE NIRO SAYS HIS GOTHAM AWARDS SPEECH WAS CENSORED

Hollywood legend Robert De Niro has claimed that his Gotham Awards speech was censored during the live ceremony. The actor claimed anti-Trump comments were removed without notice, reports *Variety*.

I'VE BEEN INSPIRED BY HATERS: KYLIE JENNER

Make-up mogul Kylie Jenner says she is aware of what's said about her online, and she uses criticism as a motivation. The reality star told *Interview* magazine: "I make notes if I'm getting inspiration. I'm online a lot. Also the haters fuel me."



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181*

ARIES
The day may start with a dilemma, but that's exactly how your skills will come into play. As evening approaches, you will be applauded for your outstanding performance. If Ganesh is particularly generous today, you may sign new agreements.

TAURUS
Priorities and money matters will line up impatiently to knock on your door (and desk). Your financial constraints will get an outburst today. People may be taken by surprise with the way you get poignant. You will also enjoy the higher accountability reposed on you, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you will get an opportunity to rejuvenate yourself with seamless energy. How? Ganesh's guess is that you will find — or at least you will believe that you have found — your purpose in life. It will keep you excited throughout the day, and maybe even for days to come. You may spend lavishly to improve your personal appearance.

CANCER
Ganesh believes that today you may have to take certain financial decisions at home as well as at work. If you are in-charge of a certain project, you will trust the judgement of those working on it, mostly because they have been hand-picked by you.

LEO
You are blessed with a visionary's creative streak. Perhaps, that's why, you see things differently from others. Today, thanks to the stars, your creative side will surge forth with renewed vigour. You will generate ideas effortlessly and continuously as you reach your creative peak.

VIRGO
There will be dirt on your shoulder today, so dust it off, says Ganesh, because every time you fall you will get up stronger than before. Your logic and analytical skills will help you find the necessary precision to accomplish tasks at work. You may spend the evening with a close friend or your beloved, engrossed in a stimulating conversation.

LIBRA
There are many kinds of worries that you must equip yourself to deal with. To do this, you may have to learn and follow the basic steps of problem-solving techniques. The steps involve obtaining facts, analysing them and then arriving at a decision based upon your observations.

SCORPIO
Ganesh feels a taxing and demanding day may be at hand today. Things might baffle you so much that you might lose your ability to think clearly. The battle is not lost because your power of resilience will be the silver lining. Address one problem at a time and take the slow and steady path, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You will discover a flair for flirting as you puppet words to your romantic will with ease and grace. Most of today will be spent in the company of a loved one, perhaps a picnic for two, or a day-long romantic date. Stay prepared for the worst as this may not necessarily blossom into a long-lasting relationship, warns Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Like you weren't already overworked, new responsibilities will keep you occupied throughout the day, says Ganesh. The excitement with which you work every day will weaken, and eventually die down by the end of the day. This is mainly because you will burn your energy and resources in helping others.

AQUARIUS
You have your head on your shoulders and feet on the ground. Congratulations! You've covered the first step to success. Step two, says Ganesh, involves an inquisitive mind and a questioning attitude. Later, you may resort to shortcuts and compromise a tad in quality.

PISCES
Your fount of creativity spouts everyday like there is no tomorrow. However, you need to be organised and in position to implement all those revolutionary ideas that occur to you in a jiffy, that lesser mortals take aeons to dream up.

Katrina

tries not to get typecast

New Delhi: Actress Katrina Kaif who has given many blockbusters making her one of the biggest stars in the industry shared how she looks forward to better herself as an artiste and making sure to not fall in her own traps of trying to maintain or sustain any image.

The *Welcome* actress said: "I am immensely grateful for the amazing love and support from audiences. It's truly remarkable and remains a cherished accomplishment." "My desire right now would look forward to from here is exactly what I spoke about earlier about bettering myself as an artist. Making sure I do not fall into my own traps of trying to repeat myself or trying to maintain or sustain any image because I have done something before because I have fit into a particular, you know, type of role very well, does not mean that you know that is where my future lies," added the *Tiger 3* actress. "I think as an artist you need to learn to evolve. You need to constantly check in with yourself. Currently, I'm very conscious that whatever film I step onto I need to connect to it deeply and only then come on to that set and bring everything that I have," concluded Kaif.



NAT'L THEATRE FEST-2023: DAY-II



Artistes of Prayas from Patna (Bihar) performed Magahi (Magadhi) play *Dasarath Manjhi* at Rabindra Mandap Tuesday. The event is being hosted to celebrate 10th anniversary of Bhubaneswar-based drama group Shwetapadma. Based on the life of Dasarath Manjhi, an Indian worker of Gehlaur village near Gaya famously known as the Mountain Man who single-handedly carved a path through a mountain, the play was written and directed by Mithilesh Singh.

Filmmakers' 6-day protest called off

Bhubaneswar: State's agitating filmmakers Tuesday withdrawing their strike that was launched at the Lower PMG here, November 23.

The move came following a meeting between Mo Cinema, a team headed by eminent director Sabyasachi Mohapatra and actress Mahasweta Ray, and the state government held during the day.

In the meeting, Industry secretary Hemant Sharma and Odisha Film Development Corporation chairman Kuna Tripathy dis-

cussed the issues raised by the cine celebrities, which included producer Sanliisa, actor Buddhadiya Mohanty, and others. Sharma assured them of taking a decision on the demands in a few days.

The demands include one cinema hall in each block, mandatory screening of Odia films in every theatre for a certain period, and the formation of a regulatory body to address producers' grievances, among others. It also includes streamlining distribution systems and ensuring the security of films and makers, both on and offline.

Fashionista Rohit Bal critical

New Delhi: Fashion designer Rohit Bal is in the ICU of Gurugram's Medanta hospital undergoing treatment for cardiac issues and is in a critical condition, doctors treating him said Tuesday.

Bal, a trendsetter in Indian fashion, is under the supervision of a team led by cardiologist Dr Praveen Chandra at the hospital.

"He is in a critical condition. He was admitted a few days ago. He came with a heart condition that is getting stabilised but he also has infection which is creating the trouble," informed Dr Chandra. Once dubbed as the 'India's master of fabric and fantasy' by the *Time* magazine, Bal has ruled the fashion scene for many years.

Throughout his career, Bal has dressed several celebrities including Ranveer Singh, Cindy Crawford, Naomi Campbell, Deepika Padukone, Kareena Kapoor and Arjun Rampal.



Vidya: Women're way ahead of time now

Panaji: Actress Vidya Balan, during a session on *Women and the Glass Ceiling* held on the sidelines of the ongoing 54th IFFI, said that women are way ahead of time in today's world.

Highlighting the significance of the portrayal of women in Indian cinema, Vidya said, "We all need to shed the stereotypes regarding women that are ingrained in our society. Women are way ahead of time in today's world. All the exceptional characters played by female actors in Indian films in the past and their desire to do more pushed us to reach a stage where we are telling women-oriented stories in movies now."

Expressing her willingness to play different characters, the Parineeta actress shared that looking for new stories and characters that can relate with the audience is very important. She also shared her desire to do unimaginable roles and to break the stereotyping of female characters in cinema has been the motivation for her.

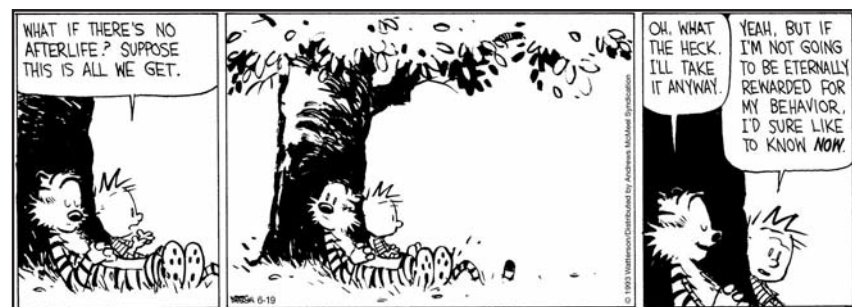
In a career spanning two decades now, Vidya has essayed unconventional roles with great finesse in films such as *Bhool Bhulaiya*, *Paa*, *Kahani*, *The Dirty Picture*, and *Shakuntala Devi*, among others.



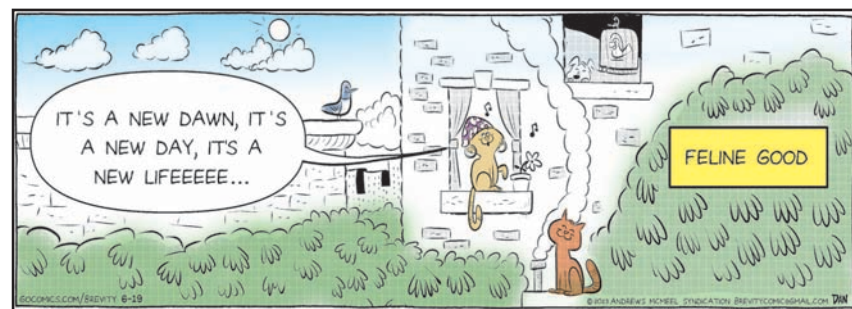
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

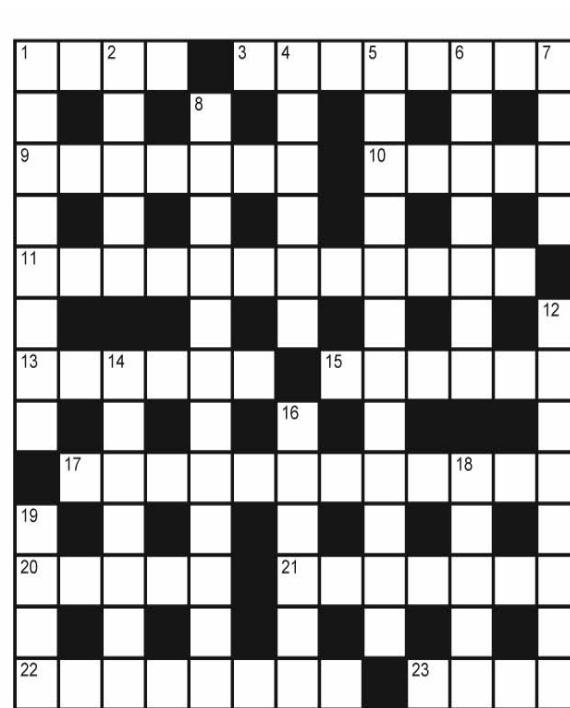


BREVITY



FUN post

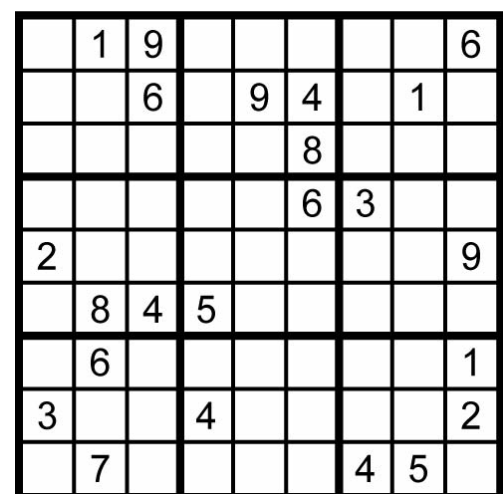
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Exam
 - 3 Like some horses
 - 9 Thankless wretch
 - 10 Mole relative
 - 11 Like welcoming arms
 - 13 Wacky
 - 15 Nook
 - 17 Before the flood
 - 20 Sine or cosine
 - 21 Urn type, in verse
 - 22 Short sleeveless negligee
 - 23 Little tricksters
- Down
- 1 Impractical; idealistic
 - 2 Bullion unit
 - 4 Lean toward
 - 5 Optimistic glasses? (4-8)
 - 6 Submarine weapon
 - 7 Sunrise
 - 8 Crotchety
 - 12 Scraps
 - 14 Retreat; inner
 - 16 *Aeneid* poet
 - 18 Expression
 - 19 Gator's kin

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

M I D I S H A N G H A I
A I S O I E I S
R A V I O L I T R I L L
M O R S R R E
O T T E R T H E B E S
S O S
S E L B O W S R U S S E T
T L L U P A
R A I S I N B A T I K
S N T I E I E
T O K A Y S H A M P O O
E E L L O T S U
P A T T E R N S K Y A T

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

ODISSI TREAT

Artistes of cultural outfit Sudha perform during Rasa Mahotsav organised at Annapurna Theatre in Puri, Tuesday



'Ama Bank' for unbanked GPs

Chief Minister launches ambitious scheme that will facilitate 15 banking services



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday launched 'Ama Bank', an ambitious initiative of the state government for providing 15 banking services through CSP (customer service point) Plus outlets in 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) of Odisha.

Odisha is the first state in the country to conceptualise and implement such a holistic scheme for financial inclusion. In the first phase, 750 CSP Plus outlets covering 30 districts were dedicated to the people of Odisha.

The initiative will be implemented in a phased manner to cover all 4,373 unbanked gram panchayats within the current financial year 2023-24.

Launching 'Ama Bank', Naveen said, "Financial inclusion is the foundational premise of social and economic progress and empowerment of people. No country or state can ever attain inclusive growth without achieving financial inclusion for its people. Reaching out to the people at the bottom of the pyramid and delivery of public services to the last mile in a fair and transparent manner has been one of the highest priority agenda of the government."

According to sources, financial inclusion has remained a chal-

lenge as the geographical penetration of banks in the state has been rather dismal. About 65 per cent of GPs do not have a brick and mortar bank branch, leading to severe challenges in accessing banking services and availability of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for a majority of people in rural Odisha.

To address the issue, the state government in collaboration with six public sector banks (PSBs) - SBI, PNB, UBI, UCO Bank, Bank of India and Bank of Baroda - has come up with an ambitious and people-centric scheme 'Ama Bank' for providing banking services through CSP Plus outlets to every unbanked gram panchayat.

'Ama Bank' is a low cost brick and mortar micro bank branch which sits between a BC and a small bank branch and will provide 15 necessary banking services like deposits, advances, remittances, loans, Aadhaar-enabled payment system, credit linkage to self-help groups and coverage under social security schemes.

Odisha government will provide rent-free banking space for five years. The state government will also bear one-time expense for fixed cost and recurring expenses for a period of three years. A provision of Rs 500 crore has been made for the purpose.

Amid cyclone threat, 7 dists put on alert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The state government Tuesday put seven coastal districts on alert amid a low-pressure area over the south Andaman sea, which is likely to intensify into a depression and eventually into a cyclone by December 2, officials said.

In a letter to the Collectors of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu said that a low-pressure area over the south Andaman Sea is likely to intensify into a depression and later into a cyclonic storm.

Therefore, fishermen should be discouraged from venturing into the sea from the morning of December 1 and those who have gone to the sea should return by that date, said the letter, which was also sent to the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department.

Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre's Director HR Biswas said that the exact path of the system will be known once the low-pressure area intensifies into a depression.

He said that light to moderate rains and thundershowers are likely in some areas of Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri and Jagatsinghpur December 3.

In the letter, Sahu said that under the influence of the anticipated system, wind speed may reach up to 40-50 kmph over the central Bay of Bengal from December 1, and it may increase to 50-60 kmph December 2.

As the sea conditions are likely to be very rough, fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea from December 1, he said.

"The Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department will ensure communication of warning/alert messages to fishermen, and boats plying in the sea and details of boats and fishermen returned regularly," he said.



MARITIME GLORY: People in large numbers thronged Baliyatra Lower Ground on the second day of the maritime trade fair in Cuttack, Tuesday OP PHOTO

Witnesses' examination starts in Tribunal

ODISHA WITNESS FAILS TO GIVE ACCOUNT OF MAHANADI BASIN DETAILS

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal Tuesday commenced examination of witnesses as Odisha produced its first witness for recording statement and cross-examination.

