



GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Actor Ananya Panday will be representing India at the prestigious Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah

LEISURE P2



US LAUDS INDIA

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken praises India's probe into the alleged plot to kill GS Pannun

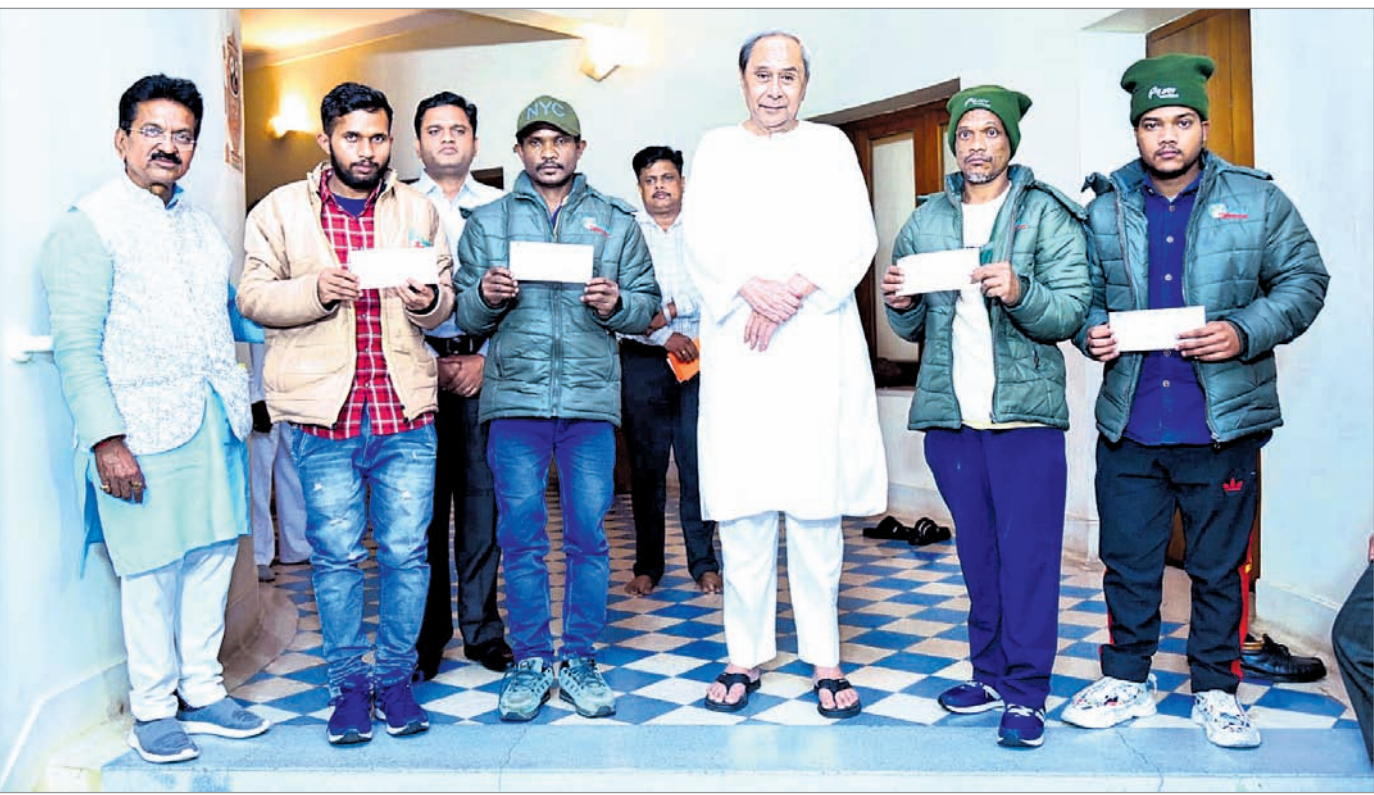
INTERNATIONAL P10



PRIYANSHU PROGRESSES

Priyanshu Rajawat sails into semifinals with a straight-game win at Syed Modi International badminton

SPORTS P12



WELCOME HOME: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik meets four of the five Odia workers, who were trapped in the Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand, on their return to Odisha, at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Friday. Labour Minister Sarada Nayak is also seen. (Report P3)

₹220cr cocaine bust

Customs seizes 22kg of the contraband from Denmark-bound cargo ship at Paradip Port

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: In one of the biggest cocaine busts in the country in recent times, Customs sleuths intercepted a consignment of around 22 kg of the illicit drug from a Denmark-bound cargo ship anchored at the Paradip Port, Friday.

State Customs Commissioner Madhav Chandra Mishra told **Orissa POST** that the 20 crew members of the ship have been detained for questioning to ascertain the origin and destination of the contraband, estimated to be worth ₹200-₹220 crore in international grey market. All the crew members are from Vietnam, added Mishra.

"They have been detained. Their questioning will start soon," Mishra said, adding that the Vietnamese crew members know little or no English. Sources said the sleuths are likely to seek help from interpreters during their questioning.

Mishra, however, made it clear that no one has been arrested so far.

Further rummaging and searching of the massive ship is underway with the help of sniffer dogs to rule out any more hidden drugs, he said.



- Last port of call of Panama-registered MV Debi was Gresik Port in Indonesia
- It was anchored at the Paradip International Cargo Terminal (PICT)
- 20 Vietnamese crew members detained for questioning

Customs sources said that 22 suspicious packets were spotted in a crane on the Panama-registered cargo ship, MV Debi, anchored at the Paradip International Cargo Terminal (PICT), Thursday night.

The crane operator, who discovered the packets, mistook it for some explosives and informed the authorities. After examination by special kits, it was confirmed to be cocaine, sources said.

In a statement, the Customs Commissionerate said that the sleuths searched the ship around midnight acting on intelligence inputs and found the packets of cocaine.

MV Debi, operated by Asia Pacific Shipping Co. Ltd. began its voyage from Egypt and ar-

rived at Paradip via Gresik Port in Indonesia. It was scheduled to depart for Denmark with steel plates from Paradip, officials said.

Meanwhile, sources said it is highly unlikely that the expensive drug, popular in party and rave circuits, was meant for local circulation as regular seizures in Odisha mostly involve contrabands like brown sugar, heroin, hashish or marijuana. Last year April 13, the Crime Branch Special Task Force (STF) had, for the first time, recovered around 202 gm of cocaine from two Rajasthani peddlers following their interception at the Xavier Square here. Jagatsinghpur SP Rahul PR told **Orissa POST** that cocaine seizures are not common in the state.

Increase in Odisha's groundwater extraction

New Delhi: The annual extraction of groundwater for domestic, irrigation and industrial purposes has been increased in Odisha by 0.16 billion cubic meters (BCM) in 2023, shows the latest groundwater assessment report released by the Ministry of Jal Shakti Friday. The report, prepared after the assessment of 314 blocks in the state, revealed that the annual groundwater extraction for all uses has increased from 7.23 in 2022 to 7.39 bcm while the annual groundwater recharge decreased from 17.79 in 2022 to 17.35 bcm in 2023.

Israel resumes offensive in Gaza Strip

Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip): Israeli fighter jets hit targets in the Gaza Strip minutes after a week-long truce expired Friday, as the war with Hamas resumed in full force. Black smoke billowed from the besieged territory and Israel dropped leaflets over parts of southern Gaza urging people to leave their homes, suggesting it was preparing to widen its offensive. Renewed hostilities heightened concerns for the about 140 hostages who remain in Gaza, after more than 100 were freed as part of the truce. The collapse of the cease-fire came a day after the US Secretary of State met Israeli officials. P10

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



They are using photo of JP Nadda in exit polls results. I guess the results are quite obvious

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	SENSEX	67481.19	↑ 492.75
NIFTY	20267.90	↑ 134.70	
DOLLAR	83.36	↓ ₹0.05	
EURO	90.84	↓ ₹0.25	
GOLD	₹62,507	↓ ₹52	
SILVER	₹76,408	↑ ₹174	

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	30.7°C	30.6°C
TEMP. MIN	19.4°C	19.5°C
Humidity	74%	74%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	Dry weather very likely	

Road mishaps claim 11 lives

Van-truck crash in Keonjhar leaves 8 dead; 3 more die elsewhere

AGENCIES

Keonjhar/Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: At least 11 people were killed and around a dozen sustained injuries in four separate road accidents across the state, on the first day of the 'Zero Fatality Week', Friday, police said.

While eight people, including three women and a child, were killed and eight others injured when the van in which they were travelling rammed into a stationary truck in Keonjhar early Friday, three others died in separate road accidents in Bhadrak, Anandpur (Keonjhar) and Sambalpur districts.

Referring to Friday morning accident on National Highway 20 near Balijodi village in Ghatagon area of Keonjhar, police said it took place when the van in which around 21 people, including the driver, were travelling hit a stationary truck.

The victims, all from Pudemari village

in Ganjam, were on their way to Goddess Tarini temple.

While seven people died on the spot, another succumbed at a hospital.

Five of the injured people were undergoing treatment at Keonjhar district headquarters hospital, while three others were shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack as their condition deteriorated.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the incident and announced that an ex-gratia of Rs 3 lakh will be paid to the next of kin of each deceased.

It is suspected that the driver dozed off leading to the accident that took place barely three km away from the temple.

5T (transformation initiatives) and Nabin Odisha programmes chairman V K Pandian also spoke to the district Collectors of Keonjhar and Ganjam to facilitate coordination and help the victims, an official release said.

PM launches 'Green Credit Initiative'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Dec 1: Asserting that the world does not have much time to correct the mistakes of the last century, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday announced a 'Green Credit Initiative' focused on creating carbon sinks through people's participation and also proposed to host the UN climate conference in 2028, or COP33, in India.

Addressing the high-level segment for heads of state and governments during the UN climate conference (COP28) here,

Modi called for a pro-planet proactive and positive initiative and said the Green Credits Initiative goes beyond the commercial mindset associated with carbon credits.

"It focuses on creating carbon sinks through people's participation and I invite all of you to join this initiative," he said, stressing that the world does not have much time to correct the mistakes of the last century. Modi was the only leader to join COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber on the stage along with the UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Steill at the opening plenary. P10

How Guj conmen duped Russian gamblers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: A new book dissects the infamous fake IPL scam, detailing how a group of small-time conmen managed to dupe seasoned Russian gamblers by staging this fake version of the popular Indian cricket league.

"Indian Punter League: The True Story of the Fake IPL", authored by Abhishek Bhatt, introduces in three parts the readers to the con artists, takes them through the well-crafted plan, and includes them in the jaw-dropping and thrilling story of how the plan was executed. The fictionalised account



of the true con tells how it almost reached success moments before falling apart. Faizal Ahmed, the young and ambitious protagonist, has one goal in life - he wants to get rich but fast. When an outrageous idea strikes him one day in a gambling den in Moscow, Faizal knew it could

be his ticket to big money. But he has to partner with a mobster and convince Russian gamblers to place high-stakes bets on cricket, a sport they neither watch nor understand.

Cheerfully unscrupulous and entirely self-assured, Faizal prepares to set up the scam of his life. Hawala money clandestine meetings, discreet text channels, rookie players, camera crews and live streams beaming across the world - this is a con job that spans the globe, from Moscow to Mehsana and back.

The scam was exposed when a team of Gujarat Police stumbled upon a

group of men conducting a live cricket match in a remote village. The villagers were dressed in uniforms very similar to the actual IPL merchandise. Upon further investigation, the police discovered that the fake match was being broadcasted to Russian gamblers via a mobile application, who then placed their bets on the outcome of the game.

The Russian gamblers, who were under the impression that they were betting on an actual IPL match, were shocked to learn that they had been misled. The police arrested several individuals involved in the scam.

DIVINE AND PRICELESS

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leisure



BIANCA 'DISRESPECTS' MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURE

Bianca Censori, wife of rapper Kanye West, has sparked outrage with the way she dresses in Dubai. Bianca was seen wearing her signature tight see-through dress in brown that almost showed her underwear as her dress was too short, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

HOLLAND PUTS CONDITIONS FOR SPIDER-MAN RETURN

Actor Tom Holland won't play Spider-Man again just for the sake of making another one. The 27-year-old feels protective over the character and will only reprise the role if the story is right, reports *Female First UK*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You can make a difference to others' lives. Considerate and thoughtful, today, you will be treasured more than ever as a boss, colleague, parent or beloved. Utilise this exchange of energy to sort out difficult issues. Ganesh gives a thumbs up to mega projects.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you taking a day off from your work and immersing your self in domestic activities. A lot of time will be spent blissfully with your family folk chatting away or doing this and that. The idea of getting your interiors redone and give your house a new look will surely occur to you.

GEMINI
There is a likelihood of some household disturbance cropping up today. Your family members could make a lot of demands from you. You may feel angry because of your inability to meet all their needs and wants. Unexpected expenses are also indicated.

CANCER
Watch out for winds of change and act accordingly. Ganesh warns you of drowning in a strong current. Your task will be easier if you adjust to circumstances. Fun and entertainment are today's password.

LEO
You are advised to be more attentive to your work today. You will try to do the best work possible by putting in your maximum efforts. However, the results might turn out to be lower than your expectations. You need to be wary of excessive expenses or financial loss today.

VIRGO
Family affairs will predominate today. They will even control your thoughts to the exclusion of everything else. Things will look up on the business front. You may spend time relaxing in the evening. Ganesh says a trip to a place of worship is on the cards.

LIBRA
Ganesh says you will give more importance to your family and there may be concerns about the health of a family member. There may be news from abroad regarding the health of a close family member, which may disturb you today. Do maintain your mental balance today and remember that this too shall pass.

SCORPIO
A cloud of emotions surrounds you today and you would like to spend the entire day in introspection and self-analysis. You will try to raise your bar at professional level. Your far sightedness and capability to understand human psychology promises a leader in you, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Tough times do not last, but tough people do, remember this fact and move ahead in life. Try to make the complicated life simpler by your optimistic approach. Speak up when it is required and don't get bogged down by unnecessary pressure.

CAPRICORN
You will have heard of many emotional fools who let sentiments rule their lives. Try not to be one of them, and if it's too difficult a task, at least pretend not to be one of them, for Ganesh says going by your feelings can leave you at a low ebb. In other words, your feelings can come in the way of your success. A solution to this problem is to remain dispassionate and let the opportunist think you are a hard nut to crack.

AQUARIUS
You know how to examine the nuts and bolts of every assignment or project, and it consumes your resources to a great extent. But, like a stitch in time saves nine, your meticulous planning minimises the chances of a loss or a failure, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
You could find yourself re-establishing contact with long lost friends abroad, possibly on matters of business. You will also likely find yourself attending social events. There is a possibility that those who are unmarried, may find their match in these social settings.



Mumbai: Actress Triptii Dimri, who is known for her work in *Bulbul* and *Laila Majnu*, is celebrating one year of her psychological drama *Qala* and said that it was a journey of self-discovery, resilience and love for art. Looking back at the film, the actress said: "*Qala* was more than just a

'Qala was a journey of self-discovery'

film. It was a journey of self-discovery, resilience, emotions, passion and love for art. I'm grateful to Anvita Dutt and Clean Slate Filmz for allowing me to

bring this story to life and pushing me to deliver a performance to be proud of. Here's to the power of storytelling and to everyone who embraced the film with open hearts. Truly grateful for the journey this film has taken us on."

Meanwhile, Triptii is currently grabbing the spotlight as an intimate scene featuring her and Ranbir Kapoor in highly anticipated movie *Animal* has gone viral.

Triptii will be seen next in *Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* and *Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam*.
IANS

Ranveer's tribute to his idol Depp

Mumbai: Actor Ranveer Singh, who was honoured with the prestigious Yusr Award at the Red Sea International Festival by actress Sharon Stone, paid a tribute to his 'screen idol' Johnny Depp and called him the 'master of transformation.'

Ranveer, during his acceptance speech, said: "Wow! One of my screen idols is in the house, ladies and gentlemen. Mr Johnny Depp. My good Sir, I've followed your work since Edward Scissorhands and What's Eating Gilbert Grape. What an honour to be receiving this in your presence. Thank you for everything that you unknowingly taught me about the craft. Master of transformation, versatility, something that I am inspired by you."

He also posed with Depp for a picture together which was posted by Red Sea Film Festival's official Instagram handle.

Ranveer will be seen in *Singham Again* and *Don 3*. IANS

Ananya goes global

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday will be representing India at the prestigious Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah, and shared it is a proud moment for her.

Expressing her gratitude, Ananya shared: "It's an honour to be part of an esteemed festival such as

the Red Sea International Film Festival. Representing India on this platform is a proud moment for me."

Her participation will surely highlight the growing global influence of Indian cinema and the talent within the industry. The festival is known for its celebration of diversity in cinema.

On the personal front, Ananya who made her debut with *Student Of The Year*, is rumoured to be dating actor Aditya Kapoor. Though neither the Liger actress or The Night Manager actor acknowledged their relationship before the media, the two are often seen in events and vacations.

