



SONAM'S FASHION CHOICE

Actor Sonam Kapoor says she consciously buys vintage items that are made by local artisans and even resold

LEISURE P2



DISCUSSIONS ON

With hours left to go before the truce in Gaza expires, international mediators are working to extend the Israel-Hamas ceasefire

INTERNATIONAL P10



SRIKANTH DISAPPOINTS

Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth crashes out in the 1st round of Syed Modi International event

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Engineering student killed in road mishap

Bhubaneswar: A B Tech student was mowed down by a truck near Vani Vihar overbridge in the state capital Wednesday. The deceased, Pratyushparna Das was a first year student of Odisha University of Technology and Research (Ouat). He was en route to his college when the accident occurred. Police arrived on the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. Later they also detained the driver who had fled the spot after the accident. Eyewitness said that the deceased was talking over the phone while driving and that may have led to the accident.

BCCI retains Dravid

New Delhi: Despite India's loss in the final of the ODI World Cup, the BCCI extended Wednesday the contracts of team's head coach Rahul Dravid and his support staff. With VVS Laxman not too keen to handle the senior side, the BCCI decided to retain Dravid to maintain continuity. Most of the players of the Indian squad had also said that they would prefer Dravid who replaced Ravi Shastri after the T20 World Cup in 2021. Under Dravid, India also finished runners-up in the last World Test Championships, losing to Australia in the final.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I never worry about our citizens. They are tough. Even after 17 days in a tunnel, they come out fit and fine

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	66901.91 ↑ 727.71
NIFTY	20096.60 ↑ 206.90
DOLLAR	83.34 ↓ ₹0.17
EURO	91.38 ↓ ₹0.23
GOLD	₹62,470 ↑ ₹85
SILVER	₹75,601 ↑ ₹30

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 29.9°C	28.6°C
	MIN 19.7°C	19.0°C
Humidity	89%	83%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	



RARE SIGHTING: A melanistic leopard was found roaming around in a forest in Odisha during the ongoing tiger census being conducted by the Forest department (P3)

CHSE orders live streaming of Plus II exams

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The School and Mass Education (S&ME) department has decided to live stream the Plus II board exams conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) from next year to bring in more transparency. The CHSE on its part has asked all the college principals to submit status report on installation of CCTV cameras in their respective examination centres by December 15.

Officials said that the live streaming links will be provided to the Mass Education department and the CHSE for monitoring. This information has been passed to principals of all the colleges by the CHSE controller of exams, Ashok Kumar Nayak.

"I am directed to inform you that in view of the conduct of the Annual HS Examination, 2024 in a smooth and transparent manner, it is mandatory on the part of all HS schools affiliated to CHSE, to record the proceed-

ings of the strong room (of EMHs), Centre Superintendent of office, examination halls/rooms and all laboratories (in case of self-financing HS Schools) in CCTV, the footage of which should be recorded," Nayak said in a letter.

"In addition to this, live streaming of all these events is to be made to enable the officials at CHSE, S&ME Department, District Collectorate concerned to monitor each and every activity for proper transparency, the letter added.

'Never lost hope'

Trapped workers talk about the trauma they went through during the 17-day nightmare

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The five Odia workers who were trapped inside the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand for 17 days went through a plethora of emotions including despair which then turned into hope and gloom again as rescue efforts faced various snags. However, all of them, who came out of the tunnel Tuesday said Wednesday that never fully gave up hope as they had contact with human beings engaged in the rescue work.

The five, namely Khirod (Raju) Nayak, Dhiren Nayak and Bisweswar Nayak (all from Mayurbhanj district), Bhagwan Bathra (Nabarangpur) and Tapan Mandal (Bhadrak) are expected to return to their respective villages Thursday as their health conditions are stable, sources said here.

Initially for the first 10 days life was tough for the trapped workers according to Dhiren. "We survived on puffed rice and dry fruits," informed Dhiren. "Later as the rescue teams dug deep, we



BISWESWAR NAYAK



DHIREN NAYAK

got chapattis, rice, dal and food high in protein content. Initially for the first 12 hours, I thought I had no chance. However, with rescue work starting early, our hopes were rekindled," added Dhiren. Recounting the ordeal, Dhiren said that they had all planned to celebrate Diwali, November 12 and were on their way out when disaster struck. "We finished work early. We were on the way out when the tunnel collapsed," he informed. Dhiren also said that initially they did not have breathing problems as the tunnel was long and had enough oxygen.

The families of the four others are celebrating in their respective villages even Wednesday. "I am relieved to know that my son has been rescued... I spoke with him over the phone Wednesday morning and inquired about his health. I am now eagerly waiting to see him,"

Bisweswar's father said. Bisweswar meanwhile informed that initially they were very afraid and apprehensive about what lay in store. "Initially we were all very afraid as rubble continued to fall on us and the area around us. Luckily, however, the debris stopped falling after four hours," said Bisweswar. He informed that the first 10 days were traumatic, but in unison they managed to survive. "We got freshly-cooked food and new clothes from the 11th day onwards and then our hopes soared," he added.

Bisweswar also informed that they kept their minds alert by playing various games like 'chop police' and exercising religiously. "Once we started talking to our families, we realised that rescue was near. However, the various technical snags did act as a deterrent," informed Bisweswar.

Free foodgrain scheme extended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: With general elections scheduled for April-May next year, the government Wednesday extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme to provide five kilograms of free foodgrains per month to 81.35 crore poor for another five years that would cost the exchequer about ₹11.80 lakh crore.

A decision in this regard was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, here Tuesday. The information was given Wednesday by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur: "The PMGKAY has been extended for another five years with effect from January 1, 2024," Thakur said.

PMGKAY was introduced in 2020

- PMGKAY first introduced in 2020 as pandemic relief measure
- Current scheme to run till January 2029

as a pandemic relief measure, under which five kilograms of free foodgrains per beneficiary per month was provided in addition to the 5kg of subsidised foodgrain under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). The BJP in Odisha dubbed the Centre's decision to extend the PMGKAY for five more years as a 'poll gimmick'. "The BJP-led government at the Centre has all along duped poor people. Since it came to power, it stopped several welfare schemes. This apart, the prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed," said MLA Dhruva Charan Behera in Bhubaneswar. P3

US charges Indian in Pannun murder plot

AGENCIES

New York, Nov 29: The US Justice Department has charged a 52-year-old Indian national Nikhil Gupta with involvement in an alleged murder plot against Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun. This development comes a week after a

'Financial Times' report alleged that the US had foiled a plot to kill Pannun and then 'issued a warning' to India over concerns that New Delhi was 'involved in the plot' to eliminate Pannun. The US officials added, the Indian government agency employee has variously described himself as a 'Senior Field Officer'. P10

8 words vie for Oxford honour

The award is given to help in evolution of the English language

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 29: 'Situationship', 'swiftie', 'beige flag' and 'de-influencing' are among the eight words on the shortlist for 'Oxford Word of the Year' for 2023, officials of the Oxford University Press (OUP) said here Wednesday. The other words in the list are 'parasocial', 'heatdome', 'rizz' and 'prompt'.

The eight words will be opened up to head-to-head voting by the public with one winner emerging from each of those competitions, narrowing the field down to just four finalists.

Experts will then perform one last detailed analysis of the cor-



pus data, taking into account the votes and public commentary on the finalists, and name the definitive word of the year for 2023.

The shortlist of eight words has been selected by the language experts at OUP. They have examined the 19-billion-word corpus of spoken and written language data for words or expressions that have seen a spike in usage or that have been recently added to the language (neologisms), officials said.

While 'situationship' is a term used for a romantic or sexual re-

lationship that is not considered to be formal or established, 'beige flag' refers to a character trait that indicates that a partner or a potential one is boring or lacks originality.

'Swiftie' is an enthusiastic fan of singer Taylor Swift while 'de-influencing' is the practice of discouraging people from buying particular products, or of encouraging people to reduce their consumption of material goods, via social media.

"Everyone has a role to play in how the English language evolves over time, which is why we wanted language lovers across the world to help us select the word that best reflected their experiences of 2023. The world seems to be spinning faster than ever; the mood of 2023 bouncing from extremes from one moment to another," said Casper Grathwohl, president of 'Oxford Languages'.

DSPL-425

BIJU SWASTHYA KALYAN YOJANA

HEALTHY ODISHA, HAPPY ODISHA

Ajay Kumar Das
4189872XXXX

ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ସୁସ୍ଥତା Government of Odisha
ବିଜୁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା
Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

LAUNCHING OF BSKY TOLL FREE NUMBER FOR FAMILIES LIVING OUTSIDE THE STATE

1800120120104

Dedication by

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

30TH NOVEMBER 2023

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

OIPR-10001/13/0118/2324

leisure



AL PACINO'S GIRLFRIEND DOESN'T WANT TO MARRY

Godfather actor Al Pacino has five-month-old son Roman with partner Noor Alfalah, and while she confirmed they are still together, she insisted they have no plans to get married.

ANISTON SEEKS SUPPORT FOR MATTHEW PERRY FOUNDATION

Friends actress Jennifer Aniston has urged fans to support The Matthew Perry Foundation. She highlighted the work of the charity - which was founded to help those struggling with addiction in the wake of her late pal's death last month - in recognition of Giving Tuesday.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Today will be as agreeable as any day can be. You are satisfied with what you have, says Ganesh. Besides, you have already planned on what you desire and are moving towards it. A date of romantic nature may turn out to be interesting or it may lead to a controversy; you have to decide on it.

TAURUS
You can expect a pleasant, comfortable day at the office, today, so says Ganesh. You will be carrying out your work cheerfully and effortlessly. You could, later in the evening, have a strong urge to go out for dinner with your family and friends.

GEMINI
You face a hectic and demanding day today. You will spend your entire day wondering how best to channelise your energy and enthusiasm. You may be prone to extreme mood swings as well. Meditative techniques should help you keep your mind calm, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will tend to try new recipes at home. Family members will take advantage and enjoy it. You will indulge in pastimes. Arrival of guests will bring in an air of festivity and happiness, says Ganesh.

LEO
You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence and will be able to take on huge risks. Sportspeople will be able to make a lot of progress in their fields. You will square off against any obstacles in your way using your entire might. While it is a good day for you, keep a curb on your speculations, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Take a little break today, and spend some time looking within. At your office there may be some bitter confrontations, so Ganesh advises you to be very careful and try to prevent things from getting too difficult. In matters of love, a new romance may develop. Ganesh says you may enjoy a peaceful evening with friends.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today you will try to be adept in your favorite subject. Today you will be buying antique artistic things too. If there are any legal proceedings going on then the results will be in your favor. You shall be a success in everything that you touch today. Your artistic streak will come to the fore today and you will develop an interest in the fine arts

SCORPIO
A series of events at work front may keep you busy throughout the day. You may be unable to manage the clutter and confusion created by too many things at the same time. However, you emerge a fighter because of your power of resilience. Ganesh advises to go slow, yet steady; take one problem at a time and sort it out.

SAGITTARIUS
You are caught in a whirlpool of emotions, predicts Ganesh. You may come across many ups and downs today. However, nothing seems to deter you from your determination and dedication towards work.

CAPRICORN
By and large, your life today will be dull. But, there isn't something unfavourable or negative about it, assures Ganesh, as the planetary movements signal a change, probably a positive one, happening in the near future. So, keep your chin up and get ready for a better tomorrow.

AQUARIUS
You are armed with good communication skills, and like always, it will come to your aide today, too. There is one problem though. You are not clear about your emotions and it may make your arms blunt, foresees Ganesh.

PISCES
Your energy and enthusiasm will know no bounds today, as everything seems to fall into place, seemingly on its own. You will blaze a new trail at the workplace. Certain tough calls may leave you off-balance momentarily, but you will come out of it with flying colours.

Sonam's definition of true luxury



Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor's influence on the Indian fashion landscape and pop culture is undisputed. The actress recently talked about the need of awareness regarding the necessity to reuse, repeat, and re-wear clothing. Sonam says, "To me, having a

product with longevity is luxury. Back in the day, my mother and grandmother would preserve expensive sarees in a mal mal (muslin) cloth, masterji (tailor) would create made-to-measure outfits, juttis (shoes) would be created to fit our feet. I'm also doing the same."
She adds, "So, you see, I grew up appreciating the value of personalization and the handmade. This, to me, is a true luxury. I consciously buy items that are made by local artisans, are vintage, and are even resold."

Sonam further says, "I haven't bought anything that I haven't worn multiple times. For me, everything that I buy needs to be wearable for several years. I don't believe in wearing it once and then returning it unless I'm borrowing an outfit for an event."
On the work front, Sonam Kapoor was last seen in Shome Makhija's crime thriller film *Blind*, which was released on OTT in July 2023. The film also starred Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak, and Lillette Dubey in supporting roles.

Sara adds another feather to her cap

Mumbai: Sara Tendulkar, daughter of cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar, shared the special achievement with her fans.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Sara dropped a post as she celebrated the successful completion of her Masters in Science from the prestigious University College of London (UCL) with a distinction. She captioned the post as 'onwards and upwards.'

Sara graduated in medicine like her mother, Anjali Tendulkar, who is a pediatrician. She has been in the news for her rumoured relationship with cricketer Shubman Gill.

The 26-year-old has also been making waves in both academic and social circles. Despite speculation about her debut in Hindi films, her cricketer-father put an end to the rumors, clar-

ifying that there were no such plans. Apart from her academic accomplishments, Sara has been vocal about important issues. Recently, she addressed the misuse of technology after falling prey to AI-generated deepfake.

In an official statement posted on her Instagram handle, Sara expressed her concerns about fake social media accounts impersonating her and spreading deepfake photos. She penned, "Social media is a wonderful space for all of us to share our joys, sorrows and daily activities. However, it is disconcerting to see the misuse of technology as it takes away from the truth and authenticity of the internet," adding "Entertainment should never come at the expense of truth."



WORK-LIFE BALANCE Jasmine takes it one day at a time

Mumbai: Actress Jasmine Bhasin, known for her work in *Tashan-e-Ishq*, *Dil Se Dil Tak*, *Ladies & Gentlemen*, has opened up on her personal and work life balance, saying she stays practical.

Balancing personal and work life is a trick which Jasmine has mastered. "I take it one day at a time and stay practical. I keep my circle small, with very few close people around me," she said.

"I'm picky about the projects I choose. For now, I'm all in for more Punjabi films," said the former *Big Boss 14* contestant when asked about her criteria of selecting a movie.

Talking about OTT, Jasmine said, "I'm totally up for OTT projects and even TV if the role is in-

teresting. To me, every medium is cool, as long as the role challenges me."

After a tough day on set, the actress finds peace and love with her three pets.

"My pets are like a big bundle of love and calmness. I believe everyone should have a pet at home; their positive vibes are contagious," added the 33-year-old actress.

Jasmine also has *Warning 2* in the pipeline.

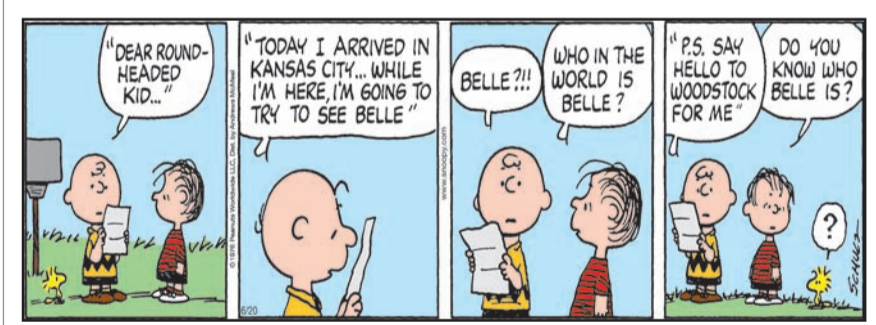


SHWETAPADMA'S NATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL CONCLUDES



A scene from Odia play *Bibarna Pruthibi*, staged at Rabindra Mandap, Wednesday. Written and directed by Pradeep Biswal, it was the concluding show of the festival organised by Bhubaneswar-based drama troupe Swetapadma Nataghar. The three-day festival was hosted to commemorate the troupe's 10th Foundation Day.