Odisha produced Manoj Panda, former director of Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi in the tribunal as its first witness for examination on the aspect of socio-economic development in Mahanadi basin in Odisha. After taking oath of the Constitution, Panda was questioned by senior counsel AK Ganguly, representing Chhattisgarh. The tribunal also posed several questions to him about the study he has conducted regarding socio-economic development in Mahanadi basin in Odisha.

Senior advocate Ganguly asked him questions about the place in Odisha he hails from and whether Mahanadi basin forms part of that area. However, Panda couldn't tell the exact details pertaining to Mahanadi basin in



MAHANADI WATER DISPUTE

Odisha produced Manoj Panda, former director of Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi in the tribunal as its first witness for examination on the aspect of socio-economic development in Mahanadi basin in Odisha

Panda was asked to produce all the communications he had with the state government pertaining to his report on socio-economic development in Mahanadi basin and also give details of the data he got through the assistance of others

his district - Kalahandi. The tribunal asked Panda to produce all the communications he had with

the state government pertaining to his report on socio-economic development in Mahanadi basin and also give details of the data he got through the assistance of others.

Cross-examination of the witness will continue during the next hearing from January 12 to 13.

Odisha has submitted a list of nine witnesses for examination in the tribunal. After Panda, the state government will produce Dibakar Naik, former dean of College of Agriculture, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), in the tribunal. He will be examined for agriculture development in Mahanadi basin.

Significantly, three-member tribunal headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice AM Khanwilkar asked all the states to submit the affidavits of all the witnesses to the tribunal registry by January next year.

The members also expressed dissatisfaction with the Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh for not submitting the list of witnesses despite the tribunal's order.

Update data in HRMS by Jan 15, employees told

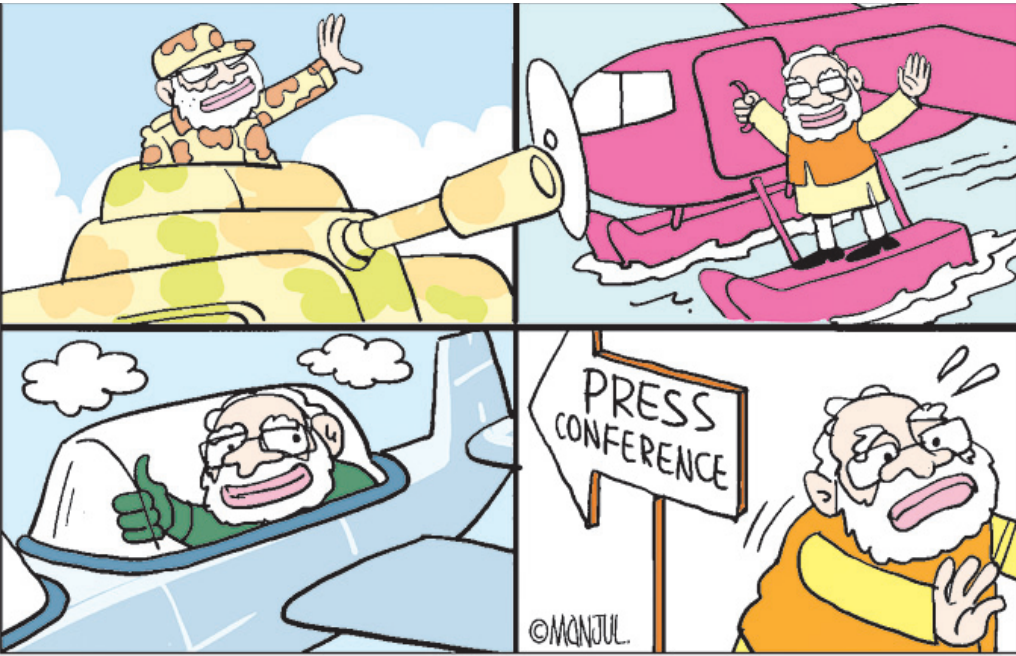
ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The state government Tuesday asked its employees to ensure updating their Aadhaar and Aadhaar-linked mobile number in Human Resource Management System (HRMS) of Centre for Modernizing Government Initiative (CMGI) by January 15, 2024 as it would help in expeditious processing and disposal of pension cases online.

According to sources, the state government has made online processing of pension papers using IFMS platform mandatory from October 1, 2023.

"As a part of 5T initiatives, it has been decided to push the HRMS data to relevant fields of the pension form through API integration to facilitate easy preparation of pension papers. Auto-filling of complete pension paper by pooling data from HRMS profile of the employees concerned necessitated creation of some additional fields in the HRMS profile of the government employees," according to the General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) department.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Current solar cycle may impact Earth's satellites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The ongoing solar cycle is likely to peak its intensity in 2024 and can potentially impact Earth's space weather, according to researchers at the Indian Institute of Space Education and Research (IISER), Kolkata.

It is known that roughly every 11 years, the intensity of solar activity reaches its peak, which manifests as violent disturbances in space weather such as solar magnetic storms or coronal mass ejections, impacting Earth's satellites and telecommunications.

"During intense solar storms, the Earth's upper atmosphere expands outwards, thereby introducing friction on the low-Earth satellites. The friction can lead to a decay in the satellites' orbits and reduce their lifetime. Thus, they are able to live in space for a much shorter time than they were originally supposed to," Dibyendu Nandy, the study's corresponding author and Professor of Physics and Head, Center of Excellence in Space Sciences India, IISER, Kolkata, told PTI.



The intensity of solar activity reaches its peak in every 11 years which manifests as violent disturbances in space weather such as solar magnetic storms or coronal mass ejections

The researchers also said that the most intense of these storms can cause serious damage to orbiting satellites, electric power grids and telecommunications when directed at Earth.

In their study appearing in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society Letters, the researchers discovered a new relationship to help predict the occurrence of peaks in solar cycles, which are produced by an internal dynamo mechanism, harnessing energy from plasma flows inside the Sun.

Using decades-old data archives from ground-based solar observatories worldwide, they found that the ongoing solar cycle 25 is related to Sun's magnetism activity, which they said manifests as sunspots cycle and recycling of the large-scale solar dipole magnetic field.

The sunspots, or dark spots on the Sun, are comparable to the size of the Earth and their magnetism intensity is about 10,000 times stronger than the Earth's magnetic field.

The research team found that the solar dipole magnetic field - stretch-

ing from one pole of the Sun to another in a way similar to the Earth's - waxed and waned in strength, flipping its polarity periodically, with the ongoing sunspot cycle.

Specifically, the rate of decrease in the Sun's dipole magnetic field is related to the rate of rise of the ongoing solar cycle, the researchers said in their study.

Swiss astronomer Max Waldmeier had discovered in 1935, that quicker the rise of a solar cycle, the greater its strength. This meant that stronger cycles would take lesser time to reach their peaks.

This discovery complemented the Waldmeier effect, the researchers said.

Their findings connecting the two primary components of the solar magnetic field support the theory that the evolution of sunspots are integral to the functioning of the solar dynamo process rather than being a mere symptom of it, they said.

Their findings open up a new window for forecasting the timing of the peak of solar cycles - when the most intense activity and most frequent space weather disturbances are expected, they said.

3 burglars in police net

BHUBANESWAR: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday apprehended three persons under Badagada police limits for their alleged involvement in theft and burglary cases. The police officials have also seized the stolen ornaments including gold jewellery weighing 100 gram and Rs 3,500 in cash. Bhubaneswar Zone-IV assistant commissioner of police (ACP) Subhanarayan Muduli said, "Accused Purna Chandra Behera along with his accomplices Siba and Rakesh were produced before a local court today after cases were registered under Sections 454 and 380 of IPC. This apart, seven cases have been registered against them in connection with theft under several police stations." Furthermore, the ACP stated that a case was lodged by Suranjan Das, a resident of Brahmeswarpatna, at Badagada police station November 20 alleging that miscreants broke into his house around 2pm in absence of family members.

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Five state workers rescued from tunnel



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Celebrations broke out in Odisha Tuesday evening after all 41 workers including five from the state who were trapped inside an under-construction tunnel in Uttarakhand, were rescued.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik thanked the rescue team for evacuating the workers from the Silkyara tunnel after almost 17 days. The five workers of Odisha who were trapped in the tunnel were Khirod (Raju) Nayak, Dhiren Nayak and Bisweswar Nayak from Mayurbhanj district, Bhagwan Bhatra of Nabarangpur and Tapan Mandal

of Bhadrak district.

It was a festival-like atmosphere in the villages of the five workers from the state as people distributed sweets, beat drums and danced to the tune of music.

The family members of the five were now relieved and thanked the government and all agencies involved in the massive rescue operation.

"It gives me immense pleasure to learn about the successful rescue operation and I am very happy that our workers will return home safe," Patnaik said in a statement. The state government has sent a team and the family members of the trapped Odia labourers to the site in

Uttarakshi district, he said.

The Chief Minister thanked the Uttarakhand government, NDRF and the Defense team for the successful rescue operation and said, "This proves that India can do anything and everything to save the lives of its citizens."

Locals in Bhatra's village Talabeda celebrated by bursting firecrackers and beating drums and gongs.

"We are very happy to learn that Bhagawan was rescued safely from the tunnel. We thank God for this," said the worker's sister-in-law. After the rescue operation was completed, locals at Bangriposi greeted the family members of Dhiren Nayak.

"I got a call from our family member who is camped there in Uttarakhand that my husband has been rescued safely," said Dhiren's wife.



ECSTATIC: Biju Chhatra Janata Dal Campus Committee members celebrate in front of Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, a day after 5T Chairman VK Pandian joined the BJD

9 companies get Odisha Idea Excellence Awards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: The Odisha CSR Forum, a non-profit engaged in promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the state, organized Odisha Ideas Leadership Summit and Odisha Idea Excellence Awards - 2023 here, recently.

Odisha Human Rights Commission chairperson Justice Satrugana Pujahari graced the occasion as the chief guest, while JSPIL president Prashant Hota and Odisha CSR Forum convener BK Mishra inaugurated the summit.

On this occasion, Odisha Idea Excellence Awards - 2023 were conferred on 9 companies including TPCODL, GKEL, Vedanta Lnjigarh, NAMM, NECO, AGF, TPNODL, Dalmia Cement and NTPC for their remarkable work that have made positive impact on the society through their innovative and sustainable CSR initiatives.

Also, 9 companies viz OSL, PPL, OMC, Vedanta, IFFCO, JK Paper, Dalmia Cement, JSPIL and OHPC were felicitated for their outstanding contributions in CSR and peripheral development activities.

Rana to get Sahitya Akademi Yuva award

New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kaushik has approved the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, 2023 in Odia for the book 'Senra' (short-stories) by Dileswar Rana. The book was unanimously selected for the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2023 in Odia after the recommendation of a three-member jury. The author will be given a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000 at a special event to be held at a later date. The Akademi said in a release that the award relates to a book published by an author of the age 35 or below as of January 1 of the year.

KIMS holds workshop on arthroscopic surgery



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) recently organised a cadaveric workshop on Arthroscopic surgery to address joint-related treatments. The workshop is an initiative in offering advanced treatment to sports persons that ensures effective and quick recovery of sports-related injuries.

"We initiated specialized workshops on sports-related cadaveric surgery, concentrating on shoulder injuries and their comprehensive treatment, aiming not only for recovery but also prevention," said, department of Orthopaedics HoD Debashish Mishra.

Emphasising the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's initiatives in prioritizing sports training and handling sports-related injuries, focusing on both treatment and prevention strategies, Mishra said KIMS will be venturing into fellowship programmes and collaborations with other laboratories, extending the focus beyond should

ers to encompass other joints and comprehensive rehabilitation methods.

The workshop was organised as part of the fourth annual conference of the Odisha Arthroscopy Society under the aegis of the Odisha Orthopaedics Association (OOA).

The experts witnessed 11 live surgeries, providing first-hand insights into cutting-edge procedures and techniques. Eminent orthopaedic surgeons from outside such as Senthil Velan R from Chennai, Asish Acharya from New Delhi and Swarnendu Samanta from Kolkata gave demonstrations. Besides, Jitendra Maheswari and Shashank Mishra spoke elaborately to all the young orthopaedic surgeons in basics of shoulder.

Arthroscopy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that involves making small incisions in the body, enabling fast recovery. It is commonly used on the knees, ankles, hips, shoulders, wrists, and elbows. No wonder then, the emphasis on arthroscopic surgery for athletes has been a game-changer.

State making progress in egg production: Minister

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Odisha is making great progress in egg production with layer poultry being one of the leading sectors of the economy producing the highest number of entrepreneurs in state, said Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain at a workshop organised here Tuesday by the Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Department to make the state self-sufficient in egg production.

Inaugurating the workshop, the minister said that as per Odisha Poultry Policy-2015, 100 per cent stamp duty exemption on purchase of land for poultry farm in any part of the state has been extended to entrepreneurs.

The state government is providing subsidies for layer farming. The per capita availability of eggs in the state has increased from 50 eggs per year in 2018-19 to 67 in 2022-23. "In order to become self-sufficient in egg production, the state aims to produce 120 lakh eggs per day by 2024-25. For this purpose, to prepare a road map to achieve the proposed goals, the workshop was



organized by the department," said an official. Daily production of eggs in the state during 2019-20 was about 65 lakh, but now it has reached about 103 lakh per day. Egg production has increased by 58 per cent in the last 4 years. Compound Annual Growth Rate is around 27 per cent. "The state government has

launched a three-pronged campaign to increase egg production. Incentives are provided to commercial layer farming. 157 commercial layer farms have been established in the state and 90 lakh eggs are being produced daily by these farms. About 3.5 lakh eggs are being produced daily from 700 medium-scale 1000 capacity layer farms and about 9 lakh eggs are being produced from backyard poultry units. Commercial, semi commercial and backyard poultry together have emerged as the egg basket of the state," informed the official.

Department Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth said that more and more young entrepreneurs are coming forward to establish layer farms and the government is organising seminars and workshops to promote layer farming.

Two arrested for pelting stones on Vande Bharat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 28: Two persons were arrested Tuesday for allegedly throwing stones at the Rourkela-Puri Vande Bharat Express, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) said.

The duo allegedly threw stones at the semi high-speed train on Sunday between Meramandali and Budhapank stations in the Dhenkanal-Angul section of the Bhubaneswar-Sambalpur line in Odisha, it said.

In that attack, a windowpane



of an executive class coach was damaged, leading to panic among the passengers. However, no one was injured. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) began a search to nab those behind the attack. During the search, the RPF detained two persons from the spot where the incident happened, the ECOR said in a statement.

"On confronting them about their purpose to come to such an isolated place by the side of railway track, they admitted that they had come to that place and pelting stones on Vande Bharat Express for fun after consuming alcohol, and confessed to their guilt," it said.

Following their confession, they were arrested in case U/S 153, 145(C) and 147 of Railway Act and were forwarded to the JMFC/Dhenkanal, it added.

Machine installed at Daruthenga dump yard

Bhubaneswar: Succumbing to the mounting pressure by residents on Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) for immediate resolution to pungent smell emanating from Daruthenga dumping yard, the civic body Tuesday installed a new Terex machine for waste management. The BMC has aimed at clearing the waste in coming four months by engaging workers in three shifts from December 1. BMC Commissioner Vijay Amrta Kulange said work at the site is going to start soon after the successful trial of the machine. The new capacity will be in addition to the existing waste management strength of 1,200-1,300 tonne per day. Kulange also said that the core committee and other officials have played an integral role in spreading awareness for sanitation and cleanliness among communities.

Study shows newborn babies can perceive 'beat' in music

Your newborn baby is well able to perceive the beat in the nursery rhymes that you play, confirmed a new research.

