



Juhi on top
Actor Juhi Chawla becomes the richest actress in India surpassing the likes of Aishwarya Rai, Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone

LEISURE | P2



China prefers Harris
China will prefer Kamala Harris as the next US President, a senior member of the Chinese national advisory body says

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Gold at new high
Gold prices advance ₹450 to hit another record of ₹79,350/10 gram in Delhi on the back of continued buying by jewellers and stockists

BUSINESS | P11



Pathetic display
Indian batters fail to deliver as the hosts are bowled out for 46 against New Zealand at Bangalore, their lowest total on home soil

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

Justice Sanjiv Khanna set to become 51st CJ



New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud has set in motion the process of appointment of his successor after he recommended the name of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the senior-most judge after the outgoing CJI, to the Centre. According to sources, CJI Chandrachud had Wednesday written a letter of recommendation to the Union Law Ministry naming Justice Khanna as his successor. Justice Khanna is set to become the 51st CJI November 11.

Hamas chief dead: Israel

Jerusalem: Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, mastermind of the October 7, 2023 attack that triggered the Gaza war, has been killed by Israeli forces in the Palestinian enclave, Israel said Thursday. His killing marks a huge success for Israel and a pivotal event in the year-long war, although there are a number of possible scenarios. The Israeli military said it had killed Sinwar, 62, in an operation in the southern Gaza Strip Wednesday. "After completing the process of identifying the body, it can be confirmed that Yahya Sinwar was eliminated," it said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Now that her blindfold has been removed and she can see, will she look at the time?

State reconstitutes task force for NEP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The state government Thursday reconstituted the task force for proper implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, official sources said. According to the School and Mass Education (S&ME) department, the 13-member task force will be headed by the Development Commissioner. Principal Secretaries of S&ME, ST and SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare, PR and DW, Finance, W&CD, Skill Development and TE, Sports and Youth Services departments are among the members of the task force. "Further, six thematic sub-committees have been reconstituted to deal with different components of NEP, 2020 with representatives from other departments and directorates functioning under the S&ME department, and experts in the field of education as special invitees," according to a notification issued by the committee/sub-committee for discussion in any specific issues on the smooth implementation of NEP, 2020," it added. Notably, the state government had in October 2020 formed a task force and six sub-committees to study the NEP, 2020 and submit its recommendations to the Centre.



OFF TRACK: Derailed coaches of the Agartala-Mumbai Lokmanya Tilak Express are seen after the accident, in Dima Hasao district of Assam, Thursday. The Mumbai-bound train that left Agartala in morning derailed at Dibalong station in the northeastern state at about 3:55 pm, a spokesperson of the Railways said

Citizenship Act Sec 6A valid: SC

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in 4:1 majority, upheld the validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 that confers citizenship to immigrants, especially from Bangladesh, who entered Assam on or after January 1, 1966 but before March 25, 1971. The contentious provision was added to the Act following the signing of the 1985 Assam Accord between the then Rajiv Gandhi government at the Centre and various agitating groups in the northeastern state, which has long been embroiled in controversies surrounding citizenship and illegal immigration.



Members of All Assam Students' Union celebrate after the SC judgement

Assam on or after January 1, 1966 but before March 25, 1971. Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud and Justices Surya Kant, MM Sundresh, and Manoj Misra further underscored the necessity for more robust policy measures to curb illegal immigration. Section 6A was inserted in 1985 into the Citizenship Act of 1955 following the signing of the Assam Accord between the then Rajiv Gandhi government

at the time of commencement of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985, and since then are residents of Assam, can register for Indian citizenship. As a result, the provision fixes March 25, 1971 as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to migrants, particularly those from Bangladesh, residing in Assam. While the CJI, Justices Kant, Sundresh, and Misra upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A, Justice JB Pardiwalla dissented in a minority verdict. Holding the cut-off date of March 25, 1971 as rational, the CJI, writing for himself, said Section 6A was included with the objective of reducing the influx of migrants to India and dealing with those who had already migrated. The CJI said Section 6A was not violative of Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution, which stipulates a cut-off date for conferring citizenship to migrants from east and west Pakistan at the "commencement of the Constitution".

Hooch kills 25 in Bihar

CONG SLAMS NDA GOVT, SAYS TRADE OF SPURIOUS LIQUOR RAMPANT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Patna, Oct 17: In one of the biggest hooch tragedies in Bihar since the state went dry in 2016, at least 25 people have died after consuming spurious liquor in Siwan and Saran districts, a top officer said Thursday. DGP Alok Raj said that while Siwan accounted for 20 fatalities, five deaths have been reported from Saran even as 12 people have been arrested for allegedly selling spurious liquor and they were likely to be 'tried under the most stringent laws and punished by the court'. According to officials in the two districts, tragedy befell Maghar and Auriya panchayats of Siwan and Mashrakh in Saran Tuesday night when a number of locals treated themselves to liquor. The officials also said that more than 20 people were still battling for life at hospitals, many of them

having lost their eyesight as a side effect of the spurious liquor. The Congress slammed the NDA dispensation over the fatalities. In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "So far, 36 people have died due to spurious liquor in 16 villages of Siwan and Saran in Bihar, which is extremely painful and saddening." "The opportunistic double (engine) government in Bihar is responsible for taking the lives of hundreds of people!" he added. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the NDA government over the fatalities, saying liquor ban is in force in the state but illegal trade of spurious liquor is rampant.

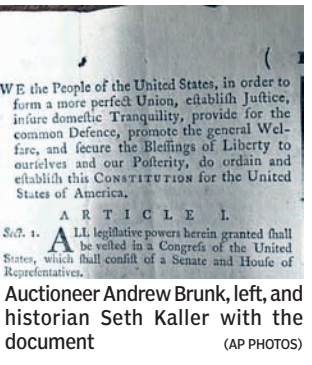
237-yr-old copy of US Constitution up for auction

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Oct 17: A rare copy of the US Constitution, printed 237 years ago and sent to the states to be ratified, is being auctioned in North Carolina starting 03:30 am IST October 18. Brunk Auctions is selling the copy — the only of its type thought to be in private hands. The minimum bid of \$1 million has already been made. This copy was printed after the Constitutional Convention finished drafting the proposed framework of the nation's government in 1787 and sent it to the Congress of the ineffective first American government under the Articles of Confederation, requesting they send it to the states to be ratified by the people. It's one of about 100 copies printed by the secretary of that Congress, Charles Thomson. Two years ago, a property



Just eight are known to still exist and the other seven are publicly owned. Thomson likely signed two copies for each of the original 13 states, essentially certifying them. What happened to the document up for auction between Thomson's signature and 2022 is not known.



was being cleared out in Edenton in eastern North Carolina that was once owned by Samuel Johnston. He was the governor of North Carolina from 1787 to 1789 and oversaw the state convention during his last year in office that ratified the Constitution. The copy was found inside a

squat, two-drawer metal filing cabinet with a can of stain on top, in a long-neglected room piled high with old chairs and a dusty book case, before the old Johnston house was preserved. The document was a broad sheet that could be folded one time like a book. Along with the Constitution on the broad sheet printed front and back is a letter from George Washington asking for ratification. He acknowledged there will have to be compromise and that rights the states enjoyed will have to be given up for the nation's long-term health. Auction officials are not sure what the document might go for because there is so little to compare it to. The last time a copy of the Constitution that was sent to the states sold, it was for \$400 in 1891. In 2021, Sotheby's of New York

sold one of only 14 remaining copies of the Constitution printed for the Continental Congress and delegates to the Constitutional Convention for \$43.2 million, a record for a book or document. Other items up for auction in Asheville include a 1776 first draft of the Articles of Confederation and a 1788 Journal of the Convention of North Carolina at Hillsborough where representatives spent two weeks debating if ratifying the Constitution would put too much power with the nation instead of the states. The auction was originally set for September 28, but the auction house delayed it after Hurricane Helene caused catastrophic damage through Asheville and the rest of the North Carolina mountains.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	81006.61	↓ 494.75
NIFTY	24749.85	↓ 221.45
DOLLAR	84.06	↑ ₹0.01
EURO	91.02	↓ ₹0.25
BULLION		
GOLD	₹77,134	↑ ₹470
SILVER	₹92,150	↓ ₹33

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.7°C	33.8°C
Min Temp	26.0°C	24.5°C
Humidity	69%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with possibility of development of thunder

leisure



NOLAN'S NEXT VENTURE COULD BE A SPY THRILLER

Award-winning director Christopher Nolan, the man behind *Inception*, *Interstellar*, and the *Dark Knight* trilogy, has reportedly been working on a new film that won't go in the genre of science fiction. According to a recent report the possibility of Nolan making another espionage film is high.

EX-ONE DIRECTION MEMBER LIAM FALLS FROM HOTEL, DIES

Former *One Direction* singer Liam Payne, 31, was found dead after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires. Payne was one of five members of the band, which formed in 2010 when they each auditioned for the British singing competition series *The X Factor*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today nostalgia tinges your mood, and this reflects in your dealings at work, where others see your softer side. You even spend carefully, seeming to be wiser regarding your savings. Ganesh sees profits for cashiers and money lenders.

TAURUS
Today is a perfect day to relax and enjoy your health, feels Ganesh. However, precaution should be the buzzword while dealing in money matters. You may develop a new interest in jewellers, artists, bankers and orators. Dinner will be laced with all the deserving delicacies of a hearty meal.

GEMINI
It is a good day for you to participate in cultural events and group activities, predicts Ganesh. You are likely to be an important part of some convention or joint venture, but don't get too bogged down by it. In the evening, you may take a fancy to fine arts, such as drawing or classical music.

CANCER
You are known for your ability to set the ball rolling. Once you set your mind to do something, it is generally considered done by your peers. Today, you are eyeing a few accomplishments on the monetary front. Most part of your day will go in dealing with financial transactions, and importing and exporting goods.

LEO
The desire and passion for learning is a life-long quest, says Ganesh. It may be that you love to learn, but dissipating the knowledge you have acquired is equally important. So on this day, it is through teaching that you shall learn just how fascinating and frustrating children can be. Give them time and space and you shall find yourself filled with pride as they scale greater heights.

VIRGO
Money matters will hit a major snag today, says Ganesh. Let your mind overrule your heart. Take extreme care of personal belongings, legal responsibilities and new ventures with long-term effects in mind.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today will be the start of a new love story for you and you will be able to spend time with someone very dear to you. You will be more conscious today about your appearance and may even go to the beauty parlor. Do remember the saying - beauty lies in the eye of the beholder.

SCORPIO
You may be bored with the same, old routine. In short, you feel like you are stuck in a rut and desperately need to do something exciting. Hanging out with friends of opposite sex may bring some respite to your restless soul.

SAGITTARIUS
Your leadership qualities are likely to bag compliments today. As you follow law and order and also make others follow it. You leave no stone unturned to get the work done, and that too systematically. However, make sure you also give them space and freedom to express themselves. It would earn you brownie points, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
The journey from defeat to success is driven by optimism. You will be very optimistic today - about your work, future and everything that can lead you to success, says Ganesh. You will also be very careful while dealing with day-to-day work, and will capitalise on every opportunity that can get you a step closer to your goals. Determination and good luck is all you need to realise your dreams; you will have both today.

AQUARIUS
You have already fulfilled your short-term objectives. But you are ambitious, and straightaway begin setting your long-term goals. But all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, says Ganesh. Leisure time with family will rejuvenate and prepare you for a better stint at work.

PISCES
The focus will be on children today, says Ganesh. While they will be the cause of an unfair share of your headache, you will be surprised at their ability to step up to the occasion, with just a little amount of coaching.

Ankita's take on 'self-love'

MUMBAI: Ankita Lokhande talked about the importance of self-love in her recent post.

Sharing the video on her Instagram handle, the *Pavitra Rishta* actress wrote in the caption, "Self-love is the best kind of love, I am enough, exactly the way I am, and 'Self-love looks good on me'."

She went on to add, "Self-love is not selfish, it is important and 'I am loving the person that I am becoming', Self-love looks good on me."

Apart from the video, Ankita also shared some elegant saree pictures in which the actress was posing in quite several poses showing off her elegance and charm. This time around, the fans loved her look with curly hair so much that they filled the comments section with praises and admiration.

Born in the year 1984, Ankita Lokhande is best known for playing the role of Archana in the famous show called *Pavitra Rishta*, which was her acting debut in 2009.

Apart from small screens, she has been featured in movies like *Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi* (2019), *Baaghi 3* (2020), and *Swatantrya Veer Savarkar*. The actress has received numerous accolades throughout her career, including three Gold Awards, an ITA Award, and an Indian Telly Award, among others.

Ankita will next be seen in the web series *Amrapali*.



MUMBAI: Soundarya Sharma, who gained recognition through her participation in *Bigg Boss 16* has bagged *Housefull* opposite Akshay Kumar. The dentist turned actress will be seen playing the female lead in the same.