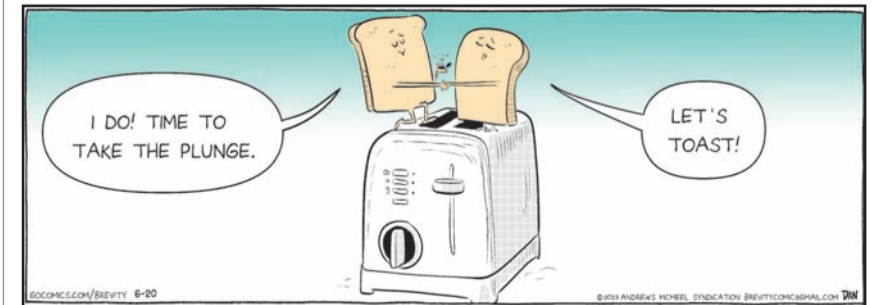
PEANUTS



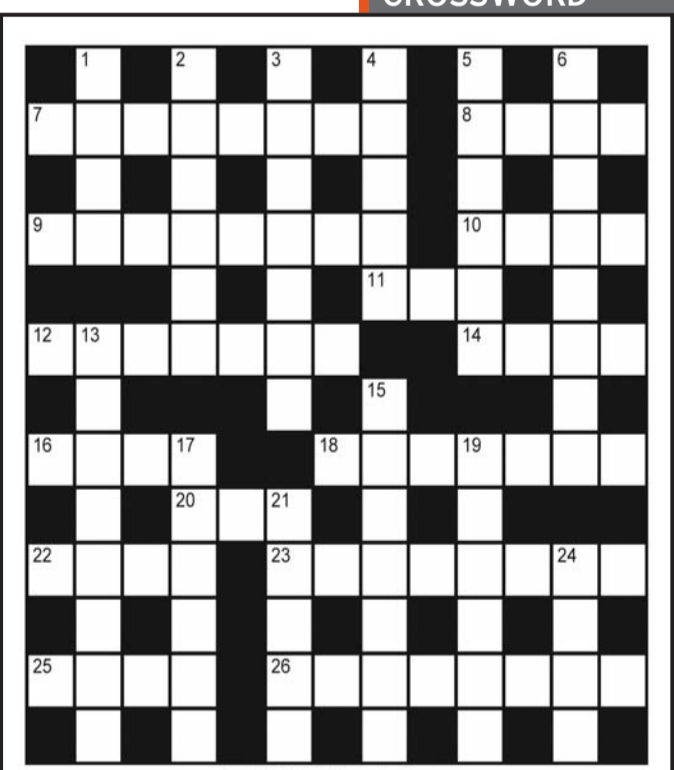
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



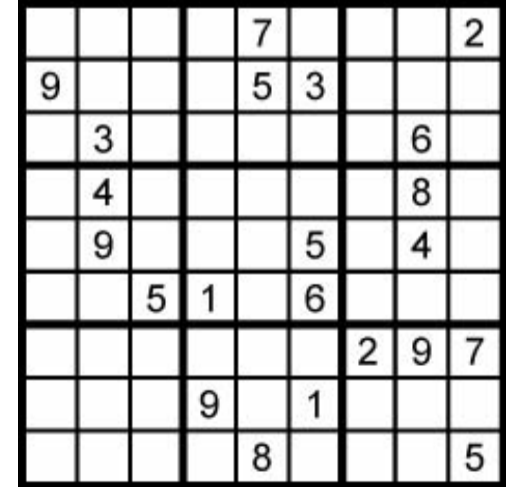
FUN post CROSSWORD



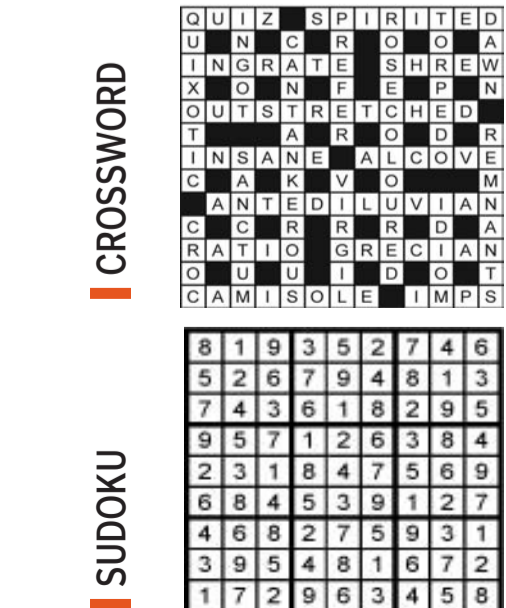
- Across**
- 7 Soaking sauce
 - 8 Pledge
 - 9 Scorned
 - 10 Vacation spot
 - 11 Perched
 - 12 Type of vehicle (3-4)
 - 14 Desiccated
 - 16 "Major" animal
 - 18 Lettuce with long leaves
 - 20 Fish story
 - 22 Exchange
 - 23 Cause disunity
 - 25 Family group
 - 26 Precise
 - 3 Cricket player
 - 4 Marsh growth
 - 5 Sue Lyon character
 - 6 Herd leader
 - 13 Departure word
 - 15 Hungarian stew
 - 17 Skiing type
 - 19 Nimble
 - 21 The after song
 - 24 Splinter group
- Down**
- 1 Confusion
 - 2 Smoked herring

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

FOR A CAUSE

Dignitaries including Odia Language, Literature and Culture Commissioner-cum-Secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan, Director Dilip Routrai and Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi President Sudarsan Pattnaik flag off a mobile art exhibition van in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday



RARE MELANISTIC LEOPARD SIGHTED IN ODISHA FORESTS

CAMERA TRAP TIGER CENSUS



Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: A rare melanistic leopard has been spotted during the ongoing camera trap tiger census in Odisha's forest areas.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (wildlife) Susanta Nanda Wednesday shared some images of the melanistic leopard and said the census is throwing up some exciting and unexpected presence of wild fauna in the state.

The tiger census is underway in Similipal National Park, spread over 2,750 sq km area in Mayurbhanj district, in four

phases. The tiger census is also being conducted across Odisha. The big cat survey through camera traps in Similipal started November 23, 2023 and will end January 18, 2024.

The exercise is currently being undertaken by trained forest officials in 209 beats under 19 forest ranges of Similipal. As many as 209 teams have been engaged in the survey. The authorities have decided to conduct the survey in segments. A sign survey was carried out from October 18 to 20 during which team members collected various sign data like pug-marks, scats, and direct sightings.

The team that will conduct the survey will be monitored by range officers, assistant conservators of forests (ACsFs), and deputy directors of the Similipal Tiger Reserve to ensure exact enumeration of the big cat presence in the sanctuary, sources said.



BOOST TO HEALTH INFRA: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian, Health and Family Welfare Minister Niranjan Pujari, Chief Secretary PK Jena and department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Shalini Pandit with some of the 3,732 newly-appointed nursing officers during 'Nijukti Parba' at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

ECoR to increase spl train services

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Keeping in view the passengers' demand, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has decided to increase the services of special trains currently running under its jurisdiction.

ECoR sources Wednesday said some more special trains have also been decided to run to various destinations through the ECR to avoid overcrowding in winter.

Train no 08579/08580 Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Special train departing every Wednesday from Visakhapatnam and every Thursday from Secunderabad will run now till February 1, 2024.

The Visakhapatnam-Tirupati Special Train which departs every Monday from Visakhapatnam and every Tuesday from Tirupati will now run till January 30, 2024.

The Visakhapatnam-Bengaluru Special Train departing every Sunday from Visakhapatnam and every Monday from Bengaluru will now run till January 29, 2024.

The Srikakulam Road-Kollam-Srikakulam Road Special will depart from Srikakulam at 11am every Saturday till January 27, 2024 while on the return route the train will leave Kollam every Sunday till January 28, 2024.

The Visakhapatnam-Kollam-Visakhapatnam Special will leave Visakhapatnam at 8:20am every Wednesday from November 29, 2023 to January 31, 2024 while on the return route, the train will run from Kollam at 7:35pm every Thursday from 30 November 2023 to February 1, 2024.

The Puri-Patna-Puri Special will leave Puri at 2:55pm every Saturday and Patna at 1:45pm every Sunday till December 30, 2023.



The Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad-Bhubaneswar Special running daily between Puri and Dhanbad will run till December 30. The train leaves Puri at 8:25pm and Dhanbad at 4:00pm.

The Bhanjpur (Baripada)-Puri-Bhanjpur Special will leave Bhanjpur every Thursday and Saturday till December 31. It will leave Puri every Friday and Sunday.

The Santragachi-Puri-Santragachi Special will depart from Santragachi every Friday till December 30, 2023 and from Puri every Saturday.

The Sambalpur-Erode-Sambalpur Special will run till March 2024 from Sambalpur every Wednesday and Erode every Friday.

The ECoR has taken the decision by reviewing the passenger profile management as these trains on the above routes are running with extra passengers.

Silkyara & audit of tunnels: Lessons at what price

DEBASISH PANIGRAHI, OP



Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Soon after 41 workers were pulled out of the partially collapsed Silkyara tunnel in Uttarkashi Tuesday night, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said the accident had taught a lot and safety audit of all tunnels in the country would commence soon. He also admitted that it was very tough to work in the Himalayas and new solutions would have to be found.

This would essentially mean the government's earlier decision to expedite the 900 km Char Dham Pariyojana (project) in Uttarakhand that aims to improve connectivity to the religious pilgrimage sites of Gangotri, Yamotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath was not only disingenuous but it also lacked proper ground assessment. The safety aspects were thrown to the wind - despite red flags raised by geologists, environmentalists and locals - in an apparent rush to complete the project before the approaching Parliamentary elections.

Moreover, the environment impact assessment (EIA) in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem

was tweaked by dividing the project into 53 divisions (any proposed highway running beyond 100km needs environmental clearance), thus obtaining a go-ahead from the Supreme Court on the pretext of 'national security'. Just about a month earlier, the collapse of a massive under-construction dam in Sikkim had come as a wakeup call for the government and planners about the collaterals people have to pay for an ill-conceived and reckless infrastructural project.

The outcome of the tunnel audit notwithstanding, the fact remains that escape routes in any long tunnel (Silkyara is 4.5 km long) to facilitate rescue work in case of emergencies is a norm everywhere in the world. The Silkyara experience exposed the paucity of such features when the stranded labourers had to be pulled out manually using the outlawed 'rat hole' technique. This method, often used by coal mine plunderers in the North-East, was banned by the National Green Tribunal

Extension of PMGKAY for 5 years poll gimmick: BJD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday dubbed the Centre's decision to extend Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for five more years as a 'poll gimmick'.

The Central government Wednesday extended the PMGKAY scheme to provide 5 kg free foodgrains per month to 81.35 crore poor for another five years that would cost the exchequer about Rs 11.80 lakh crore. The opposition Congress also criticised the BJP-led Central government and termed the decision to extend PMGKAY for another five years as "election-oriented".

"The BJP-led government at the Centre has all along duped poor people. Since the BJP came to power, it stopped several welfare schemes. This apart, the

prices of essential commodities have skyrocketed. "During Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre reduced the foodgrains provided under the PMGKAY by half to 5 kg. As the general election is approaching, it is a gimmick by the Centre to extend the scheme. This is not a new scheme, but just an extension of the old scheme," BJD MLA Dhruba Charan Jena told reporters here.

Replying to a question, the BJD lawmaker asked the BJP state leadership to explain why the Centre reduced the quantity of free-of-cost foodgrains from 10 kg to 5 kg.

Senior Congress leader Panchanan Kanungo also alleged that the Centre has been cruel to the poor people by raising the price of essential commodities and now extending the free-of-cost foodgrain scheme by another five years aiming the upcoming general elections.

RBI to hold coin, soiled note exchange camps

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will organise block-level camps to enable people to exchange coins and soiled notes.

RBI regional director Sharada Prasanna Mohanty said Wednesday that the camps will be held for three months, starting December first week. "During the three months, people can exchange coins and soiled notes

at the camps at block headquarters and market areas. The initiative is being facilitated by various banks," he said.

Awareness drives will be launched ahead of the programme, he said while urging people not to pay heed to rumours. He also made it clear that people, as usual, can deposit coins at banks. And in the event of refusal by any bank, the customers can lodge complaints through the RBI banking ombudsman.

in 2014 as it is not only 'unscientific' but it also causes serious environmental degradation.

Geologists say that firms and agencies carrying out tunnelling work in India seldom follow the prescribed safety concerns. They also tend to overlook the construction norms and design philosophy of the New Australian Tunnelling Method, which mandates escape routes in long tunnels which come handy during disasters and emergencies - for workers during construction and motorists/users as well, later on.

And finally, clarity, transparency and effective stock taking should be maintained in such projects - from conception, execution to completion. However, in case of Silkyara project, many of these aspects were found wanting. Officials of the Bernard Gruppe, a Europe-based firm which provided design support to Navyug Construction, the agency engaged in the construction of the Silkyara-Barkot project, was quoted as saying that the geological conditions proved to be more challenging than predicted in the tender documents from the very start of the tunnel driving.

ASI completes Ratnabhandar laser scanning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Puri, Nov 29: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) concluded the laser scanning of the outer walls of the Srimandir Ratnabhandar in Puri, Wednesday.

The central agency has taken pictures of 49 points - 37 Tuesday and 12 Wednesday - on the outer wall of the temple treasury. The ASI will hold a meeting with the temple body for conducting laser scanning of shrines on the temple premises, Thursday.

Superintending Archaeologist DB Garnayak said the damage, if any, will be documented for evaluating the condition of the structure and for planning its conservation. "The ASI will submit its assessment report to S/JTA, which will then be reviewed by a technical team. A decision on taking up repair works will be taken accordingly," said the temple's chief administrator Ranjan Kumar Das.

Min meets rescued Odisha workers in Uttarkhand hosp



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Labour Minister Sarada Prasad Nayak Wednesday met five workers from Odisha who were rescued from a caved-in tunnel in Uttarkhand's Uttarkashi district.

The minister, who has been camping in the Himalayan state for the past few days, met the rescued labourers at Chinyalisaur Hospital in Uttarkashi, where they are under medical observation. "Hon'ble Minister, Labour & ESI met the five workers of Odisha who are rescued from the #UttarakhandTunnelCollapse in Chinyalisaur Hospital, Uttarkashi. All the workers are fine," the official X handle of the Odisha Labour Commissioner said in a post.

Another Labour department official said the rescued workers will soon be brought back to Odisha after completion of their medical check-ups. All 41 workers trapped in Silkyara tunnel on Brahmakhali-Yamunotri National Highway in Uttarakhand for 17 days were rescued Tuesday evening.

The five rescued workers hailing from Odisha are: Raju Nayak, Dhiren Nayak and Bisweswar Nayak from Mayurbhanj district, Bhagwan Bhatra from Nabarangpur and Tapan Mandal from Bhadrak district.

"On the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, our Labour department officials have been camping there. To give

Family members of the rescued workers were eagerly waiting for their return back home

On the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, our Labour department officials have been camping there. To give moral support to the trapped workers, the Odisha government took their family members to Uttarkashi

SUDAM MARNDI | ODISHA REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT MINISTER

moral support to the trapped workers, the Odisha government took their family members to Uttarkashi," state Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sudam Marndi said.

Marndi, who hails from Mayurbhanj,

said he has already met the family members of two workers from the district and given them some monetary support. "We were in continuous touch with the families. I pray that such an incident does not happen in the future. I thank all personnel involved in the rescue operation," the minister said.

Meanwhile, residents of the villages of the five workers erupted in joy after receiving news of the rescue of the trapped labourers. They thanked all agencies involved in the massive operation. Family members of the rescued workers were now eagerly waiting for their return back home.

"I am relieved to know that my son has been rescued... I spoke with him over the phone Wednesday morning and inquired about his health. I am now eagerly waiting to see him," Bisweswar Nayak's father said.

Cops nab murder accused after 4 yrs

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The Commissionerate Police Wednesday claimed to have arrested a man who had been evading arrest since the last four years after his name surfaced in a murder case.

The accused identified as Nilu Panda, a resident of Samantarapurpatna under Dhauli

police limits, was on the radar for his involvement in the murder of septuagenarian Bansidhar Kalia.

ACP, Zone-II, Girija Shankar Chakrabarty said the accused was produced before a court for remand following his arrest under Sections 302 and 34 of IPC. Earlier three brothers of Panda had been arrested in the case. Giving details of the case, the ACP said in 2019 Panda and

his brothers got into a brawl with Kalia over allotment of chairs during a Raja Mahotsav ceremony at Bhairangeswar Temple. As the situation escalated, the foursome thrashed Kalia with wooden planks, causing the latter's death, said Chakrabarty.

Later, Panda's three brothers were arrested. However, Panda went underground. A Dhauli police official said they

were recently tipped off about Panda's relocation to Jatni.

The ACP said a fortnight ago, an operation was launched under the supervision of DCP Prateek Singh to nab him. On receipt of information about Panda's visit to his family, sleuths from the Dhauli police station laid a trap in the vicinity. When Panda was sighted, the police team arrested him, he added.

PM-JANMAN to benefit 2.5L tribals in Odisha



POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Nov 29: Around 2.5 lakh tribal people belonging to 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Odisha will benefit from the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) that was approved by the Union Cabinet Tuesday.

Union Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Wednesday said that PM-JANMAN focuses on 11 critical interventions for PVTGs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the scheme on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in Jharkhand's Khunti. The scheme -- which aims to, among others, provide pucca houses, piped water supply and roads -- got the Cabinet nod late on Tuesday.

According to sources, the mission will benefit around 2.5 lakh tribal people belonging to 13 PVTGs in Odisha - Birhor, Bondo, Didayi, Dongria-Khond, Juangs, Kharias, Kutia Kondh, Lanjia Sauras, Lodhas, Mankidias, Paudi Bhuyans, Soura and Chuktia Bhunjia.

Total outlay for PM-JANMAN has been pegged at ₹24,104 crore, of which the central share will be ₹15,336 crore and the states will contribute ₹8,768 crore. "Over 28,16,000 (28.16 lakh)

Total outlay for PM-JANMAN has been pegged at ₹24,104 crore, of which the central share will be ₹15,336 crore and the states will contribute ₹8,768 crore

The scheme aims to provide housing, all-weather roads, clean drinking water, electricity, mobile dispensaries and mobile towers in the target areas

tribal people from 220 districts in 18 states and one Union Territory will benefit from this scheme. Those tribals who have not yet benefited from Government of India schemes so far will be the beneficiaries under this scheme," Thakur said.

The beneficiaries have been identified from among 75 tribal communities with a scattered habitation.

"Under the scheme, 11 main interventions have been identified on the basis of which benefits will be given to them. These include housing, all-weather roads, clean drinking water, electricity, mobile dispensaries and mobile towers..." Thakur said.