The study, carried out by a team of scientists from the University of Amsterdam and the HUN-REN Research Center for Natural Sciences (TTK) in Hungary, shows that this ability to recognise a beat is not simply due to the statistical learning ability of newborns, but that beat perception is actually a separate cognitive mechanism that is already active at birth.

"There is still a lot we don't know about how newborn babies perceive, remember and process music," said Henkjan Honing, Professor of Music Cognition at the University of Amsterdam.

"But we found clear indications that babies of just a few days old have the ability to hear a regular pulse in music - the beat - a characteristic that is considered essential for making and appreciating music."

For the study, published in the journal Cognition, the team conducted an experiment with 27 newborn babies. Researchers manipulated the timing of drum rhythms to see whether babies make a distinction between learning the order of sounds in a drum rhythm (statistical learning) and being able to recognise a beat (beat-induction).

The babies were presented with two versions of one drum rhythm through headphones. In the first version, the timing was isochronous: the distance between the sounds was always



the same. This allows you to hear a pulse or beat in the rhythm. In the other version, the same drum pattern was presented, but with random timing (jittered).

As a result, beat perception was not possible, but the sequence of sounds could be learned. This allowed the researchers to distinguish between beat perception and statistical

The study, carried out by a team of scientists from the University of Amsterdam and the HUN-REN Research Center for Natural Sciences (TTK) in Hungary, shows that the ability to recognise a beat is not simply due to the statistical learning ability of newborns, but that beat perception is actually a separate cognitive mechanism that is already active at birth

learning. Because behavioural responses in newborn babies cannot be observed, the research was done with brain wave measurements (EEG) while the babies were sleeping. This way, the researchers were able to view the brain responses of the babies. These responses showed that the babies heard the beat when the

time interval between the beats was always the same. But when the researchers played the same pattern at irregular time intervals, the babies didn't hear a beat.

"This crucial difference confirms that being able to hear the beat is innate and not simply the result of learned sound sequences," said co-author Istvan Winkler, Professor at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology at TTK. "Our findings suggest that it is a specific skill of newborns and make clear how important baby and nursery rhymes are for the auditory development of young children. More insight into early perception is of great importance for learning more about infant cognition and the role that musical skills may play in early development," Winkler added.

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Fly ash trauma for Jajpur residents

INDUSTRIAL UNITS VIOLATING GUIDELINES WITH IMPUNITY, ALLEGE LOCALS



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Nov 28: Indiscriminate use of fly ash discharged by industrial plants in Kalinganagar, to fill up the large pits and potholes in Manjuri mouza under Korei block in Jajpur district has led to drastic air and water pollution in the area, sources said Tuesday.

The worst sufferers are the residents of Korabandi and Ragadi localities and students of a government polytechnic college located at the same place. The fly ash has completely polluted the drinking water supply system in the college. Students are now forced to bring water from their homes.

Farmers also fear that the fertility of their lands will be affected once the rains come. Then the fly ash will flow with the water and inundate their fields

making it unfit for harvesting crops. They have asked the state pollution control board (SPCB) to intervene.

Locals alleged that fly ash is being regularly transported to Ragadi locality. It is being used by a consultancy agency to fill up potholes and large holes. They said that the use of fly ash is also causing health problems. Many people are suffering from respiratory and skin diseases as the fly ash has drastically polluted the surroundings.

Fly ash discharged by industrial plants is a major contributor to air and water pollution in various areas of Jajpur district. Taking cognizance of the matter, the Union Environment, Forests and Climate Change Ministry issued a notification outlining the use of fly ash, February 25, 2019. Various decisions were taken in this regard by the Central

Conservation department which comes under Environment Protection Act-1986.

Directions were issued for establishing brick kiln units using fly ash within a 300-metre radius of thermal power plants. It was decided that the power plants would supply fly ash to the brick kilns. A decision was also taken to use fly ash for road construction and cement manufacturing. However, the decisions have been on paper only without any proper implementation, local residents alleged. Industries producing the fly ash are dumping it anywhere they want with impunity as the SPCB is yet to issue them an official letter on the matter, added the locals.

The locals also informed that fly ash is being used in human habitats without sprinkling it with water. As a result it spreads quickly under the influence of strong winds. They said that fly ash is being indiscriminately dumped on government land, farmlands, forests and water bodies without anyone realising the disastrous effect it will have on human beings and animals.

When contacted, SPCB regional officer, Pramod Kumar Behera said he is yet to receive any official complaint in this regard. He however, assured that steps will be taken once a formal complaint is lodged.



CULTURAL PERFORMANCE: Artistes dressed as 'Aghori', a mystical saint, perform during the immersion ceremony Tuesday of Kartikeshwar idols at Chhendipada in Angul district

'4K families yet to get Covid compensation'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Nov 28: A total of 25,032 persons succumbed to the Covid-19 pandemic in Odisha since its outbreak. It has been close to two years since the virus attack subsided. However, 3,857 families of the deceased are yet to get compensation as they did not apply for it, RTI activist Hemant Kumar Panda stated here Tuesday in a release.

Even though, 20,397 families have got compensation, the remaining ones have not received it. The families of the deceased were given compensation of ₹50,000 each.

The matter came to the fore in a written reply (letter no-6077/R & DM, dated-22.11.2023) issued to an application filed under Right to Information (RTI) Act by Panda.

Khurda district recorded the highest number of Covid-19 fatalities with 5,986 persons dying while Deogarh had the least number of deaths at 74.

Cuttack district came second with 3,468 deaths, followed by Sundargarh (1,941), Ganjam (1,772), Sambalpur (1,468), Bargarh (858), Puri (784), Balasore (768), Angul (721), Mayurbhanj (647), Jajpur (645), Bolangir (586), Kalahandi (524) and Keonjhar (524). In the other districts the fatalities were less than 500.



Panda informed that 21,175 families of the deceased had applied for compensation. However, among them a total of 778 families are still waiting to receive compensation. No one knows why their applications have been held up. This is in addition to the 3,857 families who did not apply. So overall 4,635 families are yet to get compensation, Panda pointed out.

Panda questioned as to why government officials did not reach out to the bereaved families who did not apply for the ex-gratia sanctioned.

Panda pointed out that in many districts the number of families who received compensation were more than the deaths registered. "The districts where more families got compensation than the

number of registered fatalities are: Angul, Bolangir, Balasore, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Nayagarh and Puri," Panda said.

"However, in some of the districts like Cuttack, Khurda, Boudh, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Koraput and Malkangiri a lot of families are yet to get compensation. In these districts lesser number of families has got the government ex-gratia than the total number of deaths registered," added the activist.

Panda, in the release also appealed to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to look into the matter and provide compensation at the earliest to those families who have still not got it. "They are entitled," he said.

Tusker tramples man to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargaon, Nov 28: In yet another human-animal conflict in the state, a man died here after he was attacked by a tusker at Gargabahal village under Baragaon forest range in Sundargarh district in the wee hours of Tuesday. The deceased person has been identified as Hirralal Behera, 55, a resident of the same village.



Locals said that they got the information that a herd of 30 elephants from Panchara area had entered Gargabahal village. On getting the information, Hirralal rushed to his farmland fearing possible damage to crops. On his way, he was attacked by the elephant. Before Hirralal could realise what was happening, the elephant picked him up with its trunk, smashed him to the ground before trampling him to death.

On receiving information, Forest department officials rushed to the spot. They sent the body to the hospital for post-mortem. An investigation in this regard has been started by the officials of the Forest department. It has also launched the process to drive the elephant herd to a nearby forest.

Man gets 20 yrs in jail for raping teen

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Nov 28: A 25-year-old man, identified as Chandan Singh was sentenced to 20 years in jail by a court here Tuesday after convicting him of raping a teenage girl. Special PCO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) court judge Sumita Jena also slapped a fine of ₹13,000 on the convict.

The court directed the district legal services authority to pay ₹4 lakh to the girl as compensation, said Special Public Prosecutor, Abhinna Kumar Pattnaik.

The incident happened June 27, 2018, when the 16-year-old girl went to her uncle's house under the Baisinga police station area to attend a wedding. The convict took her to a relative's house by offering her chocolates and then raped her following which a police complaint was lodged by the victim's mother and the accused was soon arrested.

The court relied on the statements of the survivor and 13 witnesses, besides the medical examination report of the victim to convict Singh.

Police rescue tourists stuck in Similipal camp

PNN & AGENCIES

Baripada, Nov 28: Police rescued 18 tourists who were stranded inside Similipal National Park in Mayurbhanj district for around 16 hours, officials said. The tourists from Odisha and other states were unable to come out of Barehipani Nature Camp within the sanctuary due to a road block by local people. Personnel from Jashipur police station safely rescued the tourists through a different route Monday night, SDPO Karanjia Subrat Kumar said Tuesday.

A local outfit named 'Similipal Bikash Parishad', which has launched an agitation demanding development of their areas, has blocked three gates to Similipal National Park for an indefinite period. People from three gram panchayats have also joined the agitation and blocked roads at Joranda Square, Sana Uski, Chala and Lanjighosara Square, officials added.

Their demands include better roads from Kalikprasad gate to Gadasimilipal, setting up of mobile towers inside the park, a concrete bridge in the sanctuary, road connectivity to all villages inside Similipal under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and creation of employment opportunities for jobless youths living in peripheral areas of the sanctuary.

Meanwhile, the park authorities issued Tuesday an advisory to tourists requesting them not to proceed to Similipal nature camps at Barehipani, Kumari and Gurguria till further information. The national park, which remained closed for three months due to monsoons, opened for tourists October 14, 2023.



The latter's chances of getting a ticket," the person stated. He added that Jual still wields considerable influence within the BJP and his word may be the nail in the coffin for

Eyes on Shankar as polls approach

Sitting MLA may be denied nomination this time by the BJP, say sources

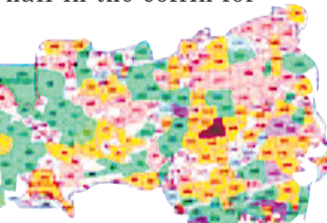
POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 28: The Biramitrapur Assembly constituency will be in focus when the 2024 state elections take place. This is because of the various permutations and combinations that the major parties - the BJD, the BJP and the Congress - are carrying out to make the right choice of candidates. Many feel that at the time of naming the candidates, political upheaval will be witnessed as far as this constituency is concerned. "Next year one may witness

unthinkable changes in some of the major parties and don't be surprised if that happens just before the nominations are announced," said a person in the know of things here Tuesday.

The person on condition of anonymity stated that the BJP this time may not nominate sitting MLA Shankar Oram from the Biramitrapur constituency. "Sundargarh MP Jual Oram and Shankar are not in the best of terms and this may affect

the latter's chances of getting a ticket," the person stated. He added that Jual still wields considerable influence within the BJP and his word may be the nail in the coffin for



Shankar. Recently while talking to the media, Shankar had expressed his desire to contest the Assembly elections again. "I am ready for anything the party

asks me to do," Shankar stated. And this has irked Jual a lot.

Sources informed that Jual is using all he can to end Shankar's ever-growing popularity. Jual has brought in his favourite disciple Purnima Kerketta into the organisational fold as general secretary. He has asked her to concentrate on the Biramitrapur constituency. Even though Purnima is still not a very popular choice, Jual's intention is clear. He wants Purnima to get the nomination for the Biramitrapur seat. If that happens, it will certainly be a huge setback for Shankar who is the sitting MLA.

Sources also said that royal family member Lalu Singh Deo is very interested in contesting

from the seat on a BJD ticket. He is popular, has money power and has the backing of local industry owners.

Meanwhile a number of persons pointed out that Shankar is keeping all his options open. "If he doesn't get a ticket, Shankar will join the BJD. The ruling party will gladly welcome him keeping in mind the popularity he enjoys," said a BJD worker here.

In the last Assembly elections Shankar got 60,937 votes, BJD's Makhlu Ekka received 44,586 and the Congress got 44,212. "The BJD will definitely nominate someone new instead of Makhlu. He is not in the good books of many top leaders," the source added.

Python rescued

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kukudakhandi, Nov 28: A more than seven feet-long python was rescued Tuesday from Dakhinapur village main road under this block in Ganjam district. According to information available, after the 7.6 feet long snake was spotted, Sagar Kumar Patra, the president of Anchalika Vikas Parishad, contacted 'Snake Helpline' member P Arabinda Desibehera.

Anchalika Vikas Parishad officials urged locals not to kill reptiles when they come out in the open



Arabinda arrived at the spot and rescued the snake. He then took it to the Berhampur Veterinary Hospital to check the reptile's condition. Later the python was handed over to Berhampur forest division officials. Forest officer Babu Sethi said that the python will be released in the reserve forest.

It should be mentioned here that many reptiles die due to accidents while many are killed by locals when they come out on the open road during the monsoons, Forest department officials said. Officials of the Anchalika Vikas Parishad said that reptiles have to be protected and that one should not indulge in unnecessary killing of reptiles.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. 38-KUR-TRD-OT-2023-24

Name of Work: OHE MODIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH RAISING OF PLATFORMS FROM LOW LEVEL TO HIGH LEVEL AT 08 STATIONS (DHAULI MUHAN, GOLABAI, MUKTESWAR, SOLARI, GOLANTRA, SURLA ROAD, SUMMADEVI, BARUVA) IN SOUTH SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Advertisement Value: ₹1,30,80,164.79, EMD: ₹213,400/-, Period of Completion: 180 days.

Bidding Start Date: 29.11.2023, Tender Closing date & time: 13.12.2023, 1300 hrs.

Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) PR-813/0/23-24 Khurda Road

7 get lifer for murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 28: Keonjhar district court's additional judge, Mamita Dash convicted Tuesday seven people of Sendakap village under Sadar police limits for their involvement in murdering a man under suspicion of practising witchcraft and sentenced them to life imprisonment. The judge also slapped a fine of ₹10,000 on each of the convicts. In default they all will have to undergo another six months of rigorous imprisonment, the judge said in the order. The convicts were identified as Rabindra Munda, 36, Narahari Munda, 28, Balabhadra Munda, 40, Baisakhu Munda, 24, Cheema Munda, 25, Tima Munda, 33 and Tura Munda, 30.



As per the case diary, the convicts suspected that Dinabandhu Munda, 65, of the same village was practicing witchcraft. They called Dinabandhu to the village Anganwadi centre

April 14, 2019 and attacked him with sharp weapons killing him on the spot. The attackers then fled the scene.

The daughter-in-law of the deceased, Sunita Munda lodged a written complaint at Sadar police station in this regard. A case (No-180/2019) under IPC act 302/34 was registered and police after arresting all the accused produced them in court.

The judge pronounced the judgement after hearing 13 witnesses and going through the police investigation report, informed additional public prosecutor Prafulla Kumar Patra.

Indian Bank

Zonal Office, Indian Bank Building, B-2 (East), Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar- 751007

POSSESSION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Bank 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 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notice on the date noted against Accounts as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon to Borrowers / Co-Borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

The Borrowers / Co-Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted Borrowers / Co-Borrowers and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described here-in-below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against Accounts.

The Borrowers / Co-Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below.