Directed by Tarun Mansukhani, the forthcoming comedy also stars Dino Morea, Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Nargis Fakhri and Sonam Bajwa.

Talking about joining the multi-starrer film, Soundarya shared, "I'm incredibly thrilled and grateful to be part of such a mega film franchise and to be featuring with Akshay sir alongside most talented and amazing actors! It's a dream opportunity. I'm so thankful to my producers especially my God Sister Warda Nadiadwala for believing in me."

Talking about Soundarya, she has made significant strides in the entertainment industry from her appearance in the widely discussed 'Vimal' advertisement alongside Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn, and Akshay Kumar to her participation in the reality show *Bigg Boss 16*. Her work in OTT projects and music videos has further solidified her status as a household name.

Soundarya has also reportedly signed a massive 3-film deal and a major announcement is expected in December.

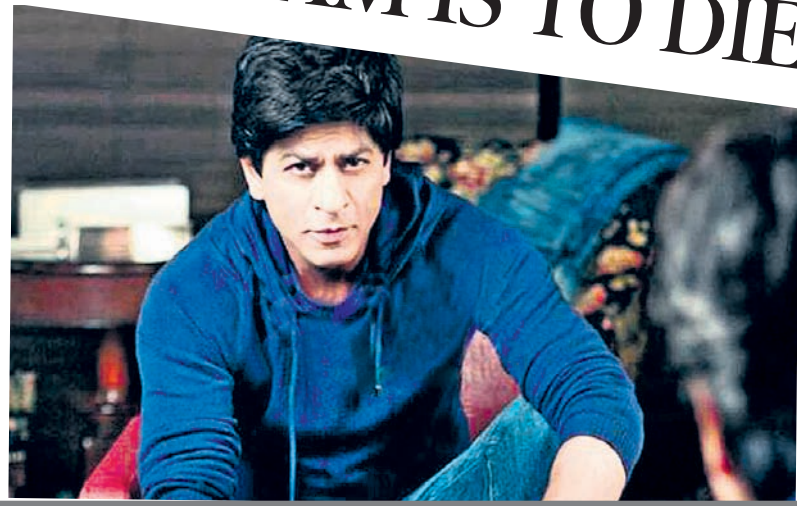
Soundarya roped in for Housefull 5

MY LIFE'S DREAM IS TO DIE ON FILM SET: SRK

MUMBAI: Shah Rukh Khan has been acting for over three decades and he wishes to do the same for the rest of his life. The 58-year-old actor addressed this in an interaction at the Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland earlier this year, where he received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

When asked if Shah Rukh would act forever, he said, "Will I act forever? Yeah, till the day I die, I my life's dream is for somebody to say action and then I die. They say cut, and then I don't get up. 'It's over now, please?' I say, 'No, till you all say it's okay, you all say it's okay for me. Yes, I'd love to act forever.'"

"Like I said, I'm not a very serious actor, and that I found out some amazing in-



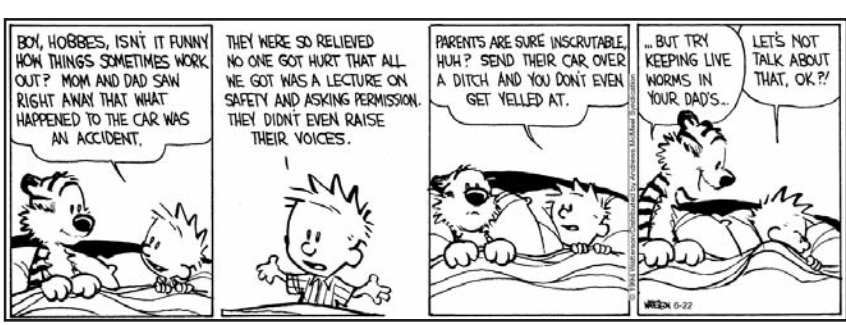
ternal things about acting to showcase to people. I just celebrate the joys of life through my acting. For me, if I'm able to entertain, to me to be able to create in whatever sense, not in a mad, amazing, mad scientist way. I create, just create, to share joy to give love. Art, painting, singing, music - all of them mean the same thing to me. There is no difference. If I can entertain you for two minutes, it's love. If I can love someone for 50 years, that's entertainment. If I can entertain someone for 30 seconds, it's creative.

So I find all different names for the same thing, and I really enjoy sharing this joy, making people have a feeling for an hour or so and enjoy themselves. And sometimes you miss them out. That's the only thing that makes me sad. Why did I let down people? Why couldn't I give them enough love or entertainment or creativity, or whatever the name you can," Shah Rukh added.

PEANUTS



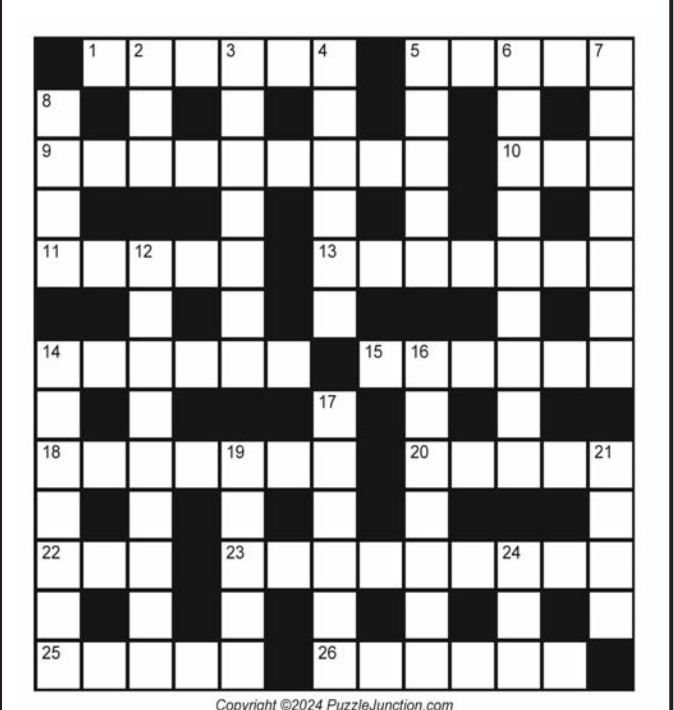
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



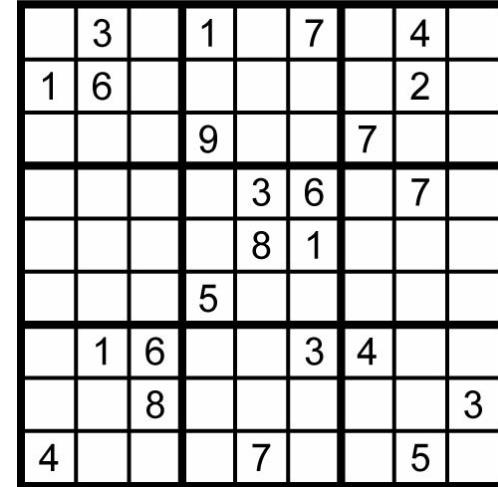
FUN post CROSSWORD



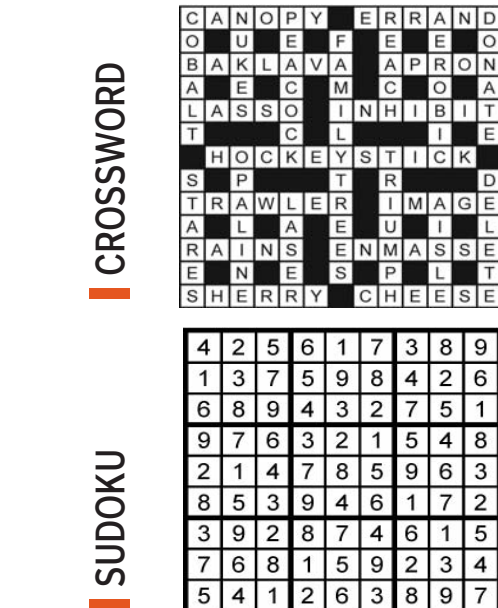
- Across**
- 1 Madman
 - 5 Proficiency
 - 9 Outlaw
 - 10 ___ el Amarna, Egypt
 - 11 Musical exercise
 - 13 Italian city
 - 14 Senility
 - 15 Accord
 - 18 Asian shrines
 - 20 Sofia Coppola, to Talia Shire
 - 22 Cretan peak
 - 23 Celebrity secrets? (4-5)
 - 25 Early anesthetic
 - 26 Admiration
 - 6 Blend
 - 7 Cradlesong
 - 8 Bad day for Caesar
 - 12 Sports fan's request
 - 14 Withhold
 - 16 Curlicue
 - 17 Ego
 - 19 Yield
 - 21 Ultimatum
 - 24 Enemy
- Down**
- 2 Infomercials, e.g.
 - 3 Titanic's Waterloo
 - 4 Ill-tempered
 - 5 Thread holder

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

HOMAGE

Dignitaries pay tributes to Ganakabi Baishnab Pani on the birth anniversary of the legendary poet at the Ganakabi Udyan in Khannagar, Cuttack Thursday



No cyclone, heavy rains likely Oct 24, 25: IMD DG

COASTAL DISTRICTS TO EXPERIENCE 60 KPH WIND DUE TO DEPRESSION OVER BAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Coastal districts of the state are likely to receive heavy rainfall October 24 and 25 due to a depression over the Bay of Bengal, even as DG, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Dr Mrutyunjaya Mohapatra Thursday allayed fears of a cyclone during that period.

Speaking to Orissa POST, Mohapatra said that a cyclonic circulation is likely to form over the Andaman Sea around October 20. "Due to its impact, a low pressure area will form over east-central Bay of Bengal October 22," he said. It will turn into a depression and move in north-west direction over the Bay of Bengal October 24.

Mohapatra said due to the impact of the low pressure, light rain fall activity will begin October 23 which will intensify by October 24 and 25. "Most of the coastal districts will receive heavy rains during these two days," he said.



Asked if the state was bracing for a cyclone, as reported in a section of the media, Mohapatra said, "It is too early to predict anything now. As per our predictions so far, there is likelihood of a depression forming over the Bay of Bengal by October 24 which will cause heavy rainfall. Due to the depression wind speed up to a maximum velocity of 60 kph will be experienced," he

added. Meanwhile, IMD, Bhubaneswar Thursday issued warning regarding a fresh upper cyclonic circulation that is likely to form over the north Andaman Sea around October 20.

For Friday, the IMD forecast that light to moderate rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Puri, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur districts. Dry weather is very likely to prevail over the rest districts, it said.

On Saturday, thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nawarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, it added.



AT MOTHER'S FEET: A priest performing rituals before the deity at the Gajalaxmi Puja Pandal organised by the Gajalaxmi Sanskritika Sangha at Kharavela Nagar in the City, Thursday.

Students' body urges Prez to cancel exams



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Students Against Corruption (SAC), an association of students, Thursday sought President Droupadi Murmu's intervention into the irregularities in the recruitment to various posts, like Revenue Inspector (RIs) Assistant RIs, ICDS, conducted by Odisha Sub-Ordinate Staff Selection Commission (OSSSC) and demanded cancellation of the exams.

The President is scheduled visit the state October 23.

In a letter to the President, Convener of SAC, Bibhuti Bhushan Mohapatra said, "The news of your visit to Odisha

October 23 has made us anxious. You will be surprised to know that in Odisha, recruitment scams and sale of jobs have become a big problem. The state government is silent as thousands of students take to the streets to protest against the recruitment scams. Widespread irregularities have come to light in the recent OSSSC RI, Amin and other examinations."

In the letter Mohapatra informed the President that following protests by students, the state Cabinet realised the irregularities and promised an investigation. "However, the government has failed to create an idea of transparency in the minds of the students by not cancelling the exams," he said.

Mahapatra said more than 5 lakh students are suffering mentally due to the irregularities. "As a mother, you can understand their pain better. We trust that you will cancel the exams and take steps towards rooting out corruption in recruitment," he said.

Odia woman's gangrape: CM reviews probe

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi reviewed the progress of investigation into the alleged rape of a woman from the state in the national capital, an official statement said Thursday. He also inquired about the health condition of the 34-year-old nursing graduate from Puri district who was allegedly raped in Sarai Kale Khan area of Delhi. She was found in a semi-conscious state October 11. Majhi, who stopped in Delhi while on his way to Chandigarh to attend the swearing in ceremony of the Haryana government Wednesday, enquired about the woman's health, investigation progress and other matters related to the case, the statement said. The CM had Monday night also asked Odisha Police's Crime Against Women & Children Wing (CAW&CW) Inspector General S Shyni to meet the woman at AIIMS Delhi, where she is being treated, and enquire about her health condition. The Delhi Police have started a probe after registering a case under Sections 70(1) (gang rape) and 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

FIR against 3 Congress leaders for 'cheating' bizman

AICC state in-charge, Ajoy Kumar, former state Congress president Sarat Pattanayak and senior party leader Biswaranjan Mohanty booked for allegedly denying payment of ₹1.42cr to the businessman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Bharatpur police here registered a case against three Congress leaders, including AICC's state in-charge Ajoy Kumar, for allegedly cheating a businessman to the tune of around ₹1.42 crore. The businessman had initially

filed a complaint at the Bharatpur police station, which was not registered. He then approached a Bhubaneswar court, seeking its intervention, police said.