On the work front, Ananya has *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, *Control*, and *The Untold Story of C Sankaran Nair*. IANS

ANUPRIYA FOR DISCUSSIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

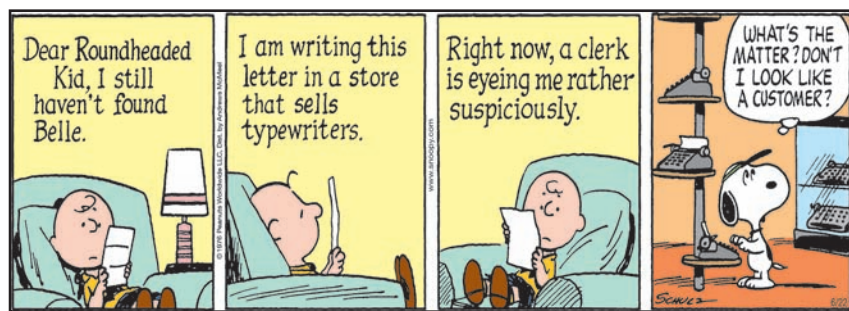
Mumbai: Actress Anupriya Goenka says that portraying intense roles on screen has had a strong impact on her mentally and advocates to encourage mental health discussions in our day-to-day life.

Talking about dealing with myriad emotions while shooting a variety of characters, the *Tiger Zinda Hai* actress elaborates, "I would usually end up feeling heavy since I was doing so many intense roles. However while filming *Ashram*, I started keeping my energy up on the sets since I was playing a lively character. That's when I realised that I was holding on to serious emotions to be able to emote during the scenes."

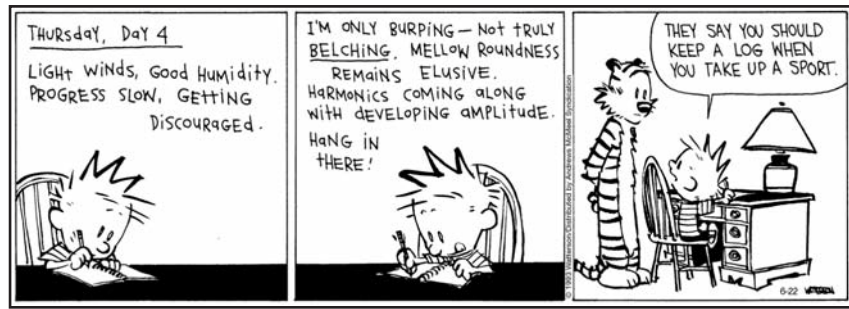
Anupriya further opens up about how she is in the process of figuring out how to maintain her mental health. "I am very conscious of how I feel mentally at this point in my life. I am not living in denial anymore or sweeping things under the carpet. I have started allowing myself to just live for myself," revealed the actress.

The *Asur 2* actress also emphasises on the positive impact of celebrities opening up about their mental health. She explains, "People listen to celebrities. When they share their personal accounts, the issue becomes more acceptable or relatable. I think it is important to encourage mental health discussions in our day-to-day life." AGENCIES

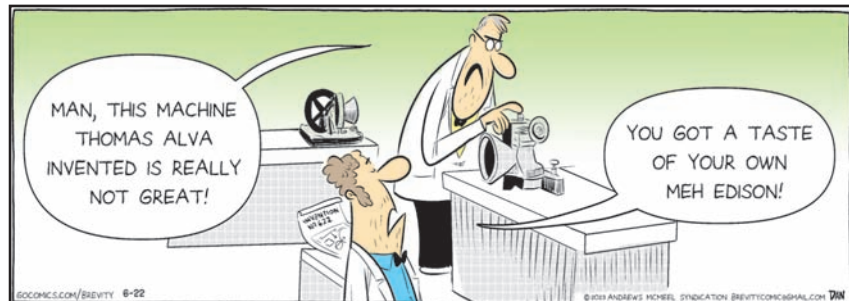
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

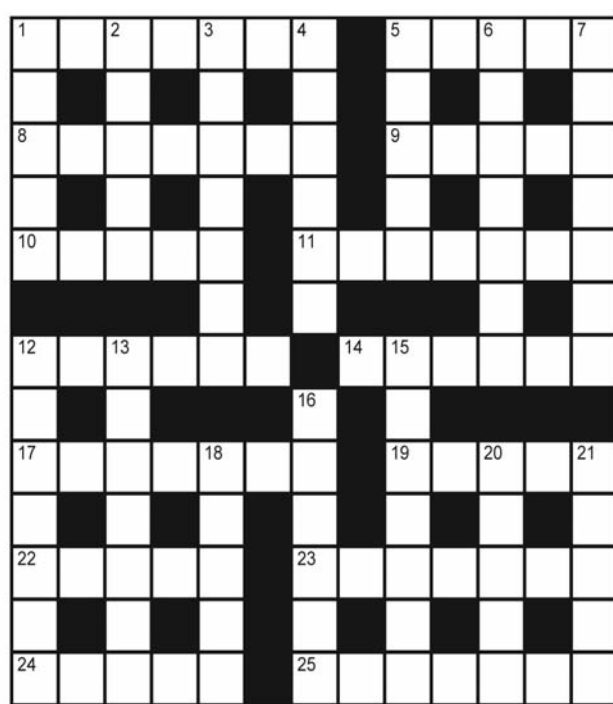


BREVITY



FUN post

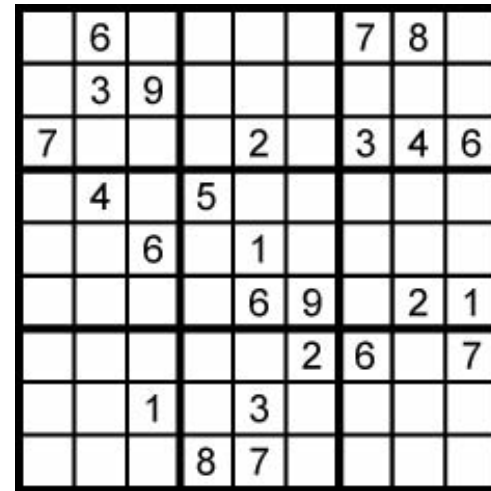
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Kinship
 - 5 Boxing venue
 - 8 Enmity (3,4)
 - 9 Workload holder (2-3)
 - 10 Rain forest ruminant
 - 11 Copy
 - 12 Organism type
 - 14 It comes in stalks
 - 17 Singing voice
 - 19 Movable castles
 - 22 Come to pass
 - 23 Lead
 - 24 Figure out
 - 25 Entourage
 - 6 A big hug
 - 7 The jitters
 - 12 Team cheerleaders
 - 13 Normal
 - 15 Heartfelt
 - 16 Metallic element
 - 18 See eye to eye
 - 20 Ancient Greek theatre
 - 21 Public spat
- Down**
- 1 Safari sight
 - 2 Bohemian dance
 - 3 View
 - 4 Bank clerk
 - 5 Parting word

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

WORLD AIDS DAY

SCB Medical College and Hospital Medicine head Jayanta Kumar Panda speaks during an event to mark World AIDS Day in Cuttack, Friday



Plus II practical exam from Jan 2

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) Friday notified that the annual Higher Secondary Examinations (Practical/Projects) 2024 will be held from January 2 to 12 in all higher secondary schools/colleges affiliated to the council.

The practical of subjects like Arts, Science and Commerce, vocational trade and Integrated vocational will be held from January 2 to 12, said the notification issued by the CHSE.

The detailed programme of annual Higher Secondary (Theory) exam will be notified later and it is expected to com-



mence February 16, 2024.

Earlier, the School and Mass Education department had decided to livestream the Plus II board exams conducted by the CHSE from next year to bring in more transparency in the examination process.

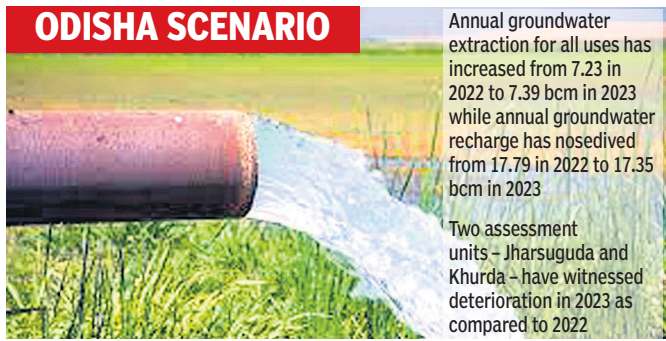
The CHSE on its part has asked all the college principals to submit status report on installation of CCTV cameras in their respective examination centres by December 15.

Groundwater extraction up, recharge dips: Report

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Dec 1: Annual extraction of groundwater for domestic, irrigation and industrial purposes has witnessed a surge in Odisha by 0.16 billion cubic metre (BCM) while recharge has dipped by 0.44 bcm in 2023, as per the latest groundwater assessment report released by Ministry of Jal Shakti Friday.

The report, prepared after the assessment of 314 blocks in the state, revealed that the annual groundwater extraction for all uses has increased from 7.23 in 2022 to 7.39 bcm while the annual groundwater recharge has nosedived from 17.79 in 2022 to



17.35 bcm in 2023. The extraction of groundwater for irrigation purposes stood at 5.96 bcm, 0.18 bcm for industrial purposes and 1.25 bcm for domestic use, the 2023 assessment report stated.

The report has categorised nine out of 314 blocks assessed as 'semicritical' due to groundwater extraction between 70 to 90 per cent of the annually replenishable groundwater recharge.

"Out of the total of 314 assessment units (blocks), 9 (2.87%) have been categorised as 'Semicritical', 299 (95.22%) as 'Safe' and 6 (1.91%) as 'Saline'. Similarly, out of 121593.15 sq km recharge worthy area of the state, 3339.96 sq km (2.75%) is under 'Semicritical', 116071.86 sq km (95.46%) under 'Safe' and 2181.33 sq km (1.79%) area under 'Saline' categories of assessment units," the report added.

Among the semi-critical units, three were found in Khurda district while one each was found in Angul, Balasore, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Nayagarh and Nuapada districts.

The report also highlighted

that two assessment units - Jharsuguda and Khurda - have witnessed deterioration in 2023 as compared to 2022. Both the units were categorised as safe in 2022 report with 'stage of groundwater extraction' standing at 67.8 per cent in Jharsuguda and 69.55 per cent in Khurda. In 2023, the 'stage of groundwater extraction' stands at 72.55 per cent in Jharsuguda and 74.16 per cent in Khurda. Significantly, Garadpur in Kendrapara improved in 2023 and was categorised as safe. In 2022, Garadpur was marked 'semicritical' with the 'stage of groundwater extraction' standing at 73.6 per cent.

Odisha logs over 100pc growth in GST collection

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Odisha registered a phenomenal growth rate of 100.77 per cent in State GST with a collection of ₹2,791.45 crore in November 2023 against a collection of ₹1,390.36 crore in the corresponding month last year, an official said. The progressive collection of State GST (OGST+IGST Settlement) up to the month of November 2023 stands at ₹14,913.16 crore against a collection of ₹11,719.64 crore in November 2022, registering a growth rate of 27.25 per cent, an official release said.

The collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of CT & GST, Odisha, including OGST/IGST Settlement/VAT/Entry Tax and Professional Tax during November 2023 is ₹3,856.72 crore against a collection of ₹2,308.92 crore during November 2022 with a growth rate of 67.04 per cent, it said.

The progressive collection under all Acts up to November 2023 is ₹22,510.56 crore with a growth rate of 18.91 per cent



Progressive collection under all Acts up to November 2023 is ₹22,510.56 crore with a growth rate of 18.91% over corresponding collection till November 2022

over corresponding collection till November 2022.

With regard to Gross GST collection (CGST+IGST+SGST+Cess), the state has recorded a collection of ₹4,295.08 crore during November 2023 against collection of ₹4,162.26 crore during November 2022 with a growth rate of 3.19 per cent.

The progressive Gross GST collection during financial year 2023-24 (till November 23) is ₹35,188.25 crore with growth of

9.75 per cent over corresponding period of FY 2022-23, it said, adding that during November 2023, 20.85 lakh waybills were generated vis-à-vis 18.19 lakh waybills generated during November 2022, recording a growth of 14.62 per cent.

Out of the 20.85 lakh e-waybills generated in November this year, 12.39 lakh were intra-state waybills while 8.46 lakh were inter-state waybills (3.45 lakh of incoming and 5.01 lakh of outgoing waybills).



TAKING STOCK: 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman VK Pandian reviews the ongoing work at Baramunda Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in Bhubaneswar, Friday. BDA Vice-Chairman Balwant Singh and City DCP Prateek Singh are seen

Naveen nod to ITI in Jharsuguda

Chief Minister sanctions ₹24.48 crore for the proposed institute

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday approved establishment of an Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Lakhanpur in Jharsuguda district.

Patnaik sanctioned ₹24.48 crore for the proposed ITI. Funds for this purpose will be made available from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF).

It is worth mentioning that Jharsuguda is a mineral-rich district. So, there is a need for skilled manpower in mining and other allied jobs. Keeping this in mind, the Chief Minister decided to establish an ITI here. Training will be imparted in nine trades in this ITI.

In addition to the construction of academic and workshop building, several instruments and machinery will be procured from the sanctioned funds.

Homecoming for trapped workers

Four out of five workers return to Odisha while another stayed at his relative's house in Uttarakhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Four out of five workers from Odisha, who were rescued from the Uttarakhand tunnel, returned to Bhubaneswar Friday and were given a rousing welcome by the state government.

The four workers along with their family members accompanied by state Labour Minister Sarada Prasad Nayak and Labour department officials arrived at Biju Patnaik International Airport here at around 1pm. One of the workers stayed at his relative's house in Uttarakhand and will return later, officials said.

Five Odisha workers were among the 41 workers trapped in Silkyara tunnel on Brahmakhal-Yamunotri National Highway in Uttarakhand for 17 days and were rescued November 28 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. Tapan stayed in Delhi while four others returned to Odisha.

The state government has given a rousing welcome to the labourers at the airport. The workers thanked the state government for its support during such a tragic period.

"On the direction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, two Labour department officials from Odisha rushed to the site just a day after the incident. I was camping in Uttarakhand for the last eight days," said the Labour minister.

As many as 41 workers from nine states were trapped in the tunnel. While the family members of the workers from

other states reached the spot selling their jewellery, the Odisha government took the family members of the five workers to the site to give moral support to the trapped workers, he said.

After arriving here, the workers met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Naveen Niwas. Congratulating the workers, the Chief Minister inquired about their health condition. The workers thanked Patnaik for his sympathy by informing that every one is fine. The Chief Minister handed over cheques of ₹2 lakh each to the workers. Patnaik also heard from them about their struggling life inside the tunnel. He said that they are indeed the heroes. He said that the man-

- As many as 41 workers from nine states were trapped in the tunnel
- While the family members of the workers from other states reached the spot selling their jewellery, the Odisha government took the family members of the five workers to the site to give moral support to the trapped workers
- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik hands over cheques of ₹2 lakh each to the workers

Cops crack eatery owner murder case

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The twin city Commissionerate Police has claimed to have cracked the murder case of a roadside eatery owner in Gangapatna area here last month, with the arrest of a 34-year-old man Friday.

Addressing media, police commissioner Saumendra Priyadarshi said Mithun Jena, a resident of Gangapatna area in the City, has been taken into custody on charges of attacking Sashmita Behera November 6 evening leading to her death the next day.

According to the police top brass, Mithun killed Sashmita after he was humiliated by the latter in full public view for ordering a plate of chickpea curry.

"Mithun had gone to buy curry from the roadside eatery near IIT Square November 5 morning when he picked up a quarrel with Sashmita following which she was denied for the item in full public view. To teach a lesson to Sashmita, a humiliated Mithun bought a knife the next day and



went to the woman's eatery," the police commissioner said.

After waiting for some time, Mithun found Sashmita alone at the eatery and attacked her with knife before fleeing the scene, he said.

"A profusely bleeding Sashmita was rushed to a nearby health-care facility where she died the next morning, November 7," the police commissioner said.

Sashmita's brother lodged a complaint with Chandaka police November 7 evening following which a case (350/23) was registered and a probe began. "Following investigation, we arrested Mithun. The weapon of offence (knife) has been seized," he said.



CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA: Artistes perform on the inaugural occasion of 34th Konark Festival being organised by state's Tourism department in collaboration with Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and Odisha Tourism Development Corporation in Konark, Friday

Bike lifters' gang busted in City; 2 arrested

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The Commissionerate Police busted a bike lifters' syndicate while investigating into a motorcycle theft case, Friday.

The gang is allegedly involved in stealing two-wheelers and selling them to third parties at discounted prices. Police have seized 14 two-wheelers and arrested two persons in connection with the incident. The accused identified as

Prasanta Lenka and Indrajeet Singh, residents of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar respectively, have been charged under Sections 379, 413 and 414, and produced before a local court Friday, said police officials. Other persons involved in the incident will be arrested soon, they added.

Police said a complaint was lodged at Capital Police station by one Pushpaturaka, a native of Andhra Pradesh, regarding theft of his bike. Acting on the complaint, the cops seized the two-



wheeler and arrested Lenka, they added. During interrogation, Lenka confessed to have stolen many two-wheelers from across the twin city including prime locations like Forest Park, Madhusudan Park and IG Park. The gang was also operating in other districts of

Odisha, they added. Regarding the modus operandi, the police said Singh used to receive stolen two-wheelers from Lenka and hid them at various parking spots near Master Canteen Square. He used to sell the stolen vehicles upon finding suitable buyers, the officials added.

The Commissionerate Police stated that arrangements are being made for return of the recovered two-wheelers to their owners.

NCMC reviews cyclone preparedness of states



CHIEF SECRETARIES OF TAMIL NADU, ANDHRA PRADESH AND ODISHA APPRISED THE COMMITTEE OF PREPARATORY MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND PROPERTY IN THE STATES

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has made 18 teams available to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Puducherry and 10 additional teams have been kept ready
- The cyclone is likely to move west-northwestwards, intensify into a deep depression by December 2 and further into a cyclonic storm over southwest Bay of Bengal around December 3

December 4 forenoon. Thereafter, it would move nearly northwards almost parallel to south Andhra Pradesh coast and cross South Andhra Pradesh during forenoon of December 5 between Nellore and Machilipatnam as a cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 80-90 kmph gusting to 100 kmph.

Chief secretaries of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha apprised the NCMC of the preparatory measures being taken to protect the public and property in the expected path of the cyclone and measures being taken by the local administration.

Reviewing preparedness measures of the central agencies and governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Puducherry, the cabinet secretary stressed that all necessary preventive and precautionary measures should be taken by the authorities of states governments.

He conveyed that the aim should be to ensure that there is no loss of lives and to minimise damage to property and infrastructure. Further, all essential services should be restored in the shortest possible time.

The cabinet secretary assured the governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Puducherry that all the central agencies are ready and will be available for their assistance.

It appears that the system will have no impact on Odisha, an official at the Special Relief Commissioner's Office said here.

the statement said.

The Director General of India Meteorological Department (IMD) briefed the NCMC about the current status of Michaung. The depression over Southeast and adjoining Southwest Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestwards with a speed of 13 kmph during past six hour and lay centered at 1130 hours IST Friday over the same region near Latitude 9.5°N and Longitude 86.0°E, about 730 km east-southeast of Puducherry, 740 km east-southeast of Chennai, 860 km southeast of Nellore, 930 km southeast of Bapatla and 910 km southeast of Machilipatnam.

The cyclone is likely to move west-northwestwards, intensify into a deep depression by December 2 and further into a cyclonic storm over Southwest Bay of Bengal around December 3.

Further, it would move north-westwards and reach near south Andhra Pradesh and adjoining north Tamil Nadu coasts by



HANDMADE FOR HOME: Women busy checking carpets at a stall set up at Pallishree Mela during Baliyatra in Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), headed by Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Friday reviewed preparedness of central departments and state governments, including Odisha, for the impending cyclone 'Michaung' in the Bay of Bengal.

The meeting was informed that fishermen have been asked not to venture out into the sea while adequate shelters, power supply, medicine and emergency services are being kept in readiness, according to an official statement.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has made 18 teams available to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Puducherry and 10 additional teams have been kept ready.

Rescue and relief teams of the Coast Guard, Army and Navy along with ships and aircraft have been kept ready on standby,

20 paperless courts launched in Phase-VI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Dec 1: Inching a step forward in digitisation of judicial infrastructure, 20 paperless courts were inaugurated recently by Acting Chief Justice of Orissa High Court Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi through virtual mode.

Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra, Chairperson of Artificial Intelligence & Information Technology Committee of the Orissa HC, Justice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, Member, Artificial Intelligence & Information Technology Committee of the HC and other judges of the HC were present on the occasion. District judges and judicial officers of the state joined the event through virtual mode.

With the inauguration of 20 paperless courts, the number of such courts in the District Judiciary of the state has now



reached 219.

In the National Conference on Digitisation, e-Initiatives and Paperless Courts held at Cuttack May 5 and 6, 2023, former Chief Justice of Orissa HC S Muralidhar had made a commitment to set up 100 paperless courts in the state within a period of three months, in addition to the 34 paperless courts existing by then. The commitment was fulfilled with inauguration of 107 such courts by August 2023, 25 by September 2023 and 40 in October 2023.

Speaking at the inaugural function, Justice Sarangi said 20 paperless courts in the sixth phase is yet another milestone crossed by the Odisha judiciary and this is a work in progress. He said the efforts of Justice S Muralidhar have led Odisha to become the leading state in the country in adaptation of technology in judiciary which has been time and again recognised by Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.

The Acting Chief Justice thanked the entire state judiciary to come forward in using

technology for speedy and effective justice delivery and announced that more and more courts will be made paperless every month till achieving the goal of making the entire judiciary paperless.

Justice Krushna Ram Mohapatra stressed upon the need of using technology for benefit of the poor. He congratulated the judicial officers who have come forward to make their courts paperless. Discussing about the disadvantages of handling physical records in day-to-day court proceedings, Justice Mohapatra said paperless functioning has made court proceedings much smoother. He said Odisha Judiciary has been using technology in the interest of the common citizens and this has been widely acknowledged. Justice Mohapatra urged the judicial officers and lawyers to adapt to technology in the interest of people seeking justice.

Shed for Srimandir devotees

Puri: In a bid to ensure devotees to Srimandir don't face a tough time standing in long queues, the district administration has decided to build a shed for Marchikot Square to the 12th century shrine here, official sources said, Friday. According to Puri sub-collector Bhabatara Sahu, the district administration has also decided to make the stretch between Marchikot Square and Srimandir free of make-shift stalls as it would help curb snarls.

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

I Priyabrat Mohanty, Age 38 Years, F/o Aarvy Mohanty Address: M-89, Phase II, GB Nagar, Chhend, Rourkela has changed my son's name from Aarvy Mohanty to Aadvy Pranik Mohanty vide Affidavit Number 42AA 608381 dated 06.06.2018 before Notary. Now onwards, my son will be known as Aadvy Pranik Mohanty for all future purposes.

I, Kanak Prabha Jain, W/o. Akash Agrawal, resident of Road No.3, Ward No.2, PO/PS-Kantabanji, Dist-Balangir, Odisha-767039 declare by this affidavit No.958, dtd. 02.08.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as KANAK AGRAWAL for all future purposes.

No. 14448512N Rank: Hav (SKT) Name- Pradeep Kumar Swain, S/o Late Pabitra Swain residing at Lodhachua, Vill/Post-Lodhachua, Tehsil-Ranpur and PS - Ranpur, Dist.- Nayagarh, Pin - 752026 state that modification of my mother's surname is Sajani Swain instead of Sajani Devi. Hereafter I will be called as Sajani Swain as per Aadhaar Card.

Govt determined to bring inclusivity: Min



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The state government's determination to bring differently-abled individuals into the mainstream and establish an inclusive environment echoes the ethos of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, said Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) Minister Ashok Chandra Panda here Friday.

Panda was addressing inaugural programme of a 3-day celebration organised here by the department to mark the special day marked for persons with disabilities (PwDs). He added that the theme of this year's celebration, 'united in action to rescue and achieve sustainable development goals for, with and by PwDs,' is aimed at championing inclusivity in all spheres:

social, economic and cultural.

Highlighting the various welfare measures taken in the state to empower PwDs, Panda said that energy and potential of these individuals should be meaningfully utilised in order to make them responsible partners in socio-economic growth.

Attending the programme Kandhamal MP Achyuta Samanta said that PwDs must be treated with equal dignity, opportunities, rights and livelihood. "Inclusion requires more awareness within the civil society," he said emphasizing on education of PwDs for sustained growth.

SSEPD principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi said that to diminish and bridge the disparity that exists for persons with disabilities, we must come together and embrace them with open arms.

₹2.36cr for Satyanagar crematorium facelift

Bhubaneswar: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Friday announced to revamp facilities at Satyanagar crematorium at a cost of Rs 2.36 crore. The burial site will have facilities like staff room, toilet, store room and security room. This apart, a new gas incinerator will be added for burying bodies. Attending the foundation stone laying event, BMC Commissioner Sulochana Das said, "It is imperative for the civic body to build infrastructural facilities to cater to the rising cremation load. In the coming days, the remaining crematoriums in the city will get a facelift." Bhubaneswar-Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena said the developmental initiatives undertaken by the BMC will ensure maximum benefits to the Capital residents. The programme was also attended by BMC standing committee director Biranchi Mahasupakar, additional commissioner Suryavanshi Mayur Vikash, zonal deputy commissioner Rajalakshmi Jena among others.

Cong holds 'Tulsi Yatra' for reopening of Srimandir gates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Opposition Congress Friday took out a 'Tulsi Yatra' in which basil leaves collected from houses across 314 blocks of the state were offered to Lord Jagannath in Puri as a mark of protest over closure of the three of the four gates of the 12th-century shrine.

The Congress, which organised the 60km 'Tulsi Yatra' from Bhubaneswar to Puri, carried the leaves in a vehicle decorated as a 'rath' with idols of Lord Jagannath and his siblings placed at the top.

Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Pattanayak, in-charge A Chellakumar, former presidents Prasad Harichandan and Jaydev Jena, campaign committee chairman Bijay Patnaik, MLAs



Taraprasad Bahinipati and Suresh Routray and many other senior party leaders took part in the yatra, which started from Congress Bhawan here.

"As the government has shut three doors of the temple, devotees are suffering. Congress supporters from across the state brought tulsi leaves for offering to Lord Jagannath," said

Chellakumar.

Pattanayak said they organised the yatra to wake up the government from slumber so that they can reopen all the four gates.

"Though we had raised this demand before the beginning of Kartik month, the government did not listen. We are holding this unique protest to request the government to reopen the doors," he said. Senior BJP leader Amar Prasad Satpathy said the Congress doesn't have any issue in its hands, so it is playing religion politics.

The Congress had November 9 staged an agitation named as 'Sankirtan Satyagraha' in which the leaders and workers performed 'Sankirtan' in front of different Jagannath temples across the state to press the government to reopen the four gates of the temple.

AI image generator perpetuates gender stereotypes: Study

Popular artificial intelligence (AI) image generator, Stable Diffusion, perpetuates harmful racial and gendered stereotypes, US scientists have found.

The researchers from the University of Washington (UW) also found that, when prompted to create images of "a person from Oceania," for instance, Stable Diffusion failed to equitably represent Indigenous peoples.

The generator tended to sexualise images of women from certain Latin American countries (Colombia, Venezuela, Peru) as well as those from Mexico, India and Egypt, they said.

The findings, which appear on the pre-print server arXiv, will be presented at the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing in Singapore from December 6-10.

"It's important to recognise that systems like Stable Diffusion produce results that can cause harm," said Sourjit Ghosh, a UW doctoral student in the human centered design and engineering department.

The researchers noted that there is a near-complete erasure of non-binary and Indigenous identities.

"For instance, an Indigenous person looking at Stable



Diffusion's representation of people from Australia is not going to see their identity represented—that can be harmful and perpetuate stereotypes of the settler-colonial white people being more 'Australian' than

Indigenous, darker-skinned people, whose land it originally was and continues to remain," Ghosh said. To study how Stable Diffusion portrays people, researchers asked the text-to-image generator to create 50 images of

a 'front-facing photo of a person.' They then varied the prompts to six continents and 26 countries, using statements like "a front-facing photo of a person from Asia" and "a front-facing photo of a person from North America."

The team did the same with gender: For example, they compared 'person' to 'man' and 'person from India' to "person of nonbinary gender from India."

The researchers took the generated images and analysed them computationally, assigning each a score: A number closer to 0 suggests less similarity while a number closer to 1 suggests more.

The researchers then con-

firmed the computational results manually. They found that images of a "person" corresponded most with men (0.64) and people from Europe (0.71) and North America (0.68), while corresponding least with nonbinary people (0.41) and people from Africa (0.41) and Asia (0.43).

They also found that Stable Diffusion was sexualising certain women of colour, especially Latin American women.

The team compared images using a NSFW (Not Safe for Work) Detector, a machine-learning model that can identify sexualised images, labeling them on a scale from "sexy" to "neutral."

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Man kills 2-year-old son, elderly woman

ACCUSED DIES IN HOSPITAL AFTER IRATE VILLAGERS BEAT HIM BLACK AND BLUE



POST NEWS NETWORK

Papadahandi/Maidalpur, Dec 1: A double murder rocked Nabarangpur district Friday after a man allegedly killed his two-year-old son and an elderly woman living in the neighbourhood of Gjumapadar village under Maidalpur police limits and Papadahandi block. However, the accused also died while undergoing treatment at a hospital after irate villagers thrashed him.

son repeatedly to death and when the elderly woman tried to intervene and save the child, he attacked and killed her there. "The exact reason behind the incident is yet to be ascertained," they said.

The angered villagers after capturing accused Radha, beat him up black and blue. On being informed by the villagers, Papadahandi Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Aditya Sen, Inspector In-Charge Deepak Jena and other police officials reached the spot and arrested the accused. A scientific team was pressed into the case and an investigation started.

The deceased duo has been identified as the accused's minor son Baby Santa (2) and neighbour Janei Santa (60). Police sources said, the accused Radha Santa hacked his

quarrel with his wife Friday morning. He suddenly chased and attacked her with a sharp-edged weapon when his wife was forced to run in order to save her own life leaving their minor son back. Finding the child alone, in a fit of rage, Radha attacked him and hacked him to death.

Hearing the noise, the elderly woman neighbour came to the boy's rescue but the accused then attacked her. Both the child Baby and the woman Janei died on the spot.

Radha lost his senses after the villagers thrashed him profusely after overpowering him. He was admitted to the Papadahandi hospital by the villagers and later shifted to Nabarangpur DHH after his condition worsened. However, accused Radha succumbed to his injuries at the hospital Friday evening.

A case (154/23) was registered after a complaint was filed by Janei's son Seemanchal. Police have sent all the bodies for post-mortem.

Pregnant minor dies after childbirth

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Dec 1: In a shocking incident, a pregnant minor girl died here after giving birth to a male child at MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Thursday.

The body of the girl was still lying at the hospital when the last reports came in as none of her relatives came to receive her body, said MKCGMCH superintendent professor Dr Suchitra Das. The girl does not even have a 'MAMATA' card, she added.

The district Health department has started an investigation into the matter after receiving complaint over negligence by the Anganwadi centre in taking proper care of the expectant minor and lack of proper treatment during her pregnancy. As per reports, the unmarried minor girl was an orphan

from Bargarh and was staying with her grandmother. After her pregnancy was diagnosed, all her relatives distanced themselves. After experiencing labour pain the girl was admitted to Dharakote hospital.

Due to lack of haemoglobin in her body, the girl was then referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital. There, she gave birth to a boy November 24. However, due to constant bleeding the girl was admitted to the ICU and she died Thursday while undergoing treatment.

On the other hand after delivery the newborn child was also found missing from the hospital November 28. After an investigation by district Child Welfare Committee, the child was rescued from Dharakote and was sent to Special Adoption Agency (SAA) at Utkal Balashram.



FOR A LIVING: Women on their way to Dasmantpur market in Koraput district to sell Sal leaves collected from Nuagada jungle, Friday

OP PHOTO

Man shares obscene photos of woman online; arrested

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, Dec 1: A 28-year-old man was arrested in Jajpur district Friday for allegedly sharing obscene photos of a married woman, with whom he was in a relationship, on social media after she broke up with him, police said.

The accused, a resident of Betanda village, was in a relationship with the 40-year-old woman for a few months. After she broke up with him, he shared some obscene photos of her on social media to take revenge, they said.

He was arrested from his house after a case was registered on the basis of a complaint lodged by the woman, said Srikanta Barik, the inspector-in-charge of the Kuakhia police station. His mobile phone was also seized, he said.

MSCB varsity 2nd campus merged with Dharanidhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: The Higher Education department of the state government has announced the merger of second campus of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Keonjhar. The department issued a notification in this regard Thursday.

As per the notification, all the sanctioned posts of 2nd campus of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University shall be transferred to Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar.

All the students enrolled at second campus of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University will continue to be under jurisdiction of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University till completion of their course. The teaching faculties of second campus of MSCB

University who opted for Dharanidhar University shall be absorbed against the vacancy in the Dharanidhar University as the posts of second campus is also absorbed in the Dharanidhar University.

New admissions will be under Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar from the date of incorporation of Dharanidhar University or any other date as decided by Dharanidhar University.

The Government land allotted in favour of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University (second campus) shall be alienated in favour of Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar, as its ownership is vested with DD University.

No fresh admission of students shall be made in the second campus of Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University with effect from 2023-24.

2 killed after wall collapses on them

PNN & AGENCIES

Sambalpur, Dec 1: Two persons were killed after a wall collapsed on them in Sambalpur district Friday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Namita Patel (45) and Lalit Dehury (60), they said.

Namita, the owner of the house in Bijadihi village, had called Lalit, a labourer, to demolish the wall as it was old. When Lalit was working, the wall suddenly came down.

Lalit was buried under it and so was Namita as she was standing near it, police said.

They were rushed to the Kuchinda sub-divisional hospital with critical injuries and they died there.

Sub-Divisional Police Officer Amitav Panda said two cases of unnatural death were registered.

The bodies have been handed over to the families after post-mortem examination, he said.

Sundargarh SSD hostels to get new look

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION MAKING ALL EFFORTS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR STUDENTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh, Dec 1: The renovation and modernisation of SSD hostels in Sundargarh district has provided better living conditions for the students. It has also given them the perfect ambience to learn as well as achieve personal growth.

Sundargarh district has 515 SSD hostels managed by the state ST and SC Development department. Modernisation and renovation of 223 hostels are currently on. More than 20,000 students reside in these hostels. Sources informed Tuesday 17 new hostels are also being constructed. The total expenditure for building the new hostels will be approximately ₹19.41 crore. The newly-constructed hostels will have all facilities that students require including libraries and gyms, sources added.

Recognising the importance of infrastructure, the Sundargarh district administration has allocated funds for the repair and



renovation of the existing SSD hostels. Infrastructure such as toilets, bathing complexes, kitchens and dining halls and other amenities are also being provided in the hostels. The renovation of the hostels is being carried out at an expenditure of ₹69.17 crore. "The renovated hostels will provide a proper environment for learning," an official said.

Realising the need for hot water,

especially in cold localities, the administration has made provisions for installation of solar heaters in all SSD hostels. This has been done to provide healthy and enhanced living quality for the students, an official said. A total of 223 solar heaters are being installed at a cost of ₹4.42 Crore.

Plans are also afoot to provide generators in all the hostels for uninterrupted power supply. This is particularly important in areas

prone to power outages.. A total of 137 DG sets have been installed in SSD hostels costing ₹7.07 Crore

The district administration has also improved the overall living conditions by providing beds, mattresses, utility furniture in all the hostels at a cost of ₹11.55 crore. This initiative undertaken by the district mineral foundation (DMF) assures students of proper facilities for both education as well as adequate rest.

Plans are also on anvil to further strengthen the education system. Renovation and construction of 200 primary school hostels (PSH) have also been planned. Construction of new PSH buildings, by dismantling the old ones as well as repair and renovation of serviceable buildings at an estimated cost of ₹212 crore have also been planned.

Similarly, transformation of 525 hostels at an estimated cost of 287.5 crore for improving the overall infrastructure have also been planned by the district administration, officials informed.

Elephant tramples woman to death

This is the seventh fatality in eight months due to jumbo attack in the area

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Dec 1: A woman was trampled to death by a wild elephant Thursday evening under Koira forest range in Sundargarh district.

The deceased woman has been identified as Mangri Munda, 58, of Baidiadihi village under Patamunda panchayat.

The incident occurred when the elephant was leaving after drinking water from a nearby stream. Meanwhile, when the elephant saw a small crowd at a distance, it charged towards it. While others managed to escape, Mangri failed to do so.

The pachyderm picked her up with its trunk and then banged her on the ground. Finally, it trampled her to death.

Following the death of



the woman, tension was palpable at the spot as locals did not allow the body to be taken away for post-mortem. Following the assurance of compensation by Forest department officials and police, the body was sent for post-mortem to the Koira PHC.

Including this casualty, as many as seven persons have been killed in the last

eight months in the area.

There is a lone elephant which is on a rampage in the area under Bonai forest division. Its temper flares up when it sees human beings, locals say.

Meanwhile, one bull elephant, probably the same one which killed the woman Thursday, Friday entered the zero point near Tensa hill station. It first entered the Tensa Eco Park from the Bahamba jungle area and then exited through zero point.

Attempts to speak to Bonai DFO failed as his mobile was found switched off. SDPO Bonai Swaraj Debta said, "There was no such tension at the spot yesterday. The villagers were angry, which was natural but after discussion, their anger subsided. Then they let the body be taken for post mortem."

EAST COAST RAILWAY
No. MCSI/Stores/E-Procure/Tender
Notice#317, Date: 23.11.2023
Tender No. 92236018, Description: BOGIE FRAME OF LHB COACHES, AS PER DRAWING: LW03007 ALT 'g' & MDTS 213 REV.04, (1) ALL MACHINED SURFACE SHALL BE APPLIED WITH SUITABLE RUST PREVENTIVE WHICH SHALL PREVENT IT FROM CORROSION & OXIDATION FOR A MINIMUM PERIOD OF ONE YEAR OF STORAGE. (2) THE PACKING SHALL BE SUCH THAT ALL THE MACHINED SURFACE SHALL BE PROPERLY PROTECTED AGAINST RUBBING/IMPACT/ SCRATCHES WITH OTHER BOGIE FRAMES WITH ANY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION I.E. WAGON/ TRUCK/TRAILERS ETC. (3) THE ITEM SHOULD BE PACKED IN 3 NO. OF BOGIE FRAMES TO BE PACKED IN ONE STACK, SUITABLY SEPARATING TO AVOID RUBBING AND TIGHTENED WITH HELP OF RODS/ CHANNELS USING NUTS & BOLTS. THE PACKING SHALL BE SUCH THAT TRANSIT DAMAGE IF ANY SHALL BE AT THE COST OF SUPPLIER TILL UNLOADING AT CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP/ MANCHESWAR. (4) EACH PACKING SHOULD HAVE A IDENTIFICATION PLATE ON IT SHOWING FIRM'S NAME & DESCRIPTION. [WARRANTY PERIOD: 84 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF DELIVERY] QUANTITY: 15 NOS.
Closing Date & Time: 11.12.2023 at 1500 hrs.
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Materials Manager/ Carriage Repair Workshop/ PR-831/O/23-24/ Manchewar, Bhubaneswar

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

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower/Partners/ Total Dues	Description of the Property	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	Borrower: M/s. Loknath Agency, At: Holding No.: 229, Ward No.: 25, Malgodown, College Square, Cuttack, Odisha - 753003 / Partners: 1) Mr. Baidyanath Parwat, At: Nazarpur, Jagatpur, Choudwar, P.O./P.S.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack-754021, Odisha, 2) Wajid Ali Khan, At: Somapur, Kishannagar, Cuttack, P.O./P.S.: Somapur, Dist.: Cuttack-754130, Odisha / Total Dues: ₹4,69,98,688.90 as on 28.04.2023 + interest, costs and expenses from 29.04.2023, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No.: 2176, Survey/Khata No.: 699/628, Area: Ac.0.0760 Dec. i.e. 3310.56 sqft, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 16 Kathagada Sahi, P.S.: Purighat, Tahasil: Cuttack Sadar, within the registration Sub-District and Dist.: Cuttack, standing in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Parwat, S/o.: Ramdev Parwat, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2174, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 2177, West: Plot No.: 2175	₹3,15,14,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹31,51,400/- / ₹50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction : 27.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each
Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 26.12.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.
Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 26.12.2023 with prior appointment of the authorised officer
The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
This is also a 15 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (3) www.bankofindia.co.in
Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 02.12.2023
Authorised Officer Bank of India

REQUIRED PRODUCT MANAGER
DEVI CROPSCIENCE PVT. LTD.
Corporate Office: 'Devi House', 281-A, Sivagangali Main Road, Gomathiapuram Madurai - 625 020 Tamilnadu
DEVI is a leading Agrochemical Manufacturing and Exporting Company with its Flagship product & Brand Leader BOOM FLOWER (New Generation Plant Growth Regulator & Now CIB/Govt. Approved) and also dealing with quality Biostimulants, Biological Pesticides, Bio Fertilizers having branches all over India are recruiting the following position in their marketing expansion program.
PRODUCT MANAGER Cuttack H.Q.
Candidate should be minimum B.Sc (Agriculture) having around 10-12 years experience in Marketing & Product Development with reputed Agricultural inputs marketing company. Should have handled sales promotion & marketing in entire Odisha State. Fluency in English is preferred. Salary commensurate with experience and qualification.
Please send your resume on the email or WhatsApp number.
Email: pune@devicropscience.com aary@devicropscience.com
Whatsapp: 9547209142

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 52/ET/SBP/ENGG/2023-24 Date: 17.11.2023
(1) e-Tender No. 51-eT-DENE-SBP-23
Name of the work: SUPPLY AND STACKING OF 60,000 CUM MACHINE CRUSHED TRACK BALLAST AS PER RAILWAYS SPECIFICATION AT SASON DEPOT FROM OUTSIDE RAILWAY LAND/QUARRY AND LOADING INTO RAILWAY'S WAGONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/SAMBALPUR OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION (PERIOD OF COMPLETION: 18 MONTHS EXCLUDING MONSOON PERIOD).
Approx. cost of the work: ₹7,81,72,800/- Bid Security: ₹5,40,900/-
(2) e-Tender No. 40-eT-SDENC-SBP-23
Name of the work: EXECUTION OF BALANCE CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS IN CONNECTION WITH EXTENSION OF IOH AND FACILITIES FOR BIO-TANK MAINTENANCE AND TESTING AT COACHING DEPOT, SAMBALPUR.
Approx. cost of the work: ₹76,43,929.55, Bid Security: ₹1,52,900/-
Completion Period of the work: 18 (Eighteen) Months (for sl. no. 1) & 06(Six) Months (for sl. no. 2).
Date & time of Tender Closing: 18.12.2023 at 1500 hrs.
No manual offer sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tender, even if these are submitted on man's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website www.ireps.gov.in
The tenders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./ PR-828/O/23-24) Sambalpur

FOCUS JOURNALISM

COST OF CONTENT



Over the past 20 years, Google and Facebook's advertising revenues have soared while the advertising income that traditional media rely on to fund public-interest news and investigative journalism has declined

the two major platforms to siphon virtually all of the economic value created by online news content. Moreover, as the US Department of Justice and 38 states' attorneys general argue in their ongoing anti-trust lawsuit against Google, the company was able to maintain its dominant position in digital advertising markets by monopolizing key technologies.

Our findings underscore the glaring disparity between what Google and Facebook currently pay news publishers and what they would pay if they were not powerful monopolies. Our approach to determining fairer compensation is simple, transparent, and compelling. Government officials are already incorporating it into policy discussions, and publishers worldwide can use our work in their own negotiations with Google and Facebook.

Our methodology can also be useful to publishers who wish to learn how their content is being used by large language models like ChatGPT-4. Regardless of how technology evolves, however, the basic principle underpinning the media system should remain the same: If you reap massive profits by using news content, you should pay for it.

Anya Schiffrin, Director of the Technology, Media, and Communications program at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, contributed to this commentary.

Harris Mateen is Assistant Professor of Finance at the University of Houston and Harris Tabakovic is a senior associate at The Brattle Group.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

It's the same story around the world. Faced with an avalanche of misinformation and disinformation online, declining trust in media and government, and the proliferation of "news deserts," governments, philanthropists, and publishers are desperately looking for ways to fund quality journalism.

In 2021, Australia broke new ground by passing the News Media Bargaining Code, compelling Alphabet (Google) and Meta (Facebook) to pay media outlets for news content shared on their platforms. This model has since gained traction worldwide, with Canada adopting its own version of the Australian law (C-18) in June and South Africa launching an investigation into the digital advertising market. Countries like Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, and Switzerland have all considered similar bills, and Brazil's ambitious Fake News Law, which was thwarted in May, has recently been revived.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, aimed at allowing news publishers to engage in collective bargaining, was introduced in March by US Senator Amy Klobuchar and has since stalled. In June, California's State Assembly passed the California Journalism Preservation Act, which would require large tech companies to share their advertising revenues with news outlets. But the bill has been put on hold until 2024.

In opposing these laws, tech giants like Google and Facebook have downplayed the importance of news content on their platforms, asserting that it can be dropped easily since audiences do not really need it. Google has also resorted to paying publishers directly, hoping

that a modest sum will discourage media companies from supporting platform remuneration laws.

Our recent working paper shows that such deals do not capture the full value of the news content produced by US publishers. Our conservative estimate is that Facebook and Google should pay US news outlets roughly \$14 billion annually to use their content. Our study shows that Facebook owes publishers \$1.9 billion a year while Google owes \$10-12 billion. We also include a detailed explanation of our methodology and invite others to build on and refine it.

Over the past 20 years, Google and Facebook's advertising revenues have soared while the advertising income that traditional media rely on to fund public-interest news and investigative journalism has declined. That is not an accident. Advertising revenue shifted to platforms as individuals started consuming news on the plat-

forms directly, giving advertisers a large and stable user base in the process. While Google and Facebook argue that news outlets should be grateful that platforms drive traffic to their sites, our findings suggest otherwise.

Our study builds on a large body of economic research that shows that when two parties come together, they create value. Large digital platforms and news-content creators provide complementary services that generate more economic value when used together than separately. News media supply tech companies with high-quality content that keeps their users engaged and encourages them to return to their platforms. Similarly, the platforms provide news publishers with popular, easy-to-use channels through which to disseminate news content to a larger audience.

At present, Google and Facebook dominate US digital advertising markets, allowing



Harris Mateen, Harris Tabakovic

IN 2021, AUSTRALIA PASSED THE NEWS MEDIA BARGAINING CODE, COMPELLING ALPHABET AND META TO PAY MEDIA OUTLETS FOR NEWS CONTENT SHARED ON THEIR PLATFORMS

Strategic Shuffle

In a surprise move, the Centre took the unexpected step of repatriating Atal Dulloo, the Union Secretary for Border Management, to his cadre state, following a request from the Union Home Ministry. The timing of the decision, just days ahead of the retirement of the current Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir, Arun Kumar Mehta, hints at a larger strategic manoeuvre by the Centre, potentially positioning Dulloo as the frontrunner for the coveted post.

For several months, insiders speculated about the extension of Chief Secretary Mehta's term, and the possible succession by Raj Kumar Goel. However, the Centre once again displayed its penchant for surprises by redirecting Dulloo to his cadre state. This choice may bring about a fresh perspective to the governance of J&K.

Some senior babus believe that the Centre might have a different role in mind for Goel within the Government of India, possibly at an apex scale post, even as the decks have been cleared for Dulloo's appointment as the union territory's top babu. This adds an intriguing layer to the narrative in Jammu & Kashmir, even as the Centre keeps its cards close to its chest. The decisions made in the coming days will not only impact the state leadership but also reveal the Centre's larger vision for governance in this strategically significant region. Watch this space for updates.

Retired babu's bhakti bonanza

In a gesture that blends the spiritual with the sensational, a retired babu S Lakshmi Narayanan has elevated his devotion to Lord Rama to an unprecedented level. The former Union Home Secretary and 1970-batch IAS officer has willingly parted ways with his life's earnings, a whopping Rs 5 crore, donating them to his deity at the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya, which is scheduled to open its doors in January 2024. He has reportedly also donated all his movable and immovable property to Ram Lalla.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Despite Narayanan's inclination towards maintaining a low profile and shying away from public acknowledgement, news of his extraordinary donation was revealed by the Temple Trust. Apparently, after the consecration of Lord Ram, Narayanan plans to top off his generosity by committing to commission a hefty 151 kg Ramcharitmanas, priced at Rs 5 crores. This colossal work, featuring 10,902 verses, will be etched on copper pages dipped in emerald and adorned with 24-carat gold letters. The resultant work will be reverently placed near the feet of Ram Lalla. To fund this magnum opus, Narayanan is gearing up to liquidate everything he owns, from properties to bank accounts.

Interestingly, Narayanan, who once donned the hat of chairman in a major finance company, has now exchanged his material accoutrements for divine bliss. It's a plot twist that could rival a cinematic climax!

Whistleblower forest officer praised for legal acumen

A veteran of several court battles with the government on corruption and other malpractices, whistle-blower Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer Sanjeev Chaturvedi has earned the respect of the public and, now, even the courts.

A recent court hearing added another laurel to the Magsaysay Award winner's career when the chief justice of a high court acknowledged Chaturvedi's legal acumen. The Chief Justice praised Chaturvedi stating that he was more well-versed in law than the other counsel. Such open praise from the high court underlines Chaturvedi's deep understanding of the legal complexities that often accompany his battles.

Chaturvedi first hit the headlines when he was posted in Haryana where he took on corrupt politicians and senior bureaucrats involved in mining, illegal felling and poaching scams. After several years of harassment and court cases, he was moved to Delhi as the Chief Vigilance Officer of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), where too, he exposed large-scale corruption, which led to his removal. At present, he is in Uttarakhand, after a long protracted legal battle to get his cadre changed from Haryana to Uttarakhand.

In these times tainted by widespread corruption, Chaturvedi emerges as a beacon of righteousness, undeterred by the heavy price he pays for his steadfast stance. This fact is now recognized even by the judiciary.

Share a babu experience! Follow [@dilipthecherian](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

On the whole, it is difficult to believe that there was any power or important personality in those days who had really the good of the country at heart. Everyone wanted to advance his own interests and none looked beyond them to the larger interests of the country as a whole. **RC MAJUMDAR**

I think increasingly we want to read the history that wasn't written by the victors. **KATE WILLIAMS**

Journalists usually treat anything as true if someone in a position of ostensible authority is willing to say it, even anonymously. **ERIC ALTERMAN**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1804:** Napoleon crowned himself emperor of France in the presence of Pope Pius VII.
- 1942:** Scientists led by Enrico Fermi conducted the world's first controlled self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction, at the University of Chicago.
- 1971:** The United Arab Emirates was formed by the union of six small emirates on the Arabian Peninsula; a seventh emirate joined in February 1972.
- 1993:** Colombian criminal Pablo Escobar—who, as head of the Medellín cartel, was arguably the world's most powerful drug trafficker in the 1980s and early '90s—was killed during a shoot-out with authorities.

LOL

Helping your father

A clergyman walking down a country lane and sees a young farmer struggling to load hay back onto a cart after it had fallen off. "You look hot, my son," said the cleric. "Why don't you test a moment and I'll give you a hand." "No Thanks," said the young man. "My father wouldn't like it." "Don't be silly," the



minister said. "Everyone is entitled to a break. Come and have a drink of water." Again the young man protested that his father would be upset. Losing his patients, the clergyman said, "Your father must be a real slave driver. Tell me where I can find him and I'll give him a piece of my mind." "Well," replied the young farmer, "He's under the load of hay."

SPECTRUM POLITICS

Time for genuine welfare schemes

With the state elections coming to an end this year, the spate of schemes and promises announced in the run-up to these polls by both the Congress and the BJP reveal that the political discourse is getting increasingly populist. From cash transfers to cheaper cooking gas cylinders to higher support prices for farm products, are all meant to woo the voters from the lower income groups and economically weaker sections. This should particularly be viewed in the backdrop of a recent World Bank study in the context of South Asia which notes that the primary deficit, on an average, tends to widen by 0.5 per cent of GDP around national elections.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

WHILE NEW PROJECTS ARE BEING ANNOUNCED TO WOO VOTERS, THE PRESENT ONES THAT COULD ACTUALLY HELP THE LOWER SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY ARE SUFFERING DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS

It was indeed interesting to see the two major political parties vying with each other with one scheme after another in their manifestos released in the different states.

Though one cannot deny the need for providing welfare measures, these must reach only the poor and the economically weaker sections. Moreover, it has to be ensured that the existing schemes are well-funded, and the real beneficiaries are identified and get the benefits, and not those who are close to the

ruling party, as has happened in many states, particularly in West Bengal. The few rural economists agree that the conditions of the rural poor in most states, especially in the northern and eastern regions, have not improved significantly.

When the rural economy needs a thrust, the funds provided for the MGNREGA programme is not sufficient to provide employment for more than 35-40 days when the scheme talks of 100 days assured employment.

If the question of employment is considered, statistics reveal that there is virtually no increase in formal sector jobs. As per recent statistics, there has been a slowdown in the pace of formal job creation in the June-September period as new subscribers added to the Employees' Provident Fund declined by over 10 per cent. The decline in formal employment and the corresponding increase in labour force participation clearly point to the fact that most new entrants to the job market have no option but to be satisfied with low-paid work in the informal sector.

The economic situation of most states is in a deplorable condition. There is no possibility of things improving in the near future, even if there is some

shift from agriculture to industry. The new situation of industrial development does not warrant jobs or even development of backward areas as most manufacturing units are set up in industrial belts or in fairly developed areas within the state. Moreover, mechanised means of operation require less labour and only the skilled workers get the opportunity.

One is constrained to refer to the recently released 2024 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report titled 'Making our Future: New Directions for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific', which states that though per capita income in India, between 2000 and 2022, soared from \$42 to \$2,389, it does not reflect the incomes of the rural population. Again, though between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the share of the population living in multi-dimensional poverty fell from 25 to 15 per cent, if the total population increase is taken into consideration, this figure would not be spectacular at all. The economic distress is well manifest but even then the government is not looking at a comprehensive strategy to improve the incomes of the rural poor.

Significantly, the report aptly refers to three new directions in

human development, which is very much applicable in India's context. These are to put people at the heart of development, to recalibrate growth strategies to generate more jobs and respect the environment, and to focus relentlessly on the politics of reform and the science of delivery to turn ideas into practice. How much of these are being followed is a big question, but it is necessary for India to follow these principles through action for a better future. However, this would involve change in its planning and development approach.

Whether the country would seriously take cognisance of the report and within what timeframe remains to be seen. Genuine welfare schemes that go towards improving the conditions of the impoverished and backward sections are necessary at this juncture apart from measures of ensuring income support. Not just the Centre, but the political leadership of the states too must be serious in the matter of both resource generation and expenditure, keeping in view how maximum numbers of people could get the desired benefits. A knee-jerk reaction during elections is not an alternative. **INFA**

Untenable claim

Sir, Numerous messages are circulating advocating for the readers to give the entire credit for the safe return of the 41 workers trapped in the tunnel in Uttarkashi, to Prime Minister Modi, as if he is the real saviour of the trapped workers. The message also claims that no such rescue has happened before and that it is historic. True, but no such callous tunneling leading to the entrapment of workers was done before. So, no rescue was needed. One really dreads to think of what would have been the fate of all the trapped workers, if only the rat-hole-miners had not ventured to dig through the debris manually, and save them at the cost of their own lives! While the ruling dispensation at the centre is solely responsible for this man-made disaster, how can one be expected to give the entire credit to Prime Minister Modi, who did not even pay a day's visit to the disaster site to be of some moral support to the rescue team and the hapless families of the trapped? That he preferred to attend the World Cup Cricket finals at Ahmedabad and also got himself engaged himself in election rallies in Rajasthan and Telangana seeking votes for his party candidates when the rescue teams were struggling to save the miners is also a case in point.

Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

Turnaround in Telangana

Sir, Exit polls really speak the truth or not the TV viewers are glued to their television sets more curiously and the resultant projected figures appeal the people more so than actual results. Anti incumbency factor put BRS in trouble and there appears to be an upset. Congress under Chidambaram gave statehood to Telangana and now it goes its way in an unexpected turnaround. All the hype, hoopla and hysteria of KCR in first-page ads in news dailies with pink backgrounds have gone to waste. Just wait for the results to confirm his ouster. The way he disregarded the Prime Minister during his visits and posed victory signs all the time went to waste, and it appears he has to sit in the opposition and now learn a lesson. The turnaround in Telangana taught a lesson, and the CM will join the BJP ranks during General Elections. The change is welcome for even the opposition.

MR Jayanthi, MUMBAI

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, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



DELHI POLLUTION

AAP launches 'Mai Bhi Kejriwal' signature campaign

9 days of Nov saw 'severe' air quality

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The AAP Friday launched the 'Mai Bhi Kejriwal' signature campaign to get people's feedback on whether Arvind Kejriwal should resign as Delhi chief minister if he is arrested under a "conspiracy by the BJP".

Earlier this month, the Enforcement Directorate had summoned Kejriwal for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. The chief minister did not appear before the central agency, claiming that its summons was "illegal and politically motivated".

"The 'Main Bhi Kejriwal' signature campaign has been launched today. Under it, people's opinion is being taken on the way AAP leaders are being arrested, and if Arvind Kejriwal



is arrested, whether he should resign or continue to run the government from jail," party leader Gopal Rai told reporters. The Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi

state convener also interacted with locals during the campaign launched from East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar assembly constituency.

Earlier this month, the Enforcement Directorate had summoned Kejriwal for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam

The Chief Minister did not appear before the central agency, claiming that its summons was "illegal and politically motivated"

"There is immense anger among the people regarding the arrest conspiracy by the BJP against Arvind Kejriwal ji. People are asking why does the BJP want to arrest a chief minister who has done so much good work for Delhi," Rai said in a post on X.

Under the campaign, AAP volunteers will take signatures of people on pamphlets by visiting all 2,600 polling station areas in the city as well as their opinion.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Unfavourable meteorological conditions and peak of paddy harvesting activity during Diwali led to the deterioration of air quality in Delhi in November; the Commission for Air Quality Management said Thursday.

The air quality levels are greatly impacted by the levels of rainfall/precipitation, direction of wind and its speed, which are prime facilitators for dispersal of the pollutants/emissions, it said.

The average wind speed over Delhi and out of the city during November was also relatively slower for long spells with an average speed of only about four kilometres per hour. An average wind speed of at least 10 kilometres per hour and above is desirable for effective dispersion of pollutants, the CAQM said in a statement.

Low-speed north-westerly winds flowing in to Delhi were however observed during the month, leading to pollutant inflow from such areas. Paddy sowing was disturbed and delayed in many parts of Punjab and



Haryana owing to incessant rains which also resulted in delayed harvesting in such areas, it said.

The statement also said that paddy farm fires emanating from Punjab and Haryana, while being much lower than in the last three years, contributed significantly to the PM2.5 load in Delhi-NCR owing to highly unfavourable climatic and meteorological conditions. "The peak of the paddy harvesting activity in Punjab/Haryana coincided with the festival of Diwali this year, further aggravating the air pollution scenario in Delhi/NCR," it stated.

"All the factors listed above led to a higher daily average AQI of about 372 as against 320

for 2022. Similar meteorological and climatic conditions also prevailed in November 2021 wherein the daily average AQI was recorded as 377," it said.

Despite the above scenario, the daily average air quality in Delhi for the 11-month period between January to November this year registered its best index as compared to the corresponding period during the last six years, barring the Covid-affected 2020, the CAQM stated.

The daily average AQI for Delhi during the above noted period in 2023 has been recorded as 190 against 199 in 2022, 196 in 2021, 172 in 2020, 203 in 2019 and 213 in 2018 respectively, it stated.

Kejri meets rat-hole miners

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met the rat-hole mining experts from Delhi who participated in the operation to rescue the 41 workers trapped in Silkyara tunnel, officials said Friday. The workers were trapped inside the tunnel in Uttarakhand after a portion of it collapsed. They were rescued Tuesday following 17 days of a multi-agency operation. The 12-member team of rat-hole mining experts were called to do the drilling after an American auger machine came across hurdles while clearing the rubble. According to officials, some of them are involved in laying sewer lines and pipelines for the Delhi Jal Board. "Kejriwal met the miners from Delhi. During the meeting, Water minister Atishi and Urban Development minister Saurabh Bharadwaj were also present in the meeting.

Moderate snowfall in higher reaches of HP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Dec 1: Wintry conditions set in most parts of Himachal Pradesh as high-altitude tribal areas, other higher hills and mountain passes experienced moderate snowfall while widespread rains and hailstorm lashed several places including state capital Shimla Friday.

Sissu, Gondla, Koksar and Keylong received 20 cm, 15 cm, 10 cm and 8 cm of fresh snowfall while Rohtang, Kunzum, Pin-Parvati passes and Dhauladhar and Churdhar mountain ranges and higher hills of Manali, Chamba, Shimla, Sirmour and Mandi received 20 cm to 30 cm of snow and the areas were wrapped in impeccable white blanket of snow.

The snow and slippery road conditions disrupted vehicular traffic and only 4x4 vehicles were allowed to go to Atul Tunnel Rohtang.

Shimla had a clear day in the morning but the sky was heavily overcast by noon and intermittent heavy rains and hailstorm lashed the town, forcing people to rush indoors.

HP reserves 30% posts of constable for women



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Dec 1: The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet Friday decided to reserve 30 per cent posts of police constable for women and also revised approval for filling its 1,226 posts.

It also approved to insert some more provisions in the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Aashrya Yojana to benefit orphans and vulnerable sections of society. Under the new provisions, each orphan would be entitled to receive Rs 4,000 per month as pocket money till the age of 27. Furthermore, it was also decided to offer a one-time marriage grant of Rs 2 lakh to those orphans who have left the childcare institutions.

The Cabinet, presided over by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, also gave nod to the detailed project report (DPR) of Rs 486.47 crore to provide power to villages of the border area from Pooh to Kaza. It also approved a DPR of Rs 6.49 crore for enhancing electrical infrastructure in 32 villages of border areas of Kinnaur district and the Spiti block of Lahaul-Spiti district, an official statement said.

It approved 40 posts of Agriculture Development Officers in the Agriculture Department, 10 posts of Havildar Instructors in the Department of Home Guards and Civil Defence.

Shimla: 8 more localities declared as green zones



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Dec 1: Acting tough, the Himachal Pradesh government recently announced a series of measures aimed at curbing haphazard construction in key areas of the state.

It said the Cabinet at a recent meeting approved plans to extend the planning area in Shimla, Chopal and Kullu, with particular focus on addressing the challenges posed by unplanned development.

Now, the state has given the green light to declare an additional eight areas as green zones, an official statement said.

These include Retreat, Mashobra, Band Tukda

Andri, Shiv Mandir Andri, Tal and Giri, DPF Khalini, BCS Mist Chamber, and Parimahal of Shimla.

The objective is clear, to expand the green area and safeguard against haphazard construction. The government said.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu emphasised the importance of learning from the recent monsoon disaster.

He said, "Monsoon fury has taught us a lesson to balance between development and environment. It is high time to take steps for environmental preservation for sustainable development."

The Chief Minister said the decision to include more areas in the green zone under Shimla's planning area involves

amending Chapter 17 of the Development Plan.

This initiative aims not only to protect the existing green belts, but also to minimise the ecological footprint of human interventions. The government's commitment to environmental preservation for the sake of sustainable development is reflected in these decisive steps.

The Chief Minister emphasised, "Moreover, recognising the need for similar measures in Kullu and Chopal, the state government has decided to extend the planning area to control haphazard construction in these regions. The state government has laid special focus on environmental protection.

"Apart from enhancing the green area, we have been promoting e-vehicles and harnessing green energy to meet the demands of the state. These steps would go a long way in achieving the goal of sustainable development and conserving the environment for future generations."

Government of Odisha No.O-1684: "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR-12 OF 2023-24 No.5981, dated 30.11.2023

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR AT CHATRAPUR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES Office of the Superintending Engineer Bhanjanagar Irrigation Division, Bhanjanagar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, BONAIGARH, DIST- SUNDARGARH TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. OF 2023-24

NOTICE No. MM-334:- It is for information of the General public that the following vehicles are involved in transporting of contraband forest produces for which forest offence cases have been registered, as per legal provision confiscation proceeding U/S 56, of Orissa Forest Act, 1972 under trial.



Nursing students of a medical college hold the red ribbon, used as the symbol for solidarity with people living with HIV/AIDS, during an awareness programme on World AIDS Day, in Bangalore



Divers perform during an event to celebrate the upcoming Christmas festival at the aquarium in Seoul, South Korea



A snow-covered street at Koksar village in Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh



President Droupadi Murmu presents the President's Colour to Armed Forces Medical College in Pune



A BSF official shows his skills during the 59th Raising Day of the Border Security Force (BSF) at Meru Camp, in Hazaribagh district in Jharkhand



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with artists during the inauguration of Mahila Congress State Convention 'Utsaah' at Marine Drive in Ernakulam district in Kerala



People feed Seagulls at a bridge over the Tapi river in Surat



A commuter rides past a mural designed at the Kovalam bypass ahead of the 'Global Science Festival Kerala' in Thiruvananthapuram



Polymakers should be sensitised to the need for disaster risk reduction and resilience, given the increasing frequency and intensity of natural calamities

SC ADJOURNS HEARING

The Supreme Court Friday deferred the hearing on a plea of AAP MP Raghav Chadha challenging his suspension from the Upper House, after it was informed that "something constructive" is likely to happen in the matter



SC asks TN Governor to resolve impasse



RAVI AND STALIN HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A WAR OF ATTRITION OVER NUMEROUS ISSUES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The Governor of a state cannot refer bills passed by the legislature and readopted by it for presidential assent, the Supreme Court ruled on Friday, and asked Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi to hold a meeting with Chief Minister M K Stalin in an effort to end the impasse over 10 such pending bills.

the President was not available to the governor once he decided to withhold assent in the first instance when they were passed by the legislature.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the office of the governor, argued that when a governor sends back a bill to the legislative assembly he is not withholding assent but merely asking the House to reconsider it.

When the assembly says it won't change its stand on a bill, the governor can send it to the President for consent, the top law officer said. "The governor should have reserved it for the President first (in the first instance). If he has sent it back to the assembly and then it is re-adopted, the governor cannot send it to the President," the CJI said, referring to Article 200 of the Constitution.

"As per Article 200 of the Constitution, there are three options to the Governor - he can assent or withhold assent or he can reserve the bill for the President. They are all alternatives. In this case, the Governor initially said I withhold assent. Once he withholds the assent, there is no question of him then reserving it for President. He can't. He has to follow one of the three options - assent, withhold the assent or refer it to the President. "So first and foremost, once he withholds the assent, then he can never say that now I am referring it to the President. Second, once he withholds the assent, he can't kill the bill right there. He can't stall the bill there. Once he withholds the assent, the proviso does not give him the fourth option," the CJI said.

of the day quote

Short films can be meaningful messenger for human values and brand ambassador against the menace and challenges of terrorism, war, intolerance, drug mafia, racial violence and cyber crime

MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI | BJP LEADER

Bihar seems to be flooded by illegal (avaidh) madrasas and mosques (masjid). The situation is particularly grave in the areas bordering Nepal and Bangladesh

GIRIRAJ SINGH | UNION MINISTER

Was it a fault to start a war on drugs to save the youths? Was it also a fault to have stopped the massive deforestation which only destroyed the natural beauty, but also led to emergence of new villages and widespread poppy cultivation? My conscience is clear. I am not wrong. BJP is not wrong. The only fault of the BJP is to take up such initiatives to protect the indigenous people of the state

N BIREN SINGH | MANIPUR CM

Bomb threat to 68 schools triggers panic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 1: Sixty-eight private schools in and around the city Friday received emails warning of bomb threat on their premises, triggering panic among the staff and parents, police said.

The school authorities immediately alerted police, who reached the institutions concerned with the bomb disposal squads and anti-sabotage check teams, they said, while indicating the bomb threat could be a hoax.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he has asked police to seriously investigate the e-mail and its source, and provide adequate security to schools and temples as a precautionary measure. State Home Minister G Parameshwara said the message had come from an email id "kharjites@beebled.com," saying bombs have been placed in the schools in Bengaluru and threatened to kill children and staff.

"We are seriously verifying it and its source. I have spoken to the Commissioner and officials and have given the necessary instructions and verification on whether it is true or hoax and measures to be taken accordingly. We will verify as to who is



Parents take their children home after 68 private schools received an email with a bomb threat on its premises, triggering panic among the staff and parents, in Bangalore

The school authorities immediately alerted police, who reached the institutions concerned with the bomb disposal squads and anti-sabotage check teams

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he has asked police to seriously investigate the e-mail and its source, and provide adequate security to schools and temples as a precautionary measure

behind it and if there is an involvement of any terrorist organisation, and take measures accordingly. For now, it cannot be said who is behind it. The message in the email asks people to convert and other things - it will be verified," he told reporters.

Among 68 schools which received the bomb threat, 48 of them

are located within the city while the rest are in Bengaluru Rural limits, police added. The students and staff were immediately evacuated from the school premises, police said, adding no suspicious objects were found yet and prima facie, it looks like a hoax message.

City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said bomb detection and disposal squads were sent to

CBSE to scrap division or distinction for board exams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The Central Board of Secondary Education will not award any overall division or distinction in class 10 and 12 board examinations, a senior official said Friday.

The board will continue the practice of awarding marks in each subject and it is for the higher education institution or employer concerned to calculate the aggregate, if required, the official said.

"No overall division, distinction or aggregate of marks shall be awarded. Also, if a candidate has offered more than five subjects, the decision to determine the best five subjects may be taken by the admitting institution or employer," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said.

Bhardwaj said the board does not calculate, declare or inform the percentage of marks. "If the percentage of marks is required for higher education or in employment, the calculation, if any, may be done by the admitting institution or employer," he said. Earlier, the CBSE also did away with the practice of issuing merit lists to avoid unhealthy competition. The decision to not announce the merit list was taken in 2020 during the COVID-19-induced lockdown when the results were being announced using the average of marks secured by students in the exams. However, the board decided against resuming the practice in post-pandemic years.

The board exams for class 10 and 12 will begin from February 15, 2024, the CBSE had announced in May. The Ministry of Education had earlier this year decided to announce exam schedules much in advance to sync the academic calendar and help students prepare for entrance exams.

Danish Ali writes to Birla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: BSP MP Danish Ali Friday alleged that attempts are being made to turn the victim into an accused by using "fabricated charges" against him over his complaint against BJP member Ramesh Bidhuri for making objectionable remarks in Lok Sabha.

In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Ali said he was "shocked" over clubbing of his complaint against Bidhuri with the ones levelled against him for allegedly provoking the BJP MP.

He said while he was hoping for a swift, strict and exemplary action against Bidhuri, he

was sad that attempts were being made to turn the victim into an accused. Ali shared a copy of the letter on social media.

The panel had issued notices to Ali and Bidhuri on November 21. Ali wrote to Birla on Friday. The Privileges Committee of Lok Sabha has summoned Bidhuri and Ali on December 7 at separate time.

On an earlier occasion, Bidhuri had not appeared before the committee while expressing his inability to do so. Bidhuri had made remarks against Ali during the Special session of Parliament in September when the House was discussing the success of the Chandrayan-III

mission. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had referred the MPs' complaints on the issue involving Bidhuri's use of objectionable words against Ali to the Privileges Committee in September.

While Ali and several other opposition MPs, including Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and DMK's Kanimozhi, had demanded action against Bidhuri, several BJP parliamentarians like Nishikant Dubey said the BSP member "incited" the South Delhi MP when he speaking in the House and urged the Speaker to look into this aspect as well.

SHORT TAKES

Mizoram polls: Counting deferred

New Delhi: The counting of votes in Mizoram will take place December 4, a day after it was originally scheduled, the Election Commission said Friday. It said the decision was taken following representations from various quarters requesting for a change in the date of counting from December 3 on the ground that Sunday holds a special significance for the people of Mizoram, a Christian-majority state. "The Commission, having considered these representations, has decided to revise the date of counting for the General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram from 3rd December, 2023 (Sunday) to 4th December, 2023 (Monday)," it stated.

ED officer held

Chennai: An Enforcement Directorate officer was 'caught red-handed' and arrested by vigilance sleuths for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 20 lakh from a doctor, police sources said here Friday. After he was taken into custody in Dindigul, a team of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) officials held 'enquiries' at the sub-zone ED office in Madurai, with state policemen standing guard outside the central government office.

6 booked in J&K

Srinagar: Six people have been booked in Kashmir for alleged propagation of false information and instigative content on social media platforms, police said Friday. "Srinagar Police and Cyber Police Kashmir have taken cognizance against 06 individuals for propagation of false information, instigative content inciting disaffection and anti-social propaganda on social media platforms. Legal action under relevant sections of law has been taken," the Srinagar Police said in a post on X.

Three convicted

New Delhi: A special court in Patna Friday convicted three Maoist cadres in a case related to the seizure of arms and ammunition in the Aurangabad area of Bihar more than a decade ago, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said here. The quantum of punishment against the trio -- Udit Narayan Singh alias Tulsii alias Tufan, Akhilesh Singh alias Manoj Singh, and Arjunji alias Mani Yadav - will be pronounced by the court on December 4.



Buddhist devotees decorate the Mahabodhi temple for the 18th International Tipitaka Chanting Ceremony, in Bodhi Gaya, Friday

PTI PHOTO

'All-out efforts on to bring back 8 Indians from Qatar'

AN APPEAL HAS ALREADY BEEN FILED AGAINST THE DEATH SENTENCE AND A HIGHER COURT IN QATAR HAS ADMITTED THE PLEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The government is making all-out efforts to bring back eight former naval personnel from Qatar, who were handed death sentences by a Qatari court, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said Friday.

"There is total support and effort being put in by the government," he said. The Navy veterans were on October 26 sentenced to death by Qatar's Court of First Instance. India described the ruling as "deeply shocking and vowed to explore

all legal options.

An appeal has already been filed against the death sentence and a higher court in Qatar has admitted the plea. "The ex-naval officers in Qatar are veterans.... And we are interested in ensuring that their welfare is taken care of. I want to reassure you that the Indian government is putting all-out efforts to ensure that they are brought back," Kumar said this while responding to a question at a media briefing.

The Indian nationals, who worked with private company Al Dahra, were arrested in



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar addresses a press conference ahead of the celebration of Navy Day, in New Delhi, Friday

August last year reportedly in a case of alleged espionage. Neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against

the Indian nationals public.

In its reaction to the ruling by the Qatari court, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said

last month that it is attaching "high importance" to the case and exploring all legal options.

The charges were filed against the eight Indian Navy veterans on March 25 and they were tried under Qatari law. All the former officers had "unblemished stints" of up to 20 years in the Indian Navy and held important positions, including that of instructors in the force, former military officials had said.

In May, Al-Dahra Global closed its operations in Doha and all those working there (primarily Indians) have since returned home.

In the past, the Navy had taken up the case of the former naval personnel with the top brass of the government for securing their release.

Above-normal temperatures in Dec: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Minimum temperatures in December are likely to remain above normal in most parts of the country, the India Meteorological Department said Friday.

Addressing a press conference about the December temperature and rainfall forecast, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra also said the occurrence of cold waves over north, northwest, central, east and northeast parts of country during the upcoming winter season (December to February 2024) is likely remain below normal.

Maximum temperatures for December are likely to be above normal over most parts of the country except some areas of central and north India, he said, adding above normal minimum temperatures are also forecast for most parts.

Speaking about the monthly rainfall forecast for December, Mohapatra said it is most likely to be above normal across the country.

"Monthly rainfall over the country as a whole during December 2023 is most likely to be above normal (=121 per cent of long period average). Above-normal rainfall is most likely over most parts of the northwest, adjoining areas of central and east India and some areas of extreme south peninsular India," the IMD said.

"Below normal rainfall is likely over many parts of the northeast India, north peninsular India and adjoining areas of central India," it added.

international



With the images that we are seeing, and the growing number of victims, especially children who are dying, frankly I have doubts that they (Israel) are fulfilling international humanitarian law

PEDRO SÁNCHEZ | PRIME MINISTER OF SPAIN

SUICIDE CRISIS HELPLINE

The Canadian government has launched 988, a new three-digit suicide crisis helpline to provide suicide prevention support



of the day quote

Tibetans are a democracy-loving people who wish to practice their own religion freely and have their own wishes and desires acknowledged as we do in the United States of America

MICHAEL MCCAUL | US HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The country wants to strengthen cooperation with the United States to combat climate change

HUANG RUNQIU | CHINA'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

An effective way to prevent North Korea from miscalculating is to demonstrate our robust deterrence capabilities and determination towards North Korea based on the solid (South Korea) -US joint defence posture

YOON SUK YEOL | SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Ethiopia floods hit 1.5 mn people

United Nations: Flooding in the last month has impacted 1.5 million people in Ethiopia, displacing more than 600,000 of them from their homes, UN humanitarian said. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Thursday that the Somali region accounts for 80 per cent of those most affected, including in the South East, Gambela, Oromia, Afar and Sidama regions. "The floods have caused extensive damage to crops, livestock and vital infrastructure," OCHA added.

Myanmar military losing ground

Bangkok: A major offensive against Myanmar's military-run government by an alliance of three militias of ethnic minorities in the northeast has been moving at lightning speed, inspiring resistance forces around the country to launch new attacks. With Myanmar's military falling back on almost every front, hope is rising among opponents that this could be a turning point in the struggle to oust the army leaders who toppled democratically elected Aung San Suu Kyi almost three years ago.

UK transport union accepts pay offer

London: Members of the UK's largest transport union RMT announced that it has accepted a pay offer to pause their rail strikes while negotiations continue. The offer included a backdated pay rise of 5 per cent for the 2022-23 financial year, while talks over further deals will be pushed into next year, reports Xinhua news agency. "Our members have spoken in huge numbers to accept this unconditional pay offer and no compulsory redundancies," said Mick Lynch, general secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT).

11 killed by gunmen in Iraq

Baghdad: A group armed with explosives and guns killed 11 people in eastern Iraq, security officials said Friday. The attack took place Thursday night in the area of Muqadadiyah in Diyala province. A roadside bomb exploded and gunmen then opened fire on rescuers and bystanders at the scene, two security officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media. The victims were all civilians, the officials said. The gunmen fled and no group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

COP28 World leaders gather for climate summit

AGENCIES

Dubai, Dec 1: International climate talks turned to a power game Friday as dozens of world leaders took turns bemoaning the pain of an overheating planet, but two of the world's most powerful men — President Joe Biden of the US and China's President Xi Jinping — were glaringly absent.

Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, a top oil producer, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, whose biggest cities are regularly choked under poor air, as well as Presidents Emmanuel Macron of France, Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey were among more than 170 world leaders set to address the United Nations climate conference in Dubai over the next two days. The idea is to try to keep the planet from heating too much because of humankind's actions.

In a fire-and-brimstone kicking off of Friday's parade of VIPs, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, fresh from melting glaciers in Antarctica and Nepal said "Earth's vital signs are failing" and told leaders, "you can prevent planetary crash and burn."

Jordan's King Abdullah said it was impossible to separate climate change from the war in Gaza. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told The Associated Press that conflicts are "undermining our capability to fight climate change," and also fuel conflict because of migration and competition for scarce resources.

Still with all the problems of the world, "climate change stands out by far as the defining issue of our era," Kenya President William Ruto said. In a direct contradiction to fossil fuel-aligned nations and even the presidency of the talks, he said the only way to limit warming to the goal set in 2015 requires eliminating oil, coal and gas use, saying "not reduce, not abate, phase out."

The conference president on Friday issued a document calling for a "phase-down" of fossil fuels, which experts say is less



Many of the leaders speaking represent countries hard hit by floods, storms, drought & heat waves worsened by climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Those include the islands nations of Palau and the Maldives as well as leaders of Pakistan and Libya, which have been devastated by recent floods that killed thousands

than a phase-out. But 106 nations in Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and in the Pacific signed a statement calling for a phase-out.

Britain's King Charles III warned of "a starker and darker world" unless leaders change course.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, home to most of the world's biggest natural carbon-capture zone on land, the Amazon rainforest, said "the planet is tired of climate agreements that were not fulfilled" and he said he has had enough of "eloquent and empty speeches."

Xi and Biden are sitting out this COP, just weeks after announcing a bilateral agreement

to help cut down on methane emissions. Their deputies, US Vice President Kamala Harris and China's First Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, will be attending instead.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed that the South Asian nation, which is the world's most populous country, host the climate talks in 2028. India is the third biggest carbon polluting nation.

The Indian leader also announced that his country will spearhead the green credits programme.

While details are as yet unclear, the programme will likely allow individuals and corporations to purchase credits on a dedicated website yet to be setup to offset their emissions.

Modi said India is one of the few countries on track to meet its climate goals and added that all developing countries should be given their "fair share" in the global carbon budget — the amount of carbon that can still be spewed into the atmosphere before the world warms to more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial times.

Many of the leaders speaking represent countries hard hit by floods, storms, drought and heat waves worsened by climate change from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Those include the islands nations of Palau and the Maldives as well as leaders of Pakistan and Libya, which have been devastated by recent floods that killed thousands.

US lauds India's decision to probe 'kill Pannun plot'

US Wednesday charged Indian national Nikhil Gupta with working with an Indian government employee in the foiled plot to kill Pannun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Dec 1: The US has welcomed as "good and appropriate" India's decision to announce a high-level probe into its allegations that an Indian official was involved in a foiled plot to assassinate a Sikh separatist on American soil and said it is looking forward to seeing the results.

An unnamed Indian official appeared in an indictment filed by US federal prosecutors in a Manhattan court on Wednesday along with the Indian national, who the Department of Justice alleges hired someone in the US to assassinate Pannun.

India Thursday described as a "matter of concern" the US charging the Indian national with conspiring to kill the Sikh separatist, and asserted that a high-level probe committee will investigate all aspects of the case. "The government announced today that it was conducting an investigation, and that's good and appropriate, and we look forward to seeing the results," Secretary of State



Antony Blinken told reporters travelling with him in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday.

Blinken did not give any details about the case, calling it an on-going legal matter.

"So you'll understand I can't comment on it in detail. I can say that this is something we take very seriously. A number of us have raised this directly with the Indian Government in past weeks," Blinken said.

Separately, the White House Thursday also praised New Delhi for setting up its own investigations into the matter and said this will not have an impact on the India-US relationship.

"These allegations in this investigation, (we) take it very seriously. And we're glad to see that the Indians are too announcing their own efforts to investigate this. And we've been clear that we want to see anybody that's responsible for these alleged crimes to be held properly accountable," John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House, told reporters at a news conference here.

SNIPPETS

Nepal: 31 quake survivors die in last one month

Kathmandu: At least 31 earthquake survivors have died due to cold weather in the past month in the earthquake-affected Jajarkot and Rukum West of western Nepal, authorities said Friday. An earthquake measuring 6.4 magnitude hit Jajarkot in western Nepal November 3, killing 154 people and injuring hundreds of others. More than 26,000 houses were destroyed in the earthquake, forcing thousands of people to sleep in makeshift tents in the severe cold.

SK imposes sanctions on 11 North Koreans



Seoul: South Korea Friday imposed unilateral sanctions on 11 North Korean individuals involved in satellite and ballistic missile development, in response to Pyongyang's launch of a military spy satellite last week. The announcement came on the same day that the US, Japan and Australia released or were to release their own sanctions against Pyongyang over the spy satellite launch, marking the first time for the four countries to impose sanctions on the restrictive regime around the same time, reports Yonhap News Agency. The sanctions apply to five individuals -- Ri Chol-ju, Kim In-beom, Ko Kwan-yong and Choe Myong-su from the National Aerospace Technology Administration; and Kang Son, a manager from the Ryongsong Machine Complex -- for involvement in the satellite development and procurement of supplies.

Corruption case against Imran, wife

Islamabad: A Pakistani accountability court Friday filed a corruption case against jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, his wife and other suspects in a ₹50 million corruption case. The National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) Deputy Prosecutor General Muzafar Abbasi and investigative officer Umar Nadeem filed the case in an accountability court in Islamabad. A total of eight people have been charged in the case. Others besides 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party chief include his wife, Bushra Bibi, her friend Farhat Shahzadi aka Farah Gogi, PTI leader Zulfi Bukhari, former accountability czar Shahzad Akbar and Barrister Zia-ul-Mustafa Naseem. The NAB on Friday filed the corruption case against former prime minister Khan, his wife and other suspects in the 190 million pound settlement case, Geo News reported.



People wade over flood waters after a section of road was destroyed by floods at Mororo, border of Tana River and Garissa, North Eastern Kenya. Kenya's government is urging people living in flood-prone areas to relocate to higher ground as heavy rains and flash floods continued to wreak havoc across East Africa

PIO beaten, forced into labour for months in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Dec 1: Authorities in the US have rescued a 20-year-old Indian student, who was held captive for months without access to a bathroom, viciously beaten, and forced to work at three homes by his cousin and two other Indian-origin men in an incident described as "absolutely inhumane and unconscionable."

On Wednesday, police descended upon a home on a rural highway in St Charles County. They later arrested Venkatesh R Sattaru, Sravan Varma

Penumetcha and Nikhil Verma Penmatsa, and Thursday charged them with offences including human trafficking, kidnapping and assault.

Police were dispatched to investigate the home after a concerned citizen became aware of his situation and called 911.

The victim is safe and being treated at a hospital for multiple bone fractures, as well as lacerations and injuries covering his entire body, said prosecutor Joe McCulloch. Over seven months, the men locked the student in a basement and forced him to sleep on an unfinished floor without

access to a bathroom, charges say. He scavenged for scraps in nearby restaurant dumpsters and was beaten with electrical wire, PVC pipe, metal rods, wooden boards, sticks and a water supply hose for a washing machine, St Louis Post-Dispatch, a major regional newspaper, reported.

The three defendants are accused of confining and abusing the victim at three different homes owned by Sattaru in Defiance, Dardenne Prairie and O'Fallon, starting in April 2023, according to St Charles County's official website.

Paraguay official quits after signing deal with fictional country Kailasa

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires (Argentina), Dec 1: A Paraguayan government official was replaced after it was revealed that he signed a memorandum of understanding with representatives of a fugitive Indian guru's fictional country, who also appear to have duped several local officials in the South American country.

The revelation sparked a scandal — and lots of social media mockery — in Paraguay but it's hardly the first time self-described representatives of the United States of Kailasa duped international leaders.

Earlier this year, they managed to participate in a United Nations committee meeting in Geneva and also signed agreements with local leaders in the United States and Canada.

Arnaldo Chamorro was replaced as chief of staff for Paraguay's Agriculture Ministry Wednesday shortly after it was revealed that he signed a "proclamation" with representatives of the United States of Kailasa.

Representatives of the fictional country met with Chamorro and Agriculture Minister Carlos Giménez, Chamorro said in a radio interview. During the interview, Chamorro recognised he didn't know where Kailasa was located and said he signed what he characterised as a "memorandum of understanding".

War resumes in Gaza after truce collapses

The renewed hostilities heightened concerns for Palestinians — many of whom have been displaced by the war — as well as about 140 hostages still in Gaza, after more than 100 were freed during the truce

REUTERS

Gaza, Dec 1: Israel's warplanes pounded Gaza Friday after talks to extend a week-old truce with Hamas broke down, sending wounded and dead Palestinians into hospitals and others onto the streets to seek safety. Eastern areas of Khan Younis

in southern Gaza came under intensive bombardment as the deadline lapsed shortly after dawn, with columns of smoke rising into the sky, Reuters journalists in the city said. Residents took to the road with belongings heaped up in carts, fleeing for shelter further west.

In the north of the enclave, previously the main war zone, huge plumes of smoke rose above the ruins, seen from across the fence in Israel. The rattle of gunfire and thud of explosions rang out above the sound of barking dogs.

Rocket sirens also blared across southern Israel as militants fired from the coastal enclave into towns.

Within hours of the truce expiring, Gaza health officials reported that 109 people had been killed and dozens wounded in



Palestinian officials say 109 people killed since truce expired

air strikes that hit at least eight homes. Medics and witnesses said the bombing was most intense in Khan Younis and Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, where hun-

dreds of thousands of Gazans have been sheltering from fighting further north. Houses in central and northern areas were also hit. At the nearby Abu Yousef al-

Najjar hospital, the first wave of wounded were men and boys.

Gazans said they feared that the bombing of southern parts of the enclave could herald an expansion of the war into areas Israel had previously described as safe. Leaflets dropped on eastern areas of the main southern city Khan Younis ordered residents of four towns to evacuate — not to other areas in Khan Younis as in the past, but further south to the crowded town of Rafah on the Egyptian border.

Israel released a link to a map showing Gaza divided into hundreds of districts, which it said would be used in future to communicate which areas were safe.

The United Nations said the collapse of the ceasefire would worsen an extreme humanitarian emergency.

business

of the day quote

The company caters to the credit needs of underserved and unserved population, primarily women entrepreneurs from underprivileged background through a well-diversified portfolio through a network of 1,500 branches

VENKATESH N | MD AND CEO, IIFL SAMASTA FINANCE

The landscape of the Indian CFO is undergoing a transformative shift, transcending conventional financial oversight to emerge as pioneers in strategic agility and digital innovation

NANDITA PAI | PARTNER AND CFO (PROGRAM LEADER), DELOITTE INDIA

Wardwizard shall support TEV in manufacturing electric trucks, two and three-wheelers for India and the UAE markets from its facility in Vadodara. We are confident that this association will boost the 'Make-in-India' initiative and pave the way for advanced products

YATIN SANJAY GUPTA | CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, WIML

SHORT TAKES

Diesel sales drop

New Delhi: India's diesel consumption slumped by 7.5 per cent in November on a fall in demand in the transportation sector where some took Diwali break, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed Friday. Diesel consumption dropped to 6.78 million tonne in November from 7.33 million tonne a year back. Petrol sales by three state-owned fuel retailers rose 7.5 per cent to 2.86 million tonne on increased personal vehicle movement during the festive season. Petrol demand had fallen 9 per cent year-on-year in the first half of October and diesel sales by 3.2 per cent but the start of Navratri/Durga Puja celebration helped reverse the trend. Diesel demand fell 12.1 per cent in the first half of November and recovered a bit in second half.

ATF price slashed

New Delhi: Jet fuel or ATF price Friday was cut by 4.6 per cent, the second reduction in a month, while commercial cooking gas (LPG) rate was hiked by ₹21 per 19-kg cylinder in line with international benchmarks. However, the price of domestic LPG - used in household kitchens for cooking purposes - remained unchanged at ₹903 per 14.2-kg cylinder. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by ₹5,189.25, or 4.6 per cent, in the national capital to ₹1,06,155.67 per kl from ₹1,11,344.92, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. This is the second reduction in a month.

RBI, BoE sign pact

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of England (BoE) Friday signed an initial pact for cooperation and exchange of information related to Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL). The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a framework for the Bank of England (BoE) to place reliance on the RBI's regulatory and supervisory activities while safeguarding the UK's financial stability, the RBI said.

Flair IPO shines

New Delhi: Shares of pen maker Flair Writing Industries made a stunning debut Friday and ended the day with a premium of nearly 49 per cent against the issue price of ₹304. The stock made its debut at ₹503, registering a jump of 65.45 per cent, on the BSE. Shares of the company ended at ₹452.70 apiece, registering a gain of 48.91 per cent.



A total of 43,904 claims have been settled by the Government of India to the MSMEs under the Vivad se Vishwas scheme. The value is approximately ₹700 crore right now, that's the amount refunded

TV SOMANATHAN | FINANCE SECRETARY

WORLD DIGITAL COMPETITIVENESS RANKING

The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) has published the 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (WDCR), in which India ranks 49th among 64 economies. According to IMD's study, India has made significant progress in terms of cybersecurity knowledge but lacks on fronts like technology and future readiness



Nifty at new zenith

NIFTY 50 HIT A FRESH RECORD HIGH AND LOGGED ITS BEST WEEK IN FIVE MONTHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 1: Key equity index Nifty hit its lifetime high while Sensex jumped 493 points to close at an 11-week high, driven by favourable macroeconomic data and continuous foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 492.75 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at 67,481.19, the highest closing level since September 18. During the day, it surged 575.89 points or 0.85 per cent to 67,564.33.

The Nifty climbed 134.75 points or 0.67 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 20,267.90. During the day, the benchmark touched its intra-day record high of 20,291.55, up 158.4 points or 0.78 per cent.

Among the Sensex firms, ITC, NTPC, Axis Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints and Tata Steel were the major gainers. Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, Maruti, IndusInd Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and HDFC Bank were among the laggards.

"Better-than-estimated India GDP numbers will raise the growth outlook for FY24 and provide cheer for the market to continue its upward momentum. The global market too rallied on hopes that the ECB has completed its rate-hiking cycle on the back of easing inflation and ahead of the FED chair speech today. The auto sales numbers witnessed a festival cheer, while the premium valuation restricted the upside potential," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

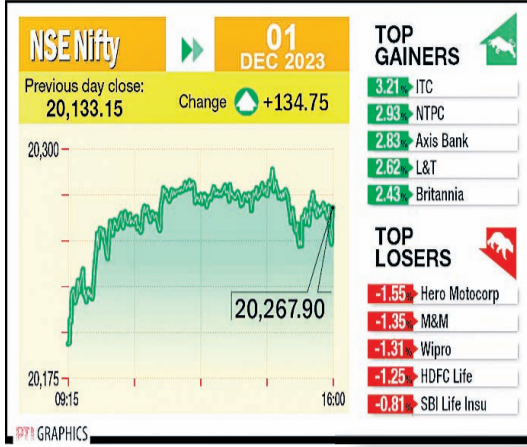
India retained the tag of the world's fastest-growing major economy, with its GDP expanding by a faster-than-expected rate of 7.6 per cent in the September quarter on booster shots from government spending and manufacturing.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,511.15 points or 2.29 per cent while the Nifty 473.2 points or 2.39 per cent.

India's manufacturing sector continued with its robust performance in November, mainly on the back of substantial easing in price pressures and strengthening demand from clients, according to a monthly survey Friday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 56 last month from the eight-month low level of 55.5 recorded in October.

The BSE benchmark ended 86.53 points or 0.13 per cent higher at 66,988.44 on Thursday. The Nifty edged up 36.55 points or 0.18 per cent to 20,133.15.



Nifty climbs 134.75 points to settle at 20,267.90

Sensex jumps 492.75 points to end at 67,481.19

FII bought equities worth ₹8,147.8cr Thursday

Faster-than-expected quarterly economic growth and acceleration in factory growth added to optimism over the global interest rate outlook

Investors' wealth at sweet spot

The combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies hit an all-time high of ₹337.67 lakh crore (\$4 trillion) Friday amid a rally in equities. Amid the optimistic trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms soared to ₹337.67 lakh crore, translating to \$4 trillion at the exchange rate of 83.30. In four days of the market rally, investors' wealth have gone up by ₹8.95 lakh crore. The combined market valuation of all listed companies on the BSE reached the \$4 trillion-milestone for the first time ever Wednesday.

Forex reserves rise \$2.5bn to \$597.9bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Dec 1: India's foreign exchange reserves increased \$2.538 billion to \$597.935 billion for the week ended November 24, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had jumped \$5.077 billion to \$595.397 billion. For the week ended November 24, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased \$2.14 billion to \$528.531 billion, as per the data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.



Gold reserves were up \$296 million to \$46.338 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up \$87 million to \$18.218 billion.

India's reserve position with the IMF rose \$14 million to \$4.848 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the reserves to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

STABLE ECONOMY

GST mop-up jumps 15% to ₹1.68L-crore

It is the sixth time that the gross GST collection has crossed the ₹1.60L-cr mark in the current fiscal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: GST collections jumped 15 per cent to nearly ₹1.68 lakh crore in November on increased domestic activity and festive season buying, the finance ministry said Friday.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) mop-up was over ₹1.45 lakh crore in November 2022.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of November 2023 is ₹1,67,929 crore, out of which CGST is ₹30,420 crore, SGST is ₹38,226 crore, IGST is ₹87,009 crore (including ₹39,198 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is ₹12,274 crore (including ₹1,036 crore collected on import of goods)," the ministry said in a statement.

The November 2023 collections are, however, lower than ₹1.72 lakh crore mopped up in October -- the second-highest collection ever since the GST rollout.

Revenues for November 2023 are 15 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year and the highest for any month year-on-year during 2023-24, up to November 2023, the ministry said.

The gross GST collection till November in the current fiscal is ₹13,32,440 crore, averaging ₹1.66 lakh crore per month. The collection is 11.9 per cent higher than the gross GST collection in



We expect CGST collections to modestly exceed the budget estimates

ADITI NAYAR | CHIEF ECONOMIST, ICRA

the same period last year (Rs 11,90,920 crore, averaging ₹1.49 lakh crore per month).

EY Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal said the higher GST revenues are primarily due to increased domestic activity, the festive season last month and increased tax administration.

"The numbers can be said to be an indicator of a stable Indian economy as we see a 20 per cent increase in domestic transactions compared to the same month last year," he said.

Increased GST collections in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Ladakh, etc indicate a rise in consumption in these parts of the country, Agarwal added.

During the month, revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 20 per cent higher than revenues from these sources during the same month last year.

Best-ever Nov for PV wholesales

Riding on fast lane, the industry is expected to close the current financial year with the best-ever yearly wholesales of over 41L units

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: Passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches rose to the highest-ever level for November month as the companies pushed supplies to dealers to cater to the enhanced demand in the festive season.

The overall passenger vehicle wholesales rose to 3.35 lakh units last month, up 3.9 per cent from 3.22 lakh units in November 2022.

"It is the highest-ever November wholesale figure for the passenger vehicle segment," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Senior Executive Officer (Marketing and Sales) Shashank Srivastava told reporters in a virtual call.

He noted that factors like enhanced demand during the festive period and better production due to the availability of electronic components played a



role in robust wholesales last month.

In November, MSI's domestic passenger vehicle sales stood at 1,34,158 units last month as compared with 1,32,395 units in November 2022, a growth of 1.33 per cent.

Sales of entry-level mini cars, comprising the Alto and S-Presso, were lower at 9,959 units as against 18,251 units in the same month last year.

Rival Hyundai Motor India said its domestic wholesales rose to 49,451 units last month, up 3 per cent from 48,002 units in the year-ago period.

Hyundai Motor India COO Tarun Garg said the growth mo-

Power consumption grows 8.5% in Nov

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Dec 1: The country's power consumption grew nearly 8.5 per cent to 119.64 billion units (BU) in November, showing a surge in electricity demand due to festivities and increased economic activities.

In the year-ago period, power consumption stood at 110.25 BU, higher than 99.32 billion units recorded in November 2021, according to the government data.

The peak power demand met -- the highest supply in a day -- rose to 204.60 GW in November. The peak power supply stood at 187.34 GW in November 2022 and 166.10 GW in November 2021.

The power ministry had estimated the country's electricity demand to touch 229 GW during summer. The demand did not reach the projected level in April-July due to unseasonal rain.

The peak supply, however, touched a new high of 224.1 GW in June before dropping to 209.03 GW in July. Peak demand touched 238.19 GW in August.

In September this year, it was 240.17 GW. The peak demand was 222.16 GW in October 2023. There were Dhanteras, Diwali, Bhaiya Dooj and Dev Deepavali festivals in November.

After Musk tirade, X faces fear of more advertisers fleeing

X FACES BANKRUPTCY FEARS AS MUSK CURSED ADVERTISERS THAT HAVE FLED THE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM OVER ANTISEMITIC CONTENT

REUTERS

Washington, Dec 1: Social media company X faces the prospect of more advertisers fleeing and has no clear fix in sight, ad industry experts said, after billionaire owner Elon Musk lashed out at some of the biggest brands for dropping the platform.

Walt Disney and Warner Bros Discovery suspended advertising on X earlier this month following Musk's endorsement of an antisemitic post that falsely claimed members of the Jewish community were stoking hatred against white people.

After apologizing for his post while speaking at a New York Times DealBook event Wednesday, Musk unleashed a profanity-laced tirade against advertisers for fleeing the plat-

form and accused the brands of "blackmail."

"The Tesla CEO bristled at the idea that he was antisemitic and said that advertisers who left X, formerly known as Twitter, should not think they could blackmail him.

"If somebody's gonna try to blackmail me with advertising, blackmail me with money? 'Go. F***. Yourself. Is that clear? I hope it is. Hey, Bob, if you're in the audience,'" he added, in an apparent reference to Robert Iger, chief executive of Walt Disney, which pulled ads on X.

He appeared to single out Walt Disney CEO Bob Iger, who spoke earlier at the event and said an association with X was "was not a positive one for us."

"What this advertising boycott is going to do is kill the company," Musk continued, re-

If anyone is killing X, it's Elon Musk - not advertisers. Should X collapse, an autopsy would reveal a series of platform policy decisions, staffing cuts, tweets and antagonistic comments by Musk that have driven away X's primary source of revenue

JASMINE ENBERG | ANALYST, INSIDER INTELLIGENCE



ports said. "And the whole world will know that those advertisers killed the company, and we will document it in great detail."

In a memo to employees Thursday, which was seen by Reuters, X Chief Executive Linda Yaccarino said Musk's in-

terview was "candid and profound," and encouraged staff to watch it. She reiterated that X's mission is to be an open platform without censorship.

The Tesla chief also acknowledged that an extended boycott by advertisers could bankrupt X, formerly Twitter,

but suggested that the public would blame the brands and not him for a potential collapse.

X risks not only losing corporate advertisers, but also money from political candidates, a revenue stream that reopened after the platform lifted a ban on political ads.

US political ad spending in 2024 - when a presidential election will be held - is expected to reach a record \$10.2 billion, according to AdImpact, which tracks political ads.

Mike Nellis, CEO of Authentic, a digital marketing agency that works with Democratic candidates including US President Joe Biden,

said he planned to speak with all his clients about whether or not to spend on X.

"Telling major advertisers and Bob Iger to go F themselves might be the final nail in the coffin," Nellis said.

X has come under fire for lax content moderation, especially from advertisers who do not want their ads appearing next to inappropriate content.

Companies such as Disney, IBM, Apple, Warner Bros. Discovery, Paramount, and Lionsgate pulled advertising from the social media website after Musk seemingly appeared to agree with a user who falsely claimed Jewish people fanned hatred against white people.

Over 100 brands have halted their advertisements and X is at risk of losing \$75mn by end of the year

India seal series against Oz

Dada bats for skipper Rohit till 2024 WT20



RINKU SINGH



JITESH SHARMA



AXAR PATEL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Dec 1: Impressed with his captaincy at the ODI World Cup, former captain Sourav Ganguly Friday threw his weight behind Rohit Sharma, saying he should lead India at least till the T20 World Cup (World T20/WT20) in June next year. Rohit, who led India to the ODI World Cup final at home, and Virat Kohli have taken a "break" and will miss the white-ball leg of the upcoming South Africa tour, beginning December 10.



two-Test series in South Africa beginning with the Boxing Day Test in Centurion. "Very rightfully, they have taken a break because there is so much cricket all the time. I cannot imagine that you played a World Cup final on the 19th and in three days' time you're playing a T20I series against the same team," Ganguly said.

Talking to reporters, Ganguly said the duo deserved rest so that they come back "fresh" for the hectic calendar ahead.

"Once Rohit is back playing all formats, he should be the captain of India, because he has done so well in the World Cup," said the former BCCI president during a program here. "You saw in the World Cup how well they played. They are absolutely integral and an important part of Indian cricket."

Interestingly, both Rohit and Kohli haven't played a T20I since the semifinals against England in the 2022 T20 World Cup and the BCCI was not clear whether the duo should be in India's scheme of things for the T20 global showpiece in six months time.

After the 2022 T20 World Cup, Hardik Pandya was named India's T20 captain but following his injury during the ODI World Cup, Suryakumar Yadav is leading the team in the ongoing five-T20 series against Australia.

"World Cups are different than a bilateral series because the pressures are different. They have been exceptional this World Cup and hopefully six-seven months down the line in the West Indies they will be again at their best," Ganguly said. "He's (Rohit) a leader. I expect and I presume that he will continue as captain till the T20 World Cup in 2024."

The duo will be back for the

seamer for three boundaries to set the tone for the hosts.

Ruturaj Gaikwad (32) watched the action from the other end as Jaiswal went after the bowling. Jaiswal continued with his aggressive ways. Recalled into the attack to stem the flow of runs, Hardie was hit straight down the ground for a four by Jaiswal, but the decision to bring him back ended in a success as Australia got their first breakthrough in the left-handed opener.

Going for one too many, Jaiswal could not connect well enough and Ben McDermott completed a good catch running from mid-on, as India reached 50/1 at the end of powerplay.

Joining the side after a small break following the World Cup, vice-captain Shreyas Iyer (8), looking to hit leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha (2/30) out of the ground, could not get enough power or elevation and Green took the catch at long-on.

Skipper Suryakumar Yadav (1) casually edged Dwarshuis to the keeper, leaving India at 63/3 in the beginning of the ninth over. The partisan spectators were however not required to keep quiet for long as Rinku got going straightaway, his customary powerful strokes aiding him.

Rinku and Ruturaj added 48 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter was dismissed by Sangha. But that did not deter Rinku from playing his natural game and he found an able ally in Jitesh, the two adding 50 runs in just 29 balls to lift India's run rate. Jitesh, however, fell when he was looking good to add a few more runs to his total.

BRIEF SCORES

India 174/9 (Rinku Singh 46, Yashasvi Jaiswal 37, Jitesh Sharma 35, Ruturaj Gaikwad 32; Ben Dwarshuis 3/40, Tanveer Sangha 2/30, Jason Behrendorff 2/32) beat Australia 154/7 (Matthew Wade 36 n o, Travis Head 31; Axar Patel 3/16, Deepak Chahar 2/44, Ravi Bishnoi 1/17) by 20 runs.

only seven runs in the last two overs, thanks to Ben Dwarshuis (3/40) and Jason Behrendorff (2/32).

In reply, Australia were restricted to 154/7 as India took an unassailable 3-1 lead with a match to go. Matthew Wade remained not out on 36 (23b, 2x4, 2x6).

Axar and Ravi Bishnoi (1/17) were magnificent, bowling eight overs for only 33 runs with four scalps to their credit. There was no dew and hence the target of 175 became defendable unlike Guwahati.

Australia were off to a flyer with Travis Head (31) collecting a flurry of boundaries to lift his

team to 42/1 in four overs, including picking 22 runs off seamer Deepak Chahar (2/44).

Axar however had the hero of Australia's World Cup final caught after the batter got a leading edge while attempting a slog-sweep. It was a huge breakthrough for India, coming 10 balls after leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi knocked over Josh Philippe's off-stump with one that straightened.

Playing across the line, Aaron Hardie's middle stump was disturbed by Axar as he put India in a position of strength by leaving Australia at 55/3 at the end of seventh over.

Ben McDermott (19) and Tim

David (19) steadied the Australian innings with a 35-run partnership before Axar picked up his third wicket to leave the visitors in a very difficult situation at 87/4 in the 12th over and with the run rate pressure increasing.

Chahar came back strongly to dismiss David and reduce Australia to 107/5 in the 15th over and the match tilted decisively in favour of India.

Earlier, Aaron Hardie started the match with a maiden over before Yashasvi Jaiswal (37) got off the mark with a lovely cover drive Jason Behrendorff (2/32). The 21-year-old Jaiswal launched into Ben Dwarshuis (3/40) in the third over, hitting the left-arm

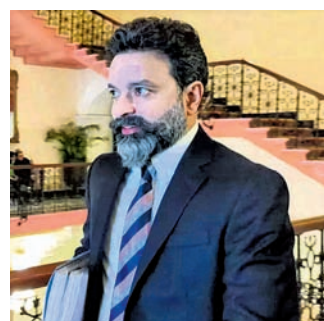
IPL media rights value 'can touch' USD 50bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Dec 1: IPL chairman Arun Dhimal believes that the media rights value of the league has the potential to touch a staggering USD 50 billion over the next two decades, provided it keeps innovating and improvising with fans' interests in mind. The current media rights value of the league stands at USD 6.2 billion (approx Rs 48,000 crore) for a five-year period starting from 2022.

Even by this estimate, IPL is the second-most high-valued league after the National Football League (NFL), as the American sporting entity struck a USD 110 billion media deal for an 11-year period starting from last year. "If I have to see how it has gone over the last 15 years and if I have to go by estimates going forward, we are expecting media rights (of the IPL) to go somewhere close to USD 50 billion by around 2043," said Dhimal while speaking at the RCB Innovation Lab's Leaders Meet India here.

Dhimal, who is also a former BCCI treasurer, also pinned his hopes for a financial windfall



on the advent of the Women's Premier League (WPL) and cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"We need to keep innovating, keep doing better in terms of fan engagement, and keep making it better in terms of the quality of games," he said.

"Now that cricket is becoming part of the Olympics and with the WPL taking it to a different level for women's cricket, I see a lot of hope and light at the end of the tunnel," said Dhimal.

The media rights value of the IPL has grown exponentially in the last decade and half from the Rs 6000 crore in 2008, going past several other major sporting leagues across the world.

Liverpool advance in Europa League

ASSOCIATED PRESS

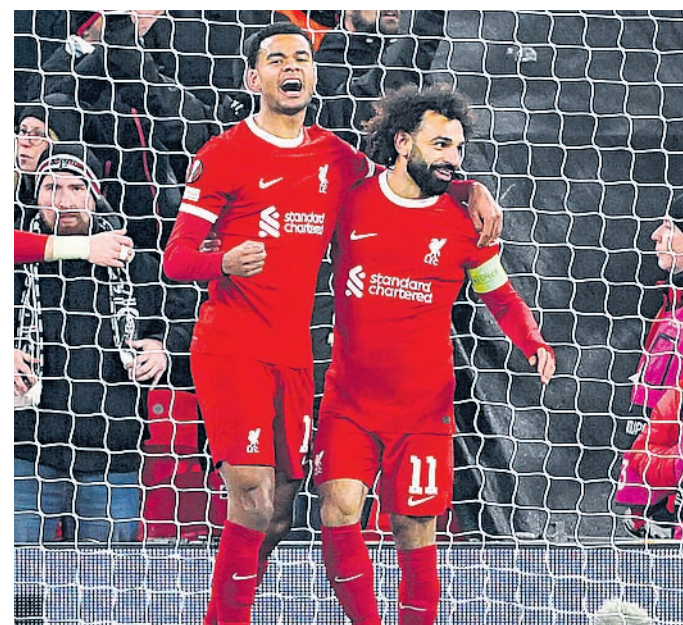
Liverpool, Dec 1: Liverpool advanced to the round of 16 of the Europa League with a game to spare after Luis Diaz and Cody Gakpo scored early to set the tone in a 4-0 victory over Austria's LASK.

Diaz headed in a cross from Joe Gomez for the opener in the 12th before Gakpo tapped in Mohamed Salah's pass three minutes later at Anfield. Salah made it 3-0 early in the second half in what was his 199th goal for the Reds. Gakpo added his second in stoppage time.

Liverpool are four points clear atop Group E with 12 points. Toulouse are in second on eight after a 0-0 draw with Union Saint-Gilloise.

Leverkusen remained the only team with a perfect record after five games. Victor Boniface and substitute Patrik Schick contributed a goal apiece for a 2-0 victory at Hacken in Group H and a place in the round of 16.

Tomas Soucek struck late again to help West Ham beat TSC Backa Topola 1-0 and advance to the knockout stage. The midfielder met Maxwell Cornet's cross at the far post to volley



IMPRESSIVE OUTING: Cody Gakpo (C) celebrates a goal with Mohamed Salah during Liverpool's match against LASK, Thursday

home the winner in the 89th minute in Serbia.

West Ham are tied atop Group A with Germany's Freiburg, who routed Olympiacos 5-0. Michael Gregoritsch had a hat-trick by the 36th minute. Kiliann Sildillia and Ritsu Doan also so-

cred. The winners both have 12 points.

The Hammers need only a point against Freiburg Dec 14 in London to win the group and avoid a two-legged playoff in February.

Brighton advanced from Group

B after Joao Pedro converted from the spot for a 1-0 win over 10-man AEK in Athens.

Marseille forward Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's hat-trick included a stunning overhead kick and two penalties — one in stoppage time — in a 4-3 win over 10-man Ajax to lead to Group B with 11 points. Brighton trail by one. AEK remain on four points in third. Ajax have two.

The eight group winners in Europe's second-tier competition earn a direct place in the last 16 of the competition whereas finishing in second only gets a team a playoff against the clubs who drop into the Europa League as third-placed finishers in Champions League groups.

Atalanta advanced directly to the round of 16 despite 1-1 draw at home with Sporting Lisbon. Sporting substitute Marcus answered Gianluca Scamacca's opening goal. Atalanta won Group D with 11 points. Sporting is second with eight.

Roma's 1-1 draw at Servette in Geneva allowed Slavia Prague to settle atop Group G following a 3-2 win at Sheriff in Tiraspol. Roma trails the Czech team by two points with a game remaining.

INDIA WOMEN GO DOWN FIGHTING IN JUNIOR HOCKEY WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Santiago (Chile), Dec 1: India squandered a two-goal advantage to go down 3-4 to last edition's runners-up Germany in a thrilling FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup match here.

Annu (11th minute), Ropni Kumari (14th), and Mumtaz Khan (24th) were the goal scorers for India, while Sophia Schwabe (17th), Laura Pluth (21st & 36th), and Carolin Seidel's (38th) found the net for Germany Thursday.

Germany's sturdy defence prevented India from scoring until the closing minutes of the quarter. The Indian team secured consecutive penalty corners, and Annu capitalised on the second opportunity putting her team in the lead. Ropni found the net with a well-executed shot from another PC to give them a 2-0 lead after the first quarter.

Germany approached the second quarter with renewed zeal. Their efforts bore fruit as Sophia scored an impressive field goal. Laura then levelled the score. However, India swiftly responded through Mumtaz. Laura restored parity in the third quarter before seizing the lead with Carolin goal from a PC.

Krishna helps Odisha FC pip Jamshedpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1: Odisha FC secured a crucial 1-0 victory at JRD Tata Sports Complex Friday, thanks to Roy Krishna's 57th minute goal, earning all three points for the Kalinga Warriors.

Odisha FC began passionately, with Ahmed Jahouh attempting a long-range shot that sailed over the bar. In the ninth minute, Isak Valnalruatfela crossed beautifully from the left flank but found its way directly to the goalkeeper.

In the 22nd minute, Jahouh showcased his quality with a precise long ball that bypassed the entire JFC defensive line, reaching Krishna in the attacking third. Despite Krishna's attempt to round up the goalkeeper after a heavy touch, he went too wide for a shot.

In the 38th minute, Cy Goddard found himself unmarked inside



the box. Unfortunately, Goddard squandered the opportunity by blasting the ball over the bar. Despite both teams having chances to take the lead, ineffi-

cient finishing proved to be a downfall. The first half concluded goalless.

After the break, both teams showed a spirited performance,

leaving no room for complacency. In the 47th minute, Tachikawa from the home side attempted to ignite some action by taking a shot from outside the box, but it sailed well off target.

In the 57th minute, Jahouh's corner into the far post found Krishna, who skillfully headed the ball into the back of the net giving the Kalinga Warriors a crucial lead.

In the 60th minute, Odisha came close to doubling the lead but the ball rebounded off the post after beating Rehnesh TP. In the 66th minute of the game, Jahouh fired a shot off target after Roy Krishna set him up during a counter-attack.

Following the victory, Odisha FC now take the third spot on the ISL table. Their next challenge for Odisha FC will be in Kolkata, where they are set to face Mohun Bagan Super Giant December 6.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Dec 1: Young Indian shuttler Priyanshu Rajawat progressed to the men's singles semifinals with a straight-game win over Alvi Farhan of Indonesia at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here Friday.

The 21-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, who won the Orleans Masters Super 300 this season, registered a 21-15, 21-16 win over world junior champion Farhan in a 49-minute quarterfinal clash at the BWF World Tour Super 300 tournament. Priyanshu will next face either Chinese Taipei's Chi Yu Jen or Chia Hao Lee.

World No.32 and seventh seed pair of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa, who had clinched the Nates International Challenge and Abu Dhabi Masters Super 100 this year, secured a 21-19, 21-8 win over Commonwealth Games bronze



medallists Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who are ranked 19th in the world and fourth seed here.

Tanisha and Ashwini will likely face top seeded Japanese pair of Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota in the semifinal

the Indian reeled off five straight points to seal the opening game comfortably.

In the second game, Priyanshu once again opened up a 8-3 advantage but the 18-year-old Indonesian turned the tables, taking a slim 11-10 lead at the break. Farhan swelled the lead to 15-12 but Priyanshu regrouped just in time to take nine of the next 10 points to seal the issue.