The borrowers/Co-borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

JAGATSINGHPUR BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Outstanding Amount
Borrower: Sri Rabindra Kumar Biswal, Co-Borrower: Mrs Rojalin Biswal, both are residing At: Badagaon, PO: Tertang, Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Pin- 754108.	All the part and parcel of the property situated at Plot No.323 (Hal Plot No.1054), Khata No.171 (Hal Khata No.106), Area: Ac.0.01 dec., Mouza: Iswarpur, Baikuda, Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, Boundaries: East-Road, West- Bikel Lenka, North- Satyananda Lenka, South- Jogendra Biswal.	13.11.2022	24.11.2023	Rs.19,27,214.46 as on 09.09.2022 with further interest, costs, charges & expenses thereon
Borrower/Mortgagor: Sri Nazib Istiaque Allam Khan, S/o: Israr Khan, Co-Borrower: Mrs Ghazala Tanzin, both are residing at: Deuligramswar (Akhunsah), Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Pin- 754103.	All the part and parcel of the property (Land) situated at Khata No.48/108, Plot No.214/769, Area: Ac.0.13 dec., Mouza: Jayabada, PS: Jagatsinghpur, Dist: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha, in the name of Sri Nazib Istiaque Allam Khan, Boundaries: East- Dildar Itayaz Allam Khan, West- Allah Bux and Israr Bux, North- Road, South- Amiz Itayaz Allam Khan.	01.09.2023	24.11.2023	Rs.18,13,141/- as on 02.09.2023 with further interest, costs, charges & expenses thereon

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date : 28.11.2023

Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

A COMMON CAUSE



The UN-sponsored global climate negotiations are intended to keep countries – both friends and rivals – engaged with one another and aware that, despite our differences, we all share a planet

As the start of this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) approaches, those leading it continue to inspire concern and even indignation. After all, the host will be the United Arab Emirates, among the world's largest oil-producing countries, and the head of the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Sultan Al Jaber, will be running the proceedings. But is that really so bad?

The Middle East is not exactly the climate champion of our time. Regional leaders have historically doubted climate science and often refused to help poorer countries suffering from climate-related damage. But it is the role of Al Jaber himself that is most controversial. As US Representative Ro Khanna put it, having the head of a national oil company as the president-designate of a climate conference is a "slap in the face to young climate activists."

This explains why, earlier this year, over 130 members of the US Congress and the European Parliament signed a letter calling for his removal. But while the developed world has largely balked at Al Jaber's appointment, many developing countries openly support it.

The UN-sponsored global climate negotiations are intended to keep countries – both friends and rivals – engaged with one another and aware that, despite our differences, we all share a planet. While they tend to be dominated by the actors one might expect – developed countries like the United States, as well as rising powers like China – they are also one of the rare multilateral forums where questions of historical responsibility might be raised.

To be sure, the advanced economies do not exactly reckon with their legacy of violent and extractive colonialism at COPs, even though that history directly enabled their industrialisation and all the associated greenhouse-gas emissions. But, to some extent, they do acknowledge their disproportionate contributions to climate change. Meanwhile, smaller, poorer countries are granted a kind of moral authority and, often, the opportunity to exercise greater political voice than they have elsewhere.

My country, Bangladesh, is a case in point. In recent years, Bangladesh has been battered by severe cyclones and floods, which will only worsen as sea levels rise. And yet it accounts for just 0.4% of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions.

Countless well-meaning academics and activists have underscored this imbalance, though often in simplistic and unconstructive ways. I distinctly remember watching with dread as a Western climate scientist recounted the real-world effects of climate change – and, in particular, the horrors that lay ahead for vulnerable countries – at a 2015 conference at the University of Oregon. When she brought up Bangladesh, she began to sob as she repeated her desperate question: "What have they done to deserve this?" Heads swiveled in my direction – I was the only Bangladeshi person at the conference – but I could only sit slumped at my seat, skewered by a lance of pity and liberal guilt.

As an anthropologist who has

studied COPs for nearly a decade, I have watched developing countries approach climate negotiations in surprising and creative ways. And I can assure you Bangladesh is not as hapless as that panel speaker implied. As the sociologist Kasia Paprocki has observed, the highly market-friendly Bangladesh has turned climate-change adaptation into an economic opportunity. Similarly, the anthropologist Jason Conns has pointed out that Bangladesh has managed to cultivate the contradictory image of a country on the brink of ruin from climate change and one flush with economic opportunity.

At COPs, Bangladesh has distinguished itself as a leader on the issue of loss and damage. While the emotional theatrics are unnecessary, it bears repeating that, in countries like Bangladesh, people are already losing their homes, livelihoods, and lives to the effects of climate change. Even if the world begins to reduce emissions rapidly, these losses will not be undone.

Loss and damage makes developed countries nervous. If they acknowledge that climate change cannot be fully mitigated, and that there are limits to human and ecosystem adap-

tation, the next logical step could well be to seek legal means of pressuring them to pay far more to compensate climate-vulnerable countries.

Recognising this, Bangladesh initially took a diplomatic approach to the issue of loss and damage: instead of pushing developed economies to assume liability, it advocated protections for climate-displaced refugees, such as a resettlement policy or a refugee-coordination agency. A Bangladeshi delegate was involved in the creation of the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage in 2013, and Bangladeshi voices contributed to the agreement to establish a Loss and Damage Fund at last year's COP.

Bangladesh is also a member of the Like-Minded Developing Countries, established in 2012 to keep the needs and interests of the Global South on the COP agenda. Not all the LMDC's members, from Pakistan to China, have the moral authority of Bangladesh when it comes to climate change. Hearing Saudi Arabia, for example, weigh in on historical emissions or debt distress is a bit rich. But wealthier Middle Eastern countries lend a certain rhetorical and political heft to the LMDC's cause. This might explain why so many poorer countries, including Bangladesh, are coming out in support of a COP host that continues to woo oil companies even as it advocates for green energy.

In this sense, the leadership of the UAE and Al Jaber may not be out of line with the goals of young climate activists after all. On the contrary, the future these activists seek to avoid is already the reality for countries like Bangladesh. Effective action on loss and damage today – the action the Global South is fighting for – would thus serve everyone's interests. Any effort by the UAE to use its position to advance progress on this front should be welcomed.

The author is a professor of anthropology at Johns Hopkins University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Naveeda Khan

LOSS AND DAMAGE MAKES DEVELOPED COUNTRIES NERVOUS

In order to see, you have to stop being in the middle of the picture.



SRI AUROBINDO

Operation 1027

The three powerful armed ethnic militias of Myanmar, which have joined hands to take on the military junta that staged a bloody coup nearly three years back, claim the end of the military dictatorship has begun. That may be an exaggeration, but there is no denying the fact that the junta has been jolted by the new form of resistance being offered by the militias in league with a group of the National League for Democracy (NLD) of Aung San Suu Kyi. The offensive gathered steam after the three armed outfits formally closed ranks on October 27 and launched attacks on the military with unprecedented coordination. It has exposed the limits and weaknesses of the junta which loses strategic border towns, key military positions and vital trade routes in a manner not seen in decades. Experts say the junta is actively collapsing because of the wider effort across the country.

This narrative has sprung surprise on the world as the coup was expected to repeat what the junta did before, which was to snatch back the limited control they had ceded to elected civilian leaders and crush the democratic aspirations of the people. But, now the resistance is not only growing, but getting far more firepower than before. Initially, it started as a brave, spirited campaign of civil disobedience. Then thousands of civilians joined armed groups, including People's Defence Forces (PDFs) set up by the national unity government formed from the remnants of National League for Democracy. The most crucial development took place last month when the Three Brotherhood Alliance – comprising three ethnic armed groups – launched a massive offensive against regime targets in northern Shan state. They achieved spectacular success, capturing large swathes of territory including military bases and border crossings. This led to a further wave of attacks by groups around the country. The alliance declared its goal of overthrowing the junta and restoring democracy.

Of course, the military has hit back and a situation is created which the UN describes as the largest and most geographically extensive escalation since the coup. All the same, the resistance has dealt a humiliating blow to the army and enormously boosted the opposition's morale. People of Myanmar have begun, for the first time, to believe that they may have a future – however distant – without the generals.

The development is of great concern for both China and India. In fact, it is an open secret that China supplies the Brotherhood Alliance members with arms to maintain stability along its borders. Hence, it would not be wrong to conclude that they have China's tacit approval in carrying out their "mission" against the junta. Reports are trickling down that Beijing has been angered by the military for not taking actions against organised crime bases that are targeting Chinese nationals. China may also have plans to have future access to resources with support from the armed groups working in tandem with the people and the NLD to oust the military from power. On the other hand, India has openly sided with the junta by not showing any support to the Brotherhood Alliance. Later, whenever the junta falls, which is bound to happen, India will be viewed as an enemy of the people of Burma.

As things stand, a far more intense and even bloodier battle is ahead as the army will have no qualms to launch major attacks as retaliation soon. Schools and hospitals have long been targets of the military regime just as the world has been witnessing in the Israel-Hamas conflict.

India needs to reformulate its strategy vis-a-vis Myanmar. It continues to work with the junta to secure its own interests ignoring the state government of Mizoram which has not hesitated to provide shelter to working people of Myanmar for their ethnic affinity and humanitarian concerns. The Centre, however, is reluctant to antagonise the junta fearing the latter will gravitate even more towards China that would supposedly be detrimental to India's interests. At the same time since China seems to be reworking its strategy and may ditch the junta, India can ill afford to shut its eyes to the cause of the people of Myanmar.

IN JEST THIS

Tourists are welcome everywhere

It's a warm summer evening in New York City and an electric fan is whirring inside the home of Alan and Roberta Foster. Roberta is busy tidying up the one-bedroom trailer, parked in the city's only mobile home park on Staten Island, when the door opens and her husband stumbles in.

"Why are you cleaning up?" he asks. "Is Michael coming?" "Yes, Michael's coming – and he's bringing the tourists." "Tourists? What tourists?" "The tourists from India. Didn't he tell you? He has arranged for three tourists to come and see how we live. They will be paying \$50 each and Michael says we can keep all of it. Having a son who's a tour guide is finally paying off."

"Fifty bucks to see how we live? Are they crazy?" "They're also having dinner with us."

"Dinner too? We're not some kind of restaurant!"

"Calm down, honey. They're curious about what we eat."

"Food! We eat food! Just like every human on the planet!"

"But the food we eat is different from the food they eat." "What are you going to serve them?"

"Krafft macaroni and cheese. I'm going to open two boxes and cook it in front of them."

"Fifty bucks for mac and cheese! Wouldn't they rather visit some rich folks and eat lobster or something?"

"They see rich Americans all the time on TV. They want to see what it's like to be poor in America."

"So they're going to come and stare at us like we're animals or something? Why can't they just go to the zoo like normal people?"

"Calm down, honey. Michael says that this type of tourism is becoming more common. Tourists have been travelling to India, Kenya and other countries to visit the slums. They can get special tours, and if they want to eat an authentic meal with a family, they pay a little extra."

"I don't get it. Why would anyone travel across the world to see how poor people live?" "I'm not sure, but maybe

they're tired of visiting the Statue of Liberty. Maybe they think we're more interesting. Michael plans to also invite them to his wedding."

"His wedding? Don't he and Susan have enough guests?"

"They do, but Michael heard that tourists are attending some weddings in India. They pay money to a website called JoinMyWedding.com, which arranges for them to attend an Indian wedding and experience many aspects of the culture all at once. People are paying \$150 for a one-day wedding experience in India or \$250 for two or more days. Michael is thinking of charging \$100 for a five-hour wedding experience. And he'll charge another \$200 if the tourists want to follow him and Susan on their honeymoon. But they'll have to get their own rooms."

"Now you're really pulling my leg, aren't you?"

"No, it's true. Michael says that tourists are very interested in experiencing weddings. In fact, he's looking for couples who don't have enough friends and family members

to attend their weddings. He says he can run a 'wedding special' and fill their weddings with tourists. Some of these tourists may even pay extra to be groomsmen or bridesmaids. Our son has become quite the businessman. Aren't you inspired?"

"Inspired? What do you mean?"

"Think of the possibilities. If tourists are eager to come to our home, we can have a number of extra charges. We can charge them extra to take photos in our home, extra to take selfies with us, and extra for a special souvenir."

"Special souvenir?"

"Yes, this would be a great opportunity to get rid of your old socks."

"So we could make a lot of extra money?"

"Yes, but we have to be careful. If we make too much money, the tourists won't be interested in visiting us anymore."

"That's okay. If we make too much money, I can finally achieve one of my dreams."

"What's that?" "To become a tourist."

WISDOM CORNER

For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love. CARL SAGAN

Education is what you learn after you leave school. ROBERT KIYOSAKI

A man of genius makes no mistakes; his errors are volitional and are the portals of discovery. JAMES JOYCE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1777: City of San Jose founded. The first city to be settled in California, San Jose was founded as San José de Guadalupe. Before the Spanish settled in the city, the area was inhabited by the Ohlone people. It became a part of Mexico in 1821 after the Mexican War of Independence. San Jose was the first capital of the state of California, which was established in 1850. Today, San Jose is notable for its innovation, cultural diversity, affluence, and sunny and mild Mediterranean climate.

1899: FC Barcelona founded. The popular football (soccer) club was founded by footballer Hans Gamper. Unlike many other football clubs, the supporters own and operate Barcelona. It is the third-most valuable sports team in the world, worth \$5.51 billion, and the world's fourth richest football club in terms of revenue, with an annual turnover of €582.1 million. Barcelona traditionally play in dark shades of blue and garnet stripes, hence nicknamed Blaugrana.

1929: First flight over the South Pole. American explorer Richard Byrd became the first person to fly over the South Pole. The flight took just over 18 hours. Three years ago, Byrd flew over the North Pole, though there is some debate whether he actually accomplished the feat. He is also known for discovering Mount Sidley, the largest dormant volcano in Antarctica. He was a recipient of the Medal of Honor, the United States Armed Forces' highest military decoration, and the Navy Cross, the second highest honor for valor given by the U.S. Navy.

1947: United Nations resolution for the partition of Palestine. On this day in 1947, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (not implemented) calling for the partition of Palestine into two separate states—an Arab and a Jewish one—that would retain an economic union.

LOL

Daughter in college

Did you hear about the banker who was arrested for blackmailing \$100,000 to pay for his daughter's college education?

As the policeman, who also had a daughter in college, was leading him



away in handcuffs, he said to the banker, "I have just one question for you. Where were you going to get the rest of the money?"



Melvin Durai

PEOPLE ARE PAYING \$150 FOR A ONE-DAY WEDDING EXPERIENCE IN INDIA OR \$250 FOR TWO OR MORE DAYS

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Iconic stadium

Sir, The iconic Australian cricket stadium, 'The Gabba' in Brisbane is said to be demolished and rebuilt for the 2032 Olympics. Renowned for hosting one of the fastest tracks in world cricket, the Gabba became a household name in India and across the world after India breached what was Australia's fortress until 2021. For good measure, Gabba, the bastion of the Australian cricket team, is bordered by "Vulture Street," which cricket aficionados will famously know as one of the two ends of the ground. Gabba may not stir emotions and enthuse romantics like the storied Australian cricket grounds of Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide, but its very mention would strike fear in the minds of the visiting teams. For the Indian fans, starting the day, listening to former Australian great Bill Lawry's cheerful voice early in the morning was music to the ears when he would start with, "very good morning to all our viewers wherever you are." Again when action gets tense on the field, one will find Lawry saying, "it is all happening here at the Gabba."

Ranganthan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Driving & distraction

Sir, As per a government figure, nearly 2,000 accidents that happened in 2021 were attributable to the use of mobile phones to talk, text and surf. Using cell phones while driving is considered as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol. Mobile phones push drivers to take their minds off the road leading to eyes off the roads and then, catastrophically, hands off the steering. Distraction leading to loss of focus can be detrimental to all. On the other hand, slowing of vehicles due to use of mobile phones may congest roads and give rise to chaos and confusion in traffic. The Motor Vehicles Act, 1989 was amended in 2019 to enhance the fine for driving with mobile phones from ₹1000 to ₹5000, and ₹10,000 for every subsequent act. The government may give a thought to add penalty points to a driver's licence for every offence.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



'Coal-based power plants aggravating pollution'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Non-compliance of thermal power plants in Delhi-NCR with emission standards is contributing significantly to air pollution in the region, according to a new analysis.

The study by environmental think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) focuses on particulate matter, nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide emissions from the 11 thermal power plants (TPPs) in Delhi-NCR and is based on their environmental status reports sourced from the website of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), a technical arm of the Union Ministry of Power, from April 2022 to August 2023.

According to studies, the TPPs account for around eight percent of the PM2.5 pollution in Delhi-NCR. "Delhi-NCR cannot achieve the clean air benchmark



and safeguard public health if continuous sources of pollution, such as thermal power plants, continue to emit pollutants at high levels. These plants have struggled to meet the standards, primarily due to continually shifting compliance deadlines," says Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director, Research and Advocacy, CSE.

The CSE report said that despite multiple deadline exten-

sions and revised categorisations by the Union Environment Ministry, many plants in the region are struggling to meet prescribed norms for emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide and particulate matter.

The ministry established stringent emission standards for coal-based power plants in December 2015, requiring compliance within two years. Later, it granted a five-year extension to all power

plants except those in Delhi-NCR which were given until 2019 to comply due to the region's high pollution levels.

Despite this, except for Dadri TPP and Mahatma Gandhi TPP, all NCR plants failed to meet the revised deadline and continued operating in violation until another extension in March 2021. The ministry then categorised all power plants, including those in Delhi-NCR, into three groups (A, B, and C) based on criteria set by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

New deadlines were set accordingly: Category A plants must meet SO2 emission norms by December 31, 2024. Category B plants have until December 31, 2025, to meet the SO2 emission norms and Category C plants are required to comply with SO2 emission norms by December 31, 2026.

No pollution renewal certificates in Bengal for vehicles with pending dues

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 28: Personal or commercial vehicles in West Bengal will be denied fresh pollution renewal certificates if there are any pending dues concerning road tax or traffic penalty to the state government, transport officials said.

A formal announcement in this regard has already been made by the State Transport Department. This means that vehicles with pending dues to any government department will not be able to ply on the streets unless they clear their dues. State Transport Department sources said that after the recent hike in traffic penalty from Rs 100 to 500, there had been a growing tendency among a section of vehicle owners to avoid paying that penalty. In case of certain vehicles, mostly commercial, the due amount



has even exceeded Rs 50,000.

"So in view of this strict order in case of recovery of the dues and so has linked the matter of pollution renewal certificates with that of clearing of the past dues," said a state Transport Department official.

However, different transport operators' associations have already sent a letter to the state Transport Department for withdrawal of the fresh order in this regard.

According to them, there was a provision previously to approach the Lok Adalats against any kind of penalty imposed on any vehicle which is no longer available.

DELHI AIRPORT SET TO IMPROVE OPERATIONS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Delhi airport will be using predictive analytics based on artificial intelligence as well as camera-based solutions to improve operations at the airport, which is witnessing rising passenger traffic, according to a top official.

The airport, which is also the country's largest airport, handles around 1,300-1,500 flights daily and expects to have more than 70 million passenger traffic in the current fiscal ending March 2024. Currently, it has three terminals - T1, T2 and T3.

"We are looking at more digital solutions, which can be IoT-based... Artificial Intelligence-based solutions... We will be using predictive analytics for improved airport operations," Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) CEO Vihed Kumar Jaipuria said in an interview.

The Indira Gandhi International

Airport (IGIA) in the national capital is operated by Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), a consortium led by the GMR Group. Last year, during the winter season, the airport witnessed significant congestion, leading to long waiting times for passengers.

The DIAL chief said measures, including increasing the entry points, were taken within 15 days of the congestion that happened last year.

To ensure smooth passenger movements and improved operations, DIAL is upgrading to the system of APOC (Airports Operations Centre), which is already being used by some European airports and uses predictive analytics.

Elaborating on APOC, Jaipuria said that for example, based on previous data, the system will predict that at a particular time frame, a certain number of footfalls is expected at the airport.

"To manage the x number of people during the waiting time, you need so many people at entry gates, check-in counters, CISF... It will give you a plan of the day and that plan can be given to the respective stakeholders so that they can plan their manpower accordingly. It is more like being pre-emptive on manpower deployment. That we are in the process of implementing," the DIAL chief said.

IIPA to study social impact of proposed waste water treatment plant project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Delhi government has assigned the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) a study for assessing the social impact of a proposed waste water treatment plant project at Tajpur Khurd village here, officials said on Monday.

Earlier this month, the land and building department in a notification had stated that the lieutenant governor intends to acquire 19.14 bighas (around four acres) of land at the village in South West Delhi for con-

structing the treatment plant for the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

The IIPA has been assigned as the social impact assessment unit to carry out the social impact assessment study in relation to the proposed land acquisition, the notification said.

The assessment will involve consultation with stakeholders and public, survey and public hearing, the officials said and added that the assessment report and social impact plan would be prepared in a six months period.

The IIPA has also been assigned a social impact study related to the proposed acquisition of 9.12 bighas of land at Sabhapur Shahdara village for construction of the Sonia Vihar police station.

The land acquisition for both the projects will take place after the social impact studies are completed and reports are in the public domain through websites as well as leaflets, posters and public hearings in affected areas, the officials said. This will help find people who would be impacted either by way of land acquisition or due to the projects themselves, they said.

WB to go tough on antibiotics' sale without prescription

Kolkata: West Bengal health department has decided to act tough on the rampant sale of antibiotic drugs in retail medicine shops in the state without proper prescription from any registered medical practitioner. A senior official of the state government said the decision on this count has been taken following several reports and findings which point at increasing growth of multiple drug-resistant bacteria in human bodies. At the same time, the state health department has decided to work closely with the state animal husbandry department to monitor the rampant use of antibiotic substances in agricultural farms, poultry, hatcheries and pisciculture farms.

"Rampant use of antibiotics has become a vicious circle. Once certain drug-resistant bacteria for a certain level of antibiotics are developed in the human body, people are resorting to stronger dosage to antibiotics. This circle is resulting in the growth of multiple drug-resistant bacteria in human bodies. This is happening because a section of the retail chemists and druggists are selling antibiotic drugs without any sort of prescription. We have now decided to act tough in the matter," a health department official said.

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-Mail Id: ae-elect@bmc.gov.in
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Letter No. 56367 XXVII-43/20

- Bid Reference No. : **BMC-EE (Elect.) 12 (E1.)/2023-24 Dt.28.11.23**
- Tender Call Notice : **No. 56367/Dt.28.11.23**
- No. of Work : **1 No.**
- Bid Value of each work : **Rs.16,52,236.00**
- Period of Completion : **30 Days**

Date and Time Schedule

Start	End	Opening
11.00 A.M. of Dt.29.11.23	5.00 P.M. of Dt.13.12.23	11.00 A.M. of Dt.14.12.23

6. Tender details: Can be seen for the Procurement portal: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer (Elect.)
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
OIPR-13002/13/02/12/2324

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, RAYAGADA
No.5771 Dt: 24.11.23
"e" - TENDER NOTICE
Bid Identification No. RGDA-MUN-14/2023-24

No.C-1930:- Bid documents consisting of 01 (one) no. of Civil Works with their Estimated Cost (Work Value) Cost of Tender Paper, E.M.D., Time of Completion, Class of Contractors, Additional Performance Security Deposit and the set of Terms and Conditions applicable for the contract and other required necessary documents can be seen in the Government Website (i.e., <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>)

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Civil Works as mentioned in the website
1	No. of the works	01 (One)
2	Estimated costs	As mentioned in the DTCN
3	Periods of the completion	As mentioned against the work in the NIT / DTCN.
4	Date & time of Availability of Bid Documents on the Portal	From Dated 28.11.2023, 11.30 A.M. hrs To Dated 12.12.2023, 05.30 P.M. hrs
5	Last Date & Time for Clarification.	05.30 PM of 04.12.2023
6	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid.	Dated 13.12.2023, 11.30 A.M hrs
7	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be informed in the Portal after opening of Technical Bid.
8	Name and Address of the officer inviting the Bid.	The Executive Officer, Rayagada Municipality, Rayagada

Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Sd./- Executive Officer, Rayagada Municipality
OIPR-13150/11/0036/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-1621
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARIPADA
e_mail = rw_mayurbhanj@yahoo.co.in

e Procurement Tender Call Notice No. Online 20/RWD/BPD/2023-24

- Name of the work: Building Work
- Total No. of works: 2 Nos.
- Estimated Cost: Approx. Estimated Cost Rs.15.50 lakhs to Rs.28.20 lakhs.
- Class of contractor: 'D' & 'C'.
- EMD: EMD @ 1% of Estimated Cost Put to Tender.
- Period of completion: 3 (Months).
- Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender in the office of the Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Baripada	20 (Online)/RWD-BPD of 2023-24	Dt.30.11.23 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.14.12.23 upto 5.00 P.M.	Dt.13.12.23 upto 5.00 P.M.
				Dt.15.12.23 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-25057/11/0029/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Baripada

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Tel. No.0675222092. e-mail id-eerwpuri@gmail.com
TCN No. TENDER ONLINE - 09 OF 2023-24
No:- 7391 /Date.17.11.2023

No. O-1630:- The Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate tenders through e-procurement for 63 Nos. of work for the year 2023-24 in the district of Puri.

- Total No. of Works: 63 Nos.
- Tender cost of packages: Amount varies from Rs.2.52 lakhs to 41.54 lakhs.
- Class of contractor: As per DTCN.
- Period of completion: 2 (Two) Calendar months & 6 (Six) Calendar months.
- Period of availability of tenders on-line/ Date & time of bidding on-line/ last date of seeking clarification/ Date of opening of tender papers.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date, time & venue of opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
E.E., Rural Works Division, Puri.	Online-09	04.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	19.12.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.	17.12.2023 up to 1.30 P.M.
				21.12.2023 at 11.30 A.M. Office of the S.E., R.W. Division, Puri.

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in/>.

OIPR-25065/11/0012/2324 Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Puri

Tender Call Notice
PANCHAYAT SAMITI, MANESWAR, DIST-SAMBALPUR
BID IDENTIFICATION No.01 PS/MAN/01/2023-24
No.2666, Dt.24.11.2023

No.i-501:The Block Development Officer, Maneswar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in single cover system for the execution of works as detailed in the following table.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Value of work put to Tender (without GST)	Period of Completion	Class of Contractor	Bid Security @1% (Rs.)	Cost of Bid document (including GST)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of Day care New PHC at Parmanpur Maneswar Block, Sambalpur	8220769.00	09 (Nine) Calendar Months	'B' Class	82208.00	Rs.10000.00+ Rs.500 (for extra labour cost)
2	Construction & Completion of Radha Madhab Kalyan mandap near Samleswari Mandir, Badbazar, Maneswar Block, Sambalpur	2452922.00	06 (Six) Calendar Months	'B' & 'C' Class	24529.00	Rs.6000.00+ Rs.500 (for extra labour cost)
3	Completion of Kalyan Mandap at Parmanpur, Maneswar Block, Sambalpur	1689858.00	06 (Six) Calendar Months	'B' & 'C' Class	16899.00	Rs.6000.00+ Rs.500 (for extra labour cost)

The sale of the Bid documents shall start from Dt.28.11.2023, at 11.00 AM and close on Dt.12.12.2023 at 05.00 P.M in office days. The Bids shall be received by this office up to 03.00 PM of 13.12.2023 through Registered Post/ Speed Post only. Date & Time of opening 14.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M. Details available in DTCN. Website Address <http://sambalpur.nic.in>

N.B. The intending bidders who have defaulted in completing the execution of projects entrusted on them by the undersigned through tender in the last three years are not eligible to submit bids for this work. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Maneswar
OIPR-19383/11/0003/2324

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE
Tel: 06782-262249, Fax: 262931, email: eerwss_bls@nic.in, eerwssbls@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Tendering
Identification No.30/2023-24 Dt.24.11.2023

No. O-1637:- The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites bids from bidders of eligible class registered with the Odisha State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the works detailed in the table below to be eventually drawn up in P1 contract with design and execution of the following Piped Water Supply Projects.

- Nos. of Work : Construction of Divisional Water Testing Laboratory in 1st Floor of RWS&S Division Office Building, Balasore as per NABL standard.
- Estimated cost : Rs.26,42,721.00
- Period of completion : 90 days
- Availability of bid : Dt.01.12.2023 at 10.00 hours to 15.12.2023 upto 17.00 hours through online
- Seeking of Clarification : Dt.01.12.2023 at 10.00 hours to Dt.08.12.2023 upto 15.00 hours
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt.16.12.2023 at 11.00 hours in the O/o EE, RWSS Division, Balasore
- Name and address of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Officer inviting Tender : Balasore

Bid Cost will be receipt through electronic payment by NEFT/RTGS. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal: <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, BALASORE
OIPR-25013/11/0013/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.A-891
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
"e" Procurement Notice-BAID 02 of 2023-24
BID IDENTIFICATION NO.BAID 02 OF 2023-24

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Details
1	Total No. of Package	10 Nos.
2	Tender Cost	Rs.8.82 Lakhs to 14.30 Lakhs as per DTCN
3	Bid Security	Rs.8900/- to Rs.14300/-
4	Cost of Tender Paper (Online)	Rs.4000/- to 6000/- as per DTCN
5	Period of Completion	As per DTCN
6	Availability of Tender Online for bidding	From 28.11.2023 at 12.00 Noon to 07.12.2023 upto 5.30 PM
7	Date and place of opening	Dt.08.12.2023 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada
8	Tender Inviting Authority	Superintending Engineer, Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada

Further details can be seen from the website <http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in/> or www.dowrodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation to the above notice will be published in this website only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Baitarani Irrigation Division, Salapada
OIPR-32439/11/0003/2324

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, BISRA
ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବିସ୍ରା
A/PO:- Bisra, Dist.- Sundargarh (Odisha), PIN:-770036
e-Mail Id:- ori-bisra@nic.in, GSTN: 21BBN02952F1DG

TENDER CALL NOTICE No.05/2023-24
Letter No.: 2529 Date: 23.11.2023

No. i-499:- Sealed Tenders are invited from the interested bidder for the civil work under BDO, Bisra of Sundargarh district. The detail of works, eligibility, estimated cost, EMD, cost of tender paper has been uploaded in the district website www.sundargarh.nic.in. The bidder should be B class Contractor. They have to submit the bid document to the undersigned in the address of office of the BDO, Bisra, A/PO- Bisra, Dist-Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770036 through Registered Post/ Speed Post only on or before 06.12.2023 (up to 03.00 PM). The Tender Paper will be available for download in the district website from 24.11.2023 to 04.12.2023. The authority reserves the right to cancel or reject the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. The tender will be opened on 06.12.2023 (up to 04.00 PM) in the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders or his/her representatives.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Bisra
OIPR-19343/11/0006/2324

OFFICE OF THE REGULATED MARKET COMMITTEE, PADAMPUR
At: Padampur, Po- Rajborasambar, Dist: Bargarh (Odisha), PIN-768036
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement of Notice.
Bid Identification No. 01 of 2023-24 (Ref-TCN No. 796 Dt.24.11.2023)
No.H-54 No.799 / Date: 24.11.23

Sr. No.	Item	Details
1	The Sub-collector-Padampur-cum-Chairman, RMC Padampur invites percentage rate bids in Double Cover system in ONLINE MODE only for work as detailed below:	
2	Nature of the work	Construction of building type works.
3	No. of work	2 Nos.
4	Bid Cost	Rs.10000.00 online transfer.
5	Value of Tender	Rs.141.66 lakhs to Rs.412.31 lakhs
6	Class of Contractor	'B' & 'A' Class
7	Availability of BID Documents in the website	Dt.30.11.2023 to 14.12.2023
8	Last date/time of Receipt of bids in the portal	Dt.14.12.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.
9	Date of opening of bid	Dt.15.12.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
10	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in . Any Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of the Tender etc. can also be seen in the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in	

Sd./- Sub-Collector, Padampur Cum Chairman,
R.M.C. Padampur
OIPR-07044/11/0004/2324



College girls wearing traditional Punjabi dress perform 'giddha' during the 11th Amritsar International Folk Festival at Khalsa College of Veterinary and Animal Science in Amritsar, Punjab



Israeli soldiers cry next to photos of people killed and taken captive by Hamas militants during their violent rampage through the Nova music festival in southern Israel



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi travels in an auto-rickshaw ahead of Telangana Assembly election, at Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad



The aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and other warships cross the Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf, as part of a wider American deployment in the Middle East amid the Israel-Hamas war. The Eisenhower was accompanied by the guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea, the guided-missile destroyers USS Gravelly and the USS Stethem and the French frigate Languedoc



Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) new cadets take oath during a passing out parade ceremony at Shivaji Parade Ground, at SSB Camp in Sonitpur district, Assam



President Droupadi Murmu accepts credentials from the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to India Haris Hrlje during a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi



BRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao during 'Praja Ashirvada Sabha' ahead of the state Assembly election, in Gajwel



United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken, center right, greets French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, center left, during a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in North Atlantic Council session at NATO headquarters in Brussels. NATO foreign ministers begin a two-day meeting Tuesday, in which the alliance will discuss Ukraine, tensions in the Western Balkans and preparations for NATO's 75th anniversary next year

AP/PTI PHOTOS

national

of the day quote

Thousands of youngsters in J&K associated with self help groups have been rendered unemployed ever since the scheme was abolished. These bright skilled degree holders are being deprived of employment opportunities

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

The state government is ready for discussion on all issues of development and public importance

YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

There is no government in Maharashtra as everyone is busy in campaigning. It is time to change the government

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Abducted minor found after 21 hrs

Kollam (Kerala): All of Kerala and the parents of the six-year-old girl, who was abducted a day ago, heaved a sigh of relief after the child was found abandoned, but unharmed, by her captors at a public ground here Tuesday afternoon. The child was found abandoned at Kollam's Asramam ground by female students of a nearby college and was later hospitalised. Police said it has intensified its efforts to trace and nab the kidnapers.

Punjab farmers end protest

Chandigarh: Farmers who had gathered at Mohali and Panchkula along Chandigarh's borders Tuesday ended their three-day protest after their meetings with Punjab and Haryana governments, but warned the Centre of a "bigger agitation" if it does not show "seriousness" towards their pending demands. "This was a trailer," said farmer leader from Punjab, Harinder Singh Lakhwal, on the three-day protest.

LG flags off Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena Tuesday flagged off the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in the national capital from the Khajoori Khas area. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the nationwide programme from Khunti in Jharkhand to reach out to citizens who are eligible for various central schemes but have not benefitted so far.

Woman Agniveer aspirant kills self

Mumbai: A 20-year-old woman undergoing Agniveer training in the Indian Navy allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her hostel room at INS Hamla in Mumbai, police said Tuesday. The woman, hailing from Kerala, was undergoing training at the INS Hamla in Malwani area in the western suburb of Malad, an official said. She allegedly hanged herself in her hostel room Monday morning, he said.

Protests held at NIT-Srinagar

Srinagar: Protests were held at the National Institute of Technology here Tuesday over a student's social media post allegedly hurting religious sentiments, following which police filed a case, officials said. The protesters demanded stringent action against the non-local student who has been sent home on leave, they said.



Our principal task is to remove those obstacles. The chief obstacle, of course, is often the cost of justice

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Ensure dignified burial of bodies: SC

The report said 94 unclaimed bodies were being preserved in mortuaries maintained by the state authorities



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The Supreme Court Tuesday issued directions for ensuring dignified burial or cremation of those killed during the Manipur ethnic violence after it was informed about 94 unclaimed bodies kept in mortuaries and said it does not want to "keep the pot boiling" on the issue.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud

court judges, headed by Justice (ret'd) Gita Mittal, regarding the position on dead bodies.

The top court said it would not be either appropriate or proper to keep the bodies, which have not been identified or claimed, indefinitely in the mortuaries. According to the report, 175 deaths were reported out of which 169 bodies have been identified. The top court noted

that of the 169 identified bodies, only 81 have been claimed by the next of kin.

The apex court is seized of a batch of pleas, including those seeking a court-monitored probe into cases of violence, besides measures for relief and rehabilitation.

The bench, also comprising justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, noted the state government has identified nine burial sites where the burial can take place.

"The next of kin of bodies, which have been identified and claimed, may carry out the performance of the last rites of the bodies at any of the identified nine burial sites without any hindrance by any party whatsoever," the bench said.

Govt suspends 70L mobile numbers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: To check digital frauds, the government has suspended 70 lakh mobile numbers on account of suspicious transactions, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi said Tuesday.

Emerging out of a meeting to discuss issues related to financial cyber security and increasing digital payment fraud, Joshi said banks have been asked to strengthen the system and processes in this regard.

More such meetings would take place, he said, adding the next meeting is scheduled in January. With regard to Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) fraud, he said states have been asked to look into the issue and ensure data protection.

He also said that there was a discussion with regard to KYC standardisation of merchants.

The meeting chaired by the Financial Services Secretary also deliberated on how to ensure better coordination among various agencies to check cyber fraud.

Joshi said there was a need to create awareness about cyber fraud in society to protect gullible customers from being duped.

During the meeting, the Indian Cyber Crime Co-ordination Centre made a presentation on the latest statistics of digital payment frauds as reported in National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), including challenges and issues faced in countering such issues.

Nitish govt under fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Nov 28: The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar Tuesday came under heavy opposition fire for alleged reduction in "Hindu holidays", proposed for government schools across the state for next year.

Alleging that it is an assault on Hindu sentiment, the BJP demanded immediate withdrawal of the proposed calendar. The education department, however, stated that the confusion has arisen because of two notifications it brought out on Monday, which pertained to separate holiday calendars for Hindi and Urdu medium schools.

The department made it clear that the total number of holidays proposed for 2024 was 60, "the same as the preceding years", which was in accordance with the Right to Education (RTE) Act that postulates a minimum of 220 working days at schools.

The department also clarified that neither calendar mentioned the birth anniversaries of Emperor Asoka, Lord Mahavira and Veer Kunwar Singh in 2024 since these fell during the summer vacation. It also said that the summer vacations were taking place from April 15 to May 15, earlier than usual, in view of the Lok Sabha polls. However, leaders of the BJP, the main opposition party in the state alleged that holidays falling on Muslim festivals have been increased while Hindus were being made to

The education department communication stated the revised holiday calendar aims at ensuring that classes are held for at least 220 days in the year, in accordance with the RTE Act

It said the calendar has to be followed by "all schools run or aided by the government, at primary, upper primary and secondary levels"

forego offs on Janmashtami, Ram Navami and Maha Shivaratri. "The government in Bihar is following Islamic rule, a reason why weekly offs have been allowed Fridays in Muslim majority districts like Araria, Kishanganj and Purnea, besides raising the number of days schools will be closed for Eid and Bakrid," Union minister Giriraj Singh alleged.

Neeraj Kumar, the chief spokesperson of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), rejected the charges.

"It is a canard to say Muslim holidays have been increased. The number of days for which schools will remain closed during Shabbaraat has been reduced. Weekly offs on Fridays in Muslim majority localities is a convention that is followed in many states," said Neeraj Kumar, an MLC.

The JD(U) leader



People feed Seagulls on the banks of Tapi river, in Surat, Gujarat

PTI PHOTO

SNIPPETS

Suvendu Adhikari suspended from Assembly

Kolkata: Senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari was suspended from the entire winter session of the West Bengal Assembly Tuesday, following allegations of making objectionable remarks against Speaker Biman Banerjee and creating a ruckus in the House. The suspension transpired during a discussion on 'Constitution Day' in the state assembly. During the deliberation on "how the Constitution of the country was under threat", BJP MLA Sankar Ghosh questioned the legitimacy of legislators who defected from the saffron party but retained their posts without resigning from the Assembly. The Speaker instructed the removal of Ghosh's statement from the assembly records, prompting BJP MLAs, led by Adhikari, the Leader of the Opposition, to descend to the well of the House and chant slogans against Banerjee.

Curbs on 4-wheelers lifted in national capital

New Delhi: The Centre Tuesday ordered the revocation of restrictions under Stage-III of GRAP in the entire NCR with immediate effect, following improvement in air quality. The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), a statutory body responsible for formulating strategies to combat pollution in the region, met Tuesday in view of the significant improvement in the overall air quality of Delhi-NCR. The air quality forecasts by the India Meteorological Department/Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology do not indicate the average air quality of Delhi to move to 'severe' category in the coming days for which forecast is available, the CAQM said.

SC issues notice to Chandrababu Naidu

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday sought a response from TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu on a plea by the Andhra Pradesh government against a high court order granting regular bail to him in the skill development corporation scam case. A bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and SC Sharma issued notice to Naidu and sought his reply. The top court also relaxed his bail condition and allowed him to participate in public rallies and meetings till December 8, which is the next date of hearing. It, however, said that other bail conditions, including that the TDP leader will not make public statements or speak to the media about the case, will remain in force.

Softer provision of UAPA invoked against arrested students: J&K cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: After it faced flak from a section of politicians, the Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday defended booking under UAPA seven university students who had raised objectionable slogans after the Indian cricket team's in the World cup final, saying it had invoked a "softer provision" of the anti-terror law.

Several politicians, including the former J&K chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah, have condemned the action by police, alleging that it will disaffect the youths with such an extreme punishment.

In a statement Tuesday, police said that the boys have been booked under section 13 of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, or UAPA, and added "in contrast to other provisions of the Act, it is a softer provision of the Act." Section 13 of the

UAPA deals with the inciting or advising of any unlawful activity and is punishable with seven years' jail. The students have also been slapped with provisions of 505 and 506 which deal with public mischief and criminal intimidation of the Indian Penal Code, under which, if convicted, the jail term can go up to five years.

Police said the incident was not merely about raising pro-Pakistan slogans. "...These slogans, as has usually been the case with a select few bullies, were aired to intimidate those who disagreed and also to identify and vilify those who choose to keep a distance."

The incident came on the back of separatist and terrorist networks, they said. The statement also defended police action saying the youths' aim was neither about airing personal preference of a particular sporting team, nor about dissent or freedom of expression.

SECOND INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The government is set to positively consider the Indian Navy's proposal for construction of a second aircraft carrier at a cost of around ₹40,000 crore, in a major move that comes against the backdrop of rising concerns over China's increasing forays into the Indian Ocean region.

Top government sources told PTI that the Defence Procurement Board (DPB), a key body of the defence ministry, has accorded in-principle approval to the ambitious proposal signalling the government's readiness to go for the second indigenous aircraft carrier, to be

Centre clears Navy's proposal



Rajnath Singh unveils crest of INS Imphal

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Tuesday unveiled the crest of Indian Navy's stealth guided missile destroyer Imphal that is equipped with BrahMos surface-to-surface missiles and anti-submarine indigenous rocket launchers. The ship was delivered to the Indian Navy October 20 by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

the Navy has proposed that specifications of the IAC II should be similar to the INS Vikrant (IAC I) as it will cut costs and time for construction of the aircraft carrier.

The DAC is also likely to consider the Indian Air Force's proposal for procurement of an additional batch of 97 Tejas Mark-1A aircraft at a cost of ₹1.15 lakh crore, the sources said. The Navy has been making a strong push for having the IAC-

II with a displacement of 45,000 tonnes which is estimated to cost close to ₹40,000 crore with the envisaged specifications.

India's first indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant (IAC I) was commissioned in September by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Built at a cost of around ₹23,000 crore, INS Vikrant has a sophisticated air defence network and anti-ship missile systems.

US ready to help India build own space station: NASA

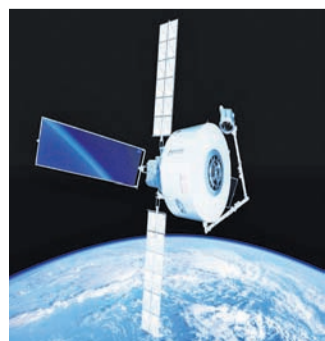
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Stepping up collaboration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Administrator Bill Nelson Tuesday said the US was open to helping India build its own space station.

On a visit to India, Nelson said the US and India were working on plans to send an Indian astronaut to the International Space Station by the end of next year, while the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the state-of-the-art joint venture satellite with NASA - NISAR - in the first quarter of 2024. Nelson met Science and

Technology Minister Jitendra Singh here and discussed strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the space sector.

"ISRO is also exploring the feasibility of utilising NASA's Hypervelocity Impact Test (HVIT) facility for testing Gaganyaan module Micrometeoroid and orbital debris (MMOD) protection shields," an official statement from the science and technology ministry said. During the meeting, the two leaders also discussed US President Joe Biden's offer to send an Indian astronaut to the International Space Station in 2024. "The selection of astro-



onaut is determined by ISRO. NASA will not make the selection," Nelson said in an interaction with reporters here.

Nelson urged Singh to expedite the programme related to

India's first astronaut aboard a NASA rocket to the International Space Station. NASA is

identifying an opportunity in the private astronaut mission for Indian astronauts in 2024.

In response to a question, he said the US would be ready to collaborate with India in building the space station if it so desires. "We expect by that time to

have a commercial space station. I think India wants to have a commercial space station by 2040. If

India wants us to collaborate with them, of course, we will be available. But that's up to India," Nelson said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked ISRO to aim to build an Indian space station by 2035 and land astronauts on the moon by 2040. Built at a cost of USD 1.5 bil-

lion, NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) is targeted for launch onboard India's GSLV rocket. Data from NISAR will be highly suitable for studying the land ecosystems, deformation of solid earth, mountain and polar cryosphere, sea ice, and coastal oceans on a regional to global scale.

ISRO has developed the S-band SAR which was integrated with NASA's L-band SAR at JPL/NASA. The integrated L & S band SAR is currently undergoing testing with the satellite at the U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru with the participation of NASA/JPL officials.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked ISRO to aim to build an Indian space station by 2035 and land astronauts on the moon by 2040. ISRO has developed the S-band SAR which was integrated with NASA's L-band SAR at JPL/NASA. The integrated L & S band SAR is currently undergoing testing with the satellite at the U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru with the participation of NASA/JPL officials.

international

of the day quote

The US hopes to see the pause extended further, but it is dependent on Hamas continuing to release hostages

JOHN KIRBY | WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL SPOKESMAN

Finland and Sweden are cooperating to have a strong impact on the future European Union agenda

PETTERI ORPO | FINLAND PM

Attacks on journalists will not be tolerated in our democracy, and those who threaten the freedom of the press will face the full consequences of their actions

FERDINAND MARCOS JR | PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

Israel, Hamas abide by truce

REUTERS

Cairo/Jerusalem, Nov 28: Israeli forces and Hamas fighters appeared to be abiding by a truce for a fifth morning on Tuesday, after a four-day ceasefire was extended at the last minute for at least two days to let more hostages go free.

A single column of black smoke could be seen rising above the obliterated wasteland of the northern Gaza war zone from across the fence in Israel, but there was no sign of jets in the sky or rumble of explosions.

Both sides reported some Israeli tank fire in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City in the morning, but there were no immediate reports of casualties. A spokesperson for the Israeli Defence Forces said: "After suspects approached IDF troops, an IDF tank fired a warning shot."

During the truce, Hamas fighters released 50 Israeli women and children as young as toddlers from among the 240 hostages they captured in southern Israel during a deadly rampage on October 7. In return, Israel released 150 security detainees from its jails, all women and teenagers. Hamas also separately released 19 foreign hostages, mainly Thai farmworkers, under separate deals parallel to the truce agreement.

Israel has said the truce could extend indefinitely as long as

Hamas continues to release at least 10 hostages per day. But with fewer women and children left in captivity, keeping the guns quiet beyond Wednesday could require negotiating to free at least some Israeli men for the first time.

"We hope the Occupation (Israel) abides (by the agreement) in the next two days because we are seeking a new agreement, besides women and children, whereby other categories that we have that we can swap," Hamas official Khalil Al-Hayya told Al Jazeera late on Monday.

That, he said, would entail "going towards an additional time period to continue swapping people at this stage". Israeli security cabinet minister Gideon Saar told Army Radio that the two-day extension had been agreed under the terms of the original offer, and Israel remained willing to extend the truce further if more hostages were released. Israelis would know when the truce was over because the fighting would begin again.

"Immediately upon the completion of the hostage-recovery framework, the warfighting will be renewed," he said. "We have every intention of implementing the goals of the war as it applies to toppling Hamas in Gaza."

The truce so far has brought the first respite to the Gaza Strip in seven weeks, during which Israel bombed swathes of the territory, especially the north, including Gaza City, into a desolate moonscape.

DURING THE TRUCE, HAMAS FIGHTERS RELEASED 50 ISRAELI WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS TODDLERS FROM AMONG THE 240 HOSTAGES THEY CAPTURED IN SOUTHERN ISRAEL DURING A DEADLY RAMPAGE ON OCTOBER 7



Released Palestinian prisoners arrive in the West Bank town of Ramallah

SHORT TAKES

11 killed, 75 injured

Johannesburg: An elevator suddenly dropped around 200 metres (656 feet) while carrying workers to the surface in a platinum mine in South Africa, killing 11 and injuring 75, the mine operator said Tuesday. It happened Monday evening at the end of the workers' shift at a mine in the northern city of Rustenburg. The injured workers were hospitalized. Impala Platinum Holdings (Impats) CEO Nico Muller said in a statement it was "the darkest day in the history of Impats." It said an investigation had already begun into what caused the elevator to drop and the mine had suspended all operations on Tuesday.

11 dead in China

Beijing: A violent rock burst in a coal mine killed 11 people in China's northeastern Heilongjiang province Tuesday, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported. Mining work can release pressure from surrounding formations and trigger a literal explosion of rocks. An initial assessment determined that is what caused the fatalities in Heilongjiang province, CCTV said.



The next secretary has to have a clear vision on the future role of NATO, how it's going to expand, how it's going to be working to contain Russia

KRISJANIS KARINS | LATVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

'SPY SATELLITE TOOK PHOTOS OF WHITE HOUSE'

North Korea Tuesday said the country's military spy satellite has taken photos of the White House and Pentagon in the US as well as nuclear aircraft carriers docked at a key American naval base



Children wearing Santa Claus outfits leave after attending a ceremony by the Salvation Army to prepare charity pots for a year-end fundraising campaign for the underprivileged in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday

Sunak cancels meet with Greek PM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 28: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has reportedly cancelled a planned meeting on Tuesday with his Greek counterpart, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, during a visit to the UK amid a deepening row over the return of the 'Elgin Marbles'.

The ancient Greek sculptures from the Parthenon in Athens are among the controversial historic items which were brought to the UK by British diplomat Lord Elgin in the early 19th century - giving them their English name. The Parthenon Sculptures now form part of the British Museum's collection and have long been demanded by the Greeks to complete their series at the Acropolis Museum in Athens. The latest standoff is reminiscent of India's demands for the Koh-i-Noor diamond and other historic artefacts taken from India during colonial times.

Ukraine spy chief's wife poisoned

Russia media and commentators picked up the Ukrainian reports, with some speculating that it could be part of infighting in Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

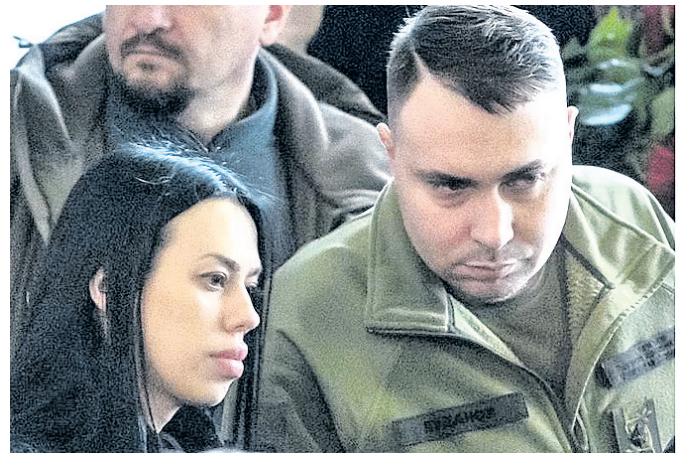
Kyiv, Nov 28: The wife of Ukraine's intelligence chief has been diagnosed with heavy metals poisoning and is undergoing treatment in a hospital, a spokesperson for the agency said Tuesday.

Marianna Budanova is the wife of Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukraine's military intelligence agency known by its local acronym GUR. Her poisoning was confirmed to The Associated Press by Andrii Yusov, the agency's spokesman.

He did not provide more details about the alleged poisoning, nor did he say who might be behind it.

Earlier this year, Yusov told Ukrainian media that Budanov had survived 10 assassination attempts carried out by the FSB, the Russian state security service.

Previously, Budanov had also told local media that his wife lives with him in his office, which could suggest he was the intended target for the poisoning.



There was no immediate comment from Russia on the claim. Russia media and commentators picked up the Ukrainian reports, with some speculating that it could be part of infighting in Ukraine.

Local media, quoting their sources in GUR, say Budanova is currently hospitalized in Kyiv.

The exact nature of the heavy metals that caused the poisoning has not been made public.

However, local media said the metals were not used domestically or in military equipment, so the GUR representatives presume the poisoning was carried out intentionally, possibly through food or drink.

Apart from Budanova, several GUR personnel were also diagnosed with the same poisoning. An official statement with more details is to be released by GUR.

Why an oil kingdom is hosting the COP28 climate summit

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), the world's seventh largest oil producer, will host the 28th UN climate change summit (COP28) in Dubai from November 30 to December 12. Presiding over the conference will be the chief executive of the UAE state-owned oil company Adnoc, Sultan al-Jaber.

COP stands for "Conference of the Parties," with the word "parties" referring to the nearly 200 countries that agreed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992.

As the world wrangles over its next steps in fighting climate change, each country has its own concerns and interests they hope to advance at this year's UN climate summit. U.N. climate negotiations can only pass deals with unanimous support from all countries present. That makes finding consensus a daunting challenge.

Scores of world leaders have said they will be there. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Pope Francis and King Charles III have confirmed plans to attend COP28. Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to skip the summit. With the war in Ukraine still raging, Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to be another no-show. President Biden will not attend a world leaders' summit Friday and Saturday at the outset of COP28, according to the official White House schedule. It is not yet clear whether Biden will travel to Dubai for the second week of the negotiations, when other world lead-

ers probably will have left. It remains unclear if Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will attend the talks, particularly as Arab nations have reacted with anger over the punishing bombardment and ground offensive in the Gaza Strip after Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel. Meanwhile, Syrian President Bashar Assad won't be attending either, according to the pro-government newspaper Al-Watan, despite receiving an invitation from Emirati leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Instead, Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous will lead the country's delegation.

The United Nations rotates the location of COPs each year through five regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe. This year, it was the Asia-Pacific group's turn to host, and the United Arab Emirates made an unopposed bid in May 2021.

The main task at COP28 is a first-time assessment of countries' progress towards meeting the 2015 Paris Agreement's goal of limiting the global temperature rise to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius, while aiming for 1.5C. With global efforts lagging, countries will try during this "global stocktake" to agree on a plan to get the world on track to meet climate goals, which could include urgent steps towards cutting CO2 emissions or boosting green technology investments.

As the COP28 talks begin, countries are at odds over whether this exercise should put the onus on all countries or just the world's wealthiest countries to do more because they re-



Demonstrators participate in a protest against fossil fuels at the COP27 Summit last November in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

leased the most planet-warming emissions historically. Countries are expected to update their national emissions-cutting targets and plans by 2025.

The toughest talks at COP28 may focus on the future role of fossil fuels, and whether countries should commit to start phasing out the use of CO2-emitting coal, oil and gas. Countries agreed at COP26 to phase down the use of coal, but they have never agreed to quit all fossil fuels - the main source of planet-warming emissions.

While the UAE's incoming COP28 President Sultan al-Jaber has said the phase down of fossil fuels is "inevitable", countries are waiting to see if the UAE will push other oil-rich nations to back the idea at COP28.

Jaber has faced criticism for his dual role as head of the UAE's state-owned oil and gas company ADNOC, and incoming president of the climate talks. The UAE and other countries whose economies are dependent on fossil fuels want COP28 to include a focus on nascent technologies designed to capture and store CO2 emissions underground.

The UAE's fast-growing population of 9.9 million (only 1 million are Emirati citizens) has the sixth highest CO2 emissions per head globally. Citizens are used to driving gas-guzzling cars with fuel priced well below international market rates and using air conditioning for much of the year thanks to utility subsidies. Visiting tourists and conference-goers have come to expect chilled shopping malls,

swimming pools and lush golf greens that depend entirely on energy-hungry desalinated water.

Despite decades of policies aimed at diversifying the country's economy away from oil, the UAE's hydrocarbon sector makes up a quarter of GDP, half of the country's exports and 80% of government revenues. Oil rent helps buy socioeconomic stability, for instance, by providing local people with public-sector sinecures.

This state of affairs is a central tenet of the Arabian Gulf social contract, in which citizens of the six Gulf States mostly occupy bureaucratic public sector positions administering an oil-based economy with expatriate labour dominating the non-oil private sector.

Adnoc and other international oil companies are banking on select technologies (to sequester, "green cover" for further climate damage) to preserve their core business model: extracting oil. Adnoc, along with the wider oil and gas industry, has invested in carbon sequestration and making hydrogen fuel from the byproducts of oil extraction. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), such measures, even if fully implemented, will only have a small impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

The UAE was the first in the Middle East to ratify the Paris climate agreement and to commit to net zero emissions by 2050. With near limitless sunshine and abundant sovereign wealth, the UAE ranks 18th globally per capita and first among Opec countries for solar power capacity. Solar now meets

around 4.5% of the UAE's electricity demand and projects in the pipeline will see output rise from 23 gigawatts (GW) today to 50GW by 2031.

The Barakah nuclear power plant (the Arab world's first) started generating electricity in 2020. While only meeting 1% of the country's electricity demand, when fully operational in 2030, this may rise to 25%. The oil sector is inherently capital-intensive, not labour-intensive, and so it cannot provide sufficient jobs for Emiratis. The UAE will need to transition to a knowledge-based economy with productive employment in sectors not linked to resource extraction.

Already one of the hottest places in the world, parts of the Middle East may be too hot to live within the next 50 years according to some predictions. Rising temperatures risk the UAE's tourism and conference-hosting sectors, which have grown meteorically since the 1990s (third-degree burns and heatstrokes won't attract international visitors). A show-stopping announcement to further its global leadership ambitions is not out of the question.

At some point, one of the major oil-exporting countries must announce plans to leave some of its commercially recoverable oil permanently untapped. COP28 provides an ideal platform. A participating country may make such a commitment with the caveat that it first needs to build infrastructure powered by renewable energy and overhaul its national oil company's business model to one that supplies renewable energy, not fossil fuel, globally.

business

of the day quote

India's semiconductor programme lays strong emphasis on supporting the design and talent ecosystem for semiconductors

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MINISTER

This year itself, six of the fastest growing nations in the world are from Africa, and therefore, it is important that we are able to ensure justice to all. Without this, this growth will not be feasible and possible

AMITABH KANT | CEO, SIEMENS LTD

The resilient year-on-year performance across all our businesses is representative of the continued growth in capex and digital spending by both public as well as private sectors

SUNIL MATUR | MD & CEO, SIEMENS LTD

SHORT TAKES

TCS' ₹17k-cr share buyback opens Dec 1

New Delhi: The Rs 17,000 crore-share buyback programme of India's top software services exporter Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will open December 1. The buyback, where investors can sell to the company their shares at an offer price of Rs 4,150 apiece, will close December 7, TCS said in a regulatory filing Tuesday. The information technology bellwether is aiming to repurchase up to 4.09 crore shares (1.12 per cent of the total equity share capital) at Rs 4,150 apiece in a buyback valued at Rs 17,000 crore. For small shareholders, as defined by those with investments less than Rs 2 lakh, the entitlement ratio has been fixed at 1 share for every 6 shares held on the record date of November 25. For other qualifying shareholders, the entitlement ratio is set at 2 shares for every 209 shares held.

Netweb partners NVIDIA in India

New Delhi: Domestic computer server maker Netweb Technologies has partnered with chipset company NVIDIA to make servers for artificial intelligence (AI) and high-end computing applications, the company said Tuesday. NVIDIA dominates the GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) chipset market globally with about 88 per cent market share as they are in huge demand for the development of AI technologies. Netweb Technologies said that it is now a manufacturing partner for the NVIDIA Grace CPU Superchip and GH200 Grace Hopper Superchip MGX server designs.

'Pharma biz can reach \$130bn'

Noida: India's pharmaceutical business may exceed USD 130 billion by 2030, supported by expanding market opportunities and heightened demand in the overseas markets, industry experts said Tuesday. The business stood at over USD 50 billion for the 2022-23 fiscal, they noted. Chairman of PharmExcil (Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India) Veeramani S V said the Indian pharmaceutical industry is on a compelling growth trajectory, evidenced by an 8 per cent year-to-date increase in exports and a remarkable 29 per cent surge in October alone. "This growth is propelled by expanding market opportunities, heightened demand in the USA, and critical shortages of medicines in the US and Europe.



We've seen first-hand how open innovation can lead to technologies that benefit more people and transform sectors
JOEL KAPLAN | META VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL POLICY

AI THREATENS WAGES, NOT JOBS

The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence could reduce wages, but so far is creating, not destroying jobs, especially for the young and highly-skilled, research published by the European Central Bank showed Tuesday



20 blocks of critical minerals to go under hammer today

THESE MINERALS ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: The government will launch the first round of auction of critical and strategic minerals Wednesday putting 20 blocks under the hammer.

Twenty blocks of critical and strategic minerals being put on sale are spread across the country, an official statement said, adding that critical minerals are important for the country's economic development and national security.

The auction will take place online via two stage ascending forward auction process. The sale of tender document will begin from Wednesday, the mines ministry said in a state-

ment on Tuesday.

"Details of the mineral blocks, auction terms, timelines etc. can be accessed on MSTC auction platform," the statement said.

There is high demand for critical and strategic minerals. The demand of such minerals is usually met by imports. Critical minerals meet the needs of sectors like renewable energy, defence and agriculture.

"This is a landmark initiative that will boost our economy, enhance national security and support our transition to a clean energy future," the ministry said.

There is high demand for critical and strategic minerals. Their demand is usually met by imports. Critical minerals cater to the needs of sectors like re-

newable energy, defence and agriculture.

These minerals are essential for our economic development, the country and its security.

"The lack of availability of these minerals or concentration of their extraction or processing in a few countries may lead to supply chain vulnerabilities. The future global economy will be underpinned by technologies that depend on minerals such as lithium, graphite, cobalt, titanium and rare earth elements (REE)," it said.

India has committed to achieve 50 per cent of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030. Such an ambitious plan for energy transition is set to drive the demand for electric cars, wind and solar energy projects and battery storage systems thereby increasing the demand for these critical minerals.

Recently 24 minerals were notified as critical and strategic minerals through an amendment in the mining rule.

The revenue generated from these auctions will accrue to states.



China's Alipay to sell its stake in Zomato

In October, Japan's SoftBank sold a 1.1% stake in the food delivery giant

REUTERS

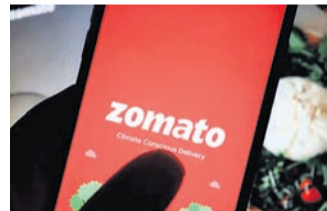
Mumbai, Nov 28: Chinese payments group Alipay plans to sell its 3.4% stake in Indian food delivery giant Zomato for nearly \$400 million through block deals on Indian stock exchanges, according to three sources and a Reuters review of the deal's term sheet.

Alipay, owned by Ant Group, will offload its entire 3.44% stake in the deal, the term sheet seen by Reuters showed.

Bank of America and Morgan Stanley are advisers on the deal, which is likely to be executed later this week on Indian exchanges, said the three sources, who declined to be named as the plan is private.

Zomato, Bank of America and Morgan Stanley did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Alipay also did not respond outside regular business hours.

Zomato shares have surged more than 90% this year, after falling by more than half in 2022 when tech stocks struggled around the world.



Alipay "wants to cash out ... the (market) timing is good," said the first source, referring to the rapid rise in Zomato's shares in recent months.

The block deals are set to be executed at 111.28 rupees per share, a 2.2% discount to Zomato's close Tuesday, the term sheet said.

In October, Japan's SoftBank sold a 1.1% stake in Zomato, which is India's biggest food delivery service. Demand for online ordering has rapidly grown in recent years, prompting companies like Zomato to aggressively expand. Alipay's exit from Zomato comes as other Chinese investors have been paring their stakes in Indian companies.

In August, China's Antfin sold a 10.3% stake in Indian financial giant Paytm.

Automobile sales soar to record high

Overall automobile sales rose 19 per cent to 37,93,584 units in the 42-day festive period this year as compared with 31,95,213 units last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: Driven by robust demand, automobile retail sales in India rose to a record high this festive season with all segments, barring tractors, reporting year-on-year growth, dealers' body FADA said Tuesday.

Overall automobile sales rose 19 per cent to 37,93,584 units in the 42-day festive period this year as compared with 31,95,213 units last year.

During the period, which starts from the first day of Navratri and ends 15 days after Dhanteras, passenger vehicle retail sales rose to 5,47,246 units, up 10 per cent from 4,96,047 units in the same period last year.

"Despite initial underperformance during Navratri, particularly in the passenger vehicle sector, the situation improved by Diwali, ending with a 10 per cent growth rate," Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said.

Sports utility vehicles were the most sought after segment



during the festive period, he added.

Singhania however noted that inventory levels for passenger vehicles remain a significant concern as OEMs continue to push further dispatch, thus keeping the inventory rate near all-time high levels.

Similarly, two-wheeler registrations rose 21 per cent year-on-year to 28,93,107 units this year from 23,96,665 units in 2022.

"Record-breaking sales were reported in several categories, with rural areas particularly contributing to the surge in two-wheeler purchases," he said. Commercial vehicle sales rose 8 per cent year-on-year to 1,23,784 units in the 42-day window.

Three-wheeler registrations witnessed 41 per cent increase

to 1,42,875 units during the period under review from 1,01,052 units in the year-ago period. Tractor sales however declined marginally to 86,572 units from 86,951 units in the festive period last year.

"Tractors, which saw 8.3 per cent decrease in sales during Navratri, made a remarkable recovery, ending the festive period with only a 0.5 per cent decline," Singhania said.

Festive period this year commenced October 15 and ended November 25. Last year, it stretched between September 26 and November 6. FADA said it collated vehicle registration data from 1,355 out of 1,442 RTOs. FADA India represents over 15,000 automobile dealerships having over 30,000 dealership outlets across India.

Markets close higher on fag-end buying

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 28: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty snapped two days of losses and closed higher Tuesday following last-hour buying in auto, power and metal shares helped by fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 204.16 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 66,174.20 in a volatile trade. The Nifty gained 95 points or 0.48 per cent to settle at 19,889.70 as 39 of its components closed in the green and 11 ended lower.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, Titan and Axis Bank were the major gainers.



ITC, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank and Power Grid were among the laggards.

Shares of Adani group firms surged up to 20 per cent as the Supreme Court heard and reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions seeking examination of allegations of fraud against the conglomerate.

Adani Total Gas shares zoomed 20 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions surged 19.06 per cent, Adani Power soared 12.32 per cent, Adani Green Energy jumped 12.27 per cent, NDTV advanced 11.73 per cent, Adani Wilmar went up by 9.96 per cent and Adani Enterprises climbed 8.66 per cent on the BSE.

Adani Ports gained 5.20 per cent, Ambuja Cements climbed 4.22 per cent and ACC went up by 2.62 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.30 per cent while the smallcap index gained marginally by 0.06 per cent.

Among the indices, utilities rallied 3.64 per cent, power jumped 3.47 per cent, oil & gas climbed 3.13 per cent, energy (2.27 per cent), services (2.27 per cent), commodities (1.27 per cent) and metal (1.13 per cent).

FMCG, industrials, telecommunication and capital goods were the laggards.

Mcap of BSE-listed firms at ₹331 lakh cr

New Delhi: The combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit an all-time high of Rs 331 lakh crore Tuesday and is just shy of entering the landmark USD 4-trillion club. At the end of trade, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached Rs 3,31,05,425.71 crore, which translates to USD 3.97 trillion at the current exchange rate of 83.34, thanks to a fag-end recovery in the equity market after a highly volatile trade.

\$13.5 trillion needed for green transition in key sectors: WEF

THE EIGHT INDUSTRIES ANALYSED IN THE REPORT INCLUDED STEEL, CEMENT, ALUMINUM, AMMONIA, OIL AND GAS, AVIATION, SHIPPING AND TRUCKING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Geneva, Nov 28: Transitioning to a more sustainable and carbon-neutral future will require USD 13.5 trillion in investments by 2050, particularly in the production, energy and transport sectors, a new World Economic Forum report said Tuesday.

The report noted that major producing countries and regions such as India, China, the US, and EU have now committed to

net-zero targets, making it imperative for businesses within their jurisdictions to align their operations and strategies with the evolving regulatory landscape.

However, complex and ever-changing policy regimes result in businesses allocating substantial resources towards compliance, impeding progress, and therefore establishing more consistent and stable regulatory frameworks with well-defined timelines is imperative for mitigating these risks, it said.

Taking stock of progress towards net-zero emissions for eight industries that emit 40 per cent of global greenhouse gas, the World Economic Forum Net-Zero Industry Tracker 2023 report said global funding and stronger policy incentives are needed to scale clean power, clean hydrogen and carbon capture around industrial clusters.

The eight industries analysed in the report, published in collaboration with Accenture, included steel, cement, aluminum, ammonia, oil and gas, aviation,



shipping and trucking.

These industries depend on fossil fuels for 90 per cent of their energy demand and pose some of the most technological and capital-intensive decarbonisation challenges.

While the pathway to net-zero in these sectors will differ based on unique sectoral and regional factors, investments in clean power, clean hydrogen and infrastructure for carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) will be needed to accelerate industrial decarbonisation across most sectors.

According to the report, the

However, raising capital for high-risk projects with unproven technologies could be challenging in the current macroeconomic environment.

Institutional investors and multilateral banks, therefore, can play an important role by providing access to low-cost capital linked to emissions targets; equally vital is adapting financial models to the needs of various industries and regions.

The report noted that in countries like India and China, national-level action plans and roadmaps for clean hydrogen have been adopted to encourage investments across the hydrogen value chain that aid large-scale industrial transformation.

Also, the G20 member countries have agreed to guiding principles that enable the production, consumption and global trade of clean hydrogen.

In the US and Europe, where internal combustion engine (ICE) trucks are substantially more expensive than in India and China, the upfront net capital investment required to achieve

net-zero is 25-30 per cent more than continuing to use mostly diesel.

However, in India and China, where ICE trucks are cheaper, the incremental costs of zero emission trucks (ZETs) and their infrastructure are more significant.

It further said that America relies on secondary processes for 70 per cent of its steel production. Other major steel producing regions like India and the EU exhibit a more balanced distribution between primary and secondary steelmaking.

In India and the US, capital flows will need to address the maintenance of the existing electric arc furnace (EAF) asset base as capacity expansion will be limited by scrap availability.

The twin forces of urbanisation and population growth are driving cement consumption in China (51 per cent of global demand) and India (9 per cent of global demand), which necessitates accelerated action to decarbonise the cement sector to mitigate the impacts of increased production, the WEF said.

MAX PARTY AT GUWAHATI

Several changes in Oz squad for India T20Is

Guwahati, Nov 28: Glenn Maxwell pulled off another stunning one-man Houdini Act during a brutal unbeaten hundred that carried Australia to a five-wicket win over India in the third T20I here Tuesday.

Maxwell's 104 off 48 balls (8x4, 8x6) helped Australia surge past India's massive 222/3, built around Rituraj Gaikwad's maiden international hundred, a 57-ball 123 (13x4, 7x6), in the last ball of the match. In the process of making 225/5, the visitors also cut India's series lead to 2-1 in the five-match series.

Skipper Matthew Wade also chipped in handsomely with a crucial 28 not out, helping Maxwell to raise a match-winning 91 off 40 balls for the sixth wicket.

Maxwell's innings might have been a quick reminder to his epic double hundred against Afghanistan in the recent 50-over World Cup, where he single handedly carried his side home.

In some way, Maxwell had to play this knock after he leaked 30 runs in the final over of India's



GLENN MAXWELL



RUTURAJ GAIKWAD

innings, which helped the home side post a big total eventually.

Needing 21 runs off the last over bowled by pacer Prasad Krishna, Maxwell, who escaped a run out chance on 32, sealed the

issue with one six and three fours, and also completed his fourth T20I century. His century came off just 47 balls, equalling Josh Inglis and Aaron Finch for the fastest T20I hundred for

Australia. Before Maxwell started his mayhem, Australia lost three wickets for 21 runs to be 68/3 after World Cup final hero Travis Head gave them a quick start

with 35 off 18 balls. Earlier, Gaikwad slammed a career-best 123, which was also the first ton by an Indian batter against Australia in T20Is. On a wicket that had some extra bounce and swing, India had a shaky start losing both their in-form batters Yashasvi Jaiswal (6) and Ishan Kishan (0) cheaply after Wade opted to bowl to make use of the dewy conditions.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav (39, 29b, 5x4, 2x6) looked set for a big knock before debutant pacer Aaron Hardie dismissed him. Gaikwad's knock was not just about classical drives in the V but also a testament to his brute power. He packed a lot of punch in his pulls and an inside-out maximum. It was a different Gaikwad on display during the last six overs.

BRIEF SCORES

India 222/3 (Rituraj Gaikwad 123 n o, Suryakumar Yadav 39, Tilak Varma 31 n o; Jason Behrendorff 1/12) lost to Australia 225/5 (Glenn Maxwell 104 n o, Travis Head 35, Matthew Wade 28 n o; Ravi Bishnoi 2/32) by 5 wickets.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Nov 28: Almost half of the Australian team currently playing in the T20I series in India will return home after the third match here with Travis Head being the lone member of the World Cup winning side to stay put for the remaining two games.

India are 2-0 up in the five-match series. After Tuesday's match, the fourth and fifth T20Is will be played in Raipur (Dec 1) and Bangalore (Dec 3).

Seven members from Australia's ODI World Cup winning team stayed back in India after the final for the. But six of the seven players will not feature in the last two matches.

Adam Zampa, who finished the World Cup with 23 wickets and equalled Muttiah Muralitharan's record for most wickets by a spinner in a single edition, has already flown back home, along with Steve Smith. Four other players - Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Josh Inglis and Sean Abbott - are scheduled to return to Australia after Tuesday's match in Guwahati. Wicketkeeper-batter Josh

Phillippe and big-hitter Ben McDermott have already joined the Australian squad and are available for Tuesday's third T20I. Ben Dwarshuis and spinner Chris Green will join the squad in Raipur ahead of the fourth match.

Workload management Workload management might be in vogue in world cricket for past few years but Pat Cummins believes that words like "rest" and "rotation" are loosely thrown around when reality is nobody likes to miss a Test if he is fully fit. "Realistically, the word rest and rotated gets thrown around a lot, but you never miss a Test if you are fully fit."

"While over the last couple of years, we might have been rested from the odd game, the bulk of work we've been able to do is because of those small gaps. If we are fully fit, we won't be resting."

Australia's updated squad: Matthew Wade (c), Jason Behrendorff, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Chris Green, Aaron Hardie, Travis Head, Ben McDermott, Josh Philippe, Tanveer Sangha, Matt Short, Kane Richardson.

PCB IN DEADLOCK WITH ACC OVER FLIGHT FARE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Nov 28: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was Tuesday caught in a deadlock with the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for demanding additional compensation on organising chartered flights between Pakistan and Sri Lanka during the Asia Cup, which it co-hosted in August-September.

Asia Cup 2023 was organised in a hybrid model in Pakistan and Sri Lanka after the ACC accepted PCB's hybrid model, with majority of the matches organised in the island nation.

A reliable source in the PCB informed PTI that apart from seeking the tournament hosting fees - around USD 250,000 - as well as shares from ticketing and spon-

sorship fees, they have also demanded additional compensation.

The source said, "The additional money is for expenses incurred on renting chartered flights for teams between Pakistan and Sri Lanka and other extra expenses like additional hotel and transport fees, which were not included in the initial budget for the Asia Cup."

The source, however, informed that the ACC is not willing to pay additional expenses to the PCB since it believes that Pakistan had agreed for matches to be held in Sri Lanka under its hybrid model, in return for hosting four games of the Asia Cup at home.

A Sri Lanka-based company named Classic Travel was paid USD 281,000 for arranging four

chartered flights to and from between Pakistan and the island nation - something that PCB's Cricket Management Committee (CMC) was not comfortable paying upfront as advance.

The tournament was moved to a hybrid model after India refused to play in Pakistan citing security reasons. The source said since the ACC decided to hold matches in Sri Lanka, it was their responsibility to pay for the chartered flights and other additional expenses incurred by the PCB, which, in its meeting, had approved the expenses. The company arranging the flights had quoted a rate of USD 281,700 for four chartered flights and all money was demanded in advance.

WFI poll date likely to be decided today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 28: A fresh date for Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) long-pending elections is likely to be announced Wednesday after the Supreme Court set aside the stay imposed by Punjab and Haryana High Court, a member of the IOA appointed ad hoc committee said.

An SC bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mithal on Tuesday vacated the stay of the high court. The ad-hoc panel appointed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had moved the apex court against the September 25 order of the HC.

"I have spoken the returning officer appointed by the IOA to

conduct the elections and he is waiting for the SC order. It is up to him to take a decision on when the election process will start again," ad hoc committee member Bhupender Singh Bajwa told this agency.

"I think most probably, he (returning officer) will take the decision (on election date) by Wednesday," Bajwa said. "As far as the ad hoc committee is concerned, we are ready."

The IOA had appointed an ad hoc committee April 27 to run wrestling following protests by seven wrestlers, including Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik and Asian Games gold medallist Vinesh Phogat, who alleged that

WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh had sexually harassed female grapplers. The ad hoc panel was supposed to hold elections within 45 days.

The world body UWW had also warned April 28 that it could suspend WFI if the deadline to hold elections was not honoured. UWW carried out the threat by suspending WFI August 24 for not conducting elections on time.

Former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Mahesh Mittal Kumar was June 12 appointed as returning officer to hold WFI elections. He had originally set July 11 as the date for the polls. But the Assam association moved the Gauhati High Court and succeeded in getting

a stay on the polls June 25.

However, the Andhra state association challenged the decision in the Supreme Court which quashed the Gauhati High Court decision July 18, paving the way for the conduct of the polls.

The Returning officer then declared August 12 as the new poll date but a day before the elections, Punjab and Haryana High Court stayed the process on an application moved by Haryana Wrestling Association (HWA), which was led by Deepinder Singh Hooda before being suspended by WFI.

HWA had challenged the move to allow Haryana Amateur Wrestling Association to cast votes in the WFI polls.

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