He added that assured livelihood opportunities will also be provided.

The scheme targets to provide 4.90 lakh pucca homes at a cost of ₹2.39 lakh per house, construction of 8,000 kilometre

of roads at a cost of ₹1 crore per km, piped water supply for all PVTG habitations, community water supply in 2,500 villages/habitations with a population of less than 20 households, a thousand mobile medical units with medicine cost for 10 districts at ₹33.88 lakh per mobile medical unit, 500 hostels at a cost of ₹2.75 crore each, and vocational and skilling centres in 60 Aspirational PVTG block at ₹50 lakh per block.

It will also provide for the construction of 2,500 Anganwadi centres (at ₹12 lakh each), multipurpose centres (at ₹60 lakh each), last-mile electricity connection for 57,000 households, a 0.3 KW solar off-grid system, solar lighting in streets, and installation of mobile towers in 3,000 villages.

India has a Scheduled Tribe population of 10.45 crore, according to the 2011 census. Of the total, 75 communities in 18 states and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been categorised as PVTGs. These PVTGs continue to face vulnerability in social, economic and educational fields.

The Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission to improve the socioeconomic conditions of these groups was announced in the Union Budget for 2023-24.

The Union Ministry of Ayush will set up Ayush Wellness Centres, according to existing norms, and Ayush facilities will be extended to PVTG habitations through mobile medical units.

The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship will facilitate skill and vocational training in PVTG habitations, multipurpose centres and hostels, according to suitable skills of these communities.



GOLDEN JUBILEE SPECIAL: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy, Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and employees of the twin publications at the unveiling of Dharitri's 50th anniversary souvenir on the office premises in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OMM bags global model award at INCC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad/Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Promotion of millets in Odisha got a shot in the arm as Odisha Millets Mission (OMM) received the award for 'Global Model on Millet Promotion' at International Nutri-Cereal Convention (INCC) 5.0 organised by Indian Institute of Millets Research in Hyderabad from November 27 to 28.

The theme of the convention was 'Mainstreaming Millets Now & Beyond 2023' which underscores the importance of these ancient grains in today's time. The convention was graced by high level delegates including government officials, policy experts, researchers, FMCGs and others.

The convention was represented by Principal Secretary of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment department



Odisha Millet Mission has revived millets in Odisha and paved the way for the rest of the country and world as a model programme

Arabinda Kumar Padhee and scheme officer Kalpana Pradhan, along with Mission Shakti women SHG representatives from Swayam Shradha Mahila Mahasangha.

Padhee thanked IIMR, NutriHub, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and the jury members for recognising Odisha Millets Mission as 'Global Model on Millet Promotion'. He expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for his vision

and impeccable commitment which made this possible.

Padhee dedicated the award to real heroes of Odisha Millets Mission - the farmers, women SHGs, custodian seed savers, farmer producer organisations, voluntary organisations, his colleagues, and department officers. He emphasised the participatory approach of OMM which paved the way for its successful implementation and recognised as replicable and scalable model for revival of millets.

Recognition of OMM for

Poshak Anaaaj Awards at INCC 5.0 is befitting due to its pro-people farm-to-plate approach which brings multiple stakeholders under a single platform to address the issues of food security, nutrition, climate change, women empowerment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

From providing seed to promoting improved agronomic practices, conserving traditional landraces, ensuring market access through MSP, and creating an enabling environment to develop entrepreneurship with a special focus on empowering farmers and women's collective, OMM has comprehensively revived millets in Odisha and paved the way for the rest of the country and world as a model programme.

Odisha is also the first state in the country to dedicate a day (November 10) for celebrating Millet Day or Mandia Dibasa.

BMC to act tough on encroachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Wednesday warned of strict action against individuals encroaching upon roads without prior permission from the civic body.

During an interdepartmental meeting, the civic body issued instructions saying activities including laying of cables, dumping raw material on roads for construction or even digging roads for sewerage purposes are strictly prohibited unless obtained due permission from BMC.

Several stakeholders present in the meeting also highlighted numerous complaints from residents on the issue.

BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said residents are advised to obtain due permission and render logical explanation before creating blockade of any road.

The final nod, however, will be granted by civic authorities after considering the assessment report of the special team, he added.

SAI Int'l hosts 7th edition of SAITED

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: The SAI International School hosted the 7th edition of SAITED 2023, one of the largest K-12 Science and Technology fests in the country here, Wednesday.

The event witnessed active participation of more than 7,000 students from 36 schools with more than 120 projects across the state. The theme for this year's fest was 'Evolving Perspectives: Navigating the Unseen Paradigm,' emphasizing the ever-changing nature of science and technology.

Managed by the students of Class XI from the science stream, with mentor support, SAITED 2023 featured a diverse range of activities including a Tech Fair, Startup Park, Ted Talks, STEM Thought Leaders' Talks and Science events among others.

Addressing the gathering, the



chief guest, Athithan Gopalaswamy, former, DG DRDO DG - Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR), in her address, said, "We are following the path of our Founder- Chairman Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, and we are committed in nurturing leadership qualities, critical thinking abilities, creative mind, and scientific temperament among students."

SAI International Education Group chairperson Silpi Sahoo, in her address, said, "We are following the path of our Founder- Chairman Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, and we are committed in nurturing leadership qualities, critical thinking abilities, creative mind, and scientific temperament among students."

Kerala delegation in IIM Sambalpur

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Nov 29: IIM Sambalpur hosted the Kerala delegates comprising 50 students under the Yuva Sangam Phase-III, an initiative under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme by the Ministry of Education (MoE), government of India.

As part of the itinerary, the delegation will be in the state till December 2 visiting Bhubaneswar and the neighbouring districts. Similarly, a delegation of 50 students from Odisha will be visiting Kerala in December.

Welcoming the guests, IIM Sambalpur Director Mahadeo Jaiswal said, "Kerala shares remarkable similarities with Odisha in terms of natural beauty and culture. Both the states boast rich mineral resources and a vibrant arts scene, blending tradition with inno-



vation. At IIM Sambalpur, we prioritize innovation, integrity, and inclusiveness in our educational approach, recognizing the strength lies in our nation's diversity."

Chief guest MLA Nauri Nayak highlighted the Yuva Sangam initiative's core objectives and said, "Yuva Sangam aims to fortify connections among youth from diverse states and facilitate cultural exchange. It encourages young individuals to prioritize creating job opportunities, extending beyond personal benefits to contribute to the

nation's overall socio-economic development."

The guest of honour, renowned Sambalpuri poet Padma Shri Haldhar Nag, inspired the Kerala delegation with his poetry.

The purpose of the Yuva Sangam initiative is to strengthen the connection between people especially the youth from north-eastern India and other states by conducting exposure tours for youth, mainly students studying in higher educational institutions and other young individuals, both on and off campus.

Global marine life on the move due to rising sea temperatures

According to researchers, the mass movement of marine life, termed tropicalisation, is changing the ecological landscape of oceans and leading to a cascade of consequences for ecosystems, biodiversity, and potentially the global economy



Rising sea temperatures due to climate change are causing tropical marine species to move from the equator towards the poles, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Trends in Ecology and Evolution, also shows that temperate species are receding as it gets too warm, they face increased competition for habitat, and new predators arrive on the scene.

This mass movement of marine life, termed tropicalisation, is changing the ecological landscape of our oceans and leading to a cascade of consequences for ecosystems, biodiversity and potentially the global economy, the researchers said.

The publication of the study coincides with the start of COP28 in Dubai, where global policymakers congregate and make pledges to tackle the impact of global warming.

In recent years, climate change has altered the physical factors that affect species dispersal, such as ocean currents in areas that separate tropical/subtropical and temperate regions, the

researchers said.

These warm-water boundary currents are heating faster than the global seawater average, facilitating the poleward movement of species, and reinforcing the retraction of temperate species, they said.

The first instance of this process was identified in the Mediterranean Sea, now considered a "tropicalisation hotspot" due to an increase in tropical species present.

"Tropicalisation is having a multitude of ecological and evolutionary consequences for species, communities, and whole

ecosystems, with the potential to alter global diversity patterns," said Karolina Zarzychny, a researcher at the University of Southampton, UK, and lead author of the paper.

The study is an extensive review of the literature published over the past 20 years, and is the first step in impressing upon the scientific community the gaps in our understanding of the problem, the researchers said.

"Although the abundance, distribution and presence of species across tropical, subtropical and temperate zones has been documented many times, there is a fundamental lack of understanding of the long-term evolutionary consequences once new species live together," said Suzanne Williams, Scientific

Associate at the Natural History Museum, UK, and co-author on the paper.

Given how closely ecology and evolution interact, altered species interactions may lead to the evolution of new traits or behaviours, the researchers said.

For example, in a recent study by the University of Southampton, temperate volcano barnacles have begun to "bend" to fend off range-expanding tropical predators along the Baja California peninsula in Mexico, they said.

Similarly, range-expanding tropical damselfishes and temperate reef fishes have been documented altering their feeding and social behaviours to allow for coexistence, the researchers added.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

Fake certificate: 129 teachers under lens in Rayagada district

3 get life term for gangrape of minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 29: A local court in Keonjhar district Wednesday sentenced three persons to life imprisonment for raping a 14-year-old girl in March 2022.

The convicts were identified as Ranjit Mohanty, Rabindra Nayak of Patana area of Keonjhar district and Sunil Kumar Behera of Karanja area of Mayurbhanj district.

The court has also asked the convicts to deposit ₹50,000 each as fine. They have to undergo additional imprisonment for a period of one year if the convicts fail to pay the fine amount.

"On March 5, 2022, the victim along with her younger brother had gone to a nearby fair on the occasion of Shivaratri festival. When her brother was playing on the jumping trampoline, the electric supply accidentally went off. The convicts taking advantage of the situation allegedly closed the victim's mouth with hands and forcefully took her away to a closed shop around 100 meters far. They later raped the girl alternatively," said Special Public Prosecutor, Ganesh Prasad Mohapatra.

The miscreants threatened the victim girl of dire consequences if she reveals the matter to anyone.

However, the girl narrated her ordeal before her parents and other family members when she reached home.

The victim lodged a case at the Patna police station the next day. Police after registering a case in this regard arrested the convicts under various sections of IPC and POCSO Act.

Mohapatra stated that the court after examining statements of 15 witnesses and other exhibits pronounced the judgment Wednesday. The court has also directed the District Legal Services Authority to take necessary steps ensuring payment of ₹7.50 lakh to the victim under compensation scheme.



YOUTH FEST: A girl makes rangoli as part of Integrated Youth Development Programme on the aegis of Nua 'O' Yuva Odisha, Nabin Odisha at Government Women's College in Sundargarh, Wednesday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Nov 29: An additional 129 teachers in this district have again come under scanner on charge of submitting fake educational certificates while joining service, a report said Wednesday.

During preliminary verification, the concerned teachers were found to have joined in their respective services by submitting fake Plus III and B. Ed certificates. Earlier, 12 teachers had been dismissed from service in April, 2023 on charge of submitting fake certificates.

The Education department has sought details from Andhra University since 2019 on the educational qualifications of these teachers as all the certificates were issued by them. The doubts on submission of fake certificates by these teachers are gaining ground as Andhra University is yet to reply on the issue.

Sources said that the department of Samagra Sikshya Abhiyan issued a letter and sought details on the Plus III certificates of 14 teachers and B. Ed certificates of 144 teachers, December 31, 2019. However, the varsity provided the details of only 15 teachers during last four years.

Interestingly, 14 of those teachers have either resigned from their services or got themselves transferred elsewhere after the Samagra Sikshya Abhiyan submitted the certificates for verification to the university and sought details on their authenticity. However, it is surprising why the university is not submitting the details of rest of the 129 teachers. This has intensified the doubts on the authenticity of the certificates submitted by the concerned teachers.

The Andhra University hardly seems to be concerned about the letter written by the state Education department while the latter is yet to take any action on the issue. This has emboldened the teachers who have managed to join service by submitting fake certificates. They are drawing their salary month after month without any fear of action.

The state exchequer will lose precious funds towards salary payment for these fake teachers by the time the truth will be revealed. This has sparked concern among the educationists and officials of the Education department.

The Education department had sent the certificates of 158 teachers for verification. Among them, 130 joined service in 2016-17 while the rest 28 teachers joined service in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

The teachers have not only obtained certificates from Andhra University but also from universities in Assam, Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Observers claimed that the Education department instead of verifying the certificates should get the matter probed by the state Crime Branch and state Vigilance departments. This will help in nabbing the culprits and in busting the rackets involved in fake certificates.

When contacted, Purna Chandra Bariha, district education officer and project coordinator of Samagra Sikshya Abhiyan said that the verification report of only some of the teachers has arrived while that of others is yet to be available to them. The available report has stated their certificates to be genuine.

Armed miscreants loot jeweller's house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Nov 29: Unidentified armed miscreants allegedly looted gold ornaments worth more than ₹15 lakh at gunpoint from the house of a jeweller at Tukuna village under Nandipada police limits in Keonjhar district, late Tuesday night.

As per reports, six robbers Tuesday night barged into the house of Pabitra Das, who has a jewellery shop at Chhenapadi Bazar, after breaking its window. The miscreants then threatened the jeweller, his wife and their son with guns and knives. They also assaulted Pabitra.

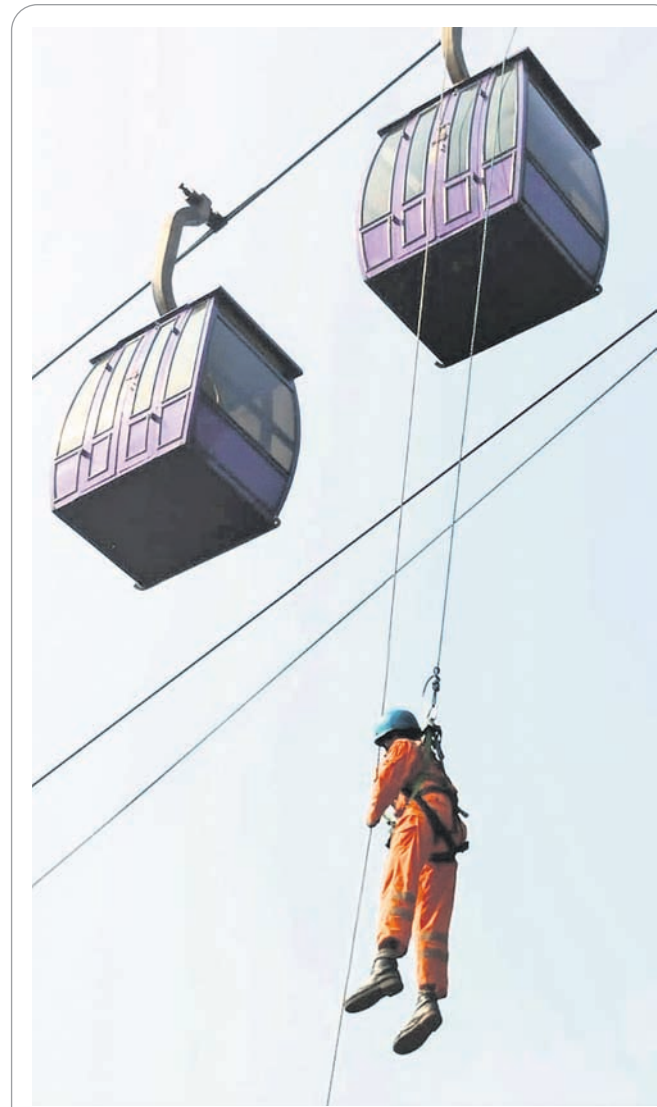
The miscreants looted around 200 gram of gold ornaments and more than 7 kg of silver orna-

ments along with an LED TV before fleeing the house.

On being informed, Nandipada police reached the spot Wednesday morning and initiated an investigation into the incident. Some miscreants had reportedly looted jewellery worth more than ₹15 lakh from Pabitra a year ago after attacking him with sharp weapons near Nisankhapur while he was returning home after closing his jewellery shop.

Locals demanded to tighten the night patrolling by the police as burglary and loot incidents are on the rise in the area.

Efforts were on by the cops to identify and nab the thieves, said IIC Ramesh Chandra Patra and officer Narottam Dalei.



MOCK DRILL: ODRAF personnel performing a mock drill on rescue operation at Hirakud-Damodar ropeway organised by the district administration in Sambalpur, Wednesday

Fishing trawler seized from Rushikulya mouth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Nov 29: Forest department officials here seized a fishing trawler from Paradip and arrested six fishermen on board for fishing illegally near Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district, Wednesday.

The arrested fishermen were identified as Ramakanta Swain, Bhudeb Mandal, Sharat Mallick, Kamalkant Mallick, Nimain Charan Rout and Sabanta Pradhan. All the arrested were



handed over to the Fishery department.

10 nets including three prawn nets and seven big fishing nets were also seized from the trawler. In the presence of the Fishery department officials, total 465 kg fish were seized from the trawler and given to local fishermen through auction. Khallikote for-

est ranger Sidhartha Shankar Sahu, Rambha forester Ratna Kumar Behera, forest guard Shiba Charan Tudu, the patrolling squad of Forest department and APR police were involved in the raid.

Notably, a seven-month-long fishing ban from November 1 to May 31 is in force at Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Kendrapara and near the Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district to enable nesting of the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles.

3-yr RI to 2 officials of ponzi firm

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Nov 29: An OPID (Odisha Protection of Interest of Depositors) court here Wednesday sentenced two officials of a ponzi firm to three years of rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The judge also slapped ₹80,000 as penalty on each of them after convicting them for defrauding depositors by promising them more interest.

The two convicts were identified as branch manager Devi Shankar Parmanik and assistant branch manager Bhagaban Chandra Pradhan of an illegal Ponzi firm MGL Infra Pvt Ltd having its office at Sahadevkhunta bus stand in Balasure.

The firm invited deposits from people by promising them more and attractive interests.

Later, the officials closed down the office and fled without settling the claims after expiry of the deposit terms.

The fraud came to the fore after a youth Bijay Kumar Mohapatra of Nuapadhi area under Remuna block alleged of being defrauded of his hard-earned money and lodged a complaint at Sahadevkhunta police station.

Special public prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda pleaded the matter on behalf of the state government.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. ELS-ANGL-OT-23-24-04
Name of Work: DISMANTLING, CLEANING AND MINOR ATTENTION OF HITACHI TRACTION MOTORS FOR WAG-7 ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES FOR ELECTRIC LOCOSHED, ANGL.
Advertised Value: ₹11,30,723.79, EMD: ₹22,600/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹2,360/-, Completion period: 24 Months.
Bidding Start Date: 04.12.2023, **Tender Closing Date and Time:** 18.12.2023 at 1500 hrs.
 Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
 Complete details & Tender documents will be available in the website at <http://www.irops.gov.in>
 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRS) Angul
 PR-817/O/23-24

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION FOR CATERING UNIT OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION
 No: G.129/Catg/E-auction/5492, Dt. 20.11.2023

Sl. No.	Station Name	Category of Stall	Lot No.
1	Mandasa Road	GMU (FF/WW/Widow of Railway Employee)	Catg-KUR-MMS-GMU-100-23-1
2	Banibihar	GMU (Open for all)	Catg-KUR-BNBH-GMU-62-23-1
3	Kathajodi (P. H.)	GMU (Open for all)	Catg-KUR-KTJI-GMU-77-23-1
4	Bhubaneswar	SMU (FF/WW/Widow of Railway Employee)	Catg-KUR-BBS-SMU-8-22-1
5	Dhenkanal	SMU (Schedule Tribe)	Catg-KUR-DNKL-SMU-73-23-1

Category of Station: E(NSG-6) for Sl. No. 1, F(HG-2) for Sl. No. 2 & 3, A-1(NSG-2) for Sl. No. 4 and A(NSG-4) for Sl. No. 5, Type of Unit: Catering Stall (for All Sl. Nos.), Size of Unit: 8'x6' (for All Sl. Nos.), Location of Unit: Platform No. 1 (for Sl. No. 1, 2 & 3), Platform No. 6 (Cutback End) (for Sl. No. 4) and Platform No. 2 (Near Foot Over Bridge) (for Sl. No. 5)
Date & Time of Auction: 05.12.2023 at 1200 to 1310 (for All Sl. Nos.)
 Note: Complete information including e-auction documents of the above e-auction is available in website www.irops.gov.in
 PR-815/O/23-24 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

E-AUCTION FOR MULTI-PURPOSE STALLS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION
 No: G.129/Catg/MPS/E-auction/5549, Dt. 22.11.2023

SL. NO.	STATION NAME	LOCATION	LOT NO.
1	Talcher	at Platform No. 1 in parallel of Booking office	MPS-KUR-TLHR-MPS-13-23-1
2	Khurda Road	at Platform No. 2 towards Brahmapur End	MPS-KUR-KUR-MPS-3-23-1
3	Lingaraj Temple Road	at Platform No. 1/2 near Foot Over Bridge	MPS-KUR-LGTR-MPS-27-23-1
4	Narajmarthapur	at Platform No. 1 under Platform Shed	MPS-KUR-NQR-MPS-28-23-1
5	Chhatrapur	at Platform No. 3/4 at Brahmapur End	MPS-KUR-CAP-MPS-14-23-1
6	Barang	at Platform No. 1 near Foot Over Bridge	MPS-KUR-BRAG-MPS-23-23-1
7	Harichandanpur	at Platform No. 1 near Foot Over Bridge	MPS-KUR-HCNR-MPS-29-23-1
8	Patia	at Platform No. 1 Middle	MPS-KUR-PTAB-MPS-30-23-1
9	Talcher Thermal	at Platform No. 1 Middle	MPS-KUR-TTPT-MPS-26-23-1
10	Sompeta	at Platform No. 1 at Brahmapur End	MPS-KUR-SPT-MPS-12-23-1
11	Chhatrapur Court	at Platform No. 1	MPS-KUR-CAPC-MPS-25-23-1
12	Ichchapuram	at Platform No. 1 at Brahmapur End	MPS-KUR-IPM-MPS-11-23-1

Category of Reservation: General Minor Unit (GMU) (for Sl. No. 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 & 12), Special Minor Unit (SMU) (for Sl. No. 2, 4, 9 & 11), Details of Reservation: Ladies (for Sl. No. 1 and 7), Scheduled Tribe (for Sl. No. 2), Open to All (for Sl. No. 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 & 12), OBC (for Sl. No. 4 & 11), Scheduled Caste/Ladies (for Sl. No. 9)
Date & Time of Auction: 11.12.2023 from 1100 hrs. onwards (for All Sl. Nos.)
 Note: Complete information including e-auction documents of the above e-auction is available in website <http://www.irops.gov.in>
 PR-818/O/23-24 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Khurda Road

Woman RI in Vigilance net

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Nov 29: The Vigilance department of Rourkela Wednesday apprehended a woman revenue inspector (RI) for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹5,000.

The accused RI identified as Lily Choudhury, who is in charge of Tasaladihi under Tangarpali tehsil in Sundargarh district, demanded ₹5,000 from a person who had applied for the conversion of agricultural land to homestead land. Choudhury remained adamant for the bribe despite the complainant pleading for her help.

She was supposed to do the needful through an inquiry, which she was denying in order to press for her bribe demand. The complainant, being poor, wanted to set-

tle the issue without much expense. However, she did not budge from her demand. Finally, finding no way out, he brought the matter to the notice of the Vigilance sleuths at Sundargarh and the case was eventually transferred to Rourkela.

A trap was laid out and Choudhury was apprehended when in possession of the cash. The Vigilance officials recovered the money from her on the spot and seized the currency notes as part of evidence. Meanwhile, simultaneous searches are going on at two properties owned by Choudhury in Sundargarh district to unearth the disproportionate assets.

In this connection, Rourkela Vigilance has registered a case under PS Case U/s 7 PC (Amendment) Act, 2018 and started an investigation.



REGIONAL STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH : SAMBALPUR
 Ground Floor, At: Christian Para, G.M. College Chowk, Dist.: Sambalpur, Odisha, PIN - 768001

DEMAND NOTICE

(Under Sub Section (2) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002)

Demand Notice u/s.13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is issued by Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor against the following Borrowers of the Branch.

DUNBURIPALI BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrower	NPA Date / 13(2) Date / Notice Return Reason	Limit (₹)	Rate of Interest	Total Dues
Borrower: M/s Shradhanjali Enterprises, Prop.: Shradhanjali Mishra, W/o: Mr. Mrutyunjay Mishra, At/PO/PS: Durguripali, Dist.: Subaranapur-767023, Mob.: 9437150052	16.01.2018 / 21.11.2023 / Addressee Refused	Term Loan: ₹19,95,000/- Working Capital Term Loan: ₹3,80,000/-	9.40% 13.40% at present	₹ 32,97,962/- as on 20.11.2023 with further interest there on at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till the date of payment

Description of Mortgaged property: Equitable Mortgage of land & building situated at Plot No.: 1840/2424, Khata No.: 380/333, Mouza: Gambharipalli, Tahasil: Rampur, PS.: Durguripalli No.: 26, Dist.: Subarnapur-767023 of Area: Ac.0.05Dec., in the name of Mrs. Shradhanjali Mishra, W/o: Mr. Mrutyunjay Mishra, Bounded by North: East: Road, West: Mrutyunjay Mishra, North: Jagannath Mishra, South: Proposed Road.

You have committed default in repayment of loan mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Branch as mentioned above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to you by registered post but it has been returned with the reason mentioned above. Again you have committed default in payment. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise Right of Enforcement of Security Interest as against the secured asset given in the schedule of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. We hereby give you a notice that in terms of sub-section (13) of section 13 of the said Act, you are barred from transferring the secured asset mentioned above by way of sale, lease or otherwise other than in the ordinary course of business without prior written consent of the Bank. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction / inviting quotations / tender / private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 29.11.2023

Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda

A hero fears nothing, complains of nothing and never gives away.
THE MOTHER



Climate Migrants

In recent years, climate change has emerged as one of the leading drivers of migration. Shifting weather patterns, together with the growing severity and frequency of extreme weather events, have affected millions of people around the world, posing a significant threat to their lives and livelihoods.

In March, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its sixth assessment report (AR6), revealing that for every additional 1° Celsius rise in global temperatures, the risk of involuntary displacement due to flooding is expected to increase by roughly 50 per cent. In Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, slow-onset climate disasters such as water stress, crop failure, and rising sea levels could displace 31-72 million people by 2050 under a low-warming scenario. In a high-warming scenario, the number of displaced people could surge to 90-143 million. In Sub-Saharan Africa, flood-related displacement could rise by 200-600 per cent by the 2070s, depending on the rate of population growth and anticipated temperature increases ranging from 1.6°C to 2.6°C.

While the Global South is disproportionately affected by the catastrophic effects of climate change, no part of the world is immune. The climate crisis will have far-reaching implications for global stability, security and sustainable development, affecting not only migrants' countries of origin but also transit and destination countries.

The COP27 Presidency and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) are committed to addressing the challenge of climate-induced migration with the goal of fostering a more just and equitable world. Over the past year, we have collaborated with governments, civil-society organisations, other UN agencies, and various stakeholders to develop and promote sustainable approaches to climate-related mobility, including displacement.



Sameh Shoukry & Amy E. Pope

To reduce the adverse effects of climate change that compel migrants to leave their countries of origin, we advocate the full implementation of the Global Compact for Migration. With the support of the IOM, the COP27 Presidency has highlighted Egyptian programmes like the Climate Responses for Sustaining Peace and the Decent Life Initiative as models that could be replicated worldwide. Taken together, these initiatives offer a roadmap for sustainable development, enabling governments to improve living standards and maintain peace in the face of climate-related threats. We have actively promoted these initiatives in various formal and informal forums, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

For sure, there is still much work to be done. To address the urgent threat posed by climate change, the international community must support adaptation efforts, particularly in the Global South. Strengthening resilience is crucial to empowering populations to make informed decisions about whether to relocate or remain where they are. Achieving this, however, requires immediate and substantial financing for adaptation initiatives, including the much-anticipated Loss and Damage Fund for developing countries announced at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. Other crucial steps include ensuring the complementarity and accessibility of climate-funding instruments and incorporating human-mobility considerations into climate negotiations.

As we approach COP28, we must focus on climate-related migration and displacement and develop concrete solutions that promote the safety and well-being of affected communities and individuals. This involves supporting the implementation of effective initiatives and the integration of migrants' perspectives and experiences into decision-making processes.

Climate change often exacerbates existing challenges and vulnerabilities, forcing communities to confront compounding crises. Therefore, it is crucial to recognise and address these underlying factors, including conflict, poverty, and inequality. To this end, we must adopt a holistic approach that promotes peace and security, reduces poverty and inequality, and fosters sustainable development.

Displacement is a complex and daunting challenge that requires a comprehensive, coordinated, and forward-looking response. By enhancing international cooperation, we could significantly improve the lives and livelihoods of those displaced by climate disasters and develop sustainable solutions that enable them to rebuild and contribute to their communities' development. This approach is not only the right thing to do; it is also a crucial step toward building a more peaceful, just, and sustainable future for everyone.

The stakes of the current climate crisis are, or should be, obvious. The Mediterranean region, in particular, is no stranger to devastating environmental changes, as historical evidence suggests that extreme weather events may have triggered mass displacement and led to the downfall of great civilisations during what is now known as the Late Bronze Age Collapse.

To address climate-related displacement effectively, we must first understand and acknowledge the scale and complexity of the challenge. Only then will we recognise the need to engage all relevant stakeholders to develop proactive and sustainable solutions, avert the catastrophic effects of climate change, and build a world that is both prosperous and just.

Sameh Shoukry is COP27 President and Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Amy E. Pope is Director-General of the International Organisation for Migration. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness.
ANNE FRANK

As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.
CARL JUNG

Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.
KAHLIL GIBRAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1939: The Winter War begins. The 4-month long war between Finland and the Soviet Union began after the USSR invaded Finland and bombed Helsinki. The conflict ended on March 30, 1940, with the two countries signing the Moscow Peace Treaty.

1947: Civil War in Palestine. The conflict began the day after the United Nations General Assembly voted on a resolution that provided a partition plan for Palestine. The war was wracked by violence which began on November 30 after two buses full of Israeli passengers were attacked by Arab gunmen and snipers shot pedestrians in Tel Aviv.

1982: Michael Jackson's Thriller is released worldwide. Considered to be the best selling album of all time, the album, which had 9 tracks, won 8 Grammy Awards, including the award for Album of the Year.

FOCUS G20 PRESIDENCY

A NEW MULTILATERALISM

Today marks 365 days since India assumed the G20 Presidency. It is a moment to reflect, recommit, and rejuvenate the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'



Narendra Modi

INDIA AIMED TO REMIND THE WORLD OF WHAT UNITES US, RATHER THAN WHAT DIVIDES US

As we undertook this responsibility last year, the global landscape grappled with multifaceted challenges: recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, looming climate threats, financial instability, and debt distress in developing nations, all amid declining multilateralism. In the midst of conflicts and competition, development co-operation suffered, impeding progress.

Assuming the G20 Chair, India sought to offer the world an alternative to status quo, a shift from a GDP-centric to human-centric progress. India aimed to remind the world of what unites us, rather than what divides us. Finally, the global conversation had to evolve - the interests of the few had to give way to the aspirations of the many. This required a fundamental reform of multilateralism as we knew it.

Inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive — these four words defined our approach as G20 president, and the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD), unanimously adopted by all G20 members, is testimony to our commitment to deliver on these principles.

Inclusivity has been at the heart of our presidency. The inclusion of the African Union (AU) as a permanent member of the G20 integrated 55 African nations into the forum, expanding it to encompass 80% of the global population. This proactive stance has fostered a more comprehensive dialogue on global challenges and opportunities.

The first-of-its-kind 'Voice of the Global South Summit,' convened by India in two editions, heralded a new dawn of multilateralism. India mainstreamed the Global South's concerns in international discourse and has ushered in an era where developing countries take their right-



India mainstreamed the Global South's concerns in international discourse and has ushered in an era where developing countries take their rightful place in shaping the global narrative

ful place in shaping the global narrative.

Inclusivity also infused India's domestic approach to G20, making it a People's Presidency that befits that world's largest democracy. Through 'Jan Bhagidari' (people's participation) events, G20 reached 1.4 billion citizens, involving all states and Union Territories (UTs) as partners. And on substantive elements, India ensured that international attention was directed to broader developmental aims, aligning with G20's mandate.

At the critical midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, India delivered the G20 2023 Action Plan to Accelerate Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), taking a cross-cutting, action-oriented approach to interconnected issues, including health, education, gender equality and environmental sustainability.

A key area driving this progress is robust Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Here, India was decisive in its recommendations, having witnessed the revolutionary impact of digital innovations like Aadhaar, UPI, and Digilocker first-hand. Through G20, we successfully completed the Digital Public Infrastructure Repository, a significant stride in global technological collaboration. This repository, featuring over 50 DPIs from 16 countries, will help the Global South build, adopt, and scale DPI to unlock

the power of inclusive growth.

For our One Earth, we introduced ambitious and inclusive aims to create urgent, lasting, and equitable change. The Declaration's 'Green Development Pact' addresses the challenges of choosing between combating hunger and protecting the planet, by outlining a comprehensive roadmap where employment and ecosystems are complementary, consumption is climate conscious, and production is planet-friendly. In tandem, the G20 Declaration calls for an ambitious tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030. Coupled with the establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance and a concerted push for Green Hydrogen, the G20's ambitions to build a cleaner, greener world is undeniable. This has always been India's ethos, and through Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE), the world can benefit from our age-old sustainable traditions.

Further, the Declaration underscores our commitment to climate justice and equity, urging substantial financial and technological support from the Global North. For the first time, there was a recognition of the quantum jump needed in the magnitude of development financing, moving from billions to trillions of dollars. G20 acknowledged that developing countries require \$5.9 trillion to fulfil their Nationally

Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2030.

Given the monumental resources required, G20 emphasised the importance of better, larger, and more effective Multilateral Development Banks. Concurrently, India is taking a leading role in UN reforms, especially in the restructuring of principal organs like the UN Security Council, that will ensure a more equitable global order.

Gender equality took centre stage in the Declaration, culminating in the formation of a dedicated Working Group on the Empowerment of Women next year. India's Women's Reservation Bill 2023, reserving one-third of India's Parliament and state legislative assembly seats for women epitomises our commitment to women-led development.

The New Delhi Declaration embodies a renewed spirit of collaboration across these key priorities, focusing on policy coherence, reliable trade, and ambitious climate action. It is a matter of pride that during our Presidency, G20 achieved 87 outcomes and 118 adopted documents, a marked rise from the past.

During our G20 Presidency, India led deliberations on geopolitical issues and their impact on economic growth and development. Terrorism and the senseless killing of civilians is unacceptable, and we must address it with a policy of zero-tolerance. We must embody humanitarianism over hostility and reiterate that this is not an era of war.

I am delighted that during our Presidency India achieved the extraordinary: it revitalised multilateralism, amplified the voice of the Global South, championed development, and fought for the empowerment of women, everywhere.

As we hand over the G20 Presidency to Brazil, we do so with the conviction that our collective steps for people, planet, peace, and prosperity, will resonate for years to come.

The writer is the Prime Minister of India.

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Two sides of same coin

It has been ages since we know that men and women are always each others' counterparts. Adam and Eve were the epitome of the human race. Recently, in a conversation with YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, veteran actor Neema Gupta has sparked a debate branding feminism as "faltu" (useless or needless). Rejecting the feminist theory that asserts men and women are equal, she said that this isn't true because men can't give birth. Additionally, she stated that "women need men" and shared anecdotes from her life to corroborate her claims. Gupta said: "men and women are not equal. The day men start getting pregnant, that day we will be equal."



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

THERE IS A FAULTY BELIEF THAT MEN AND WOMEN ARE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT, BY VIRTUE OF THEIR GENES OR THEIR UPBRINGING OR BOTH

At its core, feminism is the belief that women deserve equal social, economic, and political rights and freedoms. Over the years, feminism has focused on issues like the right to vote, reproductive and sexual freedom, and equal pay. Feminism has also explored racism, gender norms, self-expression, and much more. Feminism is the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes.

Men and women are two sides of the same coin. One is incomplete without the other. Whether it's a man or a woman, birth only happens from a woman's womb. So, a man needs a woman from day one of birth.

According to Cathy Reisenwitz, American writer-editor, men need women more than women need men. In particular, marriage benefits men far more than it benefits women. Single men are more socially isolated and lonely than married men. Married men earn more money and live longer than single men and marriage extends life expectancy more for men than women.

There is a faulty belief that men and women are fundamentally different, by virtue of their genes or their upbringing or both. According to Catherine H. Tinsley and Robin J. Ely, science, by and large, does not support these claims. There is widespread variation among women and among men, and meta-analyses show that, on average, the sexes are far more similar in their inclinations, attitudes, and skills than popular opinion would have us believe.

One set of assumed differences is organised to explain women's failure to achieve parity with men: Women negotiate poorly, lack confidence, are too risk-averse, or don't put in requisite hours at work because they value family more than careers. Simultaneously, there are other assumed differences—that women are more caring, cooperative, or mission-driven. In a study of Harvard Business School graduates, nearly everyone, regardless of gender, placed a higher value on their families than on their work.

Other research, too, make it clear that men and women do not have fundamentally different priorities. But whether framed as a barrier or a benefit, these beliefs hold women back. We will not level the playing field so long as the foundation on which it rests is our conviction about how the sexes are different.

We do see gender differences in various settings, including the workplace, but those differences are not rooted in fixed gender traits. Rather, they stem from beliefs and traditions, organisational structures, company practices, and patterns of interaction

that position men and women differently, creating systematically different experiences for them. When facing dissimilar circumstances, people respond differently not because of their gender but because of their situations.

Our society has created wrong notions that only women should be associated with traits such as nurturance, sensitivity, sweetness, supportiveness, gentleness, warmth, passivity, cooperativeness, expressiveness, modesty, humility, empathy, affection and tenderness. The concept of maintaining chastity is attached to women only. This causes all types of problems for women in society. When a woman is raped, she is ostracised. But rapists do not face any social ostracisation. Hence, this mentality passed from one generation to another and led to gender discrimination, inequality and gender-related violence.

Rather than pulling a woman down, it is necessary to elevate a woman's life. It is always better to have a woman beside you.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

Vocal for local

Sir, In a recent edition of 'Mann Ki Baat' Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed the importance of conducting weddings in our own country rather than flying abroad and also recommended the usage of local products for wedding. It has become a trend among affluent families to conduct weddings and parties following that in exotic foreign locations. Let us not forget that ours is a variety rich nation be it in culture, customs, cuisines, tradition and localities. Indian variety changes from one region to the other and there are infinite numbers of exquisite sites in India that can be perfect places to conduct weddings. The Prime Minister is right when he said if families opt for hosting such celebrations within India it can prevent the outflow of the country's funds and boost our economy. The Prime Minister also stressed the importance of exclusively choosing products made in India when shopping for weddings. Our products are at par with foreign brands now and are affordable too. Necessity gives rise to creativity and the more people demand for innovative things connected to weddings it can help our own wedding organisers, event management companies and other stakeholders to rise up to the expectations of people. Going 'Vocal for Local' can support and help thousands of people associated with the marriage market.

M Pradyu, KANNUR (KERALA)

Devoid of logic

Sir, This refers to "No pollution certificates in Bengal for vehicles with pending dues." Orissa Post, November 29. I am of the opinion that pollution checks of vehicles should not be denied as it may pose health hazard for the people living in the city. The government can recover pending road taxes and other dues by any other means as per law, but pollution checking of vehicles should be given the top priority after considering the same as a social obligation of the government. The decision of the State Transport Department of linking pollution renewal certificates with unpaid dues is devoid of any logic and must be withdrawn.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

'HISTORIC MILESTONE'

Manipur's UNLF signs peace pact with govt

UNLF, MANIPUR'S OLDEST REBEL GROUP WAS FORMED IN 1964 AND HAS BEEN OPERATING FROM BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE INDIAN TERRITORY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: The government Wednesday signed a peace agreement with United National Liberation Front (UNLF), Manipur's oldest militant organisation dominated by the majority Meitei community, under which the rebel group has agreed to renounce violence.

The development comes days after the ban on the group under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was extended for five years earlier this month. Representatives of the UNLF signed the agreement here with senior officials of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and Manipur government, an official spokesperson said.

While political settlements have been finalised with several ethnic armed groups of the Northeast as part of conflict resolution initiatives of the Centre, it is for the first time a valley-based Manipuri armed group has agreed to return to mainstream by abjuring violence and agreeing to honour the Constitution of India and laws of the land.

"A historic milestone achieved!!! (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi govt's relentless efforts to establish perma-

nent peace in the Northeast have added a new chapter of fulfilment as the United National Liberation Front signed a peace agreement today in New Delhi."

"UNLF, the oldest valley-based armed group of Manipur, has agreed to renounce violence and join the mainstream. I welcome them to the democratic processes and wish them all the best in their journey on the path of peace and progress," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in a post on X.

The agreement will not only bring an end to hostilities between UNLF and security forces which have claimed precious lives on both sides over the last more than half a century but also provide an opportunity to address the longstanding concerns of the community, the spokesperson said.

Manipur has been witnessing ethnic clashes between the Meitei and tribal Kuki communities since May resulting in the death of over 180 people.

A peace monitoring committee will be constituted to oversee enforcement of the agreed ground rules. The development is likely to be a significant step in restoring peace and normalcy in the state.

It is hoped that the return of

UNLF to the mainstream will also encourage other valley-based armed groups to participate in the peace process in due course. Hoping that the development will give a fillip to usher in a new era of peace in the Northeast in general and Manipur in particular, Shah said, "It is a landmark achievement in realising PM @narendramodi Ji's vision of all-inclusive development and providing a better future to the youths in Northeast India."

The UNLF was formed in 1964 and has been operating from both within and outside Indian territory. The Centre has signed agreements with several armed groups of the Northeast since 2014 to end militancy and promote development.

The Centre has also continued Suspension of Operations (SoO) with 21 Kuki-dominated groups to ensure that peace is established in hilly regions of Manipur. This agreement was signed in 2008.

The Manipur government had announced unilateral withdrawal from the SoO in March against two Kuki-dominated insurgent groups alleging that they were involved in encroaching of forest land. However, the Centre did not endorse it.

ASI study to check insect stains on Taj Mahal

Brown-green spots, caused by a tiny insect known as Goldie chironomus, are appearing on the monument's north face adjoining river Yamuna

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra (UP), Nov 29: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will undertake a year-long study to find ways to prevent the green-coloured stains on the Taj Mahal caused by the faecal matter of insects along the Yamuna adjacent to the monument.

When the brown-green spots first appeared on the Taj Mahal's surface in 2015, caused by a tiny insect known as Goldie chironomus, it was dismissed as a temporary issue by the authorities.

An ASI official said that the



spots were initially cleaned using a mudpack, but stains have been reappearing biannually, with an exception in 2020 when pollution levels in Agra were unusually low.

An archaeologist at ASI, Rajkumar Patel, said that brown-green spots appear on the monument's north face adjoining river Yamuna.

The ASI's chemical branch had devised a way to clean off these stains left by the faecal

matter of the insects by washing it off with distilled water and then rubbing the surface with a clean cotton cloth, he said.

However, since these stains are appearing year after year, it has become necessary to find a permanent solution to this problem.

The ASI explained that the insects typically appeared in the Yamuna during March-April and September-October when temperatures ranged between

28-35 degrees.

However, this year, the stains have lingered into late November, suggesting an unusual increase in insects and their extended breeding.

Patel said that the ASI's Chemical Branch is undertaking an extensive study to understand the insect's breeding cycle, and proliferation conditions, and methods to prevent them from affecting the Taj Mahal.

Meanwhile, the Agra Tourist Welfare Chamber has attributed the rise in pollution levels in the Yamuna to the stalled Taj Barrage construction project, which, if completed, could have controlled the situation. They have proposed either dredging the Yamuna to increase depth or constructing a barrage downstream from the Taj Mahal to ensure free-flowing water, preventing insect breeding that usually occurs in stagnant water.

Temple purified with 'gangajal' after Muslim MLA's visit in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Siddharthnagar (UP), Nov 29: A temple in Uttar Pradesh's Siddharthnagar district was 'purified' with 'gangajal' after a visit by a Muslim MLA of the Samajwadi Party.

Doomariyaganj MLA Sayeda Khatoon had Sunday visited the Samay Mata temple at the invitation of the local people to participate in a 'Shatchandi Mahayaga'.

After she left, some people not in favour of her visit purified it with 'gangajal' amid chanting of mantras.

Dharamraj Verma, chief of Badhani Chafa's Nagar Panchayat where the temple is located, led the purification. The lawmaker was invited by some unrighteous people, he said.

Because Sayeda Khatoon is a Muslim and eats cow meat, her visit to this holy place had made it impure, he said, adding, after this purification, this place has now become completely pure and suitable for worship. Such an act should never be tolerated.

Sayed Khatoon told PTI from Lucknow that she being a people's representative would continue to visit places related to all religions and sects and would not be deterred by any such acts. "Many Brahmins and saints of the area are associated with me and had invited me to the 'Samay Mata temple' about ten days ago. I honour all religions, I am a legislator for all the people in the area and will go wherever I am invited, Khatoon, who is known to have got several temples renovated in the area," said.

Catwalk in 'burqa' leads to controversy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Muzaffarnagar (UP), Nov 29: The inclusion of colourful 'Burqa' in a recent fashion show, held as part of 'Fashion Splash 2023' at the Sriram Group of Colleges in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar, has created a controversy.

The district convener of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind in Muzaffarnagar, Muqarram Qazmi, has expressed his disapproval, stating that such acts were intended to provoke and hurt the sentiments of the Muslim community.

As many as 13 students from the fashion designing course walked the ramp don-

ning 'Burqa and Hizab' in the presence of celebrity judges, Bollywood actress Mandakini and TV actress Radhika Gautam.

While the audience appreciated the innovative approach, dissenting voices, particularly from some Muslim clerics, criticised the use of burqa in a fashion show. One of the participants defended the choice, considering it an innovative way to associate burqa with fashion and expressed satisfaction that traditional attire could also be part of the fashion narrative.

Despite objections, the district convener of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind in

Muzaffarnagar, others took a more lenient stance. Maulana Nazari, the State Vice-President of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, acknowledged the parental support evident in the audience's applause for their daughters' performances in burqa. In contrast, Maulana Zulfikar, the State President of Imam Association, dismissed the controversy, pointing out that the fashion show was an educational endeavour, unrelated to religious sentiments.

Meanwhile, Manoj Dheeman, the Director of Sriram College's Art department, defended the students' creativity.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BARGARH. e-Procurement Notice No. ONLINE-BGH- 10 OF 2023-24. Table with columns: Procurement Officer, Bid Identification No., Availability of Tender online for bidding, Last Date & Time of Seeking tender clarification, Date & Time of opening of tender.

Kuki-Zo tribals hold rallies to press for separate state

TO INTENSIFY THE SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIONS DEMAND, THE KUKI-ZO TRIBALS, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HELD RALLIES IN FIVE OTHER STATES

AGENCIES

Imphal, Nov 29: Thousands of Kuki-Zo tribals Wednesday organised mega rallies in Mizoram, Tripura, Delhi, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, besides different districts in Manipur to highlight their main demand for separate administrations (equivalent to separate state) for the tribals in Manipur.

The rally was organised under the aegis of Zo United, a civil society organisation and parent body for all Kuki-Zo tribes in Manipur. The agitators submitted a memorandum to Union Home Minister Amit Shah through the deputy commissioner.

In the memorandum, Zo United said a separate administration was needed as Imphal, which has major government establishments, educational institutions, healthcare facilities and the lone airport in the state, has become inaccessible for the Kuki Zo people, including government officials and tribal MLAs, after the community's expulsion from the Imphal Valley since the commencement of ethnic strife in May.

10 Manipur tribal MLAs, including seven from the ruling BJP, who have been demanding a 'separate administration' for the tribals in the state since the ethnic riots began in the state



May 3, also participated in the rallies. The Central and state governments and BJP leaders, however, on a number of occasions, rejected the demand and vowed to maintain a united Manipur.

Manipur tribals' apex body, Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forums (ITLF), senior leader Ginza Vualzong said that thousands of men and women participated in the Kuki-Zo tribals' rallies in Mizoram, Tripura, Delhi, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, besides different districts in Manipur.

Carrying placards and banners of 'Separate administration is the only solution', 'Meitei government, down, down', 'Tribal area, tribal government' and 'No solution, no rest', the participants chanted slogans against Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

The ITLF, since the beginning of the ethnic strife seven months ago, has been demanding removal of Singh from the Chief Ministerial post.

To intensify the separate administrations demand, the Kuki-Zo tribals, for the first time, held rallies in five other states Wednesday. The Zo United in a statement

claimed that in the ethnic violence, more than 7,000 houses of the tribals were burnt down, 152 people belonging to Kuki-Zo community killed and more than 50,000 people displaced.

"We have been butchered and chased out of the capital and the valley areas. There is no longer any hope for Kuki-Zo tribals to live a dignified life in a state controlled by the Meitei community. A separate administration is the only option for us," it said in the statement.

Manipur tribal MLAs, including ministers, and several tribal leaders on a number of occasions have met Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga in Aizawl and sought his intervention to solve the ethnic crisis in Manipur.

Zoramthanga, who is the President of the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF), had said in Aizawl that the tribal MLAs of Manipur including ministers met him in Aizawl recently and requested him to hold talks with the Naga leaders in Manipur and Nagaland regarding the current ethnic turmoil in Manipur.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, NUAPADA. ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ନୁଆପଡ଼ା. AT/PO-NUAPADA, DIST- NUAPADA, PIN-766105. E-mail: nuapadanac@gmail.com. No.2714/Dated: 28.11.2023. 1st CORRIGENDUM. No.C-1961:- The last date of submission of tender as published in the tender call notice for the work preparation of DPR for renovation of Gandhi Pramod Udyan, ward no- 03, vide TCN no-2623, Dated-10.11.2023 is hereby extended to 08.12.2023 and the tender will be opened on 11.12.2023.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI LAXMIPUR, DIST-KORAPUT. Letter No. 4169/2023 Dated.23.11.2023. E-TENDER CALL NOTICE. No.i-504:Seal tenders are invited from Registered Contractor from state PWD/M.I./Irrigation/ Rural Works for execution of Buildings etc. The detail information of which are made available in the (http://tenderodisha.gov.in) website only and also in Koraput Dist. Website i.e. http://www.koraput.nic.in & in DRDA Website http://www.drakoraput.org.

ଜଳେଶ୍ୱର ପୌର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଜଳେଶ୍ୱର Office of the Jaleswar Municipality, Jaleswar Dist.: Balasore, Odisha-756032. Ph.: (06781) 222407 * Email- jaleswaramunicipality@gmail.com. No. 5949 Date: 28.11.2023. E-Procurement Notice BID Identification No. JM 08 2023 24. No. C-1959- Bid Documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. https://tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgp/app.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER N.H. DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA. No. 1502 Date: 28.11.2023. CANCELLATION OF TENDER NOTICE. No. b-53: The tender invited for the work 'S/R to NH-49 from BTM Chhakk (265.860 Km.) to Kishan Chhakk (268.314Km.) such as providing Paver Block, CC Drain & Median Painting for the year 2023-24 in the district of Jharsuguda' vide BID Identification No. E.E. (NH) - 1/2023-24/JHARSUGUDA may be treated as cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, LAXMIPUR, DIST.: KORAPUT. Notice No. 4177/2023 Dtd.: 23.11.2023. QUOTATION CALL NOTICE. No. i-502: Sealed Limited quotations are invited from reputed Indian Manufacturers/Suppliers/Agencies, their authorized dealers/DGS&D approved registered firms for supply of Supply and Installation of 65" inch Interactive Panel Display and Science Instruments (for Science Lab) at 5T High Schools of Laxmipur Block (4th Phase). The detail information of which are made available in Koraput Dist. Website i.e. http://www.koraput.nic.in & in DRDA Website http://www.drakoraput.org.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH. E-Mail- rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in. E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE. BID IDENTIFICATION No. ONLINE-SENG-19 OF 2023-24. Table with columns: Name of the Work, Total No. of works, Estimated cost, Class of contractor, Period of completion, Type of Tender, Other details.



Migratory birds swim in a water body as one-horned rhinos and Asiatic water buffalo graze inside the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon district, Assam



National Health Mission Contract Officers and Staff Action Committee members stage a protest at the Court Naka area of Thane, Maharashtra



Life-size elephant sculptures made from Lantana camara, an invasive weed, placed near Vidhana Soudha for the pre-launch of the Lantana Elephants Exhibition, in Bangalore, Karnataka



Volunteers during a campaign ahead of the World AIDS Day in Surat, Gujarat



Women take a selfie during the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2023, at Bengaluru Palace in Bangalore, Karnataka



People walk through snow covered Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, Russia,



Polling officials carrying EVMs and other polling materials leave for their respective booths on the eve of the Telangana Assembly election in Hyderabad

national

of the day quote

Today, we have installed the system on 1,500-km route and a significant progress has been made (for its installation) on another 3,000-km route on the Mumbai-Howrah and the Delhi-Howrah route

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAY MINISTER

Cost control should be given utmost importance; however it should not be at the expense of quality. We have to be globally cost-competitive, but it has to be done by remaining in the top-quality segment

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

Those who have a lot of money are shouting, creating a ruckus. There are several MLAs who have assets worth several crores and do not need more

MAMATA BANERJEE | BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Fire in chemical plant; 24 injured

Surat: A fire broke out at a chemical plant in Gujarat's Surat city Wednesday after an explosion in a storage tank, injuring 24 workers, officials said. The blaze erupted at the chemical factory located in Sachin industrial area at around 2 am following the explosion in a large tank after leakage of inflammable chemicals stored in it, Surat in-charge chief fire officer Basant Pareek said.

Govt lists 18 bills for Winter Session of Parl

New Delhi: The government Wednesday listed 18 bills, including two to extend provisions of the women's reservation act to Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry and three to replace the criminal laws, during the Winter Session of Parliament beginning next week. According to a bulletin issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the government also plans to bring a bill that seeks to increase the strength of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly from 107 to 114 in a bid to provide representation to Kashmiri migrants, displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and Scheduled Tribes.

Sisodia moves SC

New Delhi: Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia has moved the Supreme Court seeking a review of its order denying him bail in the corruption and money laundering cases related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The top court had October 30 refused to grant him bail, saying the accusation against him of facilitating "windfall gains" of Rs 338 crore to wholesale liquor dealers was "tentatively supported" by evidence.

CLIMATE CHAOS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: India experienced extreme weather events almost every day in the first nine months of this year which led to nearly 3,000 deaths, according to a report released Wednesday.

Published by independent think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the report said the climate-vulnerable country had extreme weather on 86 per cent of days from January to September.

The CSE said 2,923 people died, almost two million hectares of crops were ruined, 80,000 homes were destroyed and more than 92,000 animals were killed. But these numbers might be even higher because not all the data

UTTARAKHAND TUNNEL COLLAPSE

'Project to continue after safety audit'

A rescue team Tuesday pulled out all 41 workers trapped under the collapsed portion of the under-construction Silkyara tunnel in a multi-agency operation that hovered between hope and despair for almost 17 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 27: The 4.5 kilometres long Silkyara tunnel project in Uttarakhand, which is part of the central government's strategic 900-km 'Char Dham Yatra All Weather Road', will continue after the necessary safety audit and repair of the broken structure, a senior road ministry official said Wednesday.

"In fact, the safety audit of the Silkyara tunnel will be conducted. Meanwhile, efforts will be made to repair and rectify the broken structure." "The necessary precautions will be taken and the 4.5 km long tunnel project will continue," the official who was part of the rescue team told PTI. Another senior official of the Road Transport and Highways Ministry (MoRTH) on the condition of anonymity said, "We will have a thorough review of Silkyara tunnel project and we will improvise some systems also."

The official also said that the Silkyara tunnel collapse was an 'accident'. He said the Uttarakhand government has formed a six-member expert committee to study the causes of collapse. The MoRTH will decide later if a committee be formed to investigate the cause of the collapse, the official added. Speaking with PTI, Zojila Tunnel Project Head Harpal Singh said



there could be several possible reasons for the collapse of the Silkyara tunnel.

"These could be poor geological investigation, under-designed ground support systems, mistakes during construction, poor data monitoring and mitigation measures during construction or poor supervision control," he explained. Singh was of the view that "all highway and rail tunnels should be planned with an escape tunnel parallel to the main tunnel".

The strategic Zojila tunnel - an all-weather link between the Kashmir valley and the Ladakh region - is being constructed by Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL).

In 2021, in an interview with PTI, Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari had termed allegations that the Char Dham road project trig-

gered landslides in Uttarakhand as 'misinformation' and asserted that the government is sensitive about ecology and environment while carrying out development projects.

Gadkari pointed out that now, the hilly terrains have been secured with the construction of a tunnel (beneath Chamba town).

A 2019 report headed by veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra described the Char Dham project - an ongoing road project that will connect the four important pilgrim towns of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri - as "an assault on the Himalayas".

The committee recommended limiting the width of the road to 5.5 metres on the Char Dham project. However, in December 2021, the Supreme Court in its order allowed the road width to 10 metres.

NO ONE CAN STOP CAA IMPLEMENTATION: SHAH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 29: Home Minister Amit Shah asserted Wednesday that no one can stop the implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and said the people will elect Narendra Modi as the prime minister in 2024 to set the foundation for the BJP to form the government in West Bengal in the 2026 assembly polls.

Addressing a big rally here to launch the BJP's Lok Sabha campaign, Shah launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on the issues of appeasement, infiltration, corruption and political violence, alleging she has "destroyed" the state.

Banerjee has been opposing the CAA due to her support to infiltration, he asserted, adding that a state with so much infiltration cannot develop.

He urged people to throw out her government by electing the BJP in the next assembly polls in 2026 and asked them to lay its foundation by supporting the

KERALA RAHUL'S SECOND HOME

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi Wednesday hailed Kerala's healthcare and palliative care sector as one of the best in the country, and said he was pleased with the level of community participation in Kerala when it comes to healthcare and education



15K drones to be provided to women SHGs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: The Union Cabinet has approved a central scheme to provide drones to 15,000 progressive women Self Help Groups (SHGs) with an outlay of Rs 1,261 crore for two years beginning 2024-25.

A decision in this regard was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters Wednesday.

"The scheme aims to provide drones to 15,000 select women SHGs during the period 2024-25 to 2025-2026 for providing rental services to farmers for agriculture purpose," Thakur said.

The women SHGs will be identified from the total 89 lakh SHGs formed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, he said.

In various states, appropriate clusters where usage of drones is economically feasible will be identified and progressive 15,000 women SHGs will be selected for providing drones, the government said in a release.

A central financial assistance at 80 per cent of the cost of drone and accessories/ancillary charges of up to Rs 8,00,000 will be provided to women SHGs for purchase of drones.

The Cluster Level Federation (CLFs) of SHGs may raise the balance amount (total cost of procurement minus subsidy) as loan under the National Agriculture Infra Financing Facility (AIF). Interest subvention of 3 per cent on the AIF loan will be provided. "Around 500 drones will be provided by fertiliser companies. The rest 14,500 drones will be made available through the central assistance in the next two years," Thakur said in a statement.

SETBACK TO AAP GOVT

Apex court clears 6-month extension for Delhi chief secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: In a major setback to the AAP government, the Supreme Court Wednesday permitted the Centre to extend the tenure of Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, a day before he was set to demit office November 30, for six months, holding that the union government's decision did not violate law or the Constitution.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra held, prima facie, the Centre has the power to appoint and extend the tenure of the chief secretary of the national capital territory of Delhi as the officer deals with the entire administration including police, public order and land, which fall beyond the legislative and executive powers of the Delhi government.

"We come to the conclusion that at this stage, bearing in mind the provisions of the judgement of this court in Constitution Bench 2 (2023) judgement on Centre-Delhi government services row) and the subsequent developments which have taken place resulting in the enactment of the amendment to the GNCTD Act 1991, the decision of the Union Government to extend the services of the incumbent chief secretary for a period of six months cannot be construed to be violative of law or the constitutional distribution of powers between the Union and the government of the GNCTD," the bench said in its order.



The bid to extend the tenure of the present chief secretary is the latest bone of contention between the Arvind Kejriwal government and Lieutenant Governor (LG) V K Saxena, who have been involved in a series of run-ins over various issues.

Significantly, the current chief secretary, whose tenure will now be extended, is reportedly not on good terms with the Delhi government owing to allegations against his son in a case related to acquisition of 19 acres by the National Highways Authority of India in 2018 for construction of the Dwarka Expressway.

"It will be farfetched to postulate that the central government is divested of the power to appoint the chief secretary. We clarify that this is on the basis of a prima facie evaluation," the bench said.

It also held that the central government, prima facie, has the power to extend the service of an incumbent chief secretary.

Indian woman who went to Pak to marry FB friend returns home

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amritsar (Punjab), Nov 29: Anju, an Indian mother of two children who travelled to Pakistan to marry her Facebook friend, returned to India through the Wagah-Attari border Wednesday, officials said.

Anju alias Fatima, 34, had travelled to a remote village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan to marry her Facebook friend Nasrullah, leaving her children in India.

Asked why she is back in the country, Anju, walking fast with a mask covering her face, said: "I am happy. I have nothing else to say"

Her 29-year-old Pakistani husband accompanied her up to the Wagah border. On reaching India, she was not allowed to interact with the media and straightway went to the airport to catch a flight to Delhi.

At the Shri Guru Ramdas International Airport here, Anju was spotted wearing a burqa. She told the media there, "I am here in India to meet my Indian family. I came back to India of my own volition."

Anju had travelled to Pakistan via the Wagah-Attari border in July with a visa, converted to Islam, changed her name to Fatima after getting married to Nasrullah, whom she had befriended on Facebook four years ago. Anju's Indian husband Arvind had said that she left home on the pretext of going to Jaipur but later the family came to know that she was in Pakistan.

Anju, along with her Indian husband, used to live in the Bhiwadi area of Rajasthan. She hails from Kailor village in Uttar Pradesh.

Police sources said that Arvind no longer resides in Bhiwadi and has relocated to somewhere with their children.

SNIPPETS

Fast-track special courts get 3-yr extension

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has given its nod for continuing fast track special courts for another three years for delivering swift justice in cases involving sexual offences. After the passage of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act in 2018 in the aftermath of the Nirbhaya gangrape case in Delhi, the Centre had decided to set up 1,023 fast-track special courts, including 389 to deal exclusively with cases related to violations of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, in 31 states and Union territories. The scheme was launched on Gandhi Jayanti in 2019 for one year and was later extended for an additional two years until March 31 this year.

T'gana polls: EC orders suspension of 3 cops

New Delhi: In a stern action ahead of assembly polls in Telangana the Election Commission Wednesday ordered the suspension of three state police officers, including a deputy commissioner of police, for allegedly trying to dilute a case in a cash-seizure matter, sources said. In a letter to the chief secretary of Telangana, the Commission is learnt to have said that following the recovery of Rs 18 lakh in cash along with a mobile phone and a chequebook, the police officers, instead of taking proper legal action against the culprit, apparently tried to dilute the case, the sources added.

Can't deal with individual cases: Top court

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said Wednesday it was looking to put in place an administrative machinery to deal with hate speeches across the country while making it clear that it cannot handle each and every such matter as it will lead to a virtual flood of cases. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bharti said the apex court has already defined hate speech and the question now is of implementation of its directions. The top court also issued notices to the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Nagaland and Gujarat over non-appointment of nodal officers to tackle hate speech. The top court had earlier said defining hate speech is complex but the real problem in tackling it lies in the implementation and execution of law and judicial pronouncements.



greens Celsius, and preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels (1850-1900).

Multiple reports suggest that the world is significantly off track to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. To achieve this goal, countries together need to halve the emissions of

planet-warming greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane by 2030.

According to the CSE report that came out ahead of the launch of the 28th round of the UN climate conference in Dubai, Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of extreme weather events at 138. However,

the largest number of deaths occurred in Bihar (642), followed by Himachal Pradesh (365) and Uttar Pradesh (341).

Punjab recorded the highest number of animal deaths while Himachal Pradesh reported the most damaged houses due to extreme weather events.

In the southern region, Kerala saw the highest count of extreme weather days (67) and deaths (60). Telangana suffered maximum effect on crop area (over 62,000 hectares). The state also witnessed high animal casualties (645). Karnataka faced severe destruction, with over 11,000 houses demolished.

In northwest India, Uttar Pradesh had the most extreme weather days at 113. Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan were also significantly affected.

In the eastern and northeastern regions, Assam registered maximum extreme weather events (102), with the state losing 159 livestock and over 48,000 hectares of crops devastated. Nagaland saw over 1,900 houses destroyed.

The CSE said January was slightly warmer than average, while February broke records, becoming the warmest in 122 years. India had its sixth driest February and the driest August in 122 years.

A staggering 60% of the people living in New Delhi and Mumbai are considering relocation due to the worsening air pollution in both the cities

international



On May 9, an attempt was made to topple the army chief. No one...Be it (a) democracy or dictatorship tolerates treason. Thereby, the action is being taken against the May 9 culprits SHEHBAZ SHARIF | FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

SAUDI TO HOST '30 WORLD FAIR

The Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh won the right to host the Expo 2030 world fair, vote results showed Tuesday, in another diplomatic victory for a Gulf country after last year's soccer World Cup in Qatar



of the day quote

Today, on behalf of the people of Australia, our government and this Parliament offers a full unreserved and overdue apology to all thalidomide survivors, their families, loved ones, and carers. This apology takes in one of the darkest chapters in Australia's medical history ANTHONY ALBANESE | PM, AUSTRALIA

I had a bilateral with my colleague, the (Turkish) foreign minister... where he told me that he expected the ratification to take place within weeks TOBIAS BILLSTRÖM | FOREIGN MINISTER, SWEDEN

We are close to securing a statement of agreement from our external creditors on debt restructuring that will enable the IMF to conclude its first review of the \$2.4 billion bailout facility approved in March this year RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

SHORT TAKES

Iran to buy Russian jets

Dubai: Iran has finalised arrangements for the delivery of Russian made Sukhoi su-35 fighter jets and helicopters, Iran's deputy defence minister told Iran's Tasnim news agency Tuesday, as Tehran and Moscow forge closer military relations. Iran's air force has only a few dozen strike aircraft, including Russian jets as well as ageing US models acquired before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Relief for Nawaz

Islamabad: The Islamabad High Court Wednesday acquitted Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in two cases of corruption in which he was convicted in 2018. Sharif, 73, had challenged in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) his sentences in the Avenfield property and Al-Azizia cases. A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb announced the verdict after hearing arguments from both sides.

US jet crashes

Tokyo: A US military aircraft carrying six people crashed into the sea in western Japan Wednesday, killing at least one crew member with the condition of at least two hauled from waters unclear. Japan's coast guard said it found what appeared to be wreckage from the tilt-rotor V-22 Osprey and one person who was later confirmed to have died some 3 km (2 miles) from Yakushima island.

SIKH SEPARATIST ASSASSINATION PLOT

US charges Indian govt official

THE DEVELOPMENT COMES TWO MONTHS AFTER CANADA SAID THERE WERE "CREDIBLE" ALLEGATIONS LINKING INDIAN AGENTS TO THE JUNE MURDER OF A SIKH SEPARATIST LEADER, HARDEEP SINGH NIJJAR SOMETHING INDIA HAS REJECTED

AGENCIES

New York, Nov 29: An Indian national was Wednesday charged here by federal prosecutors in connection with his participation in a foiled plot to assassinate a Sikh separatist on American soil.

Nikhil Gupta, 52, has been charged with murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, and conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, US Attorney for the Southern District of New York Matthew G Olsen said.

US authorities said Gupta agreed to pay an assassin \$100,000 to kill the Sikh separatist leader living in New York City.

"On or about June 9, 2023, CC-1 and GUPTA arranged for an associate to deliver \$15,000 in cash to the UC in Manhattan, New York, as an advance payment for the murder," according to the charges.

The indictment has not named the US citizen but The Financial Times, citing unnamed sources, last week reported that US authorities thwarted a plot to assassinate banned Sikhs for Justice's Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, and issued a warning to the Indian government over concerns it was involved in the plot.

"As alleged, the defendant conspired from India to assassinate, right here in New York City, a US citizen of Indian origin who has publicly advocated for the establishment of a sovereign state for Sikhs, an ethnonationalist minority group in India," United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams said in a statement.

Williams said that his Office and law enforcement partners neutralised this "deadly and outrageous threat. We will not tolerate efforts to assassinate US citizens on US soil, and stand ready to investigate, thwart, and prosecute anyone who seeks to harm and silence Americans here or abroad." The Superseding Indictment unsealed Wednesday in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York said and other public court documents details the alleged plot in which Gupta was involved.

In about May 2023, Gupta was recruited by an individual to orchestrate the assassination of the victim in the United States. The plot was directed by an Indian government employee who has described himself as a "senior field officer" with responsibilities in "security management" and "intelligence" and also claims to have served in the Central Reserve Police Force and been trained in "battle craft" and "weapons," the indictment said.

Prosecutors said that Czech authorities arrested and detained Gupta June 30, 2023, pursuant to the bilateral extradition treaty between the United States and the Czech Republic.

Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic at the request of the United States in connection with his participation in the plot to murder the individual. It was not immediately clear when Gupta might be extradited to the US.

The development came on a day when India said that it has constituted a high-level enquiry committee to probe allegations relating to a conspiracy to kill the Sikh extremist on American soil.

On Wednesday, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said the US side shared some "inputs" pertaining to nexus between organised criminals, gun runners and terrorists and that India takes such inputs seriously since they impinge on "our national security interests as well" and that relevant departments were examining the issue.

India constituted a high-level enquiry committee November 18 to look into all the relevant aspects of the matter, he said.

Sikh separatist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun -- a dual citizen of the United States and Canada -- was allegedly the target of the plot. On November 20, the National Investigation Agency filed a case against Pannun, accusing him of issuing social media messages that said people flying with Air India were in danger. He had also claimed that Air India would not be allowed to operate November 19



The Indian govt official, Nikhil Gupta, faces two counts of murder-for-hire and murder-for-hire conspiracy. He faces a maximum sentence of 20 years if convicted

District of New York Damian Williams said in a statement. Williams said that his Office and law enforcement partners neutralised this "deadly and outrageous threat. We will not tolerate efforts to assassinate US citizens on US soil, and stand ready to investigate, thwart, and prosecute anyone who seeks to harm and silence Americans here or abroad." The Superseding Indictment unsealed Wednesday in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York said and other public court documents details the alleged plot in which Gupta was involved.

In about May 2023, Gupta was recruited by an individual to orchestrate the assassination of the victim in the United States. The plot was directed by an Indian government employee who has described himself as a "senior field officer" with responsibilities in "security management" and "intelligence" and also claims to have served in the Central Reserve Police Force and been trained in "battle craft" and "weapons," the indictment said.

Prosecutors said that Czech authorities arrested and detained Gupta June 30, 2023, pursuant to the bilateral extradition treaty between the United States and the Czech Republic.

Gupta was arrested in the Czech Republic at the request of the United States in connection with his participation in the plot to murder the individual. It was not immediately clear when Gupta might be extradited to the US.

The development came on a day when India said that it has constituted a high-level enquiry committee to probe allegations relating to a conspiracy to kill the Sikh extremist on American soil.

On Wednesday, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said the US side shared some "inputs" pertaining to nexus between organised criminals, gun runners and terrorists and that India takes such inputs seriously since they impinge on "our national security interests as well" and that relevant departments were examining the issue.

India constituted a high-level enquiry committee November 18 to look into all the relevant aspects of the matter, he said.

War to resume as truce ends

With hours left to go before a truce in Gaza expires, international mediators worked to extend it to facilitate the release of militant-held hostages and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel

REUTERS

Gaza, Nov 29: Israel and Hamas were negotiating through mediators Wednesday over another potential extension of the Gaza truce, with hours left to reach an agreement before fighting was due to restart after a six-day pause.

Families of Israeli hostages were informed on Wednesday of the names of those due to be released later in the day, Israel's public broadcaster Kan reported, the final group to be freed under the truce unless negotiators succeed in extending it.

The penultimate release Tuesday included for the first time hostages held by Islamic Jihad, a group allied to Hamas, as well as by Hamas itself.

The initial four-day truce was extended by 48 hours from Tuesday, and Israel says it would be willing

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT



to prolong it further for as long as Hamas frees 10 hostages a day. But with fewer women and children still in captivity, that could mean agreeing to terms governing the release of at least some Israeli men for the first time.

A Palestinian official told Reuters that despite a willingness on both sides to prolong the truce, no agreement had yet been reached. Discussions were still under way with mediators Egypt and Qatar, the official said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office declined to comment on the state of any talks but noted that an extra 50 Palestinian women detainees had been added Tuesday to a list cleared to be released in case a new swap was agreed.

The truce has brought the first respite to a war launched by Israel to annihilate Hamas after the "Black Sabbath" raid by gunmen who killed 1,200 people on the Jewish rest day, according to Israel's tally.

Israeli bombardment has since reduced much of Gaza to a wasteland, with more than 15,000 people confirmed killed, 40% of them children, according to Palestinian health authorities deemed reliable by the United Nations. Many more are feared buried under the ruins. The Palestinian health ministry said another 160 bodies had been pulled out of rubble during the past 24 hours of the truce, and around 6,500 people were still missing.

Mexico a graveyard for scribes

Five journalists were shot in one day in Mexico

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mexico City, Nov 29: Prosecutors in Mexico confirmed Wednesday that a reporter was shot and wounded the previous day in the western state of Michoacan, the fifth journalist shot in the country in one day. Maynor Ramon Ramirez was wounded along with a companion in the attack Tuesday in the city of Apatzingan, the newspaper ABC of Michoacan said. Earlier Tuesday, four news photographers were shot in the neighbouring state of Guerrero.



The four in Guerrero were shot near a military barracks after they returned from a crime scene. They had been covering one of the many homicides that occur on a near-daily basis in the violence-racked city of Chilpancingo. The shooting of five media workers in one day represents one of the largest mass attacks on reporters in Mexico in a decade.

The shootings and abductions on Tuesday mark some of the largest mass attacks on reporters in one place in Mexico since one day in early 2012, when the bodies of three news photographers were found dumped in plastic bags in a canal.

In the past five years alone, the Committee to Protect Journalists documented the killings of at least 54 journalists in Mexico.

Kyrgyz to tweak nat'l flag

Bishkek: Kyrgyzstan's parliament voted Wednesday to tweak the design of the national flag after critics, including President Sadyr Japarov, said its central element looked like a sunflower which in the local culture symbolises fickleness and servility. The Central Asian nation's flag, adopted in 1992 after it gained independence from the Soviet Union, depicts a yellow sun - which doubles as the pinnacle of a traditional Kyrgyz yurt tent - with 40 rays on a red background. But the wavy rays caught the eye of some parliament deputies in September who pointed out that they look more like sunflower petals.

Russia preparing 'loyalty agreement' for foreigners

Under the 'loyalty agreement' legislation, foreigners may be forbidden from criticism of state policy

REUTERS

Moscow, Nov 29: Russia's interior ministry has prepared draft legislation that would force foreigners to sign a "loyalty agreement" forbidding them from criticising official policy, discrediting Soviet military history, or contravening traditional family values.

Since President Vladimir Putin ordered troops into Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has introduced a slew of tough laws that outlaw discrediting the military, and courts have handed down long jail sentences to opposition activists.

As the 2024 presidential election approaches, Putin has cast the war as part of an existential battle with the West, saying he will defend Russia's "sacred" civilisation from what he portrays as the West's decadence.

The TASS state news agency reported Wednesday that the draft legislation had been prepared by the interior ministry and would force all foreigners entering Russia to sign an agree-



ment that essentially restricts what they can say in public. A foreigner entering Russia would be prohibited from "interfering with the activities of public authorities of the Russian Federation, discrediting in any form the foreign and domestic state policy of the Russian Federation, public authorities and their officials", TASS said.

The proposed agreement would include clauses about morality, family, "propaganda about non-traditional sexual relations" and history.

In particular, foreigners would be barred from "distorting the historical truth about the feat of the Soviet people in the defence of the Fatherland and its contribution to the victory over fascism".

The Soviet Union is estimated to have lost at least 27 million people in World War Two and eventually pushed Nazi forces back to Berlin. Governments loyal to Moscow then took power across swathes of eastern Europe.

Nepal 1st South Asian nation to register gay marriage

TRANS-WOMAN MAYA GURUNG, 35 AND SURENDRA PANDEY, 27, A GAY BECAME THE FIRST COUPLE TO GET LEGALLY MARRIED IN THE COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathmandu, Nov 29: Five months after the Supreme Court legalised it, Nepal Wednesday formally registered the first case of same-sex marriage, making it the first South Asian country to do so.

Trans-woman Maya Gurung, 35 and Surendra Pandey, 27, a



gay got legally married and their marriage was registered at Dordi Rural Municipality of Lamjung district in Western Nepal, according to Sanjib Gurung (Pinky), president of Blue Diamond Society, an organization

working for the rights and welfare of the sexual minorities in Nepal.

Way back in 2007, Nepal's Supreme Court had allowed same-sex marriage. Even the Constitution of Nepal, adopted

in 2015, explicitly states that there can be no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

On June 27, 2023, the Supreme Court issued an interim order to legalise same-sex marriage in Nepal in a writ petition filed by multiple people, including Gurung. But despite the historic order to temporarily register same-sex marriage, Kathmandu District Court four months ago rejected the move citing a lack of necessary laws.

Surendra Pandey and Maya's marriage application was rejected at that time.

"It's a great pleasure to learn about this, it is a great achievement for us, the third gender community of Nepal," Pinky told PTL. "This is the first case not only in Nepal but also in the

whole of South Asia, and we welcome the decision."

Married in the traditional manner with the approval of their families, Surendra, a resident of Nawalparasi district, and Maya, a resident of Lamjung district, have been living together as husband and wife for the past six years.

"There are many third-gender couples living without their identities and rights and this is going to help them a lot," Pinky said, adding that the door has now opened for other people of this community to get their marriage legalised.

"Now their marriage has been temporarily registered and after the formulation of necessary laws, it will get permanent recognition automatically."

business

of the day quote

The capabilities that make Generative AI such a promising tool for innovation possibly increase potential for misuse

ADAM SELIPSKY | CEO, AWS

We take pride in Making in India for the world. Lloyd has been synonymous with innovation and trust in India, and we are confident that our range of products will resonate with the preferences and lifestyle of the Middle East market

ANIL RAI GUPTA | CHAIRMAN AND MD, HAVELLS

Though there was some damage to vineyards, especially where there were hailstorms, the overall impact on our wine grape procurement and upcoming harvest will be negligible, meaning zero impact on the overall business

RAJEEV SAMANT | CEO, SULA VINEYARDS

SHORT TAKES

IREDA's dream debut

New Delhi: Shares of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) made a remarkable stock market debut Wednesday, ending with a premium of 87.5 per cent, against the issue price of Rs 32. The stock listed at Rs 50, up 56.25 per cent from the issue price on both the BSE and NSE. During the day, it rallied 87.46 per cent to Rs 59.99 on the BSE. On the NSE, the stock ended at Rs 60 apiece, soaring 87.5 per cent. The company commanded a market valuation of Rs 16,123.90 crore. The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of IREDA was subscribed 38.80 times on the last day of bidding Thursday. The IPO had a fresh issue of up to 40,31,64,706 equity shares and an offer for sale component of up to 26,87,76,471 equity shares.

Sebi bans 9 entities

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi has barred nine entities from the securities market for at least two years and directed them to refund Rs 8 crore collected from investors, through unregistered investment advisory services, within three months. Additionally, the regulator has imposed a penalty totalling Rs 18 lakh on them and asked them to pay the amount within 45 days. The nine entities that have been prohibited are -- Yogesh Kukadia, Rajesh R Kallidumbil, Nithin Raj, SignalNoise Capital Partners, Investo Investment Advisers, SS Info Sales, SI Digi Sales, CT Web Sales and ML Tele Sales.

MILESTONE MOMENT

BSE enters \$4tn m-cap club

Indian equity market enters coveted \$4-trillion m-cap club for first time ever

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: The combined market valuation of all listed companies on the leading stock exchange BSE reached the \$4-trillion milestone for the first time ever Wednesday, mirroring a positive trend in equities. What is remarkable about this feat is that it took just two-and-a-half years to hit the \$4 trillion landmark after the market capitalisation (m-cap) of all listed companies on the BSE touched the \$3-trillion mark May 24, 2021.

The total valuation of exchange-listed companies went past the \$1 trillion level May 28, 2007.

The journey from \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion was covered in 2,566 days or just over seven years June 6, 2014. The m-cap of listed companies reached \$2 trillion July 10, 2017 – taking 1,130 days from the \$1.5 trillion level. It took ten years for the exchange to reach from \$1 trillion level to \$2 trillion in market capitalisation.

From there, it took 1,255 days to go past the \$2.5 trillion mark December 16, 2020.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 727.71 points or 1.10 per cent to settle at 66,901.91 with 26 of its components ending in the green and four in the red. The index started the day on a positive note and later zoomed 772.08 points or 1.16 per cent to a high



India economy showed good momentum in the second quarter. The second quarter numbers should be good

AJAY SETH | ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY

LIC UNVEILS JEEVAN UTSAV

Insurance behemoth LIC Wednesday launched its guaranteed return plan, Jeevan Utsav. It is a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings, whole life insurance plan, LIC said. LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty, said policyholders can expect a lifelong benefit of 10 per cent of the sum assured after the policy matures



\$1 trillion	-	May 28, 2007
\$1.5 trillion	-	June 6, 2014
\$2 trillion	-	July 10, 2017
\$2.5 trillion	-	Dec 16, 2020
\$3 trillion	-	May 24, 2021
\$4 trillion	-	Nov 29, 2023

of 66,946.28. The broader Nifty climbed 206.90 points or 1.04 per cent to reclaim the 20,000- mark after a gap of over two months. It ended at 20,096.60.

Thanks to the optimism in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached Rs 3,33,26,881.49 crore in morning trade, translating into \$4 trillion at the exchange rate of 83.31. It finally stood at Rs 3,33,29,095.37 crore at the end of

trade, translating into \$4 trillion. The combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit an all-time high of Rs 333.29 lakh crore.

While the BSE benchmark Sensex has rallied 6,061.17 points or 9.96 per cent so far this year, the market capitalisation of all listed firms on BSE has gone up by Rs 50.90 lakh crore.

The 30-share benchmark hit its all-time peak of 67,927.23 September 15, this year.

"Fortunately, interest rates in the US have peaked, and the dollar index is declining, which is expected to attract Foreign

The BSE market cap's ascent to the \$4 trillion mark signals the start of a fresh momentum in the stock market. Indian stock market is rallying due to solid Q2 earnings and a drop in crude oil prices

SATISH MENON | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GEJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Institutional Investors (FIIs) into the Indian equity market," said Satish Menon, Executive Director, Gejiti Financial Services.

A rally in the broader market also added to the overall optimism. The BSE smallcap gauge has jumped 11,062.78 points or 38.24 per

cent so far this year while the midcap index climbed 8,661.06 points or 34.21 per cent.

Also, a number of mainboard Initial Public Offerings (IPO) and listing of shares have propelled the rally in the equity markets.

"Indian market cap has risen the most in this fiscal aided by FPI flows and earnings resilience," said Deepak Jasani, Head Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Govt launches auction of 20 critical minerals worth ₹45,000 crore

The 20 blocks on sale are across various states, including Chhattisgarh, UP, TN, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi Wednesday launched the auction of 20 critical minerals worth Rs 45,000 crore.

Of the 20 minerals put on sale, two are lithium blocks, Joshi said. One of the lithium blocks is in Jammu & Kashmir, while the other is in Chhattisgarh.

"For the first time, ever we have identified critical and deep seated minerals. We have not just identified it but we have also put it up for auction today," the minister told reporters here.

The 20 blocks on sale are across various states, including Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand, and Bihar, he said.

"The total worth of these blocks is Rs 45,000 crore," Joshi said, adding that the entire revenue accrued from these mineral blocks will go to the states.

The minister further said the auction process will close February 20. Of the 20 mineral blocks, 16 have been put up for grant of composite licence and four for grant of mining lease. "Today's launch of auctions is



only the first tranche. We will continue to add more block of critical minerals in subsequent tranches." "Not only this, based on industry feedback we will continue to amend the relevant laws in order to make it easier to operate in the domain of clean energy technologies," Joshi said.

India in February found its first lithium deposits in Jammu & Kashmir with estimated reserves of 5.9 million tonne.

In July, India tweaked its mining rules by allowing the entry of private miners to search for the materials.

Critical minerals have become important for the nation's economic development and national security. 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 renewable energy, defence, and agriculture.

WALMART SHIFTS FOCUS TO INDIA FROM CHINA



REUTERS

London, Nov 29: Walmart is importing more goods to the United States from India and reducing its reliance upon China as it looks to cut costs and diversify its supply chain, data seen by Reuters shows.

The world's largest retailer shipped one quarter of its US imports from India between January and August this year, according to bill of lading figures shared with Reuters by data firm Import Yeti. That compared with just 2% in 2018.

Only 60% of its shipments came from China during the same period, down from 80% in 2018, the same data shows. To be sure, China is still Walmart's biggest country for importing

India has emerged as a key component of Walmart's efforts to build that manufacturing capacity

ANDREA ALBRIGHT | EXECUTIVE VP, WALMART

goods.

The shift illustrates how the rising cost of importing from China and escalating political tensions between Washington and Beijing are encouraging large US companies to import more from countries including India, Thailand and Vietnam. "We want the best prices," Andrea Albright, Walmart's executive vice president of sourcing said in an interview. "That means I need resiliency in our supply chains. It will be reliant on any one supplier or geography for my product because we're constantly managing things from hurricanes and earthquakes to shortages in raw materials."

Walmart has been accelerating growth in India since 2018, when it bought a 77% stake in Indian e-commerce firm Flipkart. Two years later, it committed to import \$10 billion of goods from India each year by 2027. That is a target it remains on track to hit, Albright said. It is currently importing around \$3 billion worth of goods from India each year.

BLACKOUT FEARS LOOM

In the next four months, India plans to add nearly 3GW of coal-fired generation, while the following fiscal year, starting from April 1, will see it add 14GW, or its highest level in eight years

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 29: India aims to add 17 gigawatts of coal-based power generation capacity in the next 16 months, its fastest pace in recent years, to avert outages due to a record rise in power demand, according to government officials and documents.

The expansion drive comes ahead of this week's UN climate summit COP28, where France and the United States are expected to clamp down on financing for coal plants, a move that India, dependent on coal for 73% of power generation, plans to oppose.

The world's fastest growing major economy has added an annual average of 5 gigawatts of coal-based electricity generation capacity over the last five years, but it is also ramping up renewable energy.

Record power demand forces more coal usage



Yet it will fall short of satisfying power demand if it does not expand the number of its coal plants, said two government officials, who did not want to be named as they are not authorised to speak to media.

To ensure completion of projects, New Delhi has begun a review of 38 coal generation plants whose construction has been held up for years, moving to resolve issues over equipment and land acquisition delays, the two officials said.

The government expects 28 of these projects to become operational in the next 18 months, it told power producers in a presentation at a meeting November 21.

Such projects include state-run power company NTPC's 660-megawatt unit in the eastern state of Bihar which has been de-

layed for 13 years, and two in the neighbouring state of Jharkhand held up for five years.

At the meeting, Power Minister RK Singh told public and private power generators that India would "have to add coal-based thermal capacity," to meet requirements growing at an unprecedented rate, said the two officials, who also attended.

He also urged private companies to set up fresh coal-based power generation capacity to meet nighttime demand and assured them of financial assistance.

Industry officials said such a call was being made for the first time in a decade since most private investments in the coal-fired power sector had stopped around the year 2012, partly because of India's green energy push.

While the coal expansion drive aims to meet an expected rise of 10% in demand during peak hours in fiscal year 2024-25, India will still meet a national commitment of half of fuel generation capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030, the two officials said.

Since adding 22 gigawatts of capacity in the fiscal year 2015/16, India cut back on plans to expand coal-fired plants as the government opted for alternate energy capacity, they added.

4-YEAR HIGH April-Oct steel imports from China jumps

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 29: India's finished steel imports from China touched a four-year high in the first seven months of the fiscal year that began in April, according to provisional government data reviewed by Reuters Wednesday.

China was the top exporter of finished steel to India during April-October, shipping 1.1 million metric tons of the alloy, up 47.3% on the year.

China, the world's top steel producer, exported mostly cold-rolled coil or sheets to India, followed by hot-rolled coil products, plates, and pipes, among others.

The Indian steel industry has sought government intervention through safeguards against Chinese imports.

During April-October, India imported a total of 3.5 million metric tonne of finished steel, up 10.1% from a year earlier. Overall imports were also at a four-year high, data showed.

Earlier this month, India's federal steel secretary flagged rising imports as a concern.

South Korea was the second-biggest exporter of finished steel to India during April-October, shipping 1.1 million metric tonne.

However, India remained a net exporter of finished steel during April-October, with 3.5 million metric tonne sold to buyers such as Italy, Spain, Belgium, Nepal and the UAE, government data showed.

Hot-rolled coils and strips were the most exported products, according to the data.

India's crude steel output stood at 82.2 million tons in the April-October period, up 15% from last year. India is the world's second-biggest crude steel producer.

Domestic consumption of finished steel was 75.8 million tonne, up 15% on the year.



Inflation, high rates, war to slow global growth: OECD

THE WORLD ECONOMY HAS ENDURED ONE SHOCK AFTER ANOTHER SINCE EARLY 2020 – THE ERUPTION OF COVID-19, A RESURGENCE OF INFLATION AS THE REBOUND FROM THE PANDEMIC SHOWED UNEXPECTED STRENGTH, MOSCOW'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE AND PAINFULLY HIGH BORROWING RATES AS CENTRAL BANKS ACTED AGGRESSIVELY TO COMBAT THE ACCELERATION OF CONSUMER PRICES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Nov 29: The global economy, which has proved surprisingly resilient this year, is expected to falter next year under the strain of wars, still-elevated inflation and continued high interest rates.

The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimated Wednesday that international growth would slow to 2.7% in 2024 from an expected 2.9% pace this year. That would amount to the slowest calendar-year growth since the pandemic year of 2020.

A key factor is that the OECD expects the world's two biggest economies, the United States and China, to decelerate next year.

The US economy is forecast to expand just 1.5% in 2024, from 2.4% in 2023, as the Federal Reserve's interest rate increases — 11 of them since March 2022 — continue to restrain growth.

The Fed's higher rates have made borrowing far more expensive for consumers and businesses and, in the process, have helped slow inflation from its four-decade peak in 2022.

The OECD foresees US inflation dropping from 3.9% this year to 2.8% in 2024 and 2.2% in 2025, just above the Fed's 2% tar-



get level. The Chinese economy, beset by a destructive real estate crisis, rising unemployment and slow-

ing exports, is expected to expand 4.7% in 2024, down from 5.2% this year. China's "consumption growth

will likely remain subdued due to increased precautionary savings, gloomier prospects for employment creation and heightened uncertainty," the OECD said.

Also likely to contribute to a global slowdown are the 20 countries that share the euro currency. They have been hurt by heightened interest rates and by the jump in energy prices that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The OECD expects the collective growth of the eurozone to amount to 0.9% next year — weak but still an improvement over a predicted 0.6% growth in 2023.

Yet through it all, economic expansion has proved unexpectedly sturdy. A year ago, the OECD had predicted global growth of

2.2% for 2023. That forecast proved too pessimistic. Now, the organization warns, the respite may be over.

"Growth has been stronger than expected so far in 2023," the OECD said in its 221-page report, "but is now moderating as the impact of tighter financial conditions, weak trade growth and lower business and consumer confidence is increasingly felt."

Moreover, the OECD warned, the world economy is confronting new risks resulting from heightened geopolitical tensions amid the Israel-Hamas war — "particularly if the conflict were to broaden."

"This could result in significant disruptions to energy markets and major trade routes," it said.

'Coach' Dravid to carry on

Gaikwad defends Prasad and co despite poor show

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

chase 210," he cited an example. "So I think, I don't think so definitely there's not a concern at all. It's just that the conditions are slightly tougher for them, and we have to accept and move on."

Gaikwad said Maxwell's brutal innings and heavy dew proved to be home team's undoing. "I think even Maxi batted really well. To win from a situation where they needed 100 from seven and a half hours and then 50 from 3 overs, I think it was critical innings for him," Gaikwad said.

"And I think from our side, our bowlers tried executing whatever they had in their control. Also, there was a lot of dew around so ball was slipping a lot. So I think it was tough for the bowlers as well."

"Even though we scored 230, in the last game, it was still in between we felt the game might go till the last over; but this kind of dew it is these totals are bound to happen and bound to chase." India will Australia in the fourth T20I Friday at Raipur.

Guwahati, Nov 29: The dew laden condition was the primary reason for Indian bowling attack's poor show in the third T20 International, where the home team failed to defend an imposing total of 222, vice-captain and opener Ruturaj Gaikwad said after the defeat.

Indian bowlers leaked 80 runs in the last 5 overs while defending 222 as Glenn Maxwell's 48-ball-104 not out, included 23 runs off the final over from Prasadh Krishna, who was smashed for four boundaries and a six. For the record, Krishna's 0/68 in 4 overs is the worst T20I figure by any Indian bowler.

"I don't think so it's a concern because it's almost like you are bowling with a wet ball. And it's really tough on them," Gaikwad told reporters during the post-match press conference.

"In these kinds of conditions, 12 runs per over or even 13 or 14 runs per over is gettable, even while we are chasing. In the first game, how easily we managed to



him with all the support needed for sustained success at the international level," the BCCI secretary said in a statement.

"The last two years with Team India have been thoroughly memorable. Together, we have witnessed the highs and lows, and throughout this journey, the support and camaraderie within the group have been phenomenal," Dravid said.

The PTI, Tuesday, had reported that Dravid's contract would be renewed with the BCCI looking for continuity in the set-up helmed by the legendary cricketer over the last two years. Dravid had replaced Ravi Shastri after the T20 World Cup in 2021, getting appointed for a two-year term which ended with the ODI World Cup. Under Dravid, India also finished as runners-up in the last World Test Championship, losing to Australia in the final.

Along with the 50-year-old Dravid, his support staff comprising batting coach Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey and fielding coach T Dilip have also got an extension.

It is expected that his stint would be at least till the T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA in June-July next year. The PTI had reported that Dravid had been offered an extension and asked to helm the affairs in South Africa as they work on the modalities.

While VVS Laxman, the NCA head, who has often filled in for Dravid when the latter was taking short breaks, is believed to have informed the brass that he is more comfortable work-

ing with pathways teams such as India A and India U-19, apart from being actively involved in cricketing matters with regards to the new NCA set-up in Bangalore.

"The Board also appreciates VVS Laxman for his exemplary roles as Head of NCA and as the stand-in Head Coach. Similar to their legendary on-field partnerships, Dravid and Laxman have worked closely in driving Indian Cricket forward," the BCCI's release makes it clear that both for the time being will continue in their respective roles.

BCCI president Roger Binny, who has been a bridge between the board and the head coach, also welcomed the decision. "The performances of the Indian Team are a testament to his strategic guidance. I am delighted that he accepted the offer to remain the head coach, and it speaks of the mutual respect and shared vision between him and the BCCI."

Dravid said that he will remain committed in pursuit of excellence in this post World Cup phase.

"The demands of this role necessitate considerable time away from home, and I deeply appreciate my family's sacrifices and support. Their instrumental role behind the scenes has been invaluable. As we embrace new challenges post the World Cup, we remain committed to the pursuit of excellence," he said.

Srikanth crashes out of Syed Modi International

City stay perfect, while PSG, Milan struggle

Batters disappoint as Odisha go down against Saurashtra

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VAR OFFICIAL REMOVED

Geneva: A video review official has been removed from his Champions League game Wednesday, one day after having a key role in a disputed decision to award PSG a stoppage-time penalty for handball against Newcastle which contradicted UEFA's own advice to referees. The VAR specialist from Poland, Tomasz Kwiatkowski, is no longer listed to work at the Real Sociedad-Salzburg game and has been replaced by a German match official. In Paris Tuesday, Kylian Mbappe scored in the eighth minute of stoppage time to salvage a 1-1 draw after a ball struck Newcastle defender Tino Livramento in the chest and then deflected off his arm, and a penalty was awarded following a VAR review. However, a UEFA panel of storied coaches and former players said in April that "no handball offense should be called on a player if the ball is previously deflected from his own body, and, in particular, when the ball does not go towards the goal."

heart of the comeback. In Barcelona, Porto opened the scoring with Pepe in the 30th but Barcelona rallied with Cancelo equalising two minutes later and Felix deciding it in the 57th. Barcelona leads — but still haven't won the group — with 12 points, followed by Porto (9), Shakhtar (9) and Antwerp (0).

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 29: Odisha batters had a disappointing outing in their Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Saurashtra as they suffered a four-wicket loss in their Group A tie in Bangalore, Wednesday.

Opener Sandeep Pattnaik (42, 73b, 2x4) was the top scorer for Odisha, who decided to bat first after winning the toss, with Subhanshu Senapati (21) being the only other batter to get the double digit score to his name. Dharmendrasinh Jadeja was the pick of Saurashtra bowlers with a five-wicket haul (5/16) as he led the attack to dismiss Odisha for 99. The 45-run partnership for the second wicket between Sandeep and Subhanshu somehow raised hopes of a competitive total. However, Jadeja dashed that hope with a splendid spell.

In response, Saurashtra completed the chase in 24.4 overs having four wickets in hand. Arpit Vasavada (20 n o) was the top scorer for the winning side. Pacers Rajesh Mohanty (3/48) and Debabrata Pradhan (3/34) shared the six wickets between them.

There was a situation where Saurashtra were struggling at 74/6, but Vasavada and Chirag Jani (16 n o) ensured their side would get any more hiccups and bag full points.

Rohtak will next face Japan's former World Champion Nozomu Okuhara, who prevailed 18-21, 21-17, 21-10 over another Indian Malvika Bansod in another match.

Anupama Upadhyaya, Ashmita Chaliha also progressed in the women's singles. While Anupama defeated Amalie Schulz of Denmark 14-21, 21-15, 21-9, Ashmita got rid of Polina Buhrova of Ukraine 21-15, 21-15 in another match.

In men's singles, Orleans Masters winner Priyanshu Rajawat, Denmark Masters winner Kiran George and Sathish Kumar Karunakaran entered the second round with fine victories in men's singles competition.

Priyanshu beat Kazakhstan's Dmitriy Panarin 21-17, 21-19, while Kiran saw off Chirag Sen - Lakshya sen's brother - 21-16, 14-21, 21-13 and Sathish got past Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu Kai. Priyanshu will face Sathish in an all-Indian clash, while Kiran meets Chia. Sameer Verma, however, went down fighting 9-21, 21-17, 17-21 to Wang Tzu Wei of Chinese Taipei.

In doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto notched up a 21-8, 21-9 win over compatriot Samridhi Singh and Sonali Singh in the first round. They will face another all-Indian pair - Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda - in the round of 16.

Rome, Nov 29: On a night of unconvincing performances from PSG and AC Milan, Pep Guardiola walked off smiling following a comeback victory for Manchester City in the Champions League.

Phil Foden inspired a second-half comeback as City beat Leipzig 3-2 Tuesday to take first place in Group G and extend its perfect record to five wins in five matches. It's the seventh straight season that City has won its group.

The defending champions trailed 2-0 at halftime but Foden scored one goal and helped to create two more to turn the match around and Guardiola had a smirk on his face when he shook hands with Leipzig counterpart Marco Rose after the final whistle.

Kylian Mbappe's penalty deep into stoppage time salvaged a point for PSG in a 1-1 draw with an injury-depleted but tenacious Newcastle team. In the tight Group F, Borussia Dortmund advanced with a 3-1 victory at Milan, a semifinalist last season.

Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Lazio also advanced. Portuguese duo Joao Felix and Joao Cancelo each scored as Barcelona defeated Porto 2-1 to return to the knockout phase after consecutive group-stage eliminations. It will be the first time since Lionel Messi left the club that Barcelona will be play-



IMPRESSIVE SHOW: Phil Foden celebrates after scoring against RB Leipzig

ing in the round of 16. In Paris, Alexander Isak scored on a rebound for Newcastle early on after PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma pushed away a shot to Isak's feet for an easy finish.

PSG wasted chance after chance and Newcastle seemed on course to pull off another unlikely win to follow the 4-1 victory over the same opposition last month.

That was until Ousmane Dembele flicked the ball up in the fifth minute of stoppage time and it bounced off Tino Livramento's chest and onto his

arm. Referee Szymon Marciniak gave a penalty after watching the incident on video review and Mbappe blasted the spot-kick past goalkeeper Nick Pope.

In Manchester, Foden set up Erling Haaland for a goal in the 54th and equalised in the 70th. He then played a part in the buildup for substitute Julian Alvarez's winner in the 87th as City preserved an unbeaten home record in the Champions League that dates back to 2018.

Lois Openda scored for Leipzig in the 13th and 33rd, but City responded like champions after the break, with Foden at the

Neeraj stresses on athletics events' marketing

India to tour SL in July-August, 2024 for 6-match series

KALINGA SUPER CUP TO KICK OFF JANUARY 9



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 29: The Kalinga Super Cup, to be played at two venues in Odisha from January 9, will feature both the ISL and I-League teams with the winners being nominated to play in the AFC Champions League 2 Preliminary Stage.

"The format of the tournament will consist of four groups of four teams each, who will play single-leg matches amongst themselves. The group winners will qualify for the semifinals followed by the final to be played January 28," said AIFF in a statement Wednesday.

The I-League teams will play the qualifiers to get into the group stage of the Kalinga Super

Cup where four slots have been reserved for them in the group stage. "The Champions of Kalinga Super Cup will be nominated to play in the ACL 2 Preliminary Stage of AFC 2023-24 season," said the AIFF.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said, "As per the decision we took earlier, the annual Super Cup tournament will now be organised in a bigger and broader perspective. The tournament will now be known as Kalinga Super Cup and will be played in Odisha in January 2024."

"This is a positive development for Indian domestic football. I am confident the Kalinga Super Cup will be a huge hit both in terms of organisation and spectator interest," he added.



athletics events on TV will enable more people to start watching, to understand, and increase the awareness about the competitions that the Indians compete in, Chopra said.

RCB Innovation Lab is an initiative that brings together people from the international sport-

ing world to "create a platform where influential dialogues and the exchange of innovative ideas become centre stage".

The Haryana-born athlete has had an exceptional year so far, bagging gold medals at the Asian Games and World Athletics Championships. Chopra also spoke

about how much India's sporting ecosystem has developed in the past few years, stressing on the need to organise international competitions in India which could be a game-changer for athletics.

"If countries like Kenya and Grenada can host international athletics competitions on a world-class level regularly, India also has great capability to do the same."

"Whenever I meet people from the World Athletics organisation, they express their interest in hosting such a tournament in India. I am hopeful (that) if India can host such competitive events, more people can witness such championships in person and be inspired," Chopra said.

Speaking about his preparations as he gets back from a break, he said, "My preparation will begin with removing the excess fat accumulated in the last few days. "I had a lot of milk, ghee, churma, and sweets in my hometown while I was there. I tried my best to control it but couldn't. But I know when I get started with my training I will be able to get rolling in 2-3 weeks time."