On the directive of the court, the Bharatpur police registered a case October 12 and started an investigation, they said.

The case was filed against Kumar, former state Congress



president Sarat Pattanayak and senior party leader Biswaranjan Mohanty, a police officer said. As per the complaint, the

Bhubaneswar-based businessman had entered into a deal with Kumar and Pattanayak to supply LED TVs and vehicles for cam-

paing during the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state.

The deal was finalised for ₹1.5 crore, but the Congress leaders allegedly denied him payment of ₹1.42 crore after the polls, the officer said.

Reacting to the allegations, Pattanayak said he was not aware of the matter and did not sign any such agreement.

"A particular group of people has conspired to defame me," he alleged.

Mohanty added: "The allegation is false and baseless. I have never met the complainant."

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Kalinga Bharati Samman for 2 Bhanja Sahitya researchers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Oct 17: Two eminent researchers on Bhanja Sahitya - Bauribandhu Sahoo and Kambrupani Samanta - have been jointly nominated for this year's prestigious 'Kalinga Bharati Samman', officials said.

In a joint press release issued by Kalinga Bharati chief Saileswar Nanda and working president Pravat Kumar Nanda Wednesday it was also stated that litterateur Byama Bihari Rath has been nominated for 'Bichhanda Charan Samman'.

Both awards have been jointly presented by Kalinga Bharati and Utkal Chhatra Sahitya Samaj for the past 80 years, honouring litterateurs who have made sig-

nificant contributions to ancient and medieval literature, poetry and dance forms of Odisha.

This year, the organisations have decided to hold the 81st Bhanja Jayanti at Bhanja Mandap from October 20 to 25, during which the awards will be conferred on the winners.

Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja, a 17th-century poet and playwright, is renowned for his epic poem 'Baidehisa Bilasa,' where every line begins with the letter "Ba," and 'Subhadra Parinaya,' where each line starts with the letter "Sa".

His works are celebrated for their exquisite word selection, musicality, and vivid descriptions of nature, continuing to enrich the lives of Odias to this day.

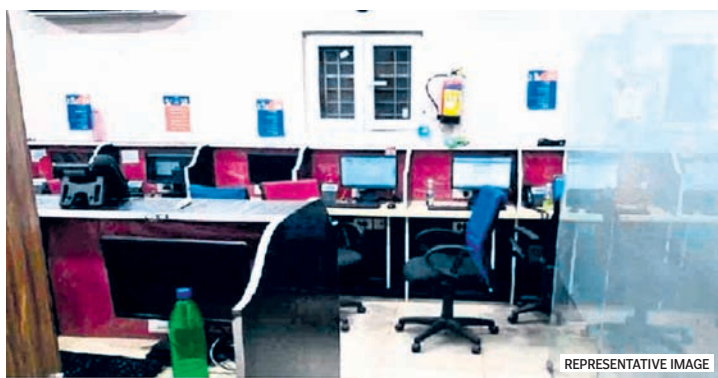
Fake call centre gang earned ₹1L per month

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: A six-member cyber criminal gang which was busted by the Commissionerate Police Wednesday for running a fake call centre out of a rented apartment in Sundarpada area, generated a monthly income of ₹1 lakh from their con act, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Pinak Mishra said Thursday.

He said the disclosure came during the interrogation of the leader of the gang, Haider Ali, who said the money was raised by his team by sending fraudulent emails to clients, impersonating as customer care agents and providing fake phone numbers to induce them into making fraudulent transactions.

Mishra said preliminary investigations revealed that the accused were sending these fake emails to both national and international clients who had subscribed to var-



ious antivirus software, posing as customer care representatives for two antivirus companies.

Additionally, police discovered that the six accused were using laptops and mobile phones to make and receive calls from US citizens via Skype.

A local court remanded Haider Ali, 34, and his five associates

Sameer Mobin, 26, Md Javed Hussain, 26, Md Tosif, 23, Faizan Alam, 24 and Shaab Raza, 22 - all from West Bengal, to 14-day judicial custody Thursday.

Briefing reporters, Mishra said, "We have requested the court to allow us five-day remand of the accused to get more details from them. Some investigation agen-

cies have also contacted us to interrogate them."

Police are currently working to identify the local contacts in Odisha who helped the accused to operate the fake call centre. "Investigations are also underway to determine how many people have fallen victim to the gang and the extent of the fraudulent activities involved," he said.

Six laptops, 11 mobile phones, routers and cables were seized from the possession of the accused during the raid by the cyber police.

Mishra said the seized electronic devices have been sent for forensic analysis and a police team will be dispatched to Kolkata to verify the suspects' details.

He said the cyber sleuths will grill the six men to uncover their alleged role related to various aspects of the case, such as anti-national activity, financial fraud, and money-laundering among others.

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Water crisis threatening world food production, says report



Report says urgent action needed to conserve resources and save ecosystems that supply fresh water

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: The water crisis could jeopardise more than half of the world's food production and cause an average global GDP loss of 8 per cent by 2050, with lower-income countries facing up to a 15 per cent loss, according to a new report.

The report by the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, an international group of leaders and experts, said that weak economic systems, destructive land use, and the persistent mismanagement of water resources, combined with the worsening climate crisis, have placed the global water cycle under unprecedented stress.

"The water crisis threatens more than half of the world's

food production by 2050 and could cause an 8 per cent loss of GDP in countries globally, with losses as high as 15 per cent in lower-income nations, alongside even larger economic consequences," the commission said.

With nearly three billion people already in areas experiencing unstable water trends and several cities sinking due to the loss of below-ground water, densely populated areas such as northwestern India, northeastern China and southern and eastern Europe will bear the brunt of global water mismanagement, the report said.

"Today, half of the world's population faces water scarcity. As this vital resource becomes increasingly scarce, food security and human development are at risk -- and we are allowing this to happen," said Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and one of the commission's four co-chairs.

"For the first time in human history, we are pushing the global water cycle out of balance. Precipitation, the source of all freshwater, can no longer be relied upon due to human-caused climate and land use changes, undermining the foundation of human well-being and the global economy," said Rockström.

The report said that current approaches to water management have failed by overlooking the multiple values of water across

According to the Global Commission on the Economics of Water, densely populated areas such as northwestern India, northeastern China and southern and eastern Europe will bear the brunt of global water mismanagement

economies and its role in preserving critical ecosystems.

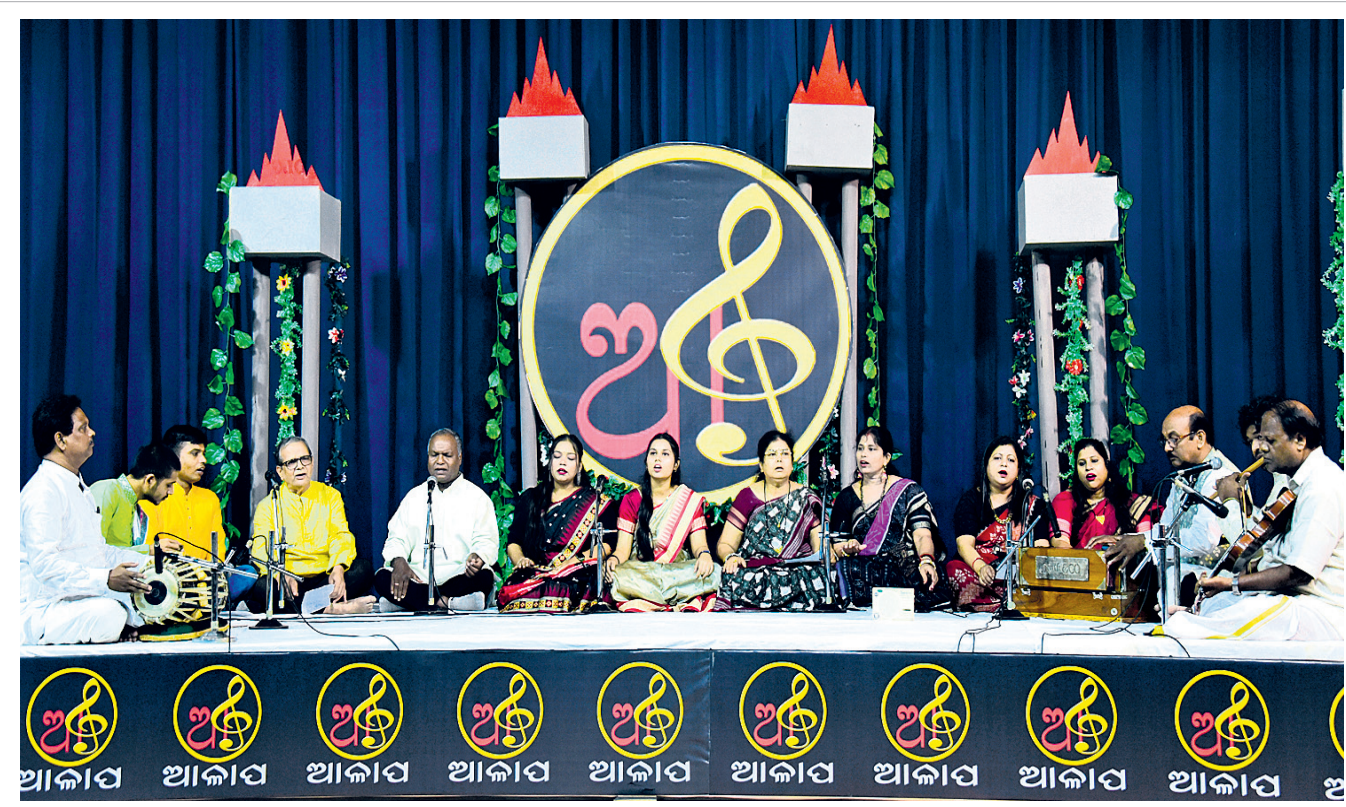
The underpricing of water globally has encouraged its excessive use and led to the misplacement of water-intensive industries, such as data centres and coal-fired power plants, in areas most vulnerable to water stress.

Proper pricing, subsidies, and other incentives are needed to ensure water is used more efficiently in every sector, equitably across populations, and sustainably in the long term, the report said.

"The global water crisis is a tragedy, but it also presents an opportunity to transform the economics of water. We must start by properly valuing water to recognise its scarcity and the many benefits it provides," said Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organisation and a co-chair of the commission.

The report also said that current approaches focus primarily on visible water sources, such as rivers, lakes, and aquifers, while neglecting the importance of 'green water' -- moisture in soils and plant life, which is vital for maintaining stable rainfall patterns and supporting the storage of carbon in the soil.

A stable supply of 'green water' is critical for maintaining steady rainfall patterns, which are essential for economies, livelihoods, and mitigating climate change, the report said.



SOULFUL PERFORMANCE: Artists perform in a musical event organised by Alapa Cultural Trust at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Workshop for Medtech Mission at IIT-Bhub

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL APPROACH FOR CREATION OF MEDTECH HUBS AND CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar organised a stakeholder consultation workshop recently for the Medtech Mission by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India.

The workshop explored ways to build an integrated and sustainable ecosystem for biomedical technology through innovation, entrepreneurship, and global branding.

Experts stressed the importance of multi-disciplinary collaboration to develop advanced medical devices that address real-world needs. The event was coordinated by the IIT-



Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park.

The initiative is aimed at developing a comprehensive enabling infrastructure-cum-centres of excellence (CoE) for biomedical product development, starting with the development of biocompatible materials and their processing, facilities for modeling and simulation, prototyping, testing and evaluation using animal models as well as alternatives to animal models.

These hubs will be equipped for catering to biomedical product development, pilot scale manufacturing, testing and validation and also leading to

human resources development. Speaking on the occasion, institute director Shreepad Karmalkar briefly provided the participants with an overview of IIT Bhubaneswar and mentioned how the institute is receptive to differences and respects diversity.

In her address, DST scientist 'F' and head, SEED Anita Aggarwal provided an overview of the workshop and highlighted the significance of the collaboration among various stakeholders, including industries to develop medical technologies for the benefit of general public.

Director of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology Sanjay Behari spoke on the multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach towards developing medical devices, products and technologies that can be accepted by the end-users.

Professor at department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering, IIT Kanpur Amitabha Bandhopadhyay presented the proposed draft for Medtech Mission by DST.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri Akapati Lingaraja Patra, S/o - Akapati Bhaskar Patro, resident of Vill/Po/Ps - Jagannath Prasad, Dist. : Ganjam, Odisha, declare by this affidavit No. : 872, Dt. : 30.09.2024, that now onwards, I shall be known as Sri Akapati Lingaraja Patro for all my future purposes.

I, Banajyoschna Panda, W/o- Lambodar Das, resident of Block-A/202, Mahima Tower, Baliana, Hansapal, Dist.- Khordha, PIN-752101, Odisha, declare by this affidavit No.-1763, dt- 17.10.2024. That now onwards I shall be known as BANAJYOSCHANA PANDA for all future purposes.

LOST

Missing Sale Deed No.-579/2009 & R.O.R Khata No.-731/22, Plot No.-1468. If anybody found please contact below Bharat Kumar Maharana. Mob-9348237850.

Affidavit before Notary Public, Digapahandi, I, Sutari Prasanta Reddy (46), S/o- Sutari Kasinath Reddy, Vill- Goutami, P.S.-B.Sadar, Ganjam. I lost my purchased documents vide No.-10632002724/ 06.11.2020 with other valuable document, when I was travelling from Pattapur to Goutami. No of times I searched but didnot find. Anybody found may contact Sadar Thana or given address above.

Bereaved father donates son's organs, saves 3 lives

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: In an altruistic act, Kailash Chandra Sahoo donated the organs of his 23-year-old son, who was declared brain-dead by the doctors at KIMS here Thursday. The organs will save lives of three patients.

Manoj, who worked in a private firm, hailed from Aripada village in Kendrapara district. He met with an accident and was admitted to the institute four days ago. He sustained serious injuries on his neck and was being treated by the doctors. After battling for life he succumbed to his injuries.

Following his death, Manoj's father Kailash decided to donate the organs of his son so that other lives could be saved.

Institute's medical superintendent RC Das said, "Organ donation is a regular process governed by strict guidelines. Every brain-dead case is assessed to ensure the possibility of organ donation as per the government mandate. In this instance, the father himself came forward, expressing his willingness to donate his son's organs. His realisation of the value of organ donation is truly inspiring."

The donated two kidneys and one liver will be transplanted to patients in separate hospitals in Bhubaneswar.

"Three lives will be saved because of this generous act," Das added, expressing grati-



'Modern practices in Anaesthesia reduced post-surgery complications'



Bhubaneswar: Modern practices in the field of anaesthesia have reduced post-surgery complications ensuring patients' safety and swift recovery, said Amrita Panda, the department head of Anaesthesiology in the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS). Panda was addressing an event organised at the institute campus to mark the World Anaesthesia Day. The evolution of anaesthesia over thousands of years has brought with it both advancements and myths that often cloud patients' understanding of the process, she said. "Historically, the medical principle 'primum non nocere' or 'first do not harm', as outlined in the 'Hippocratic Oath' over 2000 years ago, remains at the core of anaesthesiology," she added. Panda pointed out that while healthcare can be complex and susceptible to human error, anaesthesiologists are now equipped with advanced technology to mitigate these risks. "Modern monitoring equipment, which act as 'unsleeping eyes', allows us to identify potential issues such as hypoxia early on. These sophisticated monitors track vital signs continuously, ensuring that any abnormalities are addressed promptly," she said. "With the advent of new anaesthesia machines and drugs, recovery time has been significantly improved. The introduction of short-acting opioids and advanced inhalation agents has helped patients experience less drowsiness and postoperative nausea," she added.

tude to Kailash for his courageous decision. KIIT, KIMS and KIMS founder

Achyuta Samanta has expressed his deepest gratitude to the father for his act of kindness.

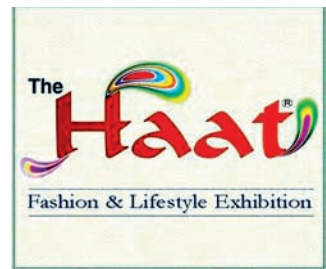
Fashion exhibition in City from today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: The Haat— Fashion and Lifestyle Exhibition, featuring renowned and emerging brands from India's fashion industry, is set to present its exclusive pre-Diwali edition October 18 and 19 here. The exhibition will run from 10am to 8pm.

The event will showcase over 50 labels offering a wide range of festive collections, including traditional sarrees, couture, jewellery, home décor, and lifestyle products.

Visitors can explore diverse fashion styles such as handloom, Khadi, Banarasi, and Chikankari kurtis. Notable participating brands include Label Kavita, Devikriti, Lona by Rupa Nanda, and Sampurna Jewellery and many others.



This year's exhibition will feature collections from cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Varanasi, Jaipur and Kolkata besides Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and other cities of India.

The Haat promises to provide a festive shopping experience, combining tradition and contemporary trends.

ICAR-CIFA organises swachhata campaign



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), here in association with Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Khurda and Chasabasa Farmer Producer Company Ltd, jointly organised a special campaign 4.0 for swachhata at Rajas village, Balipatna block of Khurda Thursday.

Villagers actively participated in the special swachhata campaign with enthusiasm and joy. Their collective efforts reflected a strong commitment to cleanliness and environmental sustainability. Engaging in various activities showcased their dedication to creating a cleaner and healthier community, fostering a sense of unity and responsibility, an official said.

SMS crop production Surendra Singh administered

swachhata pledge to the villagers. An awareness programme 'Pathway to Wellness: Enhancing Health through Hygiene and Sanitation' was successfully organised, encouraging villagers to actively participate in a cleanliness drive.

On the occasion, proper disposal of waste materials was prioritised, ensuring that the village maintained high standards of hygiene. The initiative not only enhanced the overall health of the community but also promoted awareness about the importance of sanitation and its impact on well-being.

Around 62 participants, including farmers and women SHGs from Rajas village, scientists and staffs of KVK-Khurda, director and members of Chasabasa Farmer Producer Company Ltd participated in the programme.

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BOAT RACE: Participants at a boat race competition held at Jambu-Marshghai main canal and organised by Netaji United Youth Club on the occasion of Gajalakshmi Puja in Baulakani panchayat of Mahakalapara block in Kendrapara district, Thursday

Jumbo squad staff trampled to death during operation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Oct 17: An official of elephant squad was trampled to death while driving an elephant herd into the forest near Jharbeda village in Naranpur section of Keonjhar sadar range late Wednesday night. The deceased has been identified as Basanta Mahanta (45) of Gobindapur village.

The incident occurred when Basanta was engaged with other squad members in an operation to drive away an elephant herd. An atmosphere of fear and tension is gripping the area following the death.

According to sources, a herd of six elephants had entered the farmlands near Jharbeda village and destroyed the paddy crop. Acting on a tip-off, Sadar Range officer Ajit Kumar Das along with the elephant squad staff went to the area to chase away the elephants.

During the operation, a tusker got separated from the herd and suddenly chased the forest staff. While all the forest officials ran away, Basant fell to the ground. The tusker dragged him with its trunk and trampled him. Later, Forest department personnel rescued him in a critical condition and brought him to



Keonjhar district headquarters hospital, where the doctor declared him dead.

"The tusker got separated from the group and attacked at once. He couldn't pay attention to that. That's why such an incident happened. Compensation will be given in case of crop loss. Therefore, villagers are being cautioned not to try to chase the herd away," said Dhanraj HD, Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar.

"Care will be taken to ensure that no untoward incident takes place further and the staff or common people are not harmed," the DFO said.

"The deceased elephant squad member will get an ex-gratia of ₹1.52 lakh from the service provider and ₹6 lakh from the government. The wife of the deceased will get a minimum pension of ₹2,000 and their daughter will get ₹500 per month once she turns 18," he added.

"The compensation amount is less than the actual losses forcing people to remain on guard always to protect their wealth and crops," said Bhagirathi Nayak, a farmer and tribal leader.

Sources said massive deforestation is taking place as there is no ban on illegal felling of trees. Every year, more and more forest land is being used for non-forestry purposes such as mining operations. Also, an increase in elephant population in Keonjhar division has given rise to elephant-human conflicts.

On the other hand, it is alleged that such incidents are occurring due to lack of proper training and management.

Taxi driver nabbed for looting B'lore couple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Oct 17: A taxi driver was arrested in Jajpur district Thursday for allegedly looting two people from Bangalore of their gold and diamond jewellery and ₹2,000 in cash, police said.

The arrested taxi driver has been identified as Prakash Chandra Baral, a resident of Kalapathar area in Khurda district.

The passengers, Tushar Priyadarshi and his wife, had come from Bangalore and had hired a taxi in Bhubaneswar to visit Joda in Keonjhar district Wednesday.

When the taxi reached near Panikoli on NH-16 Wednesday night, Tushar asked the driver to stop the vehicle near a hotel for dinner.

After the couple returned to the vehicle post-dinner and left the hotel, they found their gold jewellery including a chain, three pairs of earrings, a diamond ring and ₹2,000 in cash missing from their bag, a police officer said.

Priyadarshi asked the driver to take them back to the hotel, where they narrated the ordeal to the hotel owner.

As the driver saw the owner checking the footage of a CCTV camera installed in front of the hotel, he dumped the luggage of the passengers and sped away with the vehicle towards Chandikhole on NH-16, the officer said.

"We have arrested the driver and registered a case under relevant sections of BNS and seized his taxi," Panikoli police station Inspector-in-Charge Ranjan Kumar Pradhan said.

Man held for murder of wife, mom-in-law

The arrest was made after villagers Wednesday spotted a dog feasting on human skulls from a sack lying near a water body in the village and informed police

POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, Oct 17: Twenty days after two women went missing after leaving their homes to apply for Subhadra Yojana at Panchagheria village under this block in Bhadrak district, police Thursday arrested the husband of one of the women during the investigation.

The breakthrough came after the recovery of two human skulls from a sack near a water body in the village indicative a double murder. The victims were identified as Jamuna Samal, 55, and his married daughter Kaushalya Gayan, 35, in the village.

The accused was identified as Kaushalya's husband Gurupada Gayan, 40. Police after arresting Gurupada took him to the crime spot and recreated the crime scene.

The accused confessed to have killed his wife and mother-in-law and later chopped up the bodies for disposal. He buried some of the body parts and threw away the rest in a stream. The investigation suggested that the murder took place over a bitter quarrel between the couple over misappropriation of money.

Police said both Jamuna and his daughter Kaushalya lived nearby in the same village. The mother-daughter duo left home



20 days back to apply for the Subhadra Yojana but failed to return to their respective homes by night. Jamuna's other daughter, Kakeli Gayan, searched for their unsuccessfully, and later lodged a missing complaint at Nayakanidhi police station. Police registered a case and launched an investigation.

However, villagers Wednesday spotted a dog feasting on human skulls from a sack lying near a water body in the village. They suspected that the skeletal remains might be of the mother-daughter duo and informed the Nayakanidhi police.

Police intensified the investigation and detained Gurupada along with one of his brothers for questioning. The interrogation revealed a premeditated murder of the two women as Gurupada admitted to have killed them. He admitted that after

killing his wife and mother-in-law, he chopped their bodies and dumped the parts in a large fish tank in the village and also buried some of the body parts near another water body.

Police along with a scientific team and Gurupada recreated the crime scene, Thursday. The accused demonstrated how he killed his wife and mother-in-law and later chopped their bodies into various parts. He also demonstrated how he buried some of the body parts near the water body and dumped the rest parts in the fish tank.

The probe indicated that Gurupada was not on good terms with his wife and mother-in-law for the past few months and always quarreled with them at the slightest pretexts. His wife had deserted him and was living outside the state. The incident occurred when she had come home to apply for Subhadra Yojana.

The dispute between Gurupada, his wife and mother-in-law over domestic issues and misappropriation of money took an explosive turn, September 27. Kasuhalya and his mother Jamuna were returning home after applying for Subhadra Yojana when Gurupada waylaid and attacked them with sharp-edged weapons, SDPO Saurav Otta said.

Gambling: 315 arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Oct 17: Altogether 315 people were arrested for allegedly being involved in gambling and unaccounted cash of over ₹12.98 lakh was seized from their possession during raids in the last ten days in Ganjam district, police said Thursday.

As many as 115 mobile phones, 56 motorcycles and three cars were also seized in the raids, a senior officer said. Fifty-four cases were registered under the Orissa Prevention of Gambling Act.

From Dussehra, people often get involved in gambling in Ganjam and such activities continue till Kumar Purnima.

Locals said gambling is a "part of the celebration of the Kumar Purnima and a section of people in almost all villages in the district participated in such activities."

Goddess Mahalaxmi (Goddess of wealth) is worshipped during the day, while people take part in gambling during the festive night, despite police action against such illegal activities.

"Many people believe that they would get blessings of the Goddess Laxmi if they gamble on this day. They wear new clothes and participate in gambling. Such activities have been going on for several years in the district as a tradition on Kumar Purnima day," said Bhagaban Sahu, a retired professor at Berhampur University.

"The police have cracked down on gambling in different areas in the district. We can't allow gambling in the name of tradition," Berhampur Superintendent of Police Saravan Vivek M said.

Ganjam SP Suwendu Patra said he has already instructed the police officers to launch a special drive and crack down on gambling dens. The drive would be continued for some more days, he said.

Notably, Ganjam district consists of two police districts — Berhampur and Ganjam.

NTPC defers ash pond hearing after protests

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Oct 17: Following massive protest by villagers, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has postponed a proposed 'public hearing' scheduled for Friday. The protest was led by sarpanch Nalini Singh and had the full support of local MLA Jogesh Singh.

Singh has been spearheading the protest for the last several days calling for postponement of the public hearing. The villagers were alleging that the administration was not listening to the request of MLA Singh and was planning to go ahead with the meeting Friday.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that NTPC has agreed and finally postponed the public hearing till mid-November. NTPC authorities could not be contacted in this regard. However, the MLA confirmed that NTPC has postponed the public hearing for at least one month.

Public resentment grew when the PSU wanted to construct an ash pond near Darlipali. The villagers, especially those staying in three nearby hamlets, were part of the protest against the ash pond along with Darlipali residents. They demanded the pond should come up at least 500 metres away.

"The NTPC in violation of rules constructed the ash pond



just 200 metres away from Barobega village. People residing there are suffering due to severe pollution," said Singh.

Besides, the MLA made it clear that NTPC should first listen to the public grievances and then hold a public hearing; else no pond would be allowed in the vicinity. "The NTPC is not paying heed to the public demand. My point is public interest should be protected," said the MLA.

"Now NTPC has agreed to postpone it and it will be held next month. But our point is to shift it to a minimum of 500 metres away from the locality," he added.

The other proposal given to NTPC is to shift the villages and settle them elsewhere and then construct the ash pond there. "The state government has also written to the NTPC in this regard and the proposal will be sent to the NTPC headquarters for shifting the villages," said Singh. If the second proposal is accepted then nearly 150 families will be displaced.

Eggs hurled at ex-Dharmasala MLA's vehicle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Oct 17: Tension erupted in Jajpur district Thursday after some youths hurled eggs at the vehicle of BJD leader and former Dharmasala MLA Pranab Kumar Balabantaray.

The incident took place at Kurikana village within Dharmasala Assembly constituency in the district when Balabantaray was on way to visit various Laxmi Puja pandals. A group of youths raised slogans against him and targeted his vehicle as he returned from one of the pandals, police said.

Officials from Jenapur police station arrived at the scene and launched an investigation into the incident. Despite eggs being thrown at his vehicle, Balabantaray continued his visits to the pandals.

Balabantaray alleged that supporters of Dharmasala MLA Himanshu Sekhar Sahoo may have been involved. Balabantaray, son of late minister and Rajya Sabha MP Kalpataru Das, lost his seat to Independent candidate Sahoo in the 2024 Assembly elections.

Balabantaray was elected to the Assembly from Dharmasala seat on BJD tickets in 2014 and 2019 and is perceived to be close to the party leadership.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender No. 35-KUR-TRD-OT-2024-25

NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF AUXILIARY TRANSFORMERS (AT) IN CONNECTION WITH EXECUTION OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR WORK FOR MSDAC TO INCREASE RELIABILITY IN AUTO SECTION FROM MZY TO KHURDA ROAD (KUR) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Advertised Value: ₹ 78,30,501.25, EMD: ₹ 1,56,600/-, Period of Completion: 180 Days.

Bidding Start Date : 18.10.2024

Tender Closing Date and Time : At 1300 Hrs. of 01.11.2024.

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

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Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), PR-626/P/24-25 | Khurda Road

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Bid Identification No. : Online-03-OF-2024-25

E-mail ID : rvd.padamur@yahoo.co.in, Ph. No. - 9437255440

- Name of the work : Building works (As per Annexure-A)
- Amount put to Bid Excluding GST : As per Annexure-A
- Class of contractor : "C" & "B"
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From Dt. 19.10.2024 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date & Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt. 29.10.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.
- Last date of seeking clarification : Dt. 28.10.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Date & time of Bid opening : Dt. 30.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Padampur, At/ Po - Padampur, Dist. - Bargarh, Pin-768036

(1) Other details can be seen from DTGN available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division, Padampur

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Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "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 / Co-Applicant/ Guarantor / Total Dues	Description of the Properties	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. Heart Beat Bar & Restaurant, Prop.: Mrs. Manisha Pati, At: Plot No.: 1710/3151, Kalarahanga, Patia, Bhubaneswar-751024 / Total Dues: ₹1,05,71,620.09 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building over Khata No.: 761/417, Plot No.: 1710/3151, Area: Ac.0.07 Dec. i.e. 3049 Sqft, KISSAM: Sarad-3, Mouza: Kalarahanga, P.S.: New Capital, SRO/Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Standing in the name of Mrs. Manisha Pati, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 1710, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 2568, West: Road	₹1,27,42,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹12,74,200/- ₹ 50,000/-
2.	BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH.: 9937640878 / Borrower: Mr. Amulya Baral, S/o.: Karunakar Baral / Co-Applicant: Mr. Milu Baral, S/o.: Karunakar Baral, Both are At: Machhia Diandi, PO.: Brahmagiri, Dist.: Puri, PIN-752011 / Total Dues: ₹21,16,801.86 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	All that piece & parcel of the Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 97/26, Plot No.: 113, Mouza: Machhia Diandi, SRO/Tahasil: Brahmagiri, P.S.: Brahmagiri, Dist.: Puri, Odisha, Admeasuring Area: Ac.0.060 Dec. i.e. 2614 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, Standing in the name of Mr. Amulya Baral, S/o.: Karunakar Baral and Mr. Milu Baral, S/o.: Karunakar Baral, Bounded by North: Laxmidhar Baral, South: Bhagirathi Baral, East: Village Road, West: Bhagirathi Baral	₹13,91,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹1,39,100/- ₹ 10,000/-
3.	RANIHAT BRANCH, PH.: 9438179333 / Borrower: M/s. Taramani Traders, Prop.: Mrs. Aiswaryani Behera, At: Flat No.: 111/6, Bidanasi Main Road, Bidanasi, Cuttack-753014 / Guarantor: Taramani Behera, W/o.: Late Kartik Chandra Behera, At: Gopala Saha, Mangala Chowk, Bidanasi, Cuttack-753014 / Total Dues: ₹1,81,61,890.40 + interest, costs and expenses, less any part amount repaid.	Vacant Land is situated over Khata No.: 405/166 & 405/214, Plot No.: 973, 973/2173 & 967/2225, Land Area: Ac.0.627 Dec. i.e. 27,312.12 Sqft, KISSAM: Gharabari, situated at Mouza: Narajmarthapur, Tahasil: Baranga, P.S.: Cuttack Sadar, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of Taramani Behera, W/o.: Late Kartik Chandra Behera, Bounded by East: CC Road, West: Khetra Narayan Mohapatra	₹1,25,01,000/- (excluding GST & other statutory dues) ₹12,50,100/- ₹ 50,000/-

Date & Time of E-Auction: 25.11.2024 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: 25.11.2024 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 22.11.2024 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.

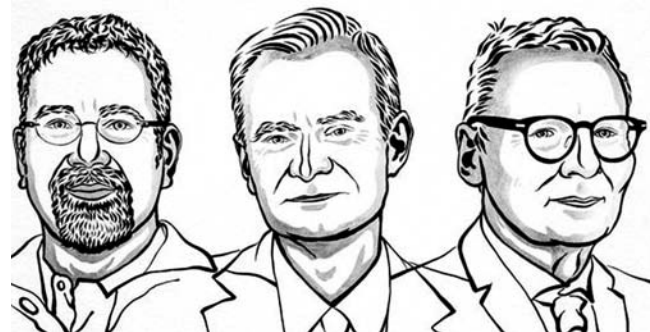
This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Co-Applicant(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://ebkraj.in/eauction-psb/home>

Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 18.10.2024

Authorised Officer
Bank of India

FOCUS ECONOMICS

NOBEL LESSONS FOR INDIA



This year's Nobel in Economics has salience both for ushering greater inclusiveness and ensuring the independence of India's institutions

prosperity with the quality of institutions. Research into inequality has featured strongly in recent awards in economics. Claudia Goldin got it last year and demonstrated how and why gender differences in earning and employment rates have changed over time in the US. Banerjee & Duflo, winners of the 2019 Nobel, provided reliable answers about the best ways to fight global poverty. The laureates this year are possibly aware that the variable of each historical situation would prohibit the extraction of general results. Therefore, they have highlighted the importance of the quality of institutions as a distinguishing independent variable that would determine the success or failure of a nation.

In the context of India, the Nobel laureates offer invaluable insights. Fukuyama observes that "India is famous for high levels of corruption and clientelism, excessive rules and bureaucratic red tape. The capacity of the government to make policies, enforce rule of law & public services need to be substantially improved." Acemoglu also highlights how corruption and caste-based inequality contribute to its poor economic institution. The recent clamor of caste-based reservation by a major political party would further roil India's trust with a merit-based economy. The most sinister trend is the way institutions like ED, CBI, and I-T have become 'caged parrots' of the government. Of late the independence of constitutional bodies like the Election Commission of India is also being questioned. This year's Nobel in Economics has salience both for ushering greater inclusiveness and ensuring the independence of India's institutions. A small class of oligarchs must not convert their economic resources into political power.

The writer teaches Macro Economics. Views are personal.

India has barely grown despite its all-inclusive institutions. Acemoglu countered this criticism by stating that their theory distinguishes between economic and political institutions. It is not political institutions that contribute to growth directly, but it is the economic institutions that are shaped by political institutions. Political institutions played a role in directing economic reforms since 1978 in China under Deng. In the case of India, Acemoglu observes that caste-based inequality, poor quality of democracy and flawed political institutions contributed to its poor economic institution.

Acemoglu told reporters recently that data collected by Freedom House and VDem show that public institutions everywhere are getting weaker and support for democracy is at all-time low. While admitting that China is a bit of a challenge to analyse, they believe that extractive requirements can produce temporary economic growth as long as they are politically centralised. China's growth is based on adapting existing technology and rapid investment and not the anxiety-inducing process of creative destruction that produces lasting innovation and growth. By importing foreign technology and exporting low-end

products, China is playing a spirited game of catch-up.

The Narrow Corridor by Acemoglu and Robinson provides an illuminating insight as to how a good state requires a good balance between the power and capacity of the state on one hand and the simultaneous power of the society to hold the state in check and guarantee basic human rights and a minimum standard of living. Countries like China and Russia with strong state apparatuses but inadequate checks on their power suffer from extreme inequality, lack of innovation, and a general lack of human rights. On the other hand, in the US the power and capacity of the state are extensive and capable but restrained by guaranteed rights and democratic participation. Though the US has promoted opportunity and liberty for many people, much work remains to be done in terms of access to quality education and health care, race relations, and equitable imposition of taxation.

Nobel Prize in Economics was first awarded to Jan Tinbergen in 1969, who had famously ruled that one policy instrument is required to combat one policy target; the repo rate to control inflation. This year's Nobel laureates seem to take a leaf out of him, by correlating a country's

The three winners of this year's Nobel in Economics -- Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson -- have two eminently readable books to their credit: Why Nations Fail? (2012) and The Narrow Corridor (2019). The 2012 book is an indirect polemic against theories explaining global inequality: the geographical theory of Jeffrey Sachs, the theory of ignorance of the elites of Banerjee & Duflo, and Max Weber about the influence of protestant ethics on economic development. It distinguishes institutions that are either extractive or inclusive. Inclusive societies protect property rights, do not allow unjust property alienation, and integrate workers to increase labor productivity. Inclusive political institutions allow wide sections of society to govern the country and make decisions that benefit the majority. These institutions are the foundations of all modern liberal societies. Without such institutions, power will be purloined by a small section of society.

Harking back to the history of colonialism, the authors bring out how European colonies had a dramatic and divergent impact across the world, depending on whether the coloniser focused on the extraction of resources or the setting up of long-term institutions for the benefit of European migrants. This resulted in a reversal of fortune, where former colonies that were once rich became poor (as in the case of India demonstrated in Dadabhai Narooji's Drain theory), while some poor countries with the help of institutions were able to garner some generalised level of prosperity.

Arvind Subramanian, former CEA, criticised the conclusions of Why Nations Fail by citing how neither India nor China fit this narrative. China has become rich despite not having inclusive institutions, while



Satya Narayan Misra

INCLUSIVE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS ALLOW WIDE SECTIONS OF SOCIETY TO GOVERN THE COUNTRY AND MAKE DECISIONS THAT BENEFIT THE MAJORITY



Eduardo Araral

Water markets must be carefully regulated to ensure fair access, prevent market concentration, and protect ecosystems

Timidity is a form of vanity. When you are timid, it means that you attach more importance to the opinions others have of you than to the sincerity of your actions.

THE MOTHER



Promise & Peril

In a landmark report, the Global Commission on the Economics of Water recently identified water markets as a fundamental solution to the world's escalating climate-driven water crisis. The logic is simple: When something is scarce, it becomes more valuable. By pricing water appropriately and creating markets to allocate water based on demand, we could promote more efficient use and incentivise conservation. Yet while the concept of water markets appears promising, Chile, Australia, the United States, and other countries' experiences show that implementation can prove challenging.

Water markets have been heralded for their ability to allocate water more efficiently. When individuals or organisations are allowed to trade water rights, water is allocated to those who value it most. In Chile, one of the first countries to implement a national water market, agricultural producers can purchase water from other regions or industries that have a surplus. Owing to this flexibility, the system allows for high-value crops to flourish even during droughts.

By helping to reduce inefficient water use, Chile's water market boosted agricultural productivity over time. Between 1985 and 2018, water-intensive agriculture in the Atacama and Coquimbo regions grew significantly as water markets allowed for more flexible allocation to high-demand areas.

The same principle has been applied in Australia's Murray-Darling Basin, where farmers trade water rights to adapt to fluctuating water availability. As Bloomberg reports, the water trade in Australia is about AU\$4 billion per year (\$2.7 billion) and has made Australia the ninth-largest food exporter in the world. The same markets can also incentivise water conservation. California's Central Valley also allows agricultural water trading, enabling farmers to cope with periodic droughts by purchasing water from more resource-rich regions.

But Chile's experience also highlights the pitfalls of water markets. Far from being a panacea, Chile's water market has led to significant inequalities. Large agribusinesses have acquired substantial water rights, leaving smaller farmers and communities with little access. With wealthier players dominating the market, marginalised communities are priced out.

Such outcomes raise serious equity concerns. Water is not just an economic commodity; it is a basic human right. A system that allows the wealthiest to buy up the most water risks undermining access for those who need it most. After water rights in northern Chile's Limari Valley were consolidated among a few large agricultural companies, smallholders lacked sufficient water during dry years. And similar trends have been observed in California, where a small proportion of water-rights holders control a significant amount of available water, disproportionately benefiting large-scale agriculture.

Moreover, water markets can lead to environmental degradation. In Chile, diverting water to agricultural use has at times compromised the ecological health of rivers and wetlands. In Australia, over-extraction of water has led to severe environmental consequences, including the collapse of river ecosystems and the depletion of surface water and groundwater resources, threatening biodiversity.

California has encountered similar challenges. Although water trading has helped balance supply and demand in some regions, it has also exposed deep inequities. The Central Valley's small-scale farmers struggle to compete with larger agribusinesses for water, while poorer urban communities face higher water prices. In times of drought, the market-driven system tends to favour those who can afford to pay, leaving behind the most vulnerable populations.

Speculative water hoarding is also a growing problem. In California, some entities have withheld water from the market, waiting for prices to rise, effectively turning water -- a vital resource -- into a financial asset. This has contributed to localised shortages and driven up prices in already water-stressed areas.

Beyond market failures, there are deeper issues of equity and justice to consider. Wealthier entities' ability to buy up rights means that water markets are prone to monopolisation. This has been a persistent issue in Chile, where large agribusinesses and mining companies corner the market, especially in drought-prone areas.

Another challenge is that water markets often clash with traditional or prior water rights, leading to legal and social conflicts. In Chile, prior rights holders, including indigenous communities, have suffered displacement as water rights have been commodified and sold off to larger entities. Such injustices raise fundamental questions about the ethics of commodifying a resource that many communities view as a public good.

More broadly, implementation of water markets is a fraught, complex process. Transboundary water conflicts -- where water sources cross regional or national borders -- are a growing concern. Markets that allow one region to trade away water that is needed downstream risk sparking conflict between jurisdictions. For example, the Colorado River Basin, shared by seven US states and Mexico, has become a source of rising tensions as upstream water trading affects downstream users. Strong regulatory frameworks are essential to prevent such conflicts, but creating them requires significant political will and resources.

The promise of water markets lies in their potential to address scarcity by incentivising conservation and efficiency. But the risks they pose, especially to equity and environmental sustainability, cannot be ignored. Chile, Australia, and California provide valuable lessons on the limits of market-driven water management. Monopolisation, speculative hoarding, and environmental degradation are all significant risks when water is treated purely as a commodity.

The key is to devise a balanced approach. Water markets must be carefully regulated to ensure fair access, prevent market concentration, and protect ecosystems. Hybrid systems that combine market mechanisms with robust public oversight and community management could offer a more equitable and sustainable solution. Governments should also uphold the rights of vulnerable communities and recognise water as a public good, not just a tradable asset.

The writer is an associate professor, the Institute of Water Policy at the National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

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SPECTRUM NATION

Promising trends in digital financial literacy



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

BY PRIORITISING DIGITAL FINANCIAL LITERACY, INDIA CAN UNLOCK ITS FULL POTENTIAL, BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND FOSTERING A MORE INCLUSIVE, DIGITALLY EMPOWERED SOCIETY

Financial literacy, one of the important life skills, refers to the ability to understand and manage personal finances effectively, making informed decisions about earning, saving, investing, borrowing, and spending. Financial literacy encompasses eight essential components: budgeting, saving, investing, credit management, risk management, financial goal setting, understanding financial instruments, and tax planning. These key elements empower individuals to manage their finances effectively, achieve financial stability, and secure their economic future.

Digital financial literacy is the ability to navigate and effectively utilise digital financial tools, services, and platforms to manage one's finances, make informed financial decisions, and minimise digital risks. This competency enables individuals to harness the benefits of digital finance, including convenience, accessibility, and efficiency. By possessing digital financial literacy, individuals can optimise their financial well-being and security in the digital age.

The National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) was established by India's top financial institutions - Reserve Bank of India, SEBI, IRDAI, and

PFRDA - to promote financial awareness and empowerment. NCFE successfully implemented the first National Strategy for Financial Education (2013-2018) and is now working on the second phase (2020-2025). Through various initiatives like seminars, workshops, and training programmes, NCFE aims to make India financially literate. Its efforts include creating educational materials, workshops, and digital content to improve financial and digital literacy.

The Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey Report 2022-23, conducted as part of the National Sample Survey's 79th round has been released, highlighting key development indicators for the country. The report mentioned that the country has made notable strides in youth literacy, with approximately 96.5% of rural and 97.9% of urban individuals aged 15-24 years possessing functional literacy and numeracy skills. This enables them to read, write simple statements, and perform basic arithmetic calculations, laying a solid foundation for future educational and economic opportunities.

The second important development revealed by the report is that India has made significant strides in digital literacy, particularly among its youth. A stag-

gering 94.6% of individuals aged 18 years and above possess an account with a bank or other financial institution, or utilise mobile money services. This impressive figure holds consistent across rural and urban areas, with 94.6% and 94.4% respectively, indicating a narrowing of the digital divide. Furthermore, the country's younger demographic has demonstrated remarkable proficiency in digital skills. Among persons aged 15-24 years, approximately 78.4% have mastered the ability to send messages with attachments, a fundamental aspect of digital communication.

A closer examination of this demographic reveals notable trends. Males in this age group exhibit a slightly higher proficiency, with 83.6% demonstrating the ability to send messages with attachments, compared to 72.7% of females. Despite this disparity, the overall figures suggest that India's youth are well-equipped to navigate the digital landscape. As the country continues to advance in this realm, it is essential to address the remaining gaps and promote inclusive digital growth. By doing so, India can unlock the full potential of its digitally empowered youth, driving economic progress, innovation, and social development. The data under-

scores the significance of targeted initiatives aimed at enhancing digital literacy and skills, particularly among marginalised groups, to ensure a digitally inclusive future for all.

The telephone and mobile phone ownership is widespread, with approximately 94.2% of rural households and 97.1% of urban households possessing at least one of these devices. This significant penetration underscores the country's progress in telecommunications. The near-universal coverage in urban areas and the substantial coverage in rural areas demonstrate India's remarkable strides in connectivity, paving the way for enhanced communication, economic opportunities, and access to information.

Digital financial literacy is crucial for India's economic growth and financial inclusion. With the country's rapid digital transformation, it is essential to empower citizens with the necessary skills to navigate the digital financial landscape. By prioritising digital financial literacy, India can unlock its full potential, bridging the digital divide and fostering a more inclusive, digitally empowered society.

The writer is a retired college principal & founder, Supporting Shoulders.

Wars of poverty

Sir, Severe poverty is a threat to human security. An imbalance between the rich and the poor is the biggest socioeconomic disorder that cannot easily be fixed. Dangerous working conditions, unsafe housing, unequal access to healthcare and less nutritious food are the obvious repercussions. Removing poverty is akin to saving the earth and boosting the economy. Not to mention securing justice because overcoming the condition is much more than mere charity. Severe deprivation of basic human needs is extreme poverty, according to the United Nations. In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared October 17 as international Day of Eradication of Poverty. Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity is a lengthy, but earnest, aim of the UN. As the late boxing legend Muhammad Ali said, "Wars of nations are fought to change maps. Wars of poverty are fought to map changes."

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Right to information

Sir, It is unfortunate that the RTI Act, which came into effect in 2005, promising a new era in transparency in government functioning, has almost died its own death, with the executive not showing any keenness to infuse a fresh life into it. The Act has slowly weakened due to unwarranted amendments, overreach of the executive, and restrictive judicial interpretations. Lack of adequate infrastructure and shortage of staff in government offices to deal with RTI applications is another cause for worry. Ever since its ratification, several attempts have been made to deliberately dilute this law and hamper access to information by the public. The proposed amendments were dropped due to widespread public defiance. In the administration and functioning of a democratic government, the right to access and seek information is a sine qua non for transparency, openness and accountability. Unless citizens are empowered with the right to ask questions, democracies cannot and will not survive. The need of the hour is to promote the free flow of information to limit tyrannical tendencies and reinforce democratic ideals.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

WISDOM CORNER

Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness, not pain or mindless self-indulgence, is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values.

AVN RAND

It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.

JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI

Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.

ROBERT FROST

MAHA KUMBH 2025

AI-powered surveillance to ensure devotees' safety



HELD EVERY 12 YEARS, THE MAHA KUMBH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN PRAYAGRAJ FROM JANUARY 14 TO FEBRUARY 26, 2025

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj/Lucknow, Oct 17: The Uttar Pradesh government will roll out a state-of-the-art surveillance system powered by artificial intelligence (AI) to ensure the safety of the crores of devotees expected to attend the Maha Kumbh next year.

Held every 12 years, the Maha Kumbh is scheduled to take place in Prayagraj from January 14 to February 26, 2025.

More than 2,750 CCTV cameras, including AI-enabled units, are being installed throughout the city for the mega event. The cameras will be linked to a central control room, allowing for real-time monitoring and swift response to any incidents.

As per a press statement, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently reviewed the preparations for the Maha Kumbh wherein he emphasised the importance of completing all the work by December 15. The government is focusing on

enhancing the security measures to ensure a seamless experience for the devotees, the statement said.

"AI-powered cameras are being strategically installed at key locations in and around the fairground to monitor the crowd and identify the potential threats. So far, 1,000 such cameras have been installed and connected to the control room," it added.

Additionally, 80 TV screens will be placed throughout the city to display important information.

To address the expected influx of more than 25 crore devotees, a dedicated monitoring unit is being set up in the control room, while a 50-seat

call centre will be made operational for the Maha Kumbh with the Helpline No. 1920, the statement said.

Police officers will manage the helpline round the clock to provide continuous updates to the officials.

The system will instantly notify the relevant authorities of any suspicious activity, objects, or large gatherings, enabling swift crowd management.

Also, CCTVs with real-time alerts will play a crucial role in preventing crowd congestion.

Given the anticipated number of devotees, parking arrangements are being made to accommodate 500,000 vehicles with strict security measures.

Andhra CM unveils 6 'game changer' policies

Explaining the move, Chandrababu Naidu said the state is hoping to realise ₹5 lakh crore out of the targeted ₹30 lakh crore investment



Naidu invites industrialists to set up shop

A day after unveiling six new industrial policies, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu Thursday called on industrialists to invest in the state, promising a business-friendly environment. The Chief Minister said he rolled out a red carpet for them while talented youngsters and a robust infrastructure await them to set up shop. "Respected industrialists and investors, Andhra Pradesh is now open with best policies. I'm inviting you to invest in our state, where we have rolled out a red carpet to welcome you. In AP (Andhra Pradesh), a business-friendly state government, talented youngsters and (a) robust infrastructure await you," said Naidu in a post on X.

To achieve target growth, Naidu identified 10 sustenance sectors such as automobiles, engineering, pharma and life sciences, metals & alloys, furniture and other focus sectors.

He also identified an equal number of sectors as propelling ones which need an ecosystem, such as aerospace, defence & drones, toys, biotechnology, semiconductors & electronics, shipbuilding, specialty steel, electric vehicles & batteries and others. The state will also follow the four-pronged approach of reducing the cost of production, enabling "speed of doing business", strengthening MSMEs and entrepreneurs and financial services to encourage manufacturing.

Under AP Industrial Development Policy 4.0, the CM asserted that companies creating the highest number of jobs would stand to gain the best incentives. Calling it one of the best incentive structures for industries in India, he said this policy offers incentives up to 62 per cent for the first 200 early investors and up to 72 per cent incentives for value-addition investors who en-

gage in component manufacturing.

One Family One Entrepreneur is the core of AP MSME & Entrepreneurship Development Policy 4.0, which encompasses an eight-point strategy of MSME facilitation, incubation & mentoring, unit-level competitiveness, access to finance, sustainability import/export promotion, cluster infra development and special assistance for inclusion.

According to Naidu, up to 75 per cent of investment will be offered as incentives to make MSME products price competitive.

As part of AP Food Processing Policy 4.0, the CM observed that ₹30,000 crore investments will be targeted to create three lakh new jobs and 30,000 new entrepreneurs, among others.

Likewise, AP Electronics Policy 4.0 aims to generate five lakh jobs, and attract ₹84,000 crore investments with the Internet of Things (IoT), air conditioning, television, mobile, 5G communications and components as focus sub-sectors.

Mega industries can receive up to 45 per cent incentives which include investment subsidy, employment subsidy, power subsidy, recruitment assistance and others.

Similarly, incentives for private park developers under AP Industrial Park Policy 4.0 encompass up to ₹5 lakh capital subsidy per acre and exemption of charges for layout approvals, land use, stamp & registration and others.

Naidu said each of the 175 Assembly constituencies will have one developed industrial park in sectors such as drone manufacturing, electric vehicles, gems & jewellery, toys, defence and aerospace and others.

Moreover, AP Integrated Clean Energy Policy 4.0 is aimed at creating a pathway to the southern state for energy self-reliance and turn it into a clean energy

hub.

Targeting an investment of ₹10 lakh crore, this policy aims to create employment for 7.5 lakh persons, achieving a solar energy capacity of 78.5 GWp, 22 GW pumped storage, and produce 1.5 MMTPA green hydrogen and derivatives under emerging technologies category.

It also aims to achieve 35 GW of wind energy capacity and install 5,000 electric vehicle charging points. The CM observed that there is a need to bring some more new policies for sectors such as tourism, IT, virtual working and others and promised to bring them soon.

Aimed at creating 20 lakh jobs in five years, the CM noted that a framework is being ushered in by giving primacy to job creation in every policy.

Noting that these policies are targeted at the youth of the state to think globally and act globally, he said the objective is also to produce one entrepreneur per family.

According to the CM, these six policies will bring a sea change for the future of the state and its youth.

Further, he noted that the proposed Ratan Tata Innovation Hub will have its main centre in Amaravati and five regional centres at Vizag, Rajamahendravaram, Vijayawada or Guntur, Tirupati and Anantapur.

Following a hub and spoke model with regional centres, Ratan Tata Innovation Hub will facilitate technology and skill upgradation in emerging sectors, mentorship and incubation by reputed business groups, support on product-marketing compliances, prototyping and marketing to create global brands.

Exuding confidence that Andhra Pradesh will become an innovation hub for the knowledge economy, the chief minister said all the five centres will be under Ratan Tata's name.

AP Integrated Clean Energy Policy 4.0 is aimed at creating a pathway to the southern state for energy self-reliance and turn it into a clean energy hub

Amaravati, Oct 17: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Wednesday announced six "game changer" policies in various sectors, including industries, MSMEs and food processing with an objective to create 20 lakh jobs in the state and said his government was looking at attracting ₹30 lakh crore investment in the next five years.

Naidu said the state is also hoping to get USD 10 billion in foreign direct investments.

He further said the Gross Value Addition (GVA) from the manufacturing sector which is pegged at ₹3.4 lakh crore in 2024, would be taken to ₹7.3 lakh crore by 2029, creating five lakh new jobs.

Explaining the key initiatives in the policies, Naidu said the state is hoping to realise ₹5 lakh crore out of the targeted ₹30 lakh crore investment.

He also said the exports from the state would be doubled to USD 40 billion from the existing USD 20 billion in 2024.

The chief minister announced the six policies as AP Industrial Development Policy 4.0, AP MSME & Entrepreneurship Development Policy 4.0, AP Food Processing Policy 4.0, AP Electronics Policy 4.0, AP Industrial Park Policy 4.0 and AP Integrated Clean Energy Policy 4.0.

"At a time we brought six policies. We exercised a lot on these six policies (and) we said only one thing in the polls (that creating) 20 lakh jobs is the goal of this government and we will work (towards it). These six policies will be a game changer," said Naidu, addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, following a Cabinet meeting.

Elaborating further, the CM said the USPs of the policies in-

PM Modi to launch projects in Varanasi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi, Oct 17: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for projects worth ₹1,300 crore in his parliamentary constituency October 20, officials said here Thursday.

Multi-layer security arrangements are being put in place for the PM's visit during which he will also address two public gatherings.

Dilip Patel, president of the BJP's Kashi region, said, "According to the tentative schedule, PM Modi will arrive at Babatpur Airport around 12:30 PM October 20. From there, he will head to Shankara Nethralaya on Ring Road to inaugurate the hospital. He will inspect the facility and address around 1,000 attendees invited by the hospital trust."

Following this, the PM will travel by road to the Sampurnanand Sports Stadium in Sagra, where he will inaugurate a sports complex. He is expected to launch and lay the foundation for several other projects during his visit. The PM will depart for Delhi around 6 PM after the events.

Divisional Commissioner of Varanasi, Kaushal Raj Sharma, said the inauguration of Shankara Nethralaya will benefit not only Varanasi but also people from Purvanchal and Bihar.

"During his visit, the PM will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for various projects, including the Babatpur Airport terminal and other airport-related initiatives totalling worth ₹1,300 crore," Sharma added.

Heavy rain lashes Andhra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Oct 17: Heavy rain continued to lash parts of south coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema regions under the impact of depression over the Bay of Bengal which crossed the coast between Pudukcherry and Nellore early Thursday morning.

Normal life was paralysed at some places in the Rayalaseema region and coastal districts of Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam.

The sea was turbulent, triggering high waves along the coast in Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema districts.

The sea conditions were rough along the Visakhapatnam coast. The high tidal waves touched

shops at RK Beach in Port City. Due to high tidal waves, the sea was turbulent at Uppada in Kakinada. In some places, houses were damaged and trees and electric poles were uprooted.

The sea was also rough at Odalarevu beach in Allavaram mandal of Konaseema district. The seawater touched the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plant.

Seawater also inundated aqua farms in the Konaseema district. High tidal waves were also seen at Antarvedi where the Godavari River joins the Bay of Bengal.

Authorities have hoisted the third warning signal at Nizampatan, Krishnapatnam and Machilipatnam while the first warning signal was hoisted at Visakhapatnam and Gangavaram ports.

Israeli envoy visits Ram temple in Ayodhya

Drawing connections between the two ancient civilizations, the Ambassador emphasised the significance of faith and heritage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya/Basti (UP), Oct 17: Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, took a moment to visit the iconic Ram Temple in Ayodhya Wednesday with his wife. The visit saw the ambassador reflecting on India's deep-rooted cultural and spiritual traditions.

Ambassador Azar spoke about being moved by the devotion of



the pilgrims and worshippers at the temple. "I am honoured to visit this magnificent temple dedicated to Lord Ram. The sheer number of pilgrims and their deep devotion is truly inspiring," he told PTI.

Drawing connections between

the two ancient civilizations, Azar emphasised the significance of faith and heritage. "Both Israel and India are nations with ancient religions, traditions, and a proud heritage. Just as we take pride in ours, I see the same strength and devotion in your

As an ambassador, it's essential to understand the heart of the country, and that's why I am here with my wife—to experience the culture and heritage of India in a more profound way

REUVEN AZAR | ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO INDIA

people, which gives a sense of unity and resilience," he said.

The ambassador's visit was a gesture of cultural engagement, underscoring his desire to connect with India on a deeper level. "As an ambassador, it's essential to understand the heart of the country, and that's why I am here with my wife—to experience the culture and heritage of India in a more profound way."

Computer-based model to determine liquor availability in AP

THE MODEL WILL CAPTURE DATA RELATED TO MARKET DEMAND AND ACCORDINGLY SUPPLIES WILL BE DECIDED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Oct 17: Premium international whisky brands of popular liquor companies including Diageo have hit the outlets in Andhra Pradesh with the implementation of the new liquor policy, effective October 16.

In keeping with the new policy, a new 'computer-based model' will determine the brands to be supplied to retail outlets, an official said.

The model will capture data related to market demand and accordingly supplies will be decided. "It will be a market-driven approach determined by demand and supply dynamics," the official told PTI.

Besides Diageo, brands of several noted manufacturers including Pernod Ricard and William Grant and Sons, which were mostly unavailable during 2019-2024 are now available,

he added. The official said the brand that sells more will be procured more. However, every registered liquor brand will be given an opportunity to sell their products.

After scrapping the old liquor policy, the N Chandrababu Naidu-led NDA government is implementing a brand new liquor policy from Wednesday. Elaborating the model, the official noted that initially liquor brands will be allowed to supply 10,000 cases in the market to be followed by the market-driven model which will kick in the market dynamics cycle.

Based on liquor sales over the past three months, brands will be allowed to sell 150 per cent of that quantum.

According to the official, all liquor brands, domestic and international, have already started coming into the state as the new liquor policy has come into force. Unavailability of popular



liquor brands and exorbitant cost were major allegations against the erstwhile YSRCP government as consumers of alcoholic beverages complained of being deprived of choice and quality.

Between 2019 and 2024, Excise Minister K Ravindra had said that consumers were 'deprived' of the choice to pick brands they liked and were 'compelled' to

purchase only brands that were available.

He had underscored that the government is giving importance to make quality brands available in the state and officials also toured several states across the country to study the best practices in liquor retail sales, procurement, quality control and pricing mechanism.

In the run-up to the 2024

Besides Diageo, brands of several noted manufacturers including Pernod Ricard and William Grant and Sons, which were mostly unavailable during 2019-2024 are now available

Assembly elections, current Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who was then an Opposition leader, accused the previous YSRCP government of high liquor prices and poor quality.

Under the new NDA government liquor policy, consumers can buy a 180 ml bottle liquor as low as ₹99 also.

According to an official statement, digital payments at liquor shops rose by nine per cent

monthly from June, following the swearing in of the new NDA alliance government of TDP, BJP and Janasena.

The southern state raked in an application fee of ₹1,800 crore from nearly 90,000 applicants for liquor shops and successfully allocated licenses to 3,396 shops October 14 through a draw of lots.

Interestingly, Andhra Pradesh received applications from abroad and within the country as it did not restrict applications on the basis of region. It allowed all citizens of India above 21 to apply by paying a non-refundable fee of ₹2 lakh.

Excise revenue is a major source of income for Andhra Pradesh which it hopes to fund the government.

Cash-strapped Andhra Pradesh expects to earn about ₹20,000 crore through the sale of licensing fees and liquor in the remaining months of fiscal 2024-25.

national

of the day quote

This is the failure of the Bahaich administration and the government. They talk about zero tolerance and conduct every event very peacefully. So why was there no police security when such a big event was being organised?

AKHILESH YADAV | SP CHIEF

We have also initiated the steps to seek relief from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and are hoping to get the same. Additionally, we will also try to provide more relief

OMAR ABDULLAH | J&K CM

The AAP government in Delhi has appointed the first minister and deputy speaker from the Valmiki community

ARVIND KEERIVAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENOR

SHORT TAKES

Cong leader Ajay Yadav quits party

Chandigarh: Soon after the Haryana assembly elections, senior Congress leader and former minister Capt Ajay Singh Yadav Thursday quit the party alleging shabby treatment after Sonia Gandhi left the post of party president. He said he was quitting the party and also resigning as chairman of the All India Congress Committee's (AICC's) Other Backward Classes (OBC) department. Yadav (65) said he is disillusioned with the party high command "for treating me shabbily after Sonia Gandhi left the post of Congress President".

TN CM Stalin hosts lunch for workers

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Thursday hosted lunch to 600 sanitary workers here at a hall, honouring them for their tireless work during the heavy rains. Stalin served food to workers, which was 'Biryani,' chicken and fish delicacies, and he had food along with them in his Kolathur Assembly constituency. The CM also gave away bags comprising 10 essential commodities, including rice, to workers.

Woman sets herself on fire

Sambhal (UP): A 30-year-old woman set herself on fire Thursday merely 150 feet away from the Sarai police outpost reportedly in frustration over not being able to marry the man she loved. Constables Kapil Sandhu and Abhimanyu also suffered burns on their hands trying to douse the flames, Superintendent of Police KK Bishnoi said.

23 injured as bus hits heavy vehicle

Pune: At least 23 passengers were injured, 11 of them seriously, after a private bus they were travelling in hit a heavy vehicle on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway near Lonavala in Pune district early Thursday, police said. The bus was travelling to Borivali in Mumbai from Kolhapur in western Maharashtra when the accident took place around 5 am, they said.

₹38L cash seized

Ranchi: Cash to the tune of around ₹38 lakh has been seized in Jharkhand after the announcement of assembly polls, an election official said Friday. The Jharkhand assembly polls will be held in two phases November 13 and 20, while the counting of votes will take place November 23.



Special campaigns will be launched to monitor all 13 pollution hotspots through the Green War Room

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

'EMERGENCY' GETS CENSOR CERTIFICATE

Kangana Ranaut's "Emergency" is finally ready for release with the CBFC issuing a censor certificate to the controversial film in which the actor and the BJP MP plays the role of Indira Gandhi. "We have received the certificate for our movie Emergency," Ranaut wrote on her Instagram stories



India criticises Canada for inaction on Bishnoi gang

INDIA HAS BEEN MAINTAINING THAT THE MAIN ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS THAT OF CANADA GIVING SPACE TO PRO-KHALISTAN ELEMENTS OPERATING FROM CANADIAN SOIL WITH IMPUNITY



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: India Thursday said it had shared with the Canadian government security-related information regarding members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and other gangs, seeking their arrest, but so far "no action" has been taken by Ottawa. "They have taken no action so far, which are our core concerns. And, there is a political motive behind it, which you know... No action taken on our security concern," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters. He said this in response to a query during his weekly briefing here as he fielded a volley of questions on India-Canada ties, a day after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau testified before a Commission of Inquiry. Jaiswal, in response to another query, said "as far as my information is concerned, there are 26 extradition requests (from India) pending with the Canadian side" over the last decade or more. The MEA spokesperson said the current diplomatic row with Canada has been precipitated by the Trudeau government's "baseless" allegations, and reiterated that "no evidence" has been shared in support of Ottawa's charges against New Delhi. "We will say that as far as the allegations are concerned, PM Trudeau's own admission yesterday would indicate the value as regards our stance on the allegations. We will naturally reject false imputations against our diplomats," he said. Testifying before the public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral processes and democratic institutions, Trudeau Wednesday acknowledged that he had only intelligence and no "hard evidentiary proof" when he alleged the involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year. The MEA early Thursday reacted to this and said what it has heard only "confirms" New Delhi's consistent stand that

Canada has "presented us no evidence" in support of the serious allegations Ottawa chose to level against India and Indian diplomats. The MEA spokesperson's comments assumes significance given the claims made by Canadian Prime Minister during the inquiry. Testifying before the public inquiry, Trudeau claimed the Indian diplomats were collecting information on Canadians who are in disagreement with the Narendra Modi government and passing it to the highest levels within the Indian government and criminal organisations like the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. On a query on extradition requests from India, the MEA spokesperson said that besides the 26 extradition requests, there are several "provisional arrest requests of several criminals, which are also pending with the Canadian side". While India had exchanged and given this information, "so far no action has been taken by the Canadian side on our request. This is very serious," the MEA spokesperson said. India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity. India Monday expelled six Canadian diplomats and also announced withdrawing its high commissioner from Canada after dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to a probe into the killing of Nijjar. Nijjar, who was declared a terrorist by India, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia June 18 last year.

They have taken no action so far, which are our core concerns. And, there is a political motive behind it, which you know... No action taken on our security concern

RANDHIR JAISWAL | MEA SPOKESPERSON

BAHRAICH VIOLENCE 5 suspects arrested, 2 suffer gunshot injuries



The five, accused of fomenting communal tension during a Durga Puja procession and killing a 22-year-old man, were allegedly trying to flee to Nepal, which shares a border with Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh, the officer said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bahraich (UP), Oct 17: Five suspects in the killing of a man that triggered violence in Bahraich were arrested here Thursday after an encounter with the Uttar Pradesh Police in which two of them suffered gunshot injuries, a senior official said.

The five, accused of fomenting communal tension during a Durga Puja procession and killing a 22-year-old man, were allegedly trying to flee to Nepal, which shares a border with Bahraich district in Uttar Pradesh, the officer said. The gunfight took place in the Hada Basehari area under the Nanpara police station limits near the Nepal border, according to the official. Hada Basehari is around 15 km from Rupaidiha - a transit point between India and Nepal. "Five accused have

been arrested," Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash told a news channel.

Speaking about the encounter, he said, "I have information of exchange of fire and gunshot injuries." Yash, who is also the chief of the Special Task Force of the Uttar Pradesh Police, said the Bahraich police, investigating the murder and subsequent violence, has already established the link of one of the accused in Nepal. He told another news channel that two of the accused injured in the encounter were in a stable condition. Director General of Police (DGP) Prashant Kumar said those arrested have been identified as Mohammad Faheen, Mohammad Sarfaraz and Abdul Hameed, who are named accused in the FIR - and two others Mohammad Taleem alias Sabloo and Mohammad Afzal. According to Kumar, a police team arrested Faheen and Taleem. Acting on the information given by the duo, the team went to recover the weapon used in the murder in the Nanpara area, however, it came under fire from Hameed, Sarfaraz and Afzal.

In retaliatory firing, Sarfaraz and Taleem were injured. A doctor at the local Nanpara health care centre said, "Two people were brought here around 2.35 pm. One of them was Sarfaraz and the other was Taleem."

Krishnagar woman murder: SIT formed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Oct 17: The preliminary autopsy report of the deceased young woman from West Bengal's Krishnagar indicated that she had sustained ante-mortem burns with no acid or other chemicals involved in those injuries, a senior official involved in the post-mortem examination said Thursday.

The report also noted the absence of external injuries, suggesting that the wounds on her face may have been self-inflicted, the official added. "These are preliminary findings and we must wait for a comprehensive conclusion," the doctor told reporters after the post-mortem was conducted at the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial (JNM) Hospital in Kalyani, Nadia district.

The process was videographed and conducted in the presence of a magistrate. Meanwhile, after surveying the location where the body was found, Assistant Director General (ADG) of South Bengal, Supratim Sarkar, announced the formation of a Special Investigating Team (SIT) to probe the matter. He added that the SIT would be assisted by the state CID. "The SIT will operate under the supervision of the Krishnagar Police District SP," he said.

During the investigation, forensic experts recovered a matchbox and a bottle, which likely contained kerosene, according to another police officer.

"There are indications that the woman may have inflicted the wounds on herself and set herself on fire. The circumstantial evidence suggests this," the officer noted.

Morbi tragedy: HC rejects demand for CBI probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 17: The Gujarat High Court has refused to hand over the investigation into the 2022 Morbi bridge collapse tragedy to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as sought by the kin of the victims.

The court can not look into the correctness of the ongoing investigation, said a division bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Pranav Trivedi.

The court was hearing a suo motu public interest litigation (PIL) initiated after the October 30, 2022, incident at Morbi in Gujarat in which 135 persons lost their lives when a British-era suspension bridge on the Machchhu river collapsed.

Some of the victims and kin of the deceased sought reinvestigation of the entire case through the CBI, accusing Gujarat Police of not carrying out a proper investigation and not making any civic official accused despite a Special Investigation Team holding some of them responsible.

In a separate application submitted last month seeking a CBI probe, the victims argued that the then district collector was present at all the meetings related to the awarding of the contract to Oreva Group for the maintenance of the bridge, but his statement was never recorded.



During Thursday's hearing, advocate Rahul Sharma, appearing for the victims, sought to add murder charges to the main FIR. Advocate General Kamal Trivedi informed the bench that a chargesheet was filed last year and the then chief officer of Morbi Nagarpalika, who stands suspended, is facing a disciplinary inquiry. When Sharma pressed for reinvestigation, the chief justice said ordering reinvestigation was beyond the scope of this PIL.

Plot to kill Salman: Bishnoi gang member held

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Oct 17: The Navi Mumbai police have arrested a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang in connection with an alleged plot to kill Hindi film industry actor Salman Khan, an official said Thursday.

The accused, Sukhbir alias Sukhbir Balbir Singh, was apprehended from Panipat in Haryana by a team of Panvel Town police (in Navi Mumbai) Wednesday, he said.

He had allegedly given a contract to Bishnoi gang members to kill Khan, the official said. Sukhbir Singh was in touch with his alleged handler Dogar, who is based in Pakistan, he said.

Singh along with the Bishnoi gang members had planned to



use weapons from Pakistan, such as AK-47s, M16s and AK92s, to execute the alleged plot to kill Salman Khan, the official said. He will be produced before a court after being brought to Navi Mumbai, the police said.

The Navi Mumbai police will also interrogate Sukhbir Singh in connection with the case of murder of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, the official said.

Somy Ali requests Lawrence for zoom call

New Delhi: Former model and actor Somy Ali has reached out to Lawrence Bishnoi via social media and requested an audience with the jailed gangster over a Zoom call, saying she has some details to share that would "benefit" him. Her post came days after the murder of Nationalist Congress Party leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, who police say may have been targeted by Bishnoi because of his proximity to superstar Salman Khan.

This year April 24, the Navi Mumbai police registered a case against 18 identified accused and others of the Bishnoi gang for hatching a conspiracy to kill Salman Khan, he said.

Reduce overcrowding of jails: MHA to states, UTs

OVERCROWDING IN PRISONS, ESPECIALLY THE ISSUE OF LARGE NUMBER OF UNDERTRIALS, HAS BEEN A MATTER OF CONCERN FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THE HOME MINISTRY SAID IN A COMMUNICATION TO STATES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Union Home Ministry has asked all states to take steps, including implementation of a specific provision of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, for providing relief to undertrial prisoners and reduce overcrowding in jails. It said that for addressing the issue of long detention of undertrial prisoners and their hardship, it has been taking various progressive steps, including grant of financial aid to the states and union territories for providing relief to such prisoners in seeking release from prisons.

The ministry said that Section 479 (1) of the BNSS, which has come into force with effect from July 1, 2024, provides for such relief. Section 79 says that if an undertrial has undergone detention for a period extending



up to one-half of the maximum imprisonment specified for his offence under the law he shall be released by the court on bail.

However, the relief is not available in the maximum punishment is death sentence or life imprisonment. A new Proviso has been added under Section 479 (1) of the BNSS, which reads as follows: "Provided that where such person is a

first-time offender (who has never been convicted of any offence in the past) he shall be released on bond by the Court, if he has undergone detention for the period extending up to one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for such offence under that law".

The Section 479 (3) of the BNSS casts a specific respon-

sibility upon the Superintendent of Prisons, where the accused person is detained, to make an application to the concerned court for release of such prisoners on bail.

The home ministry said the Supreme Court, in its order dated August 23, 2024, in 'Inhuman Conditions in 1382 Prisons' noted that the provisions of Section 479 of BNSS shall apply to all undertrials in pending cases irrespective of whether the case was registered against them before July 1, 2024, the date when the new law came into effect.

The Court has directed the Superintendents of Jails across the country that wherever accused persons are detained as undertrials, their applications may be preferred to the concerned courts, upon completion of one-half or one-third of the period mentioned in sub section (1) of Section 479, for

their release on bail. "All states and UTs are requested to take note of the specific legal mandate cast on the Superintendent of Prisons under their jurisdiction and disseminate this information to all relevant ranks, particularly the Superintendent of Prisons, and monitor the effective implementation of the new provisions of BNSS, as cited above," the communication said.

For assisting the state and UT prison authorities in quick identification of eligible prisoners, the ministry has made appropriate provisions in the national E-Prisons portal, enlisting types of offences that prisoners have been charged with, the maximum sentence for the offence committed, the date of completion of one-half or one-third of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for an offence under the relevant law by a prisoner, etc.



Salutations to the great Mahatma Valmiki ji who showed humanity the path of truth, justice and harmony filled with love and compassion
RAHUL GANDHI | LOP IN THE LS

WOMAN SHOT AT OVER SHARING PIZZAS

A woman was shot at by her sister-in-law's brother following a heated argument over sharing pizzas in northeast Delhi's Welcome area, police said Thursday. Four people have been arrested in connection with the incident which took place Wednesday night, they said



of the day quote

Nagendra (former Minister B Nagendra) has told the media that he was pressurised by the ED. He also informed me that he was pressurised to name me and D K Shivakumar (Deputy Chief Minister). No agency should work in favour of a party. Whether it is CBI or ED or Income Tax, they should function impartially
SIDDARAMAIAH | K'TAKA CM

Hearty congratulations to Nikita Porwal, daughter of Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, for winning the title of 'Femina Miss India 2024'. May you bring pride to the country by representing India in the 'Miss World Pageant'. My best wishes for a bright future
MOHAN YADAV | MP CM

When Pakistan attacked us during the Kargil war, India had the option to retaliate against our neighbour if we had chosen to do so. However, our army received clear instructions not to cross the border. The army was directed to target only those who were within our borders
MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

X POST OF THE DAY

Birth rates continue to plummet. Population collapse is coming
@elonmusk

SHORT TAKES

Five killed in road mishap

Mathura (UP): Five persons from Bihar, including two toddler girls, were killed while three others were injured after a pickup truck they were travelling in met with an accident here, police said Thursday. The incident took place in the early hours of Thursday near Nagaria Satbisa on Kosi Shergarh road under the Kosi Kalan police station limits, they added. The deceased have been identