



Nora's success story

Actor Nora Fatehi shares insights into her experience with rejection and how she overcame it

LEISURE | P2



North Korea's claim

North Korea boasts that the new intercontinental ballistic missile it just test-launched is 'the world's strongest'

INTERNATIONAL | P10



SUV sales surge

Carmakers report a surge in sports utility vehicle sales to dealers in the festive month of Oct, while the small-car segment stays sluggish

BUSINESS | P11



India in trouble

Indian batters falter again to put the team under pressure after spinners restrict New Zealand to 235 in 3rd Test

SPORTS | P12



UNIQUE CELEBRATION: People take part in the traditional stone-pelting fair (Pathar Mela) at Dhama, celebrated a day after the Diwali festival, near Shimla, Friday

No secret chamber in Ratna Bhandar: Min

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Friday said preliminary findings from the ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) suggest there are no secret tunnels or chambers in the Ratna Bhandar of Puri's Jagannath temple.

The minister, however, said the confirmation will come with the final report.

Harichandan said while no secret passages were found, the survey identified cracks within the temple's treasury.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration had requested the GPR survey amidst speculation about hidden chambers containing valuables and jewellery in the shrine's treasury.

The minister said the inventory of Lord Jagannath's jewellery and valuables would be made after the ASI completes repairs of the Ratna Bhandar.

"It is not feasible to carry out any repairs now since the temple is witnessing a heavy rush of devotees as it is the holy month of Kartika," he said.

The repairs are expected to take over a month, with the ASI scheduled to address the cracks after Kartika Purnima, he said.

Cost of inaction

In a disconcerting report, the Asian Development Bank has said that indiscriminate greenhouse gas emissions may cost India a quarter of its gross domestic product (GDP) if the country fails to achieve its target of net-zero emissions by 2070. This makes it all the more imperative for the country to transit to a green economy and lessen its dependence on fossil fuel-based energy. The damage from inaction towards climate change is likely to be exponential, with India losing around 5 per cent of GDP in a high-end emissions scenario by 2035, which will ramp up to around 13 per cent by 2050 and 24.7 per cent by 2070.

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 1: Climate change under a high-end emissions scenario could lead to a 16.9 per cent loss in GDP by 2070 across the Asia and Pacific region, with India projected to suffer a 24.7 per cent GDP loss, said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its inaugural issue of the 'Asia-Pacific Climate Report.'

The cost of inaction has been rising as the new numbers are higher than the previous estimates run by the Manila-based institution. "By 2070, climate change under a high-end emissions scenario could cause a total loss of 16.9 per cent of GDP



across the Asia and Pacific region," it said. A high-end emission scenario entails days with temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius doubling from 100 to 200 by 2100.

Rising sea levels and decreasing labour productivity would drive the most significant losses, with lower-income and fragile economies being hit the hardest, the report said, adding that if the climate crisis continues to accelerate, up to 300 million people in the Asia-Pacific could be at risk from coastal inundation, and trillions of dollars' worth of coastal assets could face annual damage by 2070.

"Climate change has supercharged the devastation from

tropical storms, heat waves, and floods in the region, contributing to unprecedented economic challenges and human suffering," said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa.

Urgent, well-coordinated climate action addressing these impacts is necessary before it is too late, he said.

The ADB report said that a developing Asia has accounted for most of the increase in global GHG emissions since 2000. While advanced economies were major GHG emitters throughout the 20th century, emissions from developing Asia have risen more rapidly than those from any other region in the first two decades of the 21st century.

"Consequently, the region's share of global emissions rose from 29.4 per cent in 2000 to 45.9 per cent in 2021... Emissions from developing Asia continue to rise, driven primarily by China, which contributed about 30 per cent of global emissions in 2021," the ADB report said.

The report pointed out that the region is home to 60 per cent of the world's population, with per capita emissions still below the global average.

"India is reported to have the highest number of affected individuals and damage costs, with residential losses being predominant," the report said.

Debroy no more

New Delhi: Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairman Bibek Debroy passed away Friday, a senior EAC-PM official said. He was admitted to AIIMS Thursday night. "He was admitted with subacute intestinal obstruction. He also suffered from hypertension and diabetes mellitus," an official source at AIIMS, Delhi said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled Debroy's passing and called him a "towering scholar".

Mango kernel deaths again

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: At least two tribal women died and six others fell ill after allegedly consuming mango kernel gruel in Kandhamal district, police said Friday.

Consumption of mango kernel, prepared by boiling the seeds in water, was reported from Mandipanka village in Daringbadi block, an officer said.

While one of the two women (Rasmita Pattamajhi, 22) died Thursday night at Mohana CHC in Gajapati district, another woman (Runu Majhi, 29) breathed her last while being taken to MKCG Medical College Hospital in Berhampur, Gadapur sarpanch Kumari Mallick said.

Six others, who fell ill after allegedly consuming the gruel, were admitted to a hospital and their condition was critical, said Dr Subrat Das, a medical officer of the health facility.

"All the six have been admitted to the hospital in a serious condition. We suspected that they fell sick due to food poisoning. The exact cause of the illness will be ascertained after completion of the investigation," he added.

Meanwhile, the state government has rejected allegations that tribal people have been consuming mango kernel gruel due to a lack of access to rice under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Rasmita's husband Anil Pattamajhi alleged that they were denied rice under PDS for the last three months because of which his wife consumed mango kernel.

However, Kandhamal District Magistrate-cum-Collector Amrit Raturaj dismissed the allegations, saying the family received rice according to PDS norms. "We are awaiting the post-mortem report to determine the facts," the Collector added.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, who is also in-charge of the Women and Child Development department, said, "It is not a case of malnutrition. Mango kernel is part of their (tribal) regular diet. Sometime, the mango kernels get contaminated and lead to such unfortunate incidents. We have been actively spreading awareness about the risks of food contamination."

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling ordered a departmental inquiry into incident.

The incident reminds a similar tragedy involving mango kernel deaths in Kashipur block of Rayagada district, where at least 20 people died in 2001, and two more succumbed to mango kernel consumption in 2016. Additionally, mango kernel has claimed lives in Laxmipur in Koraput district in 2012 and 2013, as well as in Jharigaon in Nabarangpur district in 2018.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



It's festive season - people have more money to shop. We can raise the cooking gas price without hesitation

Trump goes all out to woo Hindus

AGENCIES

Washington, Nov 1: With the US presidential election only days away, Republican candidate Donald Trump has gone all out to woo the American Hindu community, claiming that President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have ignored Hindus across the world.

As part of his Diwali greetings, the former US president condemned the attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, vowed to strengthen ties with India and described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his good friend.

"I strongly condemn the barbaric violence against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities who are getting attacked and looted by mobs in Bangladesh, which remains in a total state of chaos. It would have never happened on my watch," Trump wrote in a post on X.

This is for the first time that Trump has spoken on the issue of Bangladesh. Hundreds were killed in



July-August in Bangladesh when a students' agitation turned into massive protests leading to then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee the country August 5.

"Kamala and Joe have ignored Hindus across the world and in America. They have been a disaster from Israel to Ukraine to our own Southern Border, but we will Make

America Strong Again and bring back Peace through Strength," he went on to write.

"We will also protect Hindu Americans against the anti-religion agenda of the radical left. We will fight for your freedom. Under my administration, we will also strengthen our great partnership with India and my good friend, Prime Minister Modi," Trump said. "Also, Happy Diwali to All. I hope the Festival of Lights leads to the Victory of Good over Evil," said the former president.

The number of Indian Americans residing in the US is around 5.2 million forming the second-largest immigrant community, and out of them around 2.3 million are eligible to vote. Indian Americans saw the highest voter turnout among Asian Americans in the last two presidential elections, compared with white voters, according to research firm AAPI Data, an organisation that collects data about Asian American communities.

DADLS-45

ODISHA VISION 2036 & 2047

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With your blessings, the People's Government has embarked on an ambitious journey to make Odisha a stronger, prosperous and developed State by the year 2036, the 100th anniversary of our State's formation.

This also aligns with the Government of India's vision to transform our Nation into Viksit Bharat by 2047, the 100th anniversary of our country's Independence. I seek your valuable ideas for Odisha's Vision 2036 - what you want Odisha to look like in 2036; and then in 2047.

Our vision should be aspirational. Our vision should ensure social justice, balanced regional growth and an emotional connect with all Odias, especially our poor and underprivileged brothers & sisters.

Hence, I appeal to you to share your ideas with us through any of the methods listed below.

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

VIKSIT ODISHA FOR VIKSIT BHARAT
Be a part of shaping Odisha's future!

Join us in crafting Odisha Vision 2036 & 2047.
Together, we can create a brighter, stronger, and more prosperous Odisha!
Lets build the future we dream of!!!

vision.odisha.gov.in | +91 6370951920 | vision@odisha.gov.in

OIPR-15001/13/0256/2425



AVENGERS ASSEMBLE FOR KAMALA HARRIS

Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson and Mark Ruffalo, the four of the OG 6 in Marvel's *Avenger* film franchise, reunited in support to Kamala Harris as the next President of the United States.

GOT SPINOFF TO TAKE FRANCHISE TO BIG SCREEN

If recent reports are to be believed, at least one *Game of Thrones* movie is in very early stages of development. *GoT*, spawned from the writings of George RR Martin, became a global cultural phenomenon during its eight-season run from 2011-2019.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, a romantic link-up is about to be delivered at your doorstep, all wrapped in silver and tinsel! So, Ganesh hopes you are prepared. Don your best attire, check your breath and practice some sweet-talking. After all, who knows what the evening will lead to? Only Ganesh, and he's smiling an impish grin! Need more clue?

TAURUS
Chaos will reign supreme as unexpected things occur and expected ones are missed out on, says Ganesh. Luck will favour you and nothing is powerful enough to hamper you other than your own thoughts. You will dodge any trouble that is headed your way and escape easily, much to the embarrassment of others.

GEMINI
Today is an important day to completely immerse yourself in your favourite activities, says Ganesh. But don't forget that loved ones come first as lack of warmth may affect family life. Show your family members that you care. New relationships are also on the anvil. It is an eventful and positive day for you.

CANCER
At work, your ability to forge great partnerships will see to the success of one of your ambitious projects. However, you need to be careful before signing the contract. It's always important to go through the finer details of a deal before closing it.

LEO
Reinvention and rejuvenation – these are the two words that shall dictate your philosophy for the day. Refurbishing oneself does not always have to be in accordance with something new; taking a look back can be equally enlightening. In any case, it's a small world, and hence, chances are that you shall revive most of your old contacts either in a social occasion or an official meeting.

VIRGO
Achievement and accomplishment will be the highlights of the day, notes Ganesh. You will be recognised for your devotion to work and determination to succeed at your workplace. Much awaited promotions may come and financial arrears may also reach your hands.

LIBRA
You will be very active today, especially when it comes to finishing tasks in office. Your thoughts will reach new heights and you will be able to motivate and stimulate others to perform. Your motto for the day is 'Arise, awake and sleep not till the goal is reached'.

SCORPIO
Your close friends and loved ones seem to be on the menu today, predicts Ganesh. Romantic brilliance will usher in happiness and favourable business prospects will be the icing on the cake. Your charm will peak and you will enjoy the attention you get out of it.

SAGITTARIUS
Be ready with your bags packed as you may decide to undertake an impromptu trip today. It could be a business trip or simply travel in pursuit of pleasure. Nostalgia will grip you as you run into an old childhood friend today. Sharpen your public relation skills, which will come in handy when you deal with strangers today, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
That you are affectionate towards your loved ones will be more noticeable today than ever before, says Ganesh. In fact, you will enjoy their company and will do everything in your capacity to make them feel wanted. Long-term relationships will also thrive.

AQUARIUS
Fortune favours the brave, and who knows it better than you? Your performance may come under scrutiny, but your bosses will come away pleased as punch. Want to make some money? Ganesh points to real estate and the construction business.

PISCES
Your expenses are likely to soar and you will need to draw a line between your needs and your desires if you are to keep them in check. There is a strong possibility that you will undergo a spiritual experience today.

Shruti shares her Rajini experience

Mumbai: Shruti Haasan will be seen sharing screen space with Rajinikanth in the upcoming film *Coolie* and the actress said that she was nervous to work with the superstar in the Tamil action thriller film.

Shruti told this agency: "I was nervous to work with Rajini sir I'm not going to lie but he puts everyone at ease with his demeanour and I've had the best time working with sir, it's a great learning for me."

The 38-year-old actress' father Kamal Haasan has worked with Rajinikanth in over 20 films.

Asked about how she feels about working with Rajinikanth after her father, she said: "It's lovely to hear about their history and friendship through the years and it's like a lesson in what cinema was and how it is and how these two great legends have managed to still stay at the top of their game whilst being so human at the same time."

Talking about *Coolie*, an action thriller, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. It also stars Nagarjuna, Soubin Shahir, Sathyaraj and Upenendra.

Shruti was last seen in *Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire*, a Telugu-language epic action thriller film directed by Prashanth Neel. The film stars Prabhas, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Jagapathi Babu, Bobby Simha and Sriya Reddy.



Nora on career turning point

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi is known for her stellar dance moves. Her admirers often address her as the *Kamariya* or *Dilbar* girl. In a recent interview, the Thank God actress shared insights into her experiences with rejection and how she overcame them.

The Canadian actor-dancer recalled "I remember once I went for an audition. This was for a Yash Raj Films. I really spent weeks mugging the lines... I was like, 'I killed it'. They didn't call me back, the feedback was, 'She is not that good'. I remember hearing that... I just broke my cellphone, shattering it into pieces in anger."

That moment of frustration marked a turning point for Nora. She realised the importance of letting go and trusting the timing of her success. "Everyone has their time, and when that time comes, all the doors are going to open. But if I keep forcing doors that are not meant to be open for me then it's not going to help me." Nora realised her reaction to rejection was overblown, as the projects that she was turned down for didn't do all that well.

Originally from Canada, Nora ventured into the Indian film industry and rose to fame despite facing initial rejections and challenges. Her breakthrough came through her performances in blockbuster item songs like *Dilbar* in *Satyameva Jayate*.

Huma recalls magical moment with SRK

Mumbai: In a latest chat, Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi shared her admiration for Shah Rukh Khan and recalled her first encounter with him during an ad shoot for a paint company.

At that time, she was still new to the industry and hadn't made her film debut. In the ad, she played Khan's pregnant wife and in one touching scene, he painted her toenails. Recollecting her experience, she said, "So that day I think I called my mother and said, there is a God. You know, and he listens to people's prayers because I got to

work even on an ad shoot with my favourite actor in the world."

Huma also shared her reaction to a cherished photo with SRK, calling it 'such a lovely picture.' She shared that the moment was captured at an event as both their cars arrived simultaneously.

The *Deh Ishqiya* actress admitted that whenever she meets Shah Rukh, she often feels too awestruck to ask for a picture, making this one all the more special.

On the work front, Huma is back with the next chapter of *Mithya*, which also features

Avantika Dassani and Naveen Kasturia.
AGENCIES



Sara's K3G moment with Ibrahim

Mumbai: Friday, Sara Ali Khan delighted her fans by sharing stunning photos with her brother, Ibrahim Ali Khan, showcasing their sibling bond.

Unleashing her poetic talent, Sara lived her *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham* moment with her brother. She took to her Instagram handle to post her pictures with Ibrahim and wrote in the caption, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham*. With my Brother Jaan, it's always fun. Kabhi laughter & sometimes he'll scold. And Appa Jaan will do as she's told." In the vibrant pictures, the *Kedarnath* star looks radiant in a beautiful yellow suit, while Ibrahim

sports a black outfit teamed with a shimmering blue jacket.

These candid clicks capture Sara and Ibrahim's moments of laughter and teasing. Sara Ali Khan and Ibrahim share a close bond of friendship and are often seen setting major sibling goals. Whether it's their heartwarming social media photos or appearances at star-studded parties, the brother-sister duo never fails to steal the

limelight with their strong camaraderie.

Fans could not help but gush over Sara's latest photos. One said,

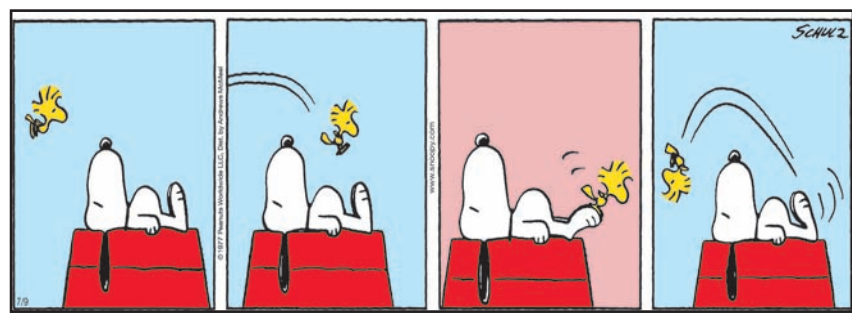
"Definitely Tom and Jerry vibes." Another wrote, "The cutest siblings." A third user commented, "Saif and Amrita version

2.0." Sara and Ibrahim are Saif Ali Khan's children from his first wife, Amrita Singh. Khan later tied the knot with Kareena Kapoor in 2012, and the couple has two sons: Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan.

On the work front, Sara has been busy shooting for Aakash Kaushik's upcoming untitled project. The film, which marks Kaushik's directorial debut, is being touted as a spy comedy.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

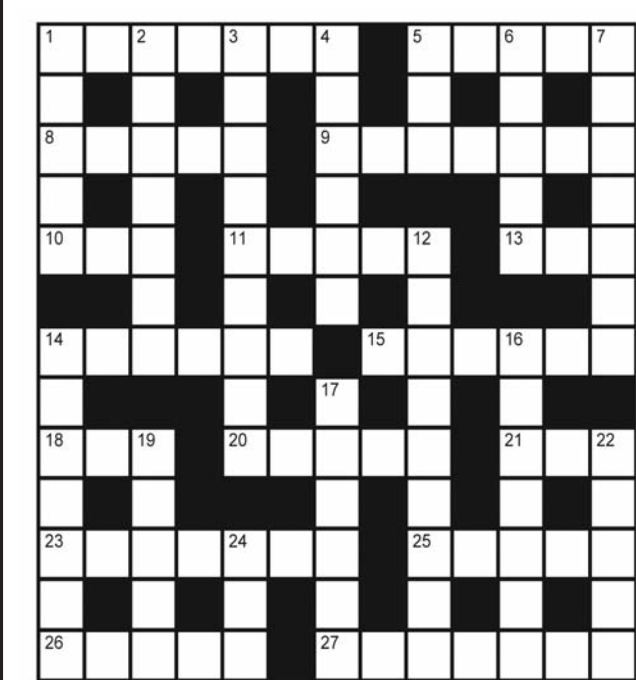


BREVITY



FUN post

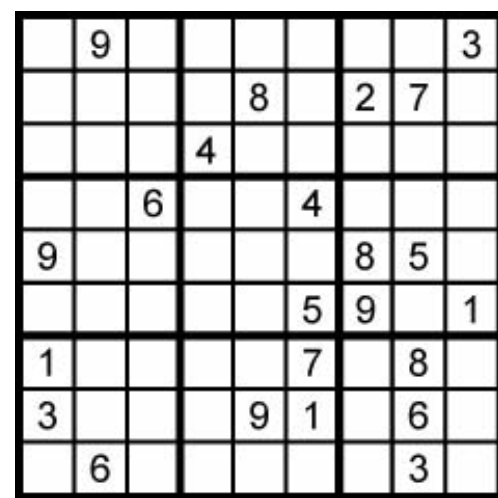
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Pie plant
 - 5 Tough, durable wood
 - 8 Column style
 - 9 High-spirited horse
 - 10 Sapporo sash
 - 11 Bouquet
 - 13 Freudian topic
 - 14 Rubicon crosser
 - 15 Leafy vegetable
 - 18 "O Sole ___"
 - 20 Grain disease
 - 21 Flop demand
 - 23 Employ
 - 25 Whiskers
 - 26 Hostile force
 - 27 Ceremonial staff
 - 5 Grassy area
 - 6 Worker's demand
 - 7 Gathering place
 - 12 Respected
 - 14 ___ with nature
 - 16 Seasoned sailor (3,4)
 - 17 Means of escape
 - 19 Speak out
 - 22 Sidestep
 - 24 Winter travel warning
- Down**
- 1 Cowboy show
 - 2 Crimea locale
 - 3 Alaskan city
 - 4 Guiding light

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

JSW-POSCO to set up greenfield steel plant in Keonjhar: Majhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday said that India's fastest growing conglomerate JSW Group and South Korean steel major POSCO will jointly set up a greenfield steel facility in his home district of Keonjhar.

Majhi revealed this amid nationwide speculation over the exact location of the JSW-POSCO joint venture.

"During our roadshows in Delhi and Mumbai for 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025', I had a discussion with both JSW Group and POSCO regarding the establishment of a steel plant in Odisha's mineral-rich Keonjhar district," Majhi, who is on a two-day visit to Keonjhar for celebrating Diwali, told reporters.

"Meanwhile, they have signed an agreement. They will do it jointly. They have also mentioned doing it in Keonjhar district. It is under process and Odisha will get another steel plant," the chief minister said.

The two steelmakers October 29 signed an agreement at JSW Group's corporate headquarters in Mumbai, in the presence of JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal and POSCO Chairman Chang In-hwa.

The partnership will focus on setting up an integrated steel plant in India with an initial capacity of 5 million tonne per annum (MTPA).

According to the MoU, both parties will also explore collaborations in the areas of battery materials related to Electric Vehicles (EVs), and renewable energy for meeting the captive requirements of the proposed integrated steel plant, a company statement said.

THE TWO STEELMAKERS OCTOBER 29 SIGNED AN AGREEMENT AT JSW GROUP'S CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IN MUMBAI FOR SETTING UP AN INTEGRATED STEEL PLANT WITH AN INITIAL CAPACITY OF 5 MTPA

STATE GOVT HAS IDENTIFIED TWO PATCHES OF LAND IN KEONJHAR DISTRICT FOR BATTERY MATERIALS-RELATED TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EVs), AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR MEETING THE CAPTIVE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROPOSED INTEGRATED STEEL PLANT

Meanwhile, the state government has identified two patches of land for the purpose in Keonjhar district. One patch of 2,500-acre land is located near Odisha Tea Plantation Limited (OTPL) in the Taramakant area under Banspal block, while the other one of 1,956-acre is at Patna, which was initially offered to steel major ArcelorMittal.

This will be considered the second attempt by the South Korean steel major to set up a steel plant in Odisha. It had earlier scrapped its plan for a 12 million tonne steel mill in Odisha's Paradip and surrendered the land allotted for the project due to protests and certain regulatory issues several years ago.

While many were released after first aid, others had to be admitted to hospitals.

Around 17 people were admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after they received burn injuries while celebrating Diwali, hospital sources said.

In an incident at Rayagada, a stationery store was completely gutted after it caught fire during the celebrations. The shop owner used to sell petrol in bottles and those caught fire while bursting crackers.

At least eight people suffered injuries while bursting crackers in Balasore district.

The injured were mostly minors. They were admitted to Balasore District Headquarters Hospital.

In addition, two persons sustained burn injuries on their hands in Sambalpur district.

2 DEAD, OVER 50 HURT IN DIWALI FIRES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: At least two persons died and 50 were injured in various incidents of fire across the state during Diwali celebrations, police said Friday.

In addition, properties valued at lakhs of rupees were gutted during the festival of lights Thursday night, the police added.

Two minor boys succumbed to burn injuries and one woman was injured in a fire incident at Batagaon in Puri town following a firecracker blast.

The deceased were identified as Sanjay Jena and Bula Rout. Rout's sister-in-law Lipa Routh received critical burn injuries and is under treatment at a hospital in Bhubaneswar, a police officer said.

The deceased had reportedly suffered 80 per cent burns.

Puri Superintendent of Police Vinit Agarwal said an investigation is on into the firecracker explosion and stringent action will be taken against those involved in illegal cracker manufacturing.

Around 25 garment shops were gutted in a fire that broke out in a market in Bhubaneswar early on Friday, police said.

No one was injured in the incident but garments were damaged due to the blaze, a senior police officer said.

A report from Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar said that over two dozen people, including young boys, girls and children received burn injuries due to firecrackers-related mishaps at different parts of the state capital. While many were released after first aid, others had to be admitted to hospitals.

Around 17 people were admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack after they received burn injuries while celebrating Diwali, hospital sources said.

In an incident at Rayagada, a stationery store was completely gutted after it caught fire during



Shopkeepers try to salvage whatever is left after a major fire broke out at Market Building in Bhubaneswar, Friday. (R) A gutted cycle store at Bapuji Nagar vending zone

related mishaps. They were admitted to Baripada Hospital.

A report from Bhadrak district said that three children and two youths from different places like Charampa, Dhusuri, Simulia and Kudabarua were also admitted to Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital due to burn injuries.

In addition, two persons sustained burn injuries on their hands in Sambalpur district.



AROUND 25 GARMENT SHOPS GUTTED IN UNIT II MARKET BUILDING IN BHUBANESWAR

OVER TWO-DOZEN CHILDREN TREATED AT CAPITAL HOSPITAL FOR FIRE CRACKER BURNS

17 PEOPLE ADMITTED TO SCBMCH IN CUTTACK

8 SUFFER INJURIES WHILE BURSTING CRACKERS IN BALASORE DIST

2 EACH INJURED IN MAYURBHANJ AND SAMBALPUR DISTRICTS

5 HURT IN BHADRAK DIST



SMOG: Air Quality Index in Bhubaneswar remained 'poor' for the second consecutive day Friday due to bursting of firecrackers

PICTURE: BIKASH NAYAK

Two more held for minor's gangrape

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The twin city Commissionerate Police Friday arrested two more persons in connection with the sensational gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl at a hotel here October 16, taking the total number of accused in custody to five.

Police Thursday took into custody two men, both aged 19 years, and a 16-year-old girl in connection with the incident.

"Two other persons, aged 21 and 23, who were detained for interrogation Thursday, were arrested Friday after their involvement in the case was found during investigation," City Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pinak Mishra told media.

Though the alleged incident took place October 16, it came to the fore after the girl's family lodged a complaint in this regard with the Nayapalli police Wednesday, the DCP said.

A TOTAL OF FIVE, INCLUDING A GIRL, HAVE SO FAR BEEN ARRESTED FOR THE ALLEGED OFFENCE

According to the complaint, the arrested girl - a common friend of both the victim and the accused - had introduced the survivor to the accused. One of the accused allegedly took the victim to a park, where he offered her spiked soft drink. Later, he took her to a hotel, where he and three others took turns to rape her, an official said.

The accused also videotaped the incident and tried to extort the victim and her mother as well, the official said.

"The accused had demanded Rs 12,000 from the victim and Rs 50,000 from her mother; threatening to share the video on social media," the officer added, quoting the police complaint.

Police have reportedly seized the device used to videograph the incident.

Jilted lover tries to kill girl, held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The Baliana police Friday arrested a 21-year-old man under POCSO Act for allegedly plotting to kill a minor girl after she refused to give in to his repeated demands for marriage.

IIC, Baliana police station, Rabindranath Meher identified the accused as Rajkishore Naik, who lives with his parents in Bandhamula Sahi area.

He said Naik came in touch with the girl when the latter visited her maternal uncle's house during her college breaks earlier this year. "Thereafter, Rajkishore started meeting the victim frequently near her college. They later caught up at different places on a regular basis," Meher said.

Some days ago, Rajkishore offered a lift to the girl on his bike when she was waiting for an auto to go back home, to which she agreed. At Brahmaasarangi Chaak, Rajkishore stopped at a shop and gave the victim a sedative-laced drink, Meher said.

"After consuming the spiked drink, the victim felt dizzy. Rajkishore then took her to Jayadev Vatika and clicked several pictures of her after disrobing her," the IIC said.

Several days later, Rajkishore allegedly started coercing the girl to marry him by threatening to make her photos public. He also allegedly issued death threats to the victim and her family members, if they did not agree to his demands. "However, the girl refused to give in to his demands," Meher said.

Police said Wednesday, Rajkishore went to the girl's house with a plan to kill her as her family members were away. However, upon sighting him, the girl screamed for help. Some neighbours gathered and caught hold of Rajkishore and later handed him over to police.

Baliana police seized a sharp weapon from Rajkishore, who was produced before a local court Friday for remand.

Cannabis may not be directly causing changes in brain

Changes in brains of people consuming cannabis over long-term, including poor white matter connectivity -- known to affect cognition -- may not have been caused by cannabis, a genetic study has suggested, even as researchers said more studies are needed to understand long-term effects of the drug.

Dried leaves from the cannabis or marijuana plant are smoked or chewed for euphoric effect.

Looking at genetic and MRI brain scan data of nearly 16,000 cannabis users from the UK Biobank dataset, the researchers also found that long-term consumers of the drug had problems in their default mode network, known to be at play while one is letting their mind wander or reflecting.

However, when the researchers at the University of Oxford, UK,

applied methods of analysis to discern direct cause-and-effect links, they found that cannabis did not cause the detrimental changes to the cannabis-consumers' brains.

Further, the team cautioned that the results, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Mental Health, "need to be interpreted with careful consideration", and added that more research is needed to understand effects of heavy use and cannabis potency.

Cannabis use is increasing worldwide following its legalisation for medicinal purposes, such as treating chronic pain, in many countries, including high-income ones.

However, legalising the drug for recreational use is being debated around the world, even as countries such as Canada and Germany have legalised its use



in limited capacity.

While studies have shown cannabis to negatively affect brain function and structure, potential effects due to long-term use and information regarding a 'safe threshold' of drug remain unclear, the researchers said.

Therefore, the team used the analytical technique called

'Mendelian randomisation', which looks at genetic variants to know if exposure to a certain risk factor can cause a given outcome.

In this study, genetic variants were analysed to obtain evidence that exposure to cannabis causes changes to brain structure among long-term consumers. Of the entire study group, 3,641 reported

ever having used cannabis and 12,225 reported they never used the drug.

Those having ever consumed cannabis were further divided into 'low frequency' ones, if they had taken the drug up to 10 times, or 'high frequency', if they had consumed it 11 to over 100 times.

The researchers found that effects of consuming cannabis were especially evident in the 'corpus callosum' - the main communication route between the left and right sides of the brain.

The affected brain regions, including those involved in the default mode network, were densely packed with cannabinoid receptors, or 'targets' for cannabis, the team said.

Further, consuming cannabis was found to affect men and women differently - significant changes were seen in six specific brain regions in men, while

among women, the changes were more widespread across 24 structures and regions.

Offering possible explanations for why the study could not establish a cause-and-effect link, the researchers said that unmeasured aspects, such as family history, diet or medications could have influenced past studies.

Further, this study assessed lifelong or long-term effects of cannabis use, whereas previous studies possibly looked at cannabis use at different points in one's lifetime rather than overall impact throughout the life, they said.

"Cannabis use is associated with differences in brain structure and function. Further research is needed to understand the mechanisms underlying these associations, which do not appear to be causal," the authors wrote.

NSD outreach centre in City soon

Deputy CM to seek FDI for state tourism

The minister emphasised that the centre will play a significant role in promoting and expanding Odia theatre

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida will attend the 'Tourism Odyssey: Strengthening Ties with Diaspora and Industry Leaders' during her week-long tour to London from Saturday.

Parida is expected to showcase state's rich tourism potential, spotlighting the state's scenic destinations, historic sites, and vibrant cultural heritage to attract tourists from abroad. Additionally, she will outline the state's ambitious plans to encourage foreign direct investment (FDE) in its tourism sector.

The initiative aligns with state's broader goals of boosting economic growth through enhanced tourism and international partnerships. Parida's participation is anticipated to strengthen ties with the diaspora and industry leaders, promoting Odisha as a premier travel destination on the global map, according to official sources.

carried forth through the art of drama, which has narrated the region's tales for generations. The NSD outreach centre in Bhubaneswar will serve as a catalyst for the growth of Odia theatre productions.

"The Bhubaneswar outreach centre of NSD will provide high-quality training, allowing students to represent Odisha on national and international platforms through theatrical performances," he added.

The NSD was established in 1959 in Delhi, and since 1975, it has operated as an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

With the establishment of an outreach centre of NSD in Odisha, there is a vision to widely promote Odia culture, especially the rich Odia theatre tradition.

Minister for Odia Language, Literature, and Culture.

The minister emphasised that the outreach centre of NSD in the Capital City will play a significant role in promoting and expanding Odia theatre, bringing regional narratives and traditional drama into the national and global spotlight.

The decision to set up an NSD outreach centre in the state was taken after consultations between Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Culture Minister Suraj.

Highlighting the importance of Odia theatre, Suraj said, "Odisha's rich history, literature, art and culture have been

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: The state government has approved a proposal for establishment of an outreach centre of the National School of Drama (NSD) in the Capital City, Culture Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said.

In the initial phase, it will operate temporarily at Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar.

The outreach centre of NSD marks a prestigious milestone for Odisha, offering a golden opportunity for students aspiring to build careers in theatre and acting, said Suraj, the

Kushabhadra water turns toxic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nimapara, Nov 1: The water of Kushabhadra River, regarded as the lifeline of Nimapara, is becoming increasingly polluted as the waterbody has accumulated silt throughout the years.

The river, originating from Kuakhai River, flows from near Siphon Chhak on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar and passes through various areas, including Baliaanta and Balipatna in Khurda district and Nimapara, Gop, Satyabadi, and Puri Sadar in Puri district, before merging into the Bay of Bengal. The riverbed has not been dredged for a long time, causing it to accumulate further silt and aggravate pollution.

Due to the lack of dredging at both the source and the riverbed, the river's water-holding ca-



capacity has decreased significantly. Many fishermen families were once dependent on the river for their livelihood, as it used to teem with a variety of fish species. Agricultural fields along the riverbanks were once lush and productive, providing financial security for riparian farmers who grew brinjals, pointed gourds, cucumbers, tomatoes, okra, and various

leafy greens and flowers. These crops were even exported to other states fetching handsome money for the farmers. However, the current state of the river has driven farmers away, and they no longer rely on it.

Kushabhadra River, which supports the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people in Khurda and Puri districts, is now a victim of administra-

tive negligence.

During the previous administration, there were plans to construct a dam near Baliaanta to preserve the river's water, and a survey was even completed, but the project never started. A proposal for dredging the riverbed was also initiated during the same period, but this work, too, was halted halfway.

Attempts to reach out to the executive engineer of the Nimapada Water Resources division on this issue were unsuccessful.

Local residents, including Alekh Pradhan (Baliaanta), Santosh Mishra (Balipatna), Harihar Sahu, Shankar Pradhan (Nimapara), Bidyadhara Mallick and Ratnakar Sethi (Gop), have urged the state government to prioritise the protection of the river.

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AFFIDAVIT

I, SUSANTA BEHERA, S/O- NABAGHAN BEHERA, Age - 39 Years, Permanent resident of Vill- Kendubadi Jholamala P.O.- Kushadhpa, P.S.- Khallikote, Dist.- Ganjam, PIN- 761030, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- A/7564 sworn before Notary Public, Khallikote have Change my name and my Father's name from Susanta Behera, S/o- Nabaghan Behera to **SUSHANTA KUMAR BEHERA, S/O- NABA BEHERA** in my Passport Record & future all purposes.

I, Sadananda Panigrahy, S/o. Late Kasinath Panigrahi, resident of E-101, Phase-II, Kokila Garden, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar, Dist.- Khurda, Pin- 751020, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.244, Dt.25.10.2024 sworn in before the Executive Magistrate, Junagarh that now onwards I shall be known as Sadananda Panigrahi for all future purposes.

14TH FOUNDATION DAY Govt to strengthen OSCPCR: Parida

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: All possible efforts will be made to strengthen the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR), said Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida while addressing the 14th foundation day of the commission held at Campus V of KIIT here, Friday.

Parida attended the annual day event as the chief guest and emphasised that the government is very much sensitive about protection of children from exploitation, abuse and sexual ha-

arrassment. Parida said helpline numbers will be spread to villages and remote areas for generating more awareness on OSCPCR and child rights.

Joint efforts of the government, social workers and voluntary organisations are very important to overcome taboos and challenges like child marriage, child labor and child trafficking. Women Child Development principal secretary Shubha Sharma said that by working in harmony with organisations and NGOs, we can establish the overall development of the child.

Dedicated freight corridors boon for equitable growth: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The dedicated freight corridors of the Indian Railways have had a social-equalising effect with states that have a lower per-capita GDP experiencing significant benefits, a study by the University of New South Wales, Australia, has revealed.

This suggests that the corridors are helping bridge the economic gap, offering a path towards more equitable economic growth across the country, it stated.

Though the study, published in Elsevier Journal, focused on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) for the financial year 2018-19 and 2022-23, the study also found, "The study found that the introduction of the dedicated freight corridor (DFC) to overall national economic benefits with the greatest benefit being realised in the western regions closest to the DFC due to sig-

nificant reductions in freight costs. However, regions further away also experienced economic advantages from decreased transportation costs," the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) said.

About the model used in the study, the DFCCIL said the university created and used a computable general equilibrium model initiated by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to assess the effects of infrastructure development on regional and national economic

growth. "The findings indicated a 'social-equalising effect', with states having a lower per-capita GDP experiencing significant benefits. This suggests that the DFC is helping to bridge the economic gap, offering a path towards more equitable economic growth across the country," it said.

According to the DFCCIL, the study, overall, underscores the dedicated freight corridor's role in reducing freight costs nationwide, which in turn drives GDP growth and promotes eq-

Green Diwali with balloons

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 1: In a remarkable shift towards eco-friendly celebrations, villages surrounding the Chandaka-Dampara Elephant Sanctuary observed Diwali this year with balloons instead of firecrackers, setting a strong example of a 'clean and green' celebration of the festival.

The eco-friendly approach highlighted the harmony between tradition and environmental responsibility presenting a role-model for pollution-free



festivities. The celebration, spearheaded by Chinmayee Foundation, promoted the theme 'Balloons over Firecrackers'. Environmentalist Sushanta Sahoo praised the foundation's initiative, describing it as, "A meaningful step towards a pollution-free Diwali." He added, "This celebration shows

that festivals can also be celebrated joyously, without causing harm to our environment."

Chairman of Bullseye's organisation Trilochan Beura, joined the festivities and commended the villagers' dedication to environmental consciousness. "This 'Green Diwali' initiative serves as a reminder of the potential traditional celebrations in order to embrace sustainability and environmental awareness," Beura said, encouraging others to adopt similar practices for a safer, healthier Diwali.

Man, son die in Bihar mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajgir, Nov 1: A man and his son from Puri district were killed and three others injured in a collision between a truck and a car on Bakhtiyarpur Rajaniti road on Nation Highway 20 under Sohsarai puce station area in Nalanda district Friday. The deceased were identified as Satyanarayan Satpathy and his son Omprakash Satpathy. The wife and daughter of Satyanarayan, and another person sustained injuries in the accident. The victims were from Puri district in Odisha. The injured were sent to Patna for better treatment.



nificant reductions in freight costs. However, regions further away also experienced economic advantages from decreased transportation costs," the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) said.

growth.

uitable economic progress. The 2,843-km dedicated freight corridor projects - the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) and the WDFC - pass through 56 districts in seven states and are 96.4 per cent complete.

The 1,337-km-long EDFC runs from Ludhiana to Sonmarg in Bihar and the 1,506-km-long WDFC connects Dabri in Uttar Pradesh with Mumbai.

While the EDFC is now 100 per cent complete and operational with feeder routes to different coal mines and thermal power plants, the WDFC is also 93.2 per cent complete with feeder routes serving various cement plants and the large ports of Mundra, Kandla, Pipavav, and Hazira in Gujarat.

"Currently, on an average, 325 trains run per day which is 60 per cent more than last year. The freight trains on DFC are speedier, heavier and safer," the DFCCIL said.

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SENSEX	79724.12	↑ 335.06
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DOLLAR	84.06	↓ ₹0.01
EURO	91.25	↓ ₹0.24
GOLD	₹78,778	↓ ₹89
SILVER	₹95,460	↓ ₹23

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 31.0°C	30.0°C
	MIN 25.3°C	23.5°C
Humidity	86%	97%
Rainfall	Nil	102mm
		Forecast PARTLY CLOUDY SKY

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Girl dies, dad critical in embankment collapse

Jajpur: A minor girl died and her father was critically injured after a portion of the Rengali canal embankment collapsed in Jajpur district Friday, police said. The deceased has been identified as eight-year-old Gita Munda, daughter of Iswar Munda from Bausanali village. According to police, Iswar and Gita went to the canal for a bath in the morning. While they were in the water, a large section of the earthen embankment, which was being repaired, caved in, burying them both. Personnel of local fire services and police rushed to the spot and managed to free Iswar and Gita. Both were taken to the community health centre in Sukinda, but doctors declared Gita dead on arrival, police said. Iswar, who suffered critical injuries, was later shifted to the district headquarters hospital in Jajpur Town.

Nomadic group clash deaths: 13 detained

Rourkela: Thirteen people have been detained Thursday in connection with the killing of five persons in a clash between two nomadic groups in Sundargarh district, police said Friday. Five persons, including three women, were killed and four others critically injured in the clash that took place at Karamadhi village in Sundargarh Sadar police station area late Tuesday, they said. Those injured were undergoing treatment at the Sundargarh District Headquarters Hospital, they added. An extra-marital affair is suspected to be the cause behind the violence, police said. Following the incident, police formed teams and launched a search for the accused.

Annual marine fishing ban begins along Odisha coast

Around 10,666 fishermen's families to be affected by the ban will get one-time livelihood assistance of ₹7,500

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Nov 1: The state government Friday enforced a seven-month-long prohibition on marine fishing activity within 20km of the coast at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rushikulya as part of the annual Olive Ridley turtle conservation programme, officials said. The fishing ban would remain effective from November 1 to May 31 to ensure the safety of the marine animals during their breeding and mating season, they said. The prohibition has been placed in accordance with Sections 2, 7 and 4 of the Orissa Marine Fishing Regulation Act (OMFRA), 1982 and provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, they said. The fishing ban is imposed along a specified coast of the sea comprising sea turtle congregation area and their buffer zones at the river mouths of Dhamara, Devi and Rushikulya. The ban will be strictly im-



OLIVE RIDLEY CONSERVATION

plemented as it is done every year as the turtles perish in larger numbers either by getting entangled in fishing nets or hit by fishing trawlers' propellers. It will be a multi-layered patrolling exercise involving Forest and Fisheries department, and marine police besides the coast guard personnel, an official said. To ensure effective patrolling, 61 on-shore camps and five off-shore camps have been set up in four wildlife divisions - Bhadrak, Rajnagar, Puri and Berhampur. The armed police constabulary force will flank the forest and fisheries patrolling teams. Five high-speed boats, 13 trawlers and support boats are pressed into service to intercept illegal marine fishing in prohibited zones, said Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer, Rajnagar Mangrove (wildlife) Forest Division. Around 10,666 fishermen's families will be affected following the fishing ban. Therefore, to compensate for the loss of in-

come avenues, the state government has decided to extend one-time livelihood assistance of ₹7,500 to the affected fishermen families. The female turtles virtually invade the nesting beaches usually at the dead of the night for laying eggs, the phenomenon otherwise described as 'arribada'. After laying eggs, the turtles leave the nesting ground to stride into the deep seawater. Hatchlings emerge from these eggs after 45-60 days. It is a rare natural phenomenon where the babies grow without their mother, the official said. The ban on sea fishing, however, remains enforced round-the-year in the Gahirmatha coast, which is widely regarded as the largest habitation corridor of these highly endangered marine species. Besides, Gahirmatha has been accorded the status of a marine sanctuary in view of turtles' congregation, said Forest officials.

MINOR BOY ELECTROCUTED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Buguda, Nov 1: In a tragic incident, a 17-year-old boy, who was working as a mechanic in a garage at Budhakhol Chowk under Buguda police limits in Ganjam district, died from electrocution Thursday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Alok Sahu, only son of Congress Sahu of Antarapada village. Alok, a student of Plus II first year in Arts stream at Peoples College here, was working as a mechanic in Maa Tarini garage at Budhakhol Chowk. According to information received, Alok was cleaning the garage for performing Diwali worship Thursday afternoon when he accidentally came in contact with a live wire and got electrocuted. He was rushed to Buguda hospital where the doctor declared him brought dead. On being informed, garage owner Gopalkrushna Pradhan and Alok's family members rushed to the hospital. After the family members lodged a complaint in this regard at Buguda police station, police rushed to the hospital, seized the body and sent it for post-mortem. After preliminary investigation, police registered a case (21/24) of unnatural death and sent the body for post-mortem. A pall of gloom descended in the locality after the tragic death of the minor on the auspicious day of Diwali. On the other hand, chatters are abuzz as to how a minor boy was engaged in a garage under the nose of the administration.

Tigress Jamuna healthy in Similipal: STR official



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Nov 1: The authorities of the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) said tigress Jamuna is healthy and hunted a wild boar in her enclosure Thursday. The two-and-half-year-old tigress brought from Tadoba tiger conservation project in Maharashtra October 28 was released in a soft enclosure inside the STR in Mayurbhanj district. "The tigress Jamuna is healthy and active. It is relaxed and in good health. Yesterday it killed and ate a pig inside the enclosure," Prakash Chand Goginemi, field director of the tiger reserve here said. The Forest department is optimistic that this tiger will help in keeping the genetic diversity of tigers under control due to the increase in the number of tigers and especially the number of black tigers in Similipal.

The tigress Jamuna is healthy and active. It is relaxed and in good health. Yesterday it killed and ate a pig inside the enclosure

PRAKASH CHAND GOGINEMI | STR FIELD DIRECTOR

The Forest officials said tigress Jamuna will be kept in the enclosure under observation for at least one to two weeks before its release into the wild. The translocation of the tigress was done with the permission of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). Two felines from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) will be released into STR and of those, one has already reached here, officials said. With the arrival of the tigress in Similipal, the tiger population in the state has increased to 31, of which 28 are in STR. The STR has a unique population of melanistic tigers.

Admin launches effort to trace water sources on hills

If all the identified water sources are made operational, agriculture and horticulture in the tribal dominated block will get a big boost



IRRIGATION WOES

Only 10 per cent of the farmlands are irrigated in the hilly and densely forested Daringbadi block

Officials said that as many as 177 water sources have been identified in 25 panchayats of the block and the district administration is taking steps to make all of them functional

Daringbadi, Nov 1: In a bid to make water available for irrigation, the Kandhamal district administration has launched efforts to identify water sources in the hills under this block. Farmers have welcomed the move as the administration recently made water supply available from a hill to Muchudipanka villagers in Sonepur panchayat of the block. Sources said only 10 per cent of the farmlands are irrigated in the hilly and densely forested Daringbadi block. As a result, many farmers depend on rainwater to irrigate their crops. The hilly areas under the block have water sources but farmers fail to irrigate their farmlands due to lack of water supply system. Irrigation woes seriously affect the cultivation of paddy crops, pulses, oilseeds and organic crops like turmeric and ginger as well as horticulture. In this backdrop, the District Collector Amrit Raturaj has been taking steps to augment the irrigation facilities and launched efforts to trace the water sources in the hills after he joined office in the district.

He is frequently visiting the remote regions of Daringbadi block on a scooter and planning to better the irrigation facilities. He has also directed the local administration to find out water sources and take necessary steps in this regard. The matter came to the fore when Daringbadi BDO Gadadhar Patra visited the remote Keckerkebadi village in Partamaha panchayat under the block recently. Accompanied by the officials, Patra climbed the Slaska hill in the village and took stock of the Kalangjidi water source on the hill. Officials said that the administration will make arrangements to draw water from Kalangjidi water source and supply it through pipes to Keckerkebadi village. This will help irrigate hundreds of hectares of farmlands in the area.

The BDO also held discussions with block chairman Susant Kumar Patra, APO Kedar Chandra Panda, junior engineer Dhiren Sethi and the villagers on facilitating water supply to the area. Locals and voluntary outfits are assisting the officials in tracing the water sources on the hills during their visit. Officials said that as many as 177 water sources have been identified in 25 panchayats of the block and the district administration is taking steps to make all of them functional. If all the identified water sources are made operational, agriculture and horticulture in the tribal dominated block will get a big boost. This will also lead to growth and development of the block and people here will no more depend on other districts for vegetables.

Vigilance court awards 3-yr jail to former RI

Rourkela: The court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Sundargarh has convicted a former revenue inspector (RI) in a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case and sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment Friday. The judge also slapped a penalty of ₹1 lakh on the retired revenue official. Nrusingha Charan Tripathy, former RI (retired) of Bonai tehsil, was charged with possessing disproportionate assets (DA). The Vigilance directorate will now move to the competent authority for stoppage of Tripathy's pension following the conviction. The case was investigated by Bishnu Charan Dash, ex-inspector, Vigilance, Sambalpur Division and Shyam Sundar Mishra, special public prosecutor, Vigilance, Sundargarh conducted the case.

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Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Demand Notice u/s. 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the CANARA BANK as Secured Creditor against the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s) of its Rahama Branch details of which are mentioned in the table below.

You, the below mentioned Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) have committed default in repayment of loan as mentioned in above table with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our branch as mentioned below. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the below mentioned table. Due to irregularity in repayment of outstanding dues, the debt has been classified as Non-Performing Asset. By this notice you are hereby called upon to discharge the entire liabilities as on date with future interest thereon in the above account to us as secured creditor, within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which we shall be constrained to exercise all or any of our rights conferred under section 13(4) and other provision of the above Security Interest Act - 2002. You are required to note that in terms of Sec. 13(13) of the said Security Interest Act, you shall not, after receipt of this notice, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, any of the secured assets mentioned below referred to without prior written consent of our Bank. You are also put on notice that any contravention of the injunction/restraint as provided under the said Security Interest Act-2002 is an offence. This notice is issued without prejudice to any other rights available to our Bank under the above Security Interest Act-2002 and/or any other law in force. This is without Prejudice to any other rights available to us under the Act and/or other law in force. Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence. In case the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely: a) Take possession of the secured assets of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset. b) Take over the management of the business of the borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset. c) Take over the management of the business of the borrower as well as the management of whole of the business of part of the business is severable, that secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is repayable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

RAHAMA BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) / A/c. No.	(A) Loan/Limit Sanctioned (B) Date of NPA/Recall Notice (C) Date of Demand Notice	Total Liabilities due on specified date	Description of the property/ies mortgaged to the Bank
Borrowers: 1) M/s Kalinga Live Stock, Prop.: Rojalin Mohanty, At/ PO: Tarajanga, PS: Tirtol, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, PIN-754137, 2) Rojalin Mohanty, W/o- Karmeswar Patra, At/PO: Janardanpur, PS: Kujanga, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, PIN-754141 / Guarantors & Mortgagors: 1) Plaban Kumar Sahoo, S/o- Late Nabaghan Sahoo, 2) Biplab Kumar Sahoo, S/o- Late Nabaghan Sahoo, 3) Bishad Kumar Sahoo, S/o- Late Nabaghan Sahoo, All are At/PO: Tarajanga, PS: Tirtol, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, PIN-754137/ A/c. No.: 6131864000001, 6131201000202	(A) ₹ 10,00,000/- (Piggery Loan & Current Account) / (B) 13.10.2024 / (C) 16.10.2024	₹ 3,28,680.90 + ₹ 579.00 = ₹ 3,29,259.90 as on 16.10.2024 plus interest & cost thereon	All the part and parcel of the land property situated At: Mouza: Trajanga, Tahasil: Tirtol, PS: Tirtol, Sub Register Office: Tirtol, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur Khatian No.: 547/65, Plot No.: 1185, Area: Ac.0.80 dec., Plot No.: 1201, Area: Ac.0.54 dec., Plot No.: 1200, Area: Ac.0.32 dec., Total Area: Ac.1.66 dec., standing in the name of Plaban Kumar Sahoo, Biplab Kumar Sahoo & Bishad Kumar Sahoo, Plot No. 1185 is bounded by- North: Plot No. 1202 Rakhta, South: Adjacent Mouza Pubapada & Road, East: Plot No. 1186 Ratnakar Sahoo & Others, West: Plot No. 1182 Ramachandra Panda, Plot No. 1200 & 1201 is bounded by- North: Santosh Kumar Mohanty & Others, East & South: Ratnakar Sahoo & Others, West: Plot No. 1202.

Date: 01.11.2024
Place: Cuttack

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Bank of India

Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

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

Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower / Partners / Total Dues	Description of the Property	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	SAILASHREE VIHAR BRANCH (NOW THE BELOW ACCOUNTS ARE TRANSFERRED TO ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH, CUTTACK), PH.: 8249067773 / Borrower: M/s. Loknath Agency, At: Holding No.: 229, Ward No.: 25, Malgode, 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.	Land & Building over Plot No.: 2176, Khata No.: 699/628, Land Area: Ac. 0.076 Dec. i.e. 3311 Sqft, Kissan: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Cuttack Sahar Unit No.: 16 Kathagada Sahi, P.S.: Purighat, Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Mr. Baidyanath Parwat (Partner), Bounded by North: Plot No.: 2174, South: Municipality Road, East: Plot No.: 2177, West: Plot No.: 2175	₹2,98,65,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) / ₹29,86,500/- / ₹ 50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction: 09.12.2024 From 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: 09.12.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 07.12.2024 with prior appointment of the authorised officer

The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://ebkraj.in/eauction-psb/home>

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 02.11.2024

Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INVEST IN INNOVATION



The cost of not investing in climate mitigation and resilience, as well as other development goals, increases every year, making guarantees and insurance products ever more expensive in the most vulnerable and least prepared countries

severe. Worse, disasters – including pandemics – are increasingly overlapping.

Governments must therefore use proactive financial instruments – from loans that finance flood management systems to guarantees that support climate-change adaptation – to build resilience before extreme weather events occur. Each dollar spent on advance planning can save up to \$13 in reconstruction costs when a crisis hits, minimizing emergency borrowing.

Another innovation is the standardization of available mechanisms. This includes clarity on their intended use, because markets must understand the benefits accruing from instruments that incentivize sustainable practices in order to price them properly. To that end, the United States Commodity Futures Trading Commission recently issued guidance for the listing of carbon-offset derivatives, and the International Sustainability Standards Board is focusing on developing green bond standards. If we want voluntary carbon markets to grow, and the price of green finance to reflect the real value of addressing climate change and supplying global public goods, then how such instruments are used must be verifiable and easily comprehensible.

The cost of not investing in climate mitigation and resilience, as well as other development goals, increases every year, making guarantees and insurance products ever more expensive in the most vulnerable and least prepared countries. MDBs should provide more green financing, but standardizing innovative instruments and encouraging their use in economic policymaking are just as important.

The writer is Executive Vice President of the Inter-American Development Bank.

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Whenever the world's financial and political leaders convene – whether at the G20 summit, the United Nations General Assembly, or the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings – the most urgent development challenges are nearly always on the agenda. Increasingly, the solution these leaders propose to such problems, from poverty alleviation and public-health crises to climate change and the energy transition, is more financing.

They are not wrong. Addressing each of these challenges requires more than a trillion dollars. For example, Latin America and the Caribbean need \$2.2 trillion to invest in sustainable infrastructure, while emerging markets worldwide require \$1.5 trillion per year for such projects. And much of this financing will come from multilateral development banks (MDBs), which have already started to use their balance sheets more aggressively.

But equally important is MDBs' innovative deployment of instruments – including capital-market mechanisms, structured finance, and sustainability-linked bonds – to mobilize more public and private finance for such investments. Moreover, MDBs are offering guarantees, debt swaps, contingency financing without commitment fees, and climate-resilience clauses to client countries in exchange for commitments to mitigate greenhouse-gas emissions and protect nature.

To be sure, these instruments are not necessarily new. The Code of Hammurabi, which is nearly 4,000 years old, allows for the suspension of debt payments following a flood or drought. The use of green capital-market instruments dates back to at least the 1640s, when Dutch water boards issued perpetual bonds to finance improvements to local canals. And credit guarantees have existed since the nineteenth century.

The innovation is that MDBs have introduced these instruments into cross-border finance. Facilitating further progress requires ensuring that they are integrated into developing countries' economic policies and become standardized – and thus replicable.

For many emerging and developing economies, balancing economic growth with poverty alleviation and climate objectives is the central challenge. Their governments must deploy the full range of available financial tools to combat global warming while ensuring that these efforts result in productivity gains and growth. Otherwise, their debt will become unsustainable.

The energy transition, for example, requires investing in renewables, expanding transmission networks to overcome the intermittency problem, and mitigating the risk of stranded fossil-fuel assets. In the many de-

veloping countries where utilities are financially constrained, the burden is unaffordable. Climate finance thus requires economic policymaking that considers the ability of consumers and taxpayers to repay these investments. Policies related to pricing, regulation, sector planning, and the investment environment will increasingly determine financial viability.

The dramatic increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather also requires a shift in economic thinking. Finance ministers generally rely on emergency-response financing to rebuild after such events, based on the belief that catastrophes are few and far between. However, the most intense hurricanes are now more than three times more frequent than they were a century ago, droughts last longer, and more predictable events, such as seasonal storms, are increasingly



Jordan Schwartz

GOVERNMENTS MUST USE PROACTIVE FINANCIAL TO BUILD RESILIENCE BEFORE EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS OCCUR

Duty & Diplomacy

Forward, forever forward! at the end of the tunnel is the light. at the end of the fight is the victory

THE MOTHER



A recent video of IAS officer Tina Dabi bowing repeatedly to BJP leader Satish Poonia has gone viral, sparking a lively debate over the power dynamics between politicians and civil servants. Dabi, a former UPSC topper and now district collector of Barmer, Rajasthan, greeted Poonia with multiple bows—a gesture praised by some as respectful and criticized by others as overly deferential.

This scene raises questions about the balance between respect and independence in India's bureaucracy. Civil servants, ideally impartial, often find themselves navigating unspoken expectations to "cooperate" with political leaders who have significant sway over their careers. A 2022 study noted how political influence increasingly shapes bureaucrats' transfers, promotions, and overall progression, making respectful gestures more complex than they might appear. To some, Dabi's bows are seen as a form of professional pragmatism, a signal that navigating political sensitivities is part of survival in today's civil service.

The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) was designed to be a neutral, independent institution—a buffer against political agendas. However, high-ranking officials often face subtle pressures to demonstrate loyalty, especially when their careers rest on favorable relationships with influential leaders. In Dabi's case, what appears as a mere greeting also touches on the reality that, for many bureaucrats, managing political egos is essential to maintain stability in their roles.

As social media reacts to this gesture, it underscores a larger issue: the ideal of neutrality in civil service is increasingly under strain in a political environment where public displays of respect can make or break a career. Dabi's video is a reminder that for babus, balancing duty and diplomacy often becomes an essential—and very public—part of the job.

Policing enforcement and politics

In the thick of Maharashtra's ongoing Assembly elections, a brewing storm has highlighted the uncomfortable relationship between policing enforcement and politics. IPS officer Bhagyashri Navatake's recent allegations against Maharashtra cabinet minister and BJP leader Girish Mahajan have turned heads, particularly as she claims Mahajan used "coercion and threats" to block her probe into a colossal Rs 1,200 crore scam. The scheme, centered on the Jalgaon-based Bhaichand Hirachand Raisoni Credit Society, supposedly unraveled under her scrutiny between 2020 and 2022. Yet, as she pushes her case to the Bombay High Court, her allegations have also put her in the line of fire, with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) now investigating her for forgery and conspiracy in connection with the same case.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cheria

What's startling isn't just the scale of alleged corruption, but how quickly the tables have turned on Navatake. In her role as Pune DCP (Economic Offences Wing), she reportedly managed to claw back nearly Rs 100 crore of depositors' funds. But, according to her, every attempt at real progress met the immovable wall of "political interference." Her petition names both Mahajan and a businessman as key beneficiaries of the fraudulent liquidation of the credit society—allegations the minister has predictably denied, insisting that neither he nor his wife had any financial stake in the matter.

This isn't the first time we've seen bureaucrats entangled in political crossfire. Cops, ostensibly independent, are expected to toe the line when high-ranking political figures are involved. In her petition, Navatake claims she was "targeted and scapegoated" for attempting to expose the truth—an all-too-common experience for civil servants who challenge the interests of influential figures. The CBI's move to file charges against her raises a cynical question: is this a legitimate investigation or a thinly veiled reprisal?

One babu, two jobs

In yet another comedy of errors that often defines babudom, the Centre and the Kerala government somehow appointed the same officer, Pranabiyoti Nath (IAS: 2005: KL), to two completely different positions on the same day. While the Kerala government appointed him as Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), the Centre decided Nath was better suited as Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of NALCO. Unfazed by the double-duty drama, Nath assumed office as Kerala's CEO on Saturday—presumably because he had to pick one.

This isn't just a case of crossed wires; it's more like a full-on signal failure. The CEO post in Kerala had been vacant since August 5, 2024, when Sanjay M. Kaul (IAS: 2001: KL) left for central deputation. With by-elections coming up in Wayanad and Chelakkara, the Election Commission selected Nath for the CEO role, and Kerala quickly issued its order on Friday. Within hours, however, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) swooped in with its own order, assigning Nath to NALCO—barely giving time for Kerala's announcement to settle.

To make things even more baffling, sources reveal that Kerala had actually cleared Nath for central deputation before proposing him as CEO. Now, to save face, the DoPT is generously allowing Nath to join as CVO after the elections—because, of course, "administrative exigency" demands flexibility.

This mix-up is a delightful example of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. One would think that in today's hyper-connected world, coordinating a single officer's posting wouldn't be this complicated. But then again, it wouldn't be bureaucracy if it made too much sense, would it?

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

WISDOM CORNER

- The worst enemy of truth and freedom in our society is the compact majority. **HENRIK IBSEN**
- It is no use to blame the looking glass if your face is awry. **NIKOLAI GOGOL**
- Maybe all one can do is hope to end up with the right regrets. **ARTHUR MILLER**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1936:** The British Broadcasting Corporation officially launched its first television channel, which was also the world's first regular TV service.
- 1950:** Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925, died at age 94.
- 1976:** Jimmy Carter, recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2002 and Democratic former governor of Georgia, was elected 39th president of the United States, narrowly defeating Republican Gerald R. Ford.

SPECTRUM NATION

Polls stimulate welfare process!

It's now election time in Jharkhand and Maharashtra to woo the electorate. The contest is going to be close and tough. Warring sides are making every effort to reach out to the marginalised communities and poorer sections, in both rural and urban areas. Freebies and schemes come into play. Sadly, the promises and concerns raised at rallies don't change the perspective – but for the elections, prevailing socio-economic conditions are not a concern for political parties.

In Jharkhand, BJP has been trying to capitalise on dissatisfaction with JMM's handling of local issues. But the ruling dispensation has been wedded to the problems of tribals and is trying to restore their land rights.

Maharashtra's problems are somewhat different: unemployment, rural stagnation and growing disparity between richer western parts and its poor eastern counterpart.

While in Jharkhand the tribals will have the final say, in Maharashtra the middle-class Marathas would decide which

combination would come to power. In the latter, there is dominance of the business class, but little has yet been done for the lower segments of society. There is stagnation in rural districts despite high per capita income of the state.

Unfortunately, big ideas of socio-economic transformation of an egalitarian society, establishment of a just economic system etc. are consequently reduced to election politics. The poll process has been transformed into a political marketplace to address voters as mere consumers. Thus, electoral packages have evolved to attract voters though promises made may not be implemented. The intellectual class has virtually no role in this matter. Though there's a lot of talk, social change hardly comes by and the same policies favouring the upper echelons of society are followed. This favours the bureaucrats who mostly come from this privileged class and are hardly bothered about the need for equality in society.

Political vision has been reduced to a 'social myth', a sym-

bolic and utopian view of the future that can galvanise the masses behind a political force. In today's politics, though some parties may have a laid-out vision, they are far from practising it.

The core question is whether political parties have the right vision to undertake such strategies that would benefit the people, not indiscriminate spending to lure voters. The concerns of the underprivileged are well-known as political leaders talk about these quite frequently but in implementing programmes, those that benefit the upper echelons are mostly given priority.

Take for example, Vande Bharat trains that are being launched with much fanfare. Though faster trains are, no doubt, needed, the fare structure is beyond the means of the common man, even the low middle-income sections and the low-income groups. It is surprising why modern coaches in express trains are not being launched, why running time is reduced and why airports and not railway stations are being modernised. These shouldn't and can't be

priorities when recurrent floods, coastal erosions and the likes are not being handled properly because of which lakhs of people are rendered homeless and suffer unimaginable losses, impinging on their very existence. Interventions are far from satisfactory and there would be no statistics available as to the amount of money disbursed to those rendered homeless due to floods and coastal erosion.

The big question is whether political vision is lacking or whether country's leaders are actors who come out with big visions but are not genuinely interested to engage with the impoverished and backward sections. Ideology and vision have been sacrificed by our political leaders. Whatever be the outcome of the elections, not much must be expected to change as the economic gap will persist to widen. The future is not as promising as being made out by the parties vying to retain power or to gain it. Real development for the masses needs constant looking after, not just when the election bugle is sounded.

INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE POLL PROCESS HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A POLITICAL MARKETPLACE TO ADDRESS VOTERS AS MERE CONSUMERS

Bandhavgarh tragedy

Sir, The death of ten wild elephants in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Madhya Pradesh has sent shockwaves across the country. A probe team has pinned the blame on kodo millet, also called cow grass or rice grass. Whether kodo millet can kill large animals like elephants is a moot question. A liberal amount of pesticides sprayed on the kodo millet by the villagers, intentionally or unintentionally, may have killed the elephants. Besides, fungus-infested kodo millet, allowed to accumulate over time, could be the culprit. There is also a view that mycotoxins in the kodo millet can be deadly. Interestingly, previous incidences of kodo poisoning in elephants affecting them adversely have been accounted for in the area. Also, the possibility of protocol lapses and deaths due to diseases is not ruled out. The final conclusion of the probe committee is anticipated with great interest.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Stock check

Sir, There is a myth that the stock market is just like gambling. It is a gambling den, even in long-term investments, no matter what the recommendation is. People who invest in the financial markets are just speculators and are lucky enough for their trade, it is believed. But the fact is, many things count for continued profit-making. Although there are a few similar features to investing/trading and gambling, they are very distinct. The variance in risk and return is the point of distinction between gambling and trading. In stock markets, yield may be greater than risk, while the risk is greater than yield in gambling. Stock markets encourage us to be both buyers and sellers, while you can only be a buyer in gambling. People lose money mainly in stock markets because they put money into stocks without knowledge or analytical skills. If you treat stock trading like a gamble, it is certainly gambling for you. When you invest in something to generate profits, it becomes business. In trading, reward to risk is high; people lose money only when they fail to understand the risk-to-reward ratio before arriving at any decision. In gambling, most of the time it is the dealer who generates the profit you speculate, and the odds are never in your favour.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI 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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

VIZHINJAM SEAPORT PROJECT

DIWALI AFTERMATH

Air quality drops to 'poor' in Kolkata

KALI PUJA AND DIWALI WERE CELEBRATED THURSDAY WITH PEOPLE BURSTING FIRECRACKERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 1: Kolkata's air quality index (AQI) was 'poor' across different pockets Friday morning, a day after Kali Puja and Diwali, an official said.

A West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB) official told PTI, that AQI levels in terms of PM 2.5 were 173 in Ballygunje area and it hovered around 166 in pockets like Jadavpur, Belegata, Sinthi Friday morning and was classified as 'poor'.

It was 129 at Rabindra Sarobar, 115 at Fort William, 124 at Victoria Memorial.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe', the officials said.

"October 31 night, from average 60 mg PM 2.5 at 6 pm, till 2 am the AQI PM 2.5 fluctuated crossing 250 mark in some places



It was 129 at Rabindra Sarobar, 115 at Fort William, 124 at Victoria Memorial

like Jadavpur, Kasba, Rabindra Bharati University, Belegata which can be classified as very poor," the official said.

"Our guideline for use of green fireworks only and the clampdown on sale of clandestinely made illegal crackers made in districts like South 24 Parganas helped a bit to stop the AQI from crossing the 300 limit. But we urge the common

people to be more responsive and stop use of banned fireworks and stop bursting crackers after 10 pm. It becomes difficult to put every single person in every household under surveillance," he said.

Kali Puja and Diwali were celebrated in West Bengal Thursday with people bursting firecrackers.

The PCB's monitoring cell at Paribesh Bhavan was at work throughout Kali Puja night and monitored the situation. Environmentalist and green

activist Somendra Mohan Ghosh alleged that sound crackers were burst rampantly from 9 pm till 12 midnight and even after 1 am, in Dhakuria, Jadavpur, Ballygunje, Chetla, Belegata, Sinthi and several other pockets of the city.

"I think if hourly monitoring was done for every pocket of the city the AQI would have even crossed 350 mark in many parts and gone down a little bit when the madness stopped in the morning hours," he said.

Winter session of Bengal Assembly to start Nov 25

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Nov 1: The winter session of the West Bengal Assembly slated to resume November 25 is likely to be stormy over a couple of issues, including the RG Kar rape and murder case.

According to insiders from the ruling Trinamool Congress, the treasury bench during the winter session will move a resolution condemning the role of the Union government in releasing money to the state government under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme.

Sources in the state unit of BJP said that once the resolution is moved their legislators will counter the arguments of the treasury bench and highlight instances of brewing public grievances in different pockets of the state over corruption in the implementation of the housing scheme.

During his recent visit to West Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also been vocal against the state government regarding the irregularities in West Bengal over the implementation of the Centrally-sponsored schemes, especially the PMAY and the 100-day job scheme under MGNREGA.

The Union Home Minister accused the state government and the ruling party of rendering benefits under such schemes to their party confidants and denying the eligible ones. He also said that if BJP comes to power in West Bengal after the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections they will be cleaning up the accounting system under such schemes.

The second issue on which the winter session of the Assembly is expected to be quite stormy is the ghastly rape and murder of a woman junior doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata in August.

Release grant without seeking repayment: Kerala CM to FM

The state is investing resources to the tune of ₹5,595 crore out of the total project outlay of ₹8,867 crore, says Pinarayi Vijayan



Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 1: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to release the Centre's share of Rs 817.80 crore in the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for the Vizhinjam seaport here without imposing the condition that the state has to repay it later.

Vijayan, in a letter to the FM, said the condition imposed by the Empowered Committee constituted by the Department of Economic Affairs, that the VGF amount should be repaid by Kerala in Net Present Value (NPV) terms by way of premium (revenue) sharing, would result in a huge loss of Rs 10,000 to 12,000 crore to the state exchequer.

"The state is investing resources to the tune of Rs 5,595 crore out of the total project outlay of Rs 8,867 crore. I am sure, the Hon'ble Minister would appreciate that given the financial situation of a small state, like Kerala with limited financial resources, this scale of investment involves tremendous sacrifice on the part of the state."

"In addition, as the repayment of Rs 817.80 crore is to be made on NPV basis, this would involve a further loss of Rs 10,000 to 12,000 crore to the state exchequer in actual terms, computed on projected interest rates and revenue realisation from the port over the period of re-

■ Kerala Ports Minister VN Vasavan raised the same issues at a press conference held in Kottayam

■ Vasavan said that of the Rs 8,867 crore project cost, Rs 5,595 crore was the state's share and Rs 2,454 crore that of Adani

one of the project proponents, viz. the government of India, will advance this money as a deferred 'loan' to the other project proponent viz. the state government, defies the rationale behind the VGF itself," he said in the letter.

Vijayan further said that such a condition of VGF repayment was not imposed on the Outer Harbor project of VOC Tuticorin Port which is "structured on similar lines as the Vizhinjam International Seaport".

"In the light of the facts outlined above, I request you to kindly accord the same treatment for Vizhinjam International Seaport as has been done for Tuticorin Port referred to above," he said.

Subsequently, Kerala Ports Minister VN Vasavan raised the same issues at a press conference held in Kottayam. Vasavan said that of the Rs 8,867 crore project cost, Rs 5,595 crore was the state's share and Rs 2,454 crore that of Adani.

Of the state's share of Rs 5,595 crore, the government has already spent Rs 2,159.39 crore till date, but the Centre was yet to provide its share of Rs 817.80 crore, he told reporters.

payment," the CM said.

He further said that the VGF was a financial support mechanism that was introduced to encourage Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in infrastructure projects that are economically justified but not financially viable without additional financial support.

The VGF is invariably provided as a grant, not a loan and its defining elements are that "the payment to the concessionaire is non-repayable, it is a one-time grant and that it is over the construction period of the project," the CM said.

Thus, the condition that the VGF has to be repaid, "defies the rationale" behind it, he added.

"The government of India and government of Kerala, as the two project proponents, have jointly decided to give this grant to the concessionaire. But to further stipulate the condition that

Priyanka to resume bypoll campaign in Wayanad from Nov 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wayanad (Kerala), Nov 1: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will resume her campaign for the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll from November 3 by holding public and corner meetings in the hill constituency with her brother, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the party said Friday.

The Congress general secretary, who is making her electoral debut, will be in Kerala till November 7, according to her itinerary released by the party.

Priyanka will hold a joint public meeting with her brother Rahul November 3, 11 AM, at Gandhi Park in Mananthavady here and thereafter, she will conduct corner meetings separately at three other places on the same day.



In addition to the joint public meeting, Rahul will hold a public meeting separately at Areekode here, according to the campaign itinerary released by the party.

Priyanka will hold corner meetings November 4 in five places in Kalpetta and Sultan Bathery Assembly constituencies, the party said.

The party further said that the itinerary of her campaign November 5, 6 and 7 will be released later.

Priyanka's resumption of her bypoll campaign comes amidst criticism from her rival candidates that she will come and go from the constituency like a guest or a seasonal festival.

LDF candidate Sathyan Mokeri had claimed that Priyanka, like her brother Rahul, would come to Wayand and go as a guest, and wouldn't be present in the constituency.

Bengal gov launches self-defence course for girls

As part of the initiative, 'Apna Bhaarat - Jagta Bengal', special stress will be given to the empowerment of women, safety and security of children, and how to deal with human trafficking and drug abuse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 1: West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose Friday launched a mass outreach initiative for the welfare of the weaker society.

As part of the initiative, 'Apna Bhaarat - Jagta Bengal', special stress will be given to the empowerment of women, safety and security of children, and how to deal with human trafficking and drug abuse, a Raj Bhavan statement said.



The initiative will also encompass cultural and educational aspects in which the educated youth can benefit from interactions with experts about their future, it said. "The programme, in keeping

'ABHAYA PLUS'

■ The multi-pronged initiative will also have a 'File To Field' segment - where the Raj Bhavan will reach out to 250 places across the state covering all the districts

■ In the 'Duare Rajyapal' or 'Governor at Your Doorstep' programme, Bose will visit tribal areas and visit anybody who calls him, especially those in distress

to guide the young," the statement read.

'Apna Bhaarat - Jagta Bengal' was launched on the occasion of Bose completing two years in office.

One of the important components of the initiative is the 'Abhaya Plus' self-defence courses for girls.

Notably, 'Abhaya' is the name given by a section of the media to the on-duty medic who was raped and murdered at RG Kar Hospital August 9 triggering a mass outpouring of anguish and protests across the state.

Identifying a rape victim is illegal. The multi-pronged initiative will also have a 'File To Field' segment - where the Raj Bhavan will reach out to 250 places across the state covering all the districts. In the 'Duare Rajyapal' or 'Governor at Your Doorstep' programme, Bose will visit tribal areas and visit anybody who calls him, especially those in distress.

Among the other planned events, the governor will visit various colleges and schools and interact with students. Scholarships will also be provided to meritorious and needy students.

The 'Jan Ki Baa' programme will be oriented at listening to the views and interacting with anyone who wishes to contact the governor directly.

Under another scheme, those who have contributed to the enrichment of life in diverse fields are to be awarded by the Raj Bhavan, the statement added.

Leaders see Kerala as model for others on 'Keralappiravi' day

Kerala's strides in human development are a testament to its values of inclusivity and social justice which are deeply rooted in its fabric and energised by the state's progressive social reform initiatives, educational advancements, says the Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 1: Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Friday extended wishes to the people of the state and Keralites worldwide on the state's 68th formation day, known as 'Keralappiravi'.

Governor Khan, in a video message on Facebook, said that since its formation, Kerala has embraced a unique developmental journey, marked by viable high human developmental indices and remarkable progress in literacy, healthcare and quality of life.

He also said that the state blends natural beauty with a commitment to social welfare and sustainability.

The Governor further said that Kerala's strides in human development are a testament to its values of inclusivity and social justice which are deeply rooted in its fabric and energised by the state's progressive social reform initiatives, educational advancements, etc.

"May Kerala continue to be a beacon of progress and a model for development for the entire country," Khan said.

Vijayan, in a Facebook post, said Kerala has always upheld the values of democracy, secularism and social justice and has grown into a model for the entire



country in terms of quality of life and people's welfare.

"The achievements made by Kerala in many areas, including health and education, have attracted attention all over the world," he said.

He also said that the relevance of 'Keralappiravi' increases in the current circumstances where communal forces are trying to weaken the achievements of the state.

Kerala Piravi greetings! Kerala state is known for its mesmerizing landscapes, vibrant traditions and hardworking people. People from Kerala have made their mark all over the world, across different fields. May the people of the state keep progressing in the times to come

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

"May we be able to embrace humanity beyond caste, religion, and regional differences and move forward hand in hand," he said. Leader of Opposition

in the Assembly, VD Sathesnan, also extended his wishes to Keralites on the occasion of the state's 68th formation day. "May our state always be a

model for others," he said in a Facebook post.

Priyanka, who is contesting in the bypoll for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, wished Keralites on the occasion in a post in Malayalam on the social media platform 'X'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday greeted the people of Kerala. In a post on the social media platform 'X', Modi said the people of Kerala have made their mark all over the world, across different fields.

"Kerala Piravi greetings! Kerala state is known for its mesmerizing landscapes, vibrant traditions and hardworking people. People from Kerala have made their mark all over the world, across different fields. May the people of the state keep progressing in the times to come," the PM said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah too took to social media platform 'X' to extend 'Keralappiravi' greetings to the state.



Modi hasn't won any election. Everything is fraud. He gets 10,000 names removed from the voter list or get 10,000 to 20,000 new names added. This is the truth but the question is how to prove it
MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

B'LORE GETS FOOD SECURITY BOOST

With the aim of easing the price rise challenge, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and National Co-operative Consumers' Federation of India Ltd (NCCF) have started distribution of essential food grains in Bengaluru at an affordable price



of the day quote

They (BJP) must have been happy (over the conversion of the state into a Union Territory). But we never owned this status
SURINDER KUMAR CHOUDHARY | J&K DEPUTY CM

India and China have been holding talks at both diplomatic and military levels to resolve the differences in some areas along the LAC
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

The election this time is not for JMM or Congress but for saving the Sanatan in Jharkhand
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

Four killed in road accident

Hathras (UP): A car carrying eight people from a family overturned on a national highway here Friday afternoon, killing four -- including two children -- and injuring the rest, police said. All people in the car were Agra residents and were on the way back from a trip to Bulandshahr, they said. Nitai Agrawal (5), Chetan Agrawal (1), Sonam Agrawal (40) and Ruby Agrawal (38) died in the accident, Hathras Additional Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Singh said.

Fire breaks out in slum area

Mumbai: A fire broke out in a slum area in suburban Andheri here Friday evening, a civic official said. Fire brigade vehicles rushed to the Bhargarwadi area in Andheri East after being alerted around 8 pm, said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation official. The fire likely started in a godown located in the slum, he said, adding that dousing operations were underway. No casualties have been reported, the official said.

2 end their lives in separate incidents

Lucknow: Two people allegedly hanged themselves in separate incidents here, police said Friday. Komal Valmiki, a resident of Martinpurva locality, Thursday informed the Gautampalli police station that she was unable to reach her husband Shiva Valmiki (32) after he dropped her near a market. Komal also said on getting no response after repeatedly dialling his number, she contacted her landlord, who was also in the market. They then together went to the house and saw Shiva hanging from the ceiling fan, police said. In the other such incident, 38-year-old Ganesh was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his house in Gohramau village Thursday, the police said in a statement.

Hoax threats: Suspect surrenders

Nagpur: A 35-year-old man who was allegedly behind a series of hoax bomb threats to airports and railway stations across the country has been arrested after he presented himself before Nagpur Police, an official said Friday. Jagdish Shriam Uikey, resident of Arjuni Morgaon in Gondia district of eastern Maharashtra, arrived in Nagpur by flight after the city police sent him a notice seeking his presence for probe, and surrendered Thursday evening, he said.

Cong slams poll panel on Haryana complaints

The Opposition party claimed that the EC's reply was written in a tone that is condescending and warned that if the poll panel persists with such language then it would have no choice but to seek legal recourse for getting such remarks expunged



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Congress Friday hit out at the Election Commission after it rejected allegations of "irregularities" in Haryana Assembly polls, saying if the poll panel's goal is to "strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality", then it is doing a "remarkable job" at creating that impression.

The Congress's response came days after the EC rejected allegations levelled by it over "irregularities" in assembly polls, saying the party was raising "the smoke of a generic doubt" about the credibility of an entire electoral outcome as done in the past. The Congress said it is not surprised that the ECI has examined its complaints and "given itself a clean chit". The answer given to the question of the machines' fluctuating batteries seeks to confuse rather than clarify, it said.

"At any rate, the ECI reply is nothing more than a standard and generic set of bullets on how the machines function rather than a specific clarification on specific complaints. In short, while our complaints were specific the ECI response is generic and focused on diminishing the complaints and the pe-

titioners," the Congress said.

In its letter to the EC signed by nine senior Congress leaders, including general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, the party said, "We have carefully studied your response to our complaints. Not surprisingly, the ECI has given a clean chit to itself. We would normally have let it be at that. However, the tone and tenor of the ECI's response, the language used, and the allegations made against the INC compel us to submit the counter-response."

The Congress letter said that if the Commission grants a recognised national party a hearing or examines issues raised by them in good faith it is not an 'exception' or 'indulgence' but it is the performance of a duty required to be done.

The Congress leaders, who had petitioned the EC alleging irregularities in the polls, said every reply from the EC now "seems to be laced with ad-hominem attacks" on either individual leaders or the party itself. They also said that the "pattern" sought to be identified by the ECI in its reply is "disingenuous" as sometimes acting on complaints immediately is the key. "If they are

not redressed on the ground then they become redundant. And then the only remedy available is an Election Petition which is a lengthy process taking years to resolve. Thus, we approach the ECI with whatever information we have, and the ECI with the vast resources at its command, examines and reviews this information to see if the same is correct. Many times, the ECI has found our information to be correct. Other times, not so. But we do not name and shame the ECI for those moments after the Election is over," they said.

The Congress said if they were "bad faith actors", then they would never engage with the ECI to begin with. "We would focus on naming and shaming the Commission with examples from the ECI's own recent history which do not shroud it with glory," it said, adding that they would have never engaged in that case. The Congress said it has sent over a hundred complaints against the prime minister and home minister, but "the ECI has taken action in precisely zero complaints, while calling our party president and former party president to account for their actions/speeches".

Army begins patrolling in Demchok: Sources

THE MOVE MARKS A SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE PURSUIT OF REDUCED TENSION ALONG THE LAC IN EASTERN LADAKH SINCE THE FIERCE CLASH IN THE GALWAN VALLEY IN JUNE 2020 THAT MARKED THE MOST SERIOUS MILITARY CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN DECADES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: The Indian Army began patrolling at Demchok Friday, days after Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at the two friction points in eastern Ladakh, Army sources said.

Patrolling at Depsang is expected to resume shortly, they said. Indian and Chinese troops have completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh and patrolling is set to commence soon at these points, Army sources had said Wednesday.

The following day, Indian and Chinese troops exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali. The traditional practice was observed a day after both the countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in Sino-Indian ties.

Patrolling has begun at Demchok, an Army source said. Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back

to pre-April 2020 level.

The verification process after disengagement was in progress and patrolling modalities were to be decided between ground commanders, the sources had said Wednesday.

"Talks will continue at the local commander level," they had added. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri October 21 said in Delhi that an agreement was finalised between India and China following negotiations over the past several weeks and that it would lead to a resolution of the issues that arose in 2020.

The agreement was firmed up on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh, a breakthrough to end the four-year standoff.

The move marks a significant development in the pursuit of reduced tension along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. The ties between the two Asian giants had nosedived following the clash.

3 more wild elephants die in Bandhavgarh; death toll rises to 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Umria (MP), Nov 1: Three more wild elephants have died in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) after consuming a toxic substance, taking the toll to ten so far this week, a forest department official said.

"One tusker died Wednesday evening and another two Thursday," MP Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF-Wildlife) VKN Ambade told PTI over the phone from inside the reserve.

"At present, we have not found any foul play (in the death of elephants). I have visited so many nearby areas. I am not seeing any foul play as of now. But let us see what (autopsy and forensic) reports say," he said.

"A five-member team of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau from Delhi is in the reserve. The National Tiger Conservation Authority's Nagpur-based regional officer, assistant inspector general of forests Nandkishore Kale, was camping here to get first-hand feel of the situation," Ambade said.

When contacted over phone, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) L Krishnamoorthy said, "Autopsies have been conducted and veterinary doctors on the basis on circumstantial evidences have said toxicity has been observed in their stomach."

601 arrested over bursting banned firecrackers in WB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 1: Kolkata Police arrested 601 people for bursting banned firecrackers and disorderly conduct in the last 24 hours till Friday morning, an officer said.

The police also seized over 700 kg of banned firecrackers, 79.4 litre of liquor and prosecuted over 800 people for violating traffic rules from different parts of the city during the period, he added.

Kali Puja and Diwali were celebrated in West Bengal Thursday, with colourful lights and decorated pandals creating a festive spirit across the state.

The police also seized over 700 kg of banned firecrackers, 79.4 litre of liquor

Police till 7 am of Friday arrested 265 people for bursting firecrackers, 328 for disorderly conduct and another eight for gambling, a Kolkata Police statement said. The Kolkata Traffic Police prosecuted 296 bikers and 93 pillion riders for riding without helmet, 93 for rash driving, 90 for drunken driving and 196 others, it added. "This kind of checking and arrest would continue even today and for a couple of days to keep a tab on such kind of menace," the IPS officer told PTI.

SNIPPETS

BJP leader Devender Singh Rana cremated

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana, who passed away in a hospital in Haryana, was cremated Friday with full honours in Jammu, where thousands of people and top political leaders, cutting across party lines, bid adieu to him. The last rites of Rana, known as "voice of Jammu", were performed at the Shastri Nagar crematorium, where his mortal remains were ferried in a flower-decked vehicle and received Union Territory (UT) honours. Amid chants of "Rana sahib amar rahein", thousands of mourners with tearful eyes paid their respects at his residence soon after his body arrived from Faridabad.

India-US joint exercise from today

New Delhi: A military exercise between the special forces of India and the US is set to commence on Saturday in Idaho, seeking to enhance combined capabilities in executing joint special forces operations in desert and semi-desert environment and develop interoperability. An Indian Army contingent departed Friday to take part in the 'Exercise Vajra Prahar', the Defence Ministry said. The 15th edition of India-US joint special forces exercise will enable the two sides to share their best practices and experiences for conduct of joint special forces operations.

3 kids killed in blaze sparked by firecrackers

Kolkata: Three children were burnt to death and two others were critically injured in a blaze sparked by firecrackers they were bursting in West Bengal's Howrah district during Diwali celebrations Friday evening, an official said. The incident took place in ward number 27 of Uluberia Municipality when the children of the same locality were bursting firecrackers as sparks fell on some fireworks stored near by, triggering a blaze that engulfed an adjacent house. While three children were gutted in the blaze and declared dead at Uluberia Medical College and Hospital, two other children were in critical condition and were undergoing treatment.



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi tries his hand at pottery during a visit to a potter family amid the Diwali festivities

Haryana, MP, Ch'garh, K'taka, Kerala celebrate statehood day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore/Bhopal, Nov 1: Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Kerala Friday celebrated their formation day with their chief ministers highlighting how their states have contributed immensely to nation-building.

In a post in Hindi on X, Murmu said she wishes that the people of these states "continue to contribute to the country's development journey and that their lives be filled with peace and prosperity". Modi also took to X to highlight various features of these states.

"Kannada Rajyotsava" is a very special occasion, recognising the exemplary culture and traditions of Karnataka, he said. "This state is blessed with out-

standing people, who are powering growth and innovation across sectors. May the people of Karnataka always be blessed with happiness and success," he added.

Modi noted that Madhya Pradesh is blessed with bountiful natural resources and cultural heritage and described Chhattisgarh as a state known for its impressive folk traditions and tribal culture, wishing the states continued development.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said all these states have contributed immensely to nation-building. In separate messages on X, Shah expressed hope that the states would continue the journey of progress and development uninterrupted in the coming years.

A cultural programme themed



Students perform during the celebrations of Karnataka state formation day 'Kannada Rajyotsava', at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore

around 'Hesarayithu Karnataka, Usiragali Kannada' (the state got the name Karnataka, now Kannada should become the

breath) was held on the occasion. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in greeting the people of these states

While Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala came into being on this day in 1956, Haryana was formed in 1966 while Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh in 2000

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra extended their wishes to the people of the state and Keralites worldwide on the state's 68th formation day, known as 'Keralappiravi'. Governor Khan, in a video

message on Facebook, said that since its formation, Kerala has embraced a unique developmental journey, marked by enviable high human developmental indices and remarkable progress in literacy, healthcare and quality of life.

Vijayan, in a Facebook post, said Kerala has always upheld the values of democracy, secularism and social justice and has grown into a model for the entire country in terms of quality of life and people's welfare.

Priyanka, who is contesting in the bypoll for the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, wished Keralites on the occasion in a post in Malayalam on X.

In Chhattisgarh, the three-day Rajyotsav celebrations will be held from November 4 to 6 in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar.

national



ANDHRA CM LAUNCHES 'DEEPAM - 2' SCHEME
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Friday launched 'Deepam - 2', a free cooking gas cylinder distribution scheme part of his 'Super Six' promises, at Eedupuram village in Srikakulam district. Accompanied by Civil Supplies Minister N Manohar, Union Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu and others, the Chief Minister launched the scheme at a woman beneficiary's home



of the day quote

It has been 10 months since our government was formed, the changes that have come during this time have been seen by everyone. Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP), and Yamuna Water Agreement were signed to meet the water requirement of the state

BHAJANLAL SHARMA | RAJASTHAN CM

After talking to Chinese soldiers and seeing the infrastructures, everyone will feel proud of India's border development now

KIREN RIJU | UNION MINISTER

Parents are considered next to God. Though my parents have gone to Devlok (heaven), by coming to Anand Dham, I feel that I am with my parents only

MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

X POST OF THE DAY

What was life supposed to be: (1) 9-to-5 work (2) Quality time with family (3) Occasional outings for a routine change

What life has become: (1) How to invest and beat inflation. (2) Whether to have kids or not? (due to expenses). (3) Ordering 10 mins junk deliveries, hunting for 5-5 Rs discounts.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

Medics announce slew of protests

Kolkata: Almost three months after the rape and murder of a medic at state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, junior doctors Friday said they are not happy with the pace of probe by the CBI into the incident and announced a slew of fresh agitations. The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum was also dissatisfied with the central probe agency.

Police personnel attacked

Sambhal/Meerut (UP): A case has been registered against nine persons for allegedly assaulting police personnel, including a sub-inspector, in Sambhal, while five men were arrested for attacking a police team in Meerut, officials said Friday. The incident in Sambhal occurred Wednesday when a fight broke out between two families over setting up a milk cart in the market area of Kanchanpur village under the Junwai police station area, they said.

Goods wagon derails

Guwahati: Movement of trains in Assam's Lumding-Badarpur hill section continued to be affected following the derailment of a loaded wagon of a goods train more than 24 hours ago, an official bulletin said Friday. The wagon carrying grains derailed inside tunnel no 2 at KM 52/5 near Mupa around 4 pm Thursday.

Darshan hospitalised

Bangalore: Days after he was granted bail on medical grounds, actor Darshan has been admitted to a private hospital in Kengeri, Bangalore due to back pain, sources said Friday. He was accompanied by his wife Vijayalakshmi.

Delhi most polluted city post Diwali

The city's air quality dropped to the "very poor" category, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 330 at 10 pm on Diwali. Key areas, including Anand Vihar, saw the AQI plunge into the "severe" category while PM2.5 concentrations soared, creating hazardous conditions for respiratory health

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: A thick layer of haze blanketed Delhi, with the national capital's AQI plunging to 362 Friday as people defied a citywide ban on firecrackers during Diwali celebrations.

Delhi also recorded its most polluted Diwali in three years. On Diwali Thursday, the city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 330, compared to 218 in 2023 and 312 in 2022, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

The national capital's AQI was recorded in the "very poor" category with a reading of 362 at 9 am Friday. Most monitoring stations in Delhi showed similar pollution levels, with 37 out of 39 reporting air quality in the "very poor" category. According to the Sameer app that provides hourly updates of the national AQI published by the CPCB, the AQI in Alipur was recorded at 355, Anand Vihar at 396, Ashok Vihar at 389, Aaya Nagar 351, Bawana at 396, Burari at 394 and Mathura Road at 371.

At IGI Airport, the AQI was at 371, Dwarka at 376, Jahangirpuri at 390, Mundka at 375, Patparganj at 365, Rohini at 390, Sonia Vihar at 396, and Wazirpur at 390.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100



Air quality turns poor in Bihar cities

PATNA: The air quality index (AQI) in several cities of Bihar turned 'poor' Friday after Diwali celebrations, according to a bulletin issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Hajipur recorded 'very poor' air quality with an index value of 332. Several places in Bihar where AQI was in the 'poor' category (201-300 level) were Araria and Muzaffarpur (286 each), Begusarai (258), Saran/Chhapra (254), Purnea (247), Saharsa (232), Patna and Samastipur (230 each) and Kishanganj (201).

'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'. The concentration of PM2.5 - fine particles which easily penetrate the respiratory system and pose serious health risks, especially for children, the elderly and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions - also exceeded the safe limit.

At 6 am Friday, the PM2.5 concentration in Delhi was recorded at 207.8 micrograms per cubic metre. The safe limit for PM2.5 is 60 micrograms per cubic metre. In an effort to combat the spike in pollution during and after Diwali, the Delhi government had enforced a comprehensive ban on firecrackers for the fifth consecutive year, prohibiting their manufacture, storage, sale and use.

EC approves Alka Tiwari as next Chief Secy of J'khand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Ranchi, Nov 1: The Election Commission Friday accepted the Jharkhand government's proposal to appoint Alka Tiwari as the Chief Secretary of the poll-bound state.

Assembly polls in Jharkhand will be held in two phases - November 13 and November 20.

Tiwari, who is from the 1988 batch, is currently the senior-most IAS officer in the cadre.

Before this, the poll panel had also consented to the proposal of a five-month extension of the tenure of former chief secretary Lalbiaktluanga Khiangte, the sources said. Meanwhile, the state government issued a no-

tification announcing the appointment of Tiwari as the Chief Secretary.

"The proposal for appointment has been approved by the Election Commission of India," a notification from the department of Personnel, Administrative Reforms and Rajbhasha said.

Her husband and 1986 batch retired IAS officer Dr DK Tiwari had earlier held the topmost bureaucratic post in the state.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a post on X said: "Mr Khiangte has retired from the post of Chief Secretary of Jharkhand government. Thank you very much for serving the state of Jharkhand. Wish a happy future."



Fashion designer Rohit Bal dies

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 1: Rohit Bal, one of India's most celebrated fashion designers, died Friday at a south Delhi hospital following a heart attack, Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) president Sunil Sethi said. He was 63.

Bal had been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of a private hospital in Gurugram for cardiac issues in December last year. In October this year, he

presented his collection at the Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI 2024 grand finale.

"It's true that he has passed away. He had a cardiac arrest... heart failure. Rohit was a legend, we are completely shaken right now. We are trying to work out details for the cremation tomorrow," Sethi told PTI.

He had been admitted to Aashlok Hospital in Safdarjung Enclave and was being treated by Dr Alok Chopra, Sethi said.



Doctors tried their best for two hours to revive him, a heartbroken Sethi added.

IMD forecasts warm Nov with no hint of winter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: India experienced its warmest October since 1901 with mean temperature recording 1.23 degrees Celsius above normal, the weather office said Friday. It predicted a warmer November, giving no indication of the upcoming winter.

Addressing a press conference here, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General Mrityunjay Mohapatra attributed the warmer weather to the absence of western disturbances and influx of easterly winds due to active low pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal.

The mean temperature in October was recorded at 26.92 degrees Celsius, the warmest since 1901, against the normal of 25.69 degrees Celsius, Mohapatra said.

The minimum temperature also clocked 21.85 degrees Celsius



against the normal of 20.01 degrees Celsius for the country as a whole.

"In north-western India, north-westerly winds are needed for lower temperatures. The monsoonal flow was also there that does not allow fall in temperature," Mohapatra said.

He said the temperatures will continue to remain 2-5 degrees

above normal in the north-western plains at least for the next two weeks, before a gradual decline towards normalcy. Mohapatra said the weather office does not count November as a winter month. He said January and February are considered as winter months, while the hints of the cold weather are available in December.

In the southern peninsula, the north-east monsoon is expected to bring above normal rainfall in November in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam, Rayalaseema, Kerala and Mahe and south interior Karnataka.

"The above normal to normal rainfall is likely over most parts of the country except northwest India and some areas of central India," the weather office said.

The delay in the onset of cold weather conditions could also be

on account of the continued prevalence of the neutral El Nino conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

The weather office said the probability forecast indicates a higher chance of La Nina conditions developing during November-December in a gradual manner.

"ENSO (El Nino-Southern Oscillation) conditions are slowly evolving towards the negative side and La Nina can set in by December," Mohapatra said, acknowledging that the weather forecasting agencies the world over have got their El Nino forecasts wrong this year.

In the winter months, the La Nina causes a very cold wavelike jet stream to flow across Afghanistan, Iran and the Hindu Kush mountains. These strong and cold winds impact the degree of cold in India.

MAHA POLLS HEAT UP

Row over Sawant's remarks on Shaina NC; FIR lodged



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 1: A First Information Report was registered here Friday against Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant for referring to Shaina NC, an Assembly elections candidate of the rival Shiv Sena, as "imported maal".

Sawant, MP of Mumbai South, claimed that his remark was being misinterpreted, while Shaina, who is contesting from Mumbaidevi Assembly seat in the city, said it showed the mentality of the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

Based on her complaint, an FIR was registered against Sawant at Nagpada police station under sections 79 (insulting the modesty of a woman through words, gestures, sounds) and 356 (2) (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, said a police official. Shaina, who was earlier with the Bharatiya Janata Party, joined Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena recently. She is pitted against Amin Patel of Congress in the November 20 Maharashtra Assembly elections.

"I am a woman, not a commodity. Women will not keep silent in the face of derogatory language directed at them. With (goddess) Mumbaidevi's blessings, I am committed to serving

Mumbaikars. Arvind Sawant's comments highlight the anti-women mentality within the Sena (UBT) faction," Shaina further said.

"Even more disturbing was Congress candidate Amin Patel's apparent amusement as Sawant made these remarks," she said. The voters will teach the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance of the Sena (UBT), NCP (SP) and Congress a lesson, she added.

Shaina also said Sawant's comment stood in sharp contrast to chief minister Shinde's flagship 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' under which women get financial aid. Reacting to her allegations, Arvind Sawant said she misinterpreted the word "maal". "In Hindi, it means 'goods'. I also said our candidate is the 'original maal'. Shaina is an old friend, not an enemy," he said.

"Please understand the motive behind spreading a narrative by bringing out a video clip of a speech made two days ago. In my 50 years of political life I have never insulted anyone," Sawant added. Chief minister Shinde said Sawant's remark insulted all "ladkya bahini" (beloved sisters) in the state. "(Late Shiv Sena founder) Balasaheb Thackeray would have slapped anyone making such a remark," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, SUNDARGARH
Lt.No. 4755/Dt. 30.10.2024
CANCELLATION OF TENDER
No.O-558 : The tender for the work SL NO. 5. S/R to RD road to Badibahal road for the 2024-25 in the Tender Call Notice Bid identification No. Online-SERKL-12 of 2024-25 by the Additional Chief Engineer, Rural Works Division-II, Sundargarh is hereby cancelled due to some unavoidable circumstances.
Sd./-Additional Chief Engineer
R.W.Division-II, Sundargarh
OIPR-25193/11/0025/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.C-888
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER : G.P.H.
DIVISION NO. II : SAMBALPUR-768001
Email Id : gphdivn.2@gmail.com
Letter No. 15545 Dt. 30.10.2024
The tenders for the following works bearing INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B) E-Procurement Notice IDENTIFICATION No.IFB-01/S.E.G.P.H-SBP of 2024-25 is hereby cancelled due to unavailable circumstances.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of Work excl. GST (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	Construction of Proposed Additional Modification (GF + Extension) of existing Hexagonal Structure of OAV at BHQ Daringbadi under Daringbadi Block in Kandhamal District. (P.H Works)	Rs. 1475889/-
2	Improvement of P.H work to Gents and Ladies Toilet at OAV Govindpur in the Dist. of Bargarh for the year 2024-25. (GF + FF)	Rs. 2116229/-
3	Construction of P.H work to Polytechnic Building at Nuapada	Rs. 790350/-

Sd./- Executive Engineer
G.P.H. Division No-II, Sambalpur
OIPR-13006/11/0002/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
WATER CORPORATION OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER,
WATCO DIVISION, SAMBALPUR
Phone No. : (0663)-2412135, Email ID : gmwatcosbp@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. GmWATCOSBP-01/2024-25 Dt. 28.10.2024

1 Name of the Work	1 No. Work
2 Type of Bid	Single Bid System
3 Estimated Cost	Rs. 15.67 lakh
4 Period of Completion	2 (Two) Calendar Months
5 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 11.00 A.M. of dt. 03.11.2024 to 5.00 P.M. of 13.11.2024
6 Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	5.00 P.M. of 13.11.2024
7 Date & Time of opening of technical bids	At 11.30 A.M. of 16.11.2024
8 Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	General Manager, WATCO Division, Sambalpur, Brooks' Hill, Near Stadium, At/PO - Motijharan, Dist - Sambalpur-768001

Further details can be seen from the website <http://tenders.ori.nic.in> or www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- General Manager,
WATCO Division, Sambalpur
OIPR-13247/11/0001/2425

international

of the day quote

This (Diwali) annual festival of joy, hope and togetherness is an extraordinarily beautiful celebration of faith and culture, one embraced by Australia's diverse and vibrant society

Imran Khan's politics is taking its last breath. He was hoping in the jail that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) could not deliver and the people would be on the roads. But that did not happen and he is licking his wounds in jail

When we compare (the confirmed mpox cases reported this year) with the entire 2023, that is more than a 500 per cent increase

NGASHI NGONGO | CHIEF OF STAFF, AFRICA CDC

SHORT TAKES

Russia sentences ex-US consular

Moscow: A court in Russia's far-eastern city of Vladivostok Friday convicted a former US consulate worker charged with cooperating with a foreign state and sentenced him to four years and ten months in prison. Robert Shonov, a former employee of the US Consulate in Vladivostok, was arrested in May 2023. Russia's top domestic security agency, the FSB, accused him of "gathering information about the special military operation" in Ukraine, partial call-up in Russian regions and its influence on "protest activities of the population in the run-up to the 2024 presidential election." The US State Department last year condemned the arrest and said the allegations against Shonov "are wholly without merit."

Doval, Jake Sullivan speak over phone

Washington: Amidst tension between India and the US over the alleged targeting of Sikh separatists by India, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke over the phone with his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval during which they discussed regional security developments, bilateral issues including defence cooperation. The two leaders also discussed the need for further efforts to ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific region and globally, the White House said Wednesday in a readout of the call. "They welcomed progress in the bilateral partnership, including through the upcoming Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET) Intersections and Indian Ocean Dialogue."

SK, US stage joint drone strike drills

Seoul: South Korea and the US Friday held joint drone strike drills for the first time, the South's Air Force said, a day after North Korea launched an Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM). The live-fire drills, involving a South Korean RQ-4B Global Hawk surveillance drone and a US MQ-9 Reaper attack drone, took place at an unspecified location in South Korea, in an apparent show of the allies' military capabilities against North Korean threats, Yonhap news agency reported. The drills took place under a scenario of striking the origin of an enemy provocation, with the South Korean drone collecting data on simulated targets and sharing it with the US unmanned aircraft, according to the Air Force.

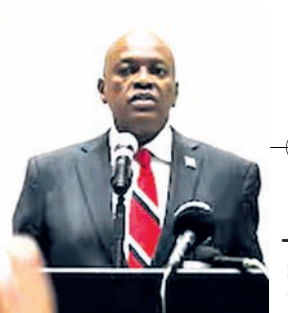


Putin is checking the reaction of the West (over deployment of North Korean troops to Russia). And I believe that after all these reactions, Putin will decide and increase the contingent. The reaction that is there today is nothing, it is zero

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

SEISMIC CHANGE IN BOTSWANA

Botswana's President Mokgweetsi Masisi conceded defeat Friday after preliminary results showed his party had lost its parliamentary majority by a landslide in this week's election, ending nearly six decades in power



NK boasts of 'world's strongest' missile

Experts say the photos show the ICBM and its launch vehicle are both oversized, raising a serious question about their wartime mobility and survivability

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Nov 1: North Korea boasted Friday that the new intercontinental ballistic missile it just test-launched is "the world's strongest," a claim seen as pure propaganda after experts assessed it as being too big to be useful in a war situation.

The ICBM launched Thursday flew higher and for a longer duration than any other weapon North Korea has tested. But foreign experts say the test failed to show North Korea has mastered some of the last remaining technological hurdles to possess functioning ICBMs that can strike the mainland US.

The North's Korean Central News Agency identified the missile as a Hwasong-19 and called it "the world's strongest strategic missile" and "the perfected weapon system."

The colour and shape of the exhaust flames seen in North Korean media photos of the launch suggest the missile uses preloaded solid fuel, which makes weapons more agile and harder to detect than liquid propellants that in general must be fuelled beforehand.

But experts say the photos show the ICBM and its launch vehicle are both oversized, raising a serious question about their wartime mobility and survivability.

"When missiles get bigger, what happens? The vehicles get larger, too. As the transporter-erector launchers get bigger, their mobility decreases," Lee Sangmin, an expert at South Korea's Korea Institute for Defense Analyses.

The Hwasong-19 was estimated to be at least 28 metres long while advanced US and Russian ICBMs are less than 20 metres long, said Chang Young-keun, a missile expert at Seoul's Korea Research Institute for National Strategy. He suggested



When missiles get bigger, what happens? The vehicles get larger, too. As the transporter-erector launchers get bigger, their mobility decreases

LEE SANGMIN | EXPERT AT KOREA INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES, SOUTH KOREA

- North Korea's missile launch condemned by South Korea, Japan, US
- Kim Jong Un claims missile launch success, calls it irreversible
- SK warns of potential North Korea-Russia missile technology exchange
- US says it sees no sign of Russian involvement in missile yet

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OpenAI turns ChatGPT into search engine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco, Nov 1: OpenAI is launching a ChatGPT-powered search engine that could put the artificial intelligence company in direct competition with Google and affect the flow of internet traffic seeking news, sports scores and other timely information.

San Francisco-based OpenAI said Thursday it is releasing a search feature to paid users of ChatGPT but will eventually expand it to all ChatGPT users. It released a preview version in July to a small group of users and publishers. The original version of ChatGPT, released in 2022, was trained on huge troves of online texts but couldn't respond to questions about up-to-date events not in its training data.

Google upended its search engine in May with AI-generated written summaries now frequently appearing at the top of search results. The summaries aim to quickly answer a user's search query so that they don't necessarily need to click a link and visit another website for more information.

A pivot by AI companies to have their chatbots deliver news gathered by professional journalists has alarmed some news media organizations. The New York Times is among several news outlets that have sued OpenAI and its business partner Microsoft for copyright infringement. Wall Street Journal and New York Post publisher News Corp sued another AI search engine, Perplexity, earlier in October.



People take selfies with the performers during the 51st Annual NYC Village Halloween Parade in New York.

SNIPPETS

Maldives estimates MVR 1.6bn foreign aid from India in 2025

Male: The Maldivian government has estimated that India will provide MVR 1.6 billion in grant aid to the archipelago nation in 2025, constituting 72 per cent of the total foreign aid it will receive from friendly countries, according to media reports. The estimates were made in the proposed State Budget 2025 submitted to the Parliament Thursday, news portal Adhadhu.com reported. In the proposed budget, President Mohamed Muizzu-led administration projected a total of Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) 2.25 billion as international grant aid. Of this, India is expected to provide 72 per cent, amounting to MVR 1.6 billion (approximately \$104 million). China will provide the archipelago nation MVR 502 million, 22 per cent of projected free aid, the report said. India has provided "substantial" financial help to the Maldives this year, the report said. During Muizzu's state visit to India last month, New Delhi announced a \$400 million support to the island nation. The two sides also inked a currency swap agreement to the tune of Rs 3,000 crore.



Pak bombing: 5 schoolchildren among 9 killed

Islamabad: At least nine people, including five children, were killed and 27 others were injured as an autorickshaw carrying schoolchildren bore the brunt of a bomb blast targeting a police mobile van in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province Friday. The blast occurred at 8.35 am near a girl's high school at the Civil Hospital Chowk of the Mastung district of the province. Mastung District Police Officer (DPO) Miandad Umrani confirmed that while seven people, including five schoolchildren, had died on the spot after the blast, one of the injured passed away in a hospital. "The number of injured is around 27 and some civilians themselves took some of the injured to the hospitals," he said. The initial death toll was seven and injured around 17 but Umrani said the condition of some of the injured was critical as well. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, but ethnic Baloch terrorists and Taliban terrorists often attack the security forces in the province, which has been facing a low-level insurgency for about two decades now. "The target of the IED bomb triggered via a timer appeared to be a police van stationed near a hospital and a high school which are metres away from each other," he said.



Ceasefire hopes fade: Israel pounds Gaza, Lebanon

REUTERS

Cairo, Nov 1: Prospects of a ceasefire between Israel and its foes Hamas and Hezbollah ran aground Friday as Israeli airstrikes killed at least 64 people in the Gaza Strip, according to medics in the Palestinian enclave, and bombed Beirut's southern suburbs.

Later Friday, the Israeli military said it had killed senior Hamas official Izz al-Din Kassab, describing him as one of the last surviving high-ranking members of Hamas responsible for coordinating with other groups in Gaza, in an airstrike in Khan Younis.

US envoys had been working to secure ceasefires on both fronts ahead of the US presidential election next Tuesday.



But Hamas does not favour a temporary truce, its Al-Aqsa Hamas television reported Friday. The ceasefire proposals failed to meet its conditions that any deal must end the year-long war in Gaza and include a

withdrawal of Israeli forces from the devastated Palestinian enclave, it said. Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his priority was to enforce security "despite any pressure or con-

straints". His office said he relayed this message to US envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk in Israel Thursday. Israel meanwhile pressed on with its military offensives against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon Friday.

Medics in Gaza said about 64 people were killed and dozens injured overnight and into Friday morning in Israeli strikes on the city of Deir Al-Balah, the Nuseirat camp and the town of Al-Zawayda, all in Gaza's central area, as well as in its south.

Fourteen people were killed by an Israeli strike at the gate of a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Nuseirat, according to medics at the camp's Al-Awda Hospital. Another 10 were killed in a car in Khan

Younis in the south of Gaza, medics said. The Israeli military said its troops had killed what it called armed terrorists in central Gaza and the northern Jabalia area. It had no immediate comment on the reported school strike, although it habitually denies deliberately attacking civilians.

The heads of UN humanitarian agencies said Friday the situation in north Gaza was "apocalyptic" with the entire Palestinian population there at "imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence" as Israel pursues its offensive against regrouping Hamas militants in the area.

Israel also pummeled Beirut's southern suburbs Friday morning with at least 10 strikes, Reuters journalists said.

SPANISH FLOODS

Death toll rises to 205



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chiva, Nov 1: Three days after historic flash floods swept through towns in Spain and killed at least 205 people, the initial shock was giving way to anger, frustration and a wave of solidarity Friday.

Spanish emergency authorities raised the death toll to at least 205 victims, 202 of them in Valencia alone.

Many streets are still blocked by piled-up vehicles and debris, in some cases trapping residents in their homes. Some places still don't have electricity, running water, or stable telephone connections.

The damage from the storm Tuesday and Wednesday recalled the aftermath of a tsunami, with survivors left to pick up the pieces as they mourn loved ones lost in Spain's deadliest natural disaster in living memory.

"The situation is unbelievable. It's a disaster and there is very little help," said Emilio Cuartero, a resident of Masanasa, on the outskirts of Valencia. "We need machinery, cranes, so that the sites can be accessed. We need a lot of help. And bread and water."

In Chiva, residents were busy Friday clearing debris from mud-filled streets. The Valencian town received more rain in eight hours Tuesday than it had in the preceding 20 months, and water overflowed a gully that crosses the town, tearing up roads and walls of houses.

The mayor, Amparo Fort, told RNE radio that "entire houses have disappeared, we don't know if there were people

inside or not." So far 158 bodies have been recovered, 155 in Valencia, two in the Castilla La Mancha region and one more in Andalusia, after Spain's deadliest natural disaster in living memory. Members of the security forces and soldiers are busy searching for an unknown number of missing people, many feared to still be trapped in wrecked vehicles or flooded garages.

"I have been there all my life, all my memories are there, my parents lived there and now in one night it is all gone," Chiva resident Juan Vicente Pérez told The Associated Press near the

place he lost his home. "If we had waited five more minutes, we would not be here in this world."

Before and after satellite images of Valencia illustrated the scale of the catastrophe, showing the transformation of the

Mediterranean metropolis into a landscape inundated with muddy waters. The V-33 highway was completely covered in the brown of a thick layer of mud.

The tragedy has unleashed a wave of local solidarity. Residents in communities like Paiporta, where at least 62 people died and Catarroja have been walking kilometres in sticky mud to Valencia to get supplies, passing neighbours from unaffected areas who are bringing carry water, essential products, shovels or brooms to help remove the mud. The large number of people coming to help has led the authorities to ask them not to drive there, because they block the roads needed by the emergency services.

Many streets are still blocked by piled-up vehicles and debris, in some cases trapping residents in their homes

Hindus in B'desh rally to demand protection from harassment

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dhaka, Nov 1: Tens of thousands of minority Hindus rallied Friday to demand that the interim government in Muslim-majority Bangladesh protect them from a wave of attacks and harassment and drop sedition cases against Hindu community leaders.

About 30,000 Hindus demonstrated at a major intersection in the southeastern city of Chattogram chanting slogans demanding their rights while police and soldiers guarded the area. Other protests were reported elsewhere in the country.

Hindu groups say thousands of attacks against Hindus have happened since early August when the secular government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was overthrown and Hasina fled the country following a student-led uprising. Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel peace laureate named to lead an interim government after Hasina's downfall, says those figures have been exaggerated.

Hindus make up about 8% of the country's nearly 170 million people, while Muslims are about 91%.

The country's influential minority group Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council has said that there have been more than 2,000 attacks on Hindus since August 4. Hindus and other minority communities say the interim government hasn't adequately protected them and that headline Islamists are becoming increasingly influential since Hasina's ouster.



We continue to be excited by the enthusiasm we're seeing in India, where we set an all-time revenue record
TIM COOK | CEO, APPLE

PUREIT GOES TO AO SMITH

Global water technology company AO Smith Corporation Friday announced the completion of the acquisition of FMCG major HUL's water purification business Pureit. Pureit offers a broad range of residential water purification solutions across India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Mexico, among others



of the day quote

We will be investing ₹15 crore in India operations to expand our presence in the association's segment in the 7 major cities. The fund will also be used to onboard the developers segment that is more sensitised towards resident experience as well as post-sales automation in the current era of AI

SAN BANERJEE | CO-FOUNDER AND CEO, ADDA

Guest feedback on the aircraft and new customer experience has been exceptionally positive since it was launched on the Delhi-London Heathrow route in September, so we are excited to now bring it to New York

CAMPBELL WILSON | MD AND CEO, AIR INDIA

The onset of festivities has reignited sales momentum, fuelled by stable interest rates and a strong appetite for premium properties

SHISHIR BAJAJ | CMD, KNIGHT FRANK INDIA

SUV sales a bright spot for carmakers



Auto majors see muted sales performance in Oct except for SUVs as firms curtail despatches to dealers in order to cut inventory build-up

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 1: Some top Indian carmakers reported a surge in sports utility vehicle sales to dealers in the festive month of October, company data showed Friday, while the smaller segment stayed sluggish, highlighting customers' increasing preference for larger, premium cars.

Maruti Suzuki, India's No 1 carmaker in terms of market share, posted a 19.4% rise in SUV sales to hit a record high, while No 2 SUV-maker Mahindra and Mahindra posted its highest monthly sales in the current fiscal year, a 25% rise.

Mahindra, which has a portfolio comprised entirely of SUVs, reported a rise in sales every month this year ending March 2025, mostly supported by new launches such as the "Thar ROXX".

Meanwhile, Hyundai Motor India posted its highest-ever monthly SUV sales at 37,902 units.

Demand for new cars has slowed after two years of surging growth, forcing automakers to moderate sales to dealers and dish out higher discounts as showroom owners grapple with rising levels of unsold cars. However, the month-long festive season – an auspicious time during which Indians typically make big-ticket purchases – began in early October this year, helping dealers offload piled-up inventory.

Inventory levels had hit 85 days in September; the recommended level is a month's worth of stock. Dealers' inventory data for October is likely to be updated next week.

Earlier this week, Maruti Suzuki said its inventory was down to 30 days on higher festive-season discounts. It also reported its total sales grew to a record high of 206,434 units in October, largely due to a jump in exports and sales to global car design and manufacturing partner Toyota.

However, weak demand for small cars affected most of the carmakers' overall domestic sales. Maruti Suzuki's dropped 5%, burdened by a 20% drop in small car sales, while Hyundai Motor India's rose a tepid 0.8%.

Overall domestic sales for Tata Motors which derives about two-thirds of its sales volumes from SUVs, stayed flat, hit by stiff competition from Mahindra.

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 1: Gold demand in India jumped this week amid festive purchases, although volumes were lower than usual due to record-high prices.

"Retail buying jumped as consumers want to make purchases during the auspicious period. But many were making token-buys because of higher prices," said a Hyderabad-based jeweller.

RBI's routine interventions to halt major movements in ₹

RESERVE BANK SOLD DOLLARS ON ALMOST ALL DAYS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS TO ENSURE A MEASURED DEPRECIATION OF THE RUPEE

REUTERS

Bangalore, Nov 1: The Indian rupee will trade in a tight range around current levels against the dollar over the coming year as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) routinely dips into its foreign exchange (FX) reserves to manage the currency's stability, a Reuters poll found.

Abandoning its earlier policy of intervening only during periods of heightened volatility, the RBI over the past couple of

We witnessed a strong demand for our SUV portfolio during festive period, leading to our highest-ever monthly SUV sales at 37,902 units, including the highest-ever monthly domestic sales of the Hyundai CRETA at 17,497 units

TARUN GARG | COO, HYUNDAI MOTOR

years has used its vast FX reserves to keep the currency in a narrow range.

US dollar has charged ahead of most other currencies in recent years but the rupee has stood its ground, losing just over 1% this year.

That resilience has come despite \$11 billion of foreign portfolio investment leaving India in October. At the same time, the central bank drew its massive currency reserve pile from a peak of \$704.89 billion in late September to \$688.27 billion as of October 18.

"The (FX) intervention has been an ongoing affair and it's not just this year, it's been continuing post-Covid so we would expect two-sided interventions to continue," said Vivek Kumar, an economist at QuantEco Research.

The currency was forecast to



In India, prices jumped to a record high of ₹79,775 per 10 grams earlier this week, marking a nearly 33% increase since last year's Diwali.

The share of coins and bars in total sales increased this year than usual as buyers were unwilling to pay increased making charges for jewellery, said a

Share of gold coins, bars in sales higher this year

The RBI's actions could lead to complacency and major debacle in the event of any global turmoil or a black swan event

JAYRAM KRISHNAMURTHY | CO-FOUNDER, ALMUS RISK CONSULTING

trade around 84/\$ in one and three months, virtually unchanged from Tuesday's close of 84.05/\$, with a slight appreciation of around 0.5% to 83.75/\$ in six months and 12 months, according to an October 25-31 Reuters poll of 38 strategists.

In an early October poll the

MUHURAT SESSION

SHARES LOG WORST MONTH SINCE MARCH 2020 AS RECORD FOREIGN OUTFLOWS, DULL EARNINGS DAMPEN INVESTORS' SENTIMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 1: Benchmark Sensex rose by 335.06 points, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at 79,724.12 in a special Muhurat trading session Friday, starting the new Samvat 2081 on a high note.

Stock exchanges BSE and NSE conducted a special Muhurat trading session from 18:00 hrs to 19:00 hrs Friday to mark the beginning of the new Samvat Year 2081.

In the last Samvat 2080, which ended Thursday, the BSE Sensex jumped 14,484.38 points, or 22.31 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 4,780 points, or 24.60 per cent. Investors' wealth rose ₹124.42

Oct logs second-best GST mop-up

GST COLLECTION AT ₹1.87L-CR DRIVEN BY DOMESTIC SALES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: Gross GST collection in October rose 9 per cent to over ₹1.87 lakh crore, the second-highest ever, on pick-up in domestic sales and improved compliance.

The Central GST collection stood at ₹33,821 crore, State GST at ₹1,864 crore, Integrated IGSST at ₹9,111 crore and cess at ₹12,550 crore during the month.

As per the government data released Friday, the total gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue grew 8.9 per cent to ₹1,87,346 crore. In October 2023, the mop-up was at ₹1.72 lakh crore.

The highest ever collection was in April 2024 at over ₹2.10 lakh crore.

During the month under review, GST from domestic transactions grew 10.6 per cent to ₹1.42 lakh crore, while revenues from tax on imports rose about 4 per cent to ₹45,096 crore.

The US dollar has charged ahead of most other currencies in recent years but the rupee has stood its ground, losing just over 1% this year

rupee was expected to strengthen mildly over the forecast horizon.

The latest data from the RBI's monthly bulletin showed the rupee's trade-weighted real effective exchange rate was 105.17 in September, implying the currency was overvalued by around 5%.

Refunds worth ₹19,306 crore were issued during the month, registering 18.2 per cent growth over the year-ago period. After adjusting refunds, net GST collection grew 8 per cent at over ₹1.68 lakh crore. The GST Council,

chaired by Union Finance Minister and comprising state counterparts, are slated to meet this month and take up the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation on over 100 items.

MS MANI | PARTNER, DELOITTE

The buoyancy in GST collections is on account of an excellent combination of festive season sales and increased compliance

Oct, the BSE benchmark index fell sharply by 4,910.72 points, or 5.82%, and the Nifty tumbled 1,605.5 points, or 6.22%

D-St starts Samvat 2081 on a high



On Friday, Sensex opened on a high note and stayed in positive territory throughout the special session on buying in banking, auto, and oil & gas shares. The index moved between a high of 80,023.75 and a low of 79,655.55 during the session.

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SAMVAT YEAR 2080

In the last Samvat 2080, which ended Thursday, the BSE Sensex jumped 14,484.38 points, or 22.31%, and the Nifty climbed 4,780 points, or 24.60%

Investors' wealth rose ₹124.42L-cr during the period to ₹4,44,71,429.92cr (\$5.29tn)

The 50-issue Nifty of NSE rose 99 points, or 0.41 per cent, to close at 24,304.35. As many as 42 Nifty stocks ended higher while eight shares closed with losses.

Among major Sensex gainers, Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 3.29 per cent. Adani Ports gained 1.26 per cent, Tata Motors by 1.14 per cent, and Axis Bank by 0.92 per cent. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the Indian capital markets Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth ₹5,813.30 crore, according to exchange data.

On Thursday, BSE Sensex tumbled 553.12 points, or 0.69 per cent, while NSE Nifty fell 135.50 points, or 0.56 per cent.

CENBANK CLAMPDOWN

Banks' loan growth moderates in Sept

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 1: Indian banks' loan growth moderated this September, compared with the same month a year ago, central bank data showed Thursday, as the impact of the Reserve Bank of India's clampdown on "exuberance" in retail lending continued.

Banks' credit grew at 14.4% year-on-year last month, slower than the 15.3% increase in September 2023, excluding the impact of HDFC Bank merging with parent Housing Development Finance Corp (HDFC), the RBI said.

Including the impact of the merger, bank loans grew 13% last month, compared with 20% a year ago. Loan growth had moderated in August as well.

Indian banks have consistently reported double-digit loan growth for a while, helped by healthy economic growth and urban consumption. However, the RBI, worried about the risk of bad loans, imposed higher capital requirements on banks late last year.

Despite that, some segments, such as personal loans and credit card loans posted strong growth, in excess of 25%, until earlier this year when the central bank governor warned against "exuberance".

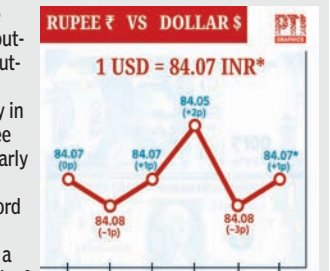
The RBI followed up on its norms with a series of actions against non-complying entities and that, along with rising defaults especially in the once fast-growing segments like personal loans and credit cards, have slowed both loan growth.

Banks' personal loan growth halved to 12.1% in September from a year ago, while growth in credit card outstanding dropped to 18% from 31.4% a year ago, the RBI data showed.

₹ ENDS OCT NEAR RECORD LOW

Rupee fell 0.3% and moved in a range of 83.79 to 84.0950

The Indian rupee ended near an all-time low against the dollar Thursday amid outflows from equities and anxiety over the outcome of the US election, but the central bank's intervention kept the local currency in a narrow range through October. The rupee closed at 84.0750 against the US dollar, nearly unchanged from its close of 84.075 Wednesday. The currency briefly hit a record low of 84.0950 in Thursday's session. In October, the rupee fell 0.3% and moved in a range of 83.79 to 84.0950. The Reserve Bank of India's relentless intervention has limited the rupee's fall and helped it outperform against major Asian peers ahead of the US presidential election November 5. A win for Republican candidate Donald Trump could spark a rally in the dollar index, lift US Treasury yields and undermine Asian currencies. The central bank's defence of the rupee could, however, leave importers and exporters complacent to rising risks in the global markets, analysts said. The rupee was also pressured by relentless foreign outflows from Indian equities this month amid relatively expensive valuations and China's stimulus plans. Foreign investors have taken out nearly \$11 billion on a net basis from Indian equities in October, a sharp U-turn from the \$7 billion inflows in September.



SHORT TAKES

ATF prices hiked

New Delhi: Jet fuel, or ATF, price Friday was hiked by 3.3 per cent and rate of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants increased by ₹62 per 19-kg cylinder in the monthly revision done in line with international oil price trends. The aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by ₹2,941.5 per kilolitre, or 3.3 per cent, to ₹90,538.72 per kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The hike comes after two rounds of reduction that had taken the rates to their lowest this year. ATF price October 1 was cut by 6.3 per cent (Rs 5,883 per kl) and by ₹4,495.5 per kl, or 4.58 per cent September 1.

Coal output surges

New Delhi: Coal production rose by 7.4 per cent to 84.45 MT in October compared to 78.57 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal, the Coal Ministry said in a release. Coal production from captive and other entities rose to 16.59 MT in October over 11.70 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. Coal despatches witnessed a boost in October reaching 82.89 MT compared to 79.25 MT recorded in October last fiscal. In the April-October period of 2024-25, India's coal production rose by 6.1 per cent to 537.45 million tonne (MT) compared to 506.56 MT in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, the coal ministry said.

Petrol sales rebound

New Delhi: India's petrol consumption soared 7.3 per cent in October on the back of increased demand from the start of festive season but diesel sales were down 3.3 per cent, preliminary data of state-owned firms showed Friday. Petrol sales of three state-owned firms, which control 90 per cent of the fuel market, rose to 3.1 million tonne during October when compared to 2.87 million tonne of consumption in the same month last year. Diesel demand dropped 3.3 per cent to 6.7 million tonne.

Power usage rises

New Delhi: India's power consumption rose marginally by about one per cent to 140.47 billion units (BU) in October compared to a year ago, mainly due to heavier base effect. In the year-ago period, the power consumption grew by over 22 per cent to 139.44 BU from 113.94 BU in October 2022. The peak power demand touched an all-time high of about 250 GW in May this year.

Kiwis strike back after Jadeja show

India lose 3 wickets in the last 20 minutes of the first day to hand over the advantage to New Zealand

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Nov 1: India's batters lost the plot in a matter of 20 minutes, leaving the side at a jittery 86/4 after Ravindra Jadeja (5/65) and Washington Sundar (4/81) gave the hosts the early bragging rights by dismissing New Zealand for 235 on an eventful day one of the third and final Test here Friday.

Jadeja and Sundar did their job to perfection but India's batting woes continued as the side lost three wickets in the space of eight balls, starting with Yashasvi Jaiswal's (30) inexplicable reverse slog sweep. He completely missed the ball and was clean bowled by Ajaz Patel (2/33). Night-watchman Mohammed Siraj (0) was also dismissed by Patel and then Virat Kohli (4) was inexplicably run out as the Kiwis took control.

India, who lost by eight wickets in Bangalore and by 113 runs in Pune, are desperate to win this Test to be in the hunt for the World Test Championship final berth. However, now they are staring down the barrel. The only man who looked comfortable in the middle was Shubman Gill (31 batting). However, he and Rishabh Pant (1 batting) will have a mountain to climb when the game resumes, Saturday.

Earlier, spinners ruled the roost as Jadeja and Sundar shared nine wickets between them to keep

New Zealand to 235 after the visitors opted to bat. Sundar sparkled claiming the key wickets of New Zealand captain Tom Latham (28) and the in-form Rachin Ravindra (5).



Virat Kohli congratulates Washington Sundar after the latter dismissed Rachin Ravindra, Friday

PTI PHOTO

Even though Will Young (71, 138b, 4x4, 2x6) and Daryl Mitchell (82, 129b, 3x4, 3x6) played outstanding knocks, on a spin-friendly track, humidity and heat tested the Kiwis' resolve while they pushed full tilt to counter India's spin threat.

Young and Mitchell put New Zealand on track for a big first innings score with a stand of 87 runs for the fourth wicket, but Jadeja played a decisive role in pegging them back and handing the advantage to India with his mastery over the pitch and the conditions, picking his 14th five-wicket haul along the way.

Ravichandran Ashwin, deployed first among the Indian

STAT FACTS

- This is Jadeja's 14th five-wicket haul in Test cricket, the 6th most by an Indian bowler
- Jadeja with 314 wickets is now 5th in the list of Indian bowlers with maximum number of wickets.
- With the wicket of Glenn Phillips, Jadeja went past Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma, who both have 311 wickets in Tests

spinners, remained wicket-less despite his variations but his

bowling partners exploited the pitch perfectly, particularly left-arm Jadeja who bowled comparatively quicker and attacked the wickets. It was clear that Ashwin was trying too many things on a helping pitch where he should have just stuck to the basics.

New Zealand, who crumbled from 159 for three to 235 all out predominantly against Jadeja, did deserve credit for braving the conditions.

Brief scores: New Zealand 235 (Daryl Mitchell 82, Will Young 71, Ravindra Jadeja 5/65, Washington Sundar 4/81) versus India 86 for 4 (Shubman Gill 31 batting, Ajaz Patel 2/33). Match to continue.

All eyes on Pant in IPL auctions

INTENSE BIDDING WAR EXPECTED FOR WICKETKEEPER-BATTER, IYER AND KL RAHUL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 1: With stars like Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul up for grabs, many IPL team owners will be rubbing their hands in glad anticipation at the upcoming players' auction which promises to create all-time record deals given the available Indian talent in the pool.

Aside from Pant and Rahul, there will be Shreyas Iyer, Arshdeep Singh, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami also up for grabs.

All of them can trigger bidding wars but let there be no confusion that Pant will be cynosure of all eyes at the two-day event supposed to be held in third week of December.

The ₹75 crore retention cap on international players coupled with 'Right to' Match cards will certainly make it an intriguing auction as some teams, that have exhausted their retention quotas, will now have to recruit at least 15 more players for a lesser sum. However, a few others like Punjab Kings (Rs 110.5 crore)

and RCB (Rs 83 crore) will be making some insane bids.

Never before in an auction has one witnessed three IPL captains back in the pool - Pant of DC, KKR's Iyer and Lucknow Super Giants' (LSG) Rahul.

All three will definitely get deals but Pant could well emerge as the highest paid player of IPL if Punjab Kings, known for breaking banks every two years while shopping for a new captain and "X-factor", decide to go for him.

"Rishabh's real bidding will start from ₹20 crore onwards. There will be three teams who can afford to bid big for him. One is Punjab Kings, then there is RCB and Lucknow, a top official of a franchise said Friday. The industry insiders expect Pant to get anything between ₹25 crore to ₹30 crore.

Iyer is another candidate who could have multiple franchises interested. When he was bought for ₹12.25 crore by KKR, it was a mini-auction, the dynamics are very different from mega auction. Sources said that he may even get more than ₹20 crore.

In case of Rahul, it might not be a big bidding war like his younger colleagues but he would be hurting if he doesn't attract a bid between ₹10-15 crore. RCB, where he started his IPL career, might go big for the local man and offer him the captaincy with Virat Kohli around to guide him.



RISHABH PANT

East Bengal seal last eight berth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thimphu (Bhutan), Nov 1: Dimitrios Diamantakos' brace fired East Bengal FC into the knockout stage of the AFC Challenge League 2024-25 as the ISL side edged past Nejmeh SC of Lebanon 3-2 in their final Group A match here Friday.

East Bengal finished as the Group A winners on seven points to seal their spot in the quarters. They had won 4-0

against Bashundhara Kings (Bangladesh) and drawn 2-2 with Paro FC (Bhutan) in their first two fixtures.

East Bengal took the lead in the eighth minute when Madih Talal's corner kick was inadvertently headed into his own net by Baba Musah. The Indian side took further advantage of Nejmeh's slow start to double their advantage in the 15th minute when Diamantakos scored his first goal.

India's Anish named world's youngest rated chess player

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 1: While most children of his age are absorbed in cartoons like Peppa Pig or Chhota Bheem, or simply playing with toys, young Anish Sarkar found his fascination in the quiet strategy of chess pieces, spark-

ing a journey few could fathom. At just three years, eight months, and 19 days, the kid from Kaikhali in north Kolkata became Friday the youngest rated chess player in history.

Born January 26, 2021, Anish made his debut in competitive chess with the West Bengal state

under-9 Open in October, securing an impressive 5.5 out of eight points and finishing 24th overall

defeating two rated players - Arav Chatterjee and Ahilaan Baishya. He was also fortunate to get an opportunity to play against India No. 1 and World No. 4 Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi in a simultane-

ous exhibition match during the Bengal Rapid Rating Open.

Just a week later, Anish tested his skills again in the West Bengal state under-13 Open, where he faced older, experienced players. Though the event was challenging, it became a vital step in his journey, meeting the require-

ment of facing five rated players, ultimately earning him an initial FIDE rating of 1555, which was updated Thursday.

In doing so, he surpassed the previous record set by Tejas Tiwari, who had become the youngest FIDE-rated player at five years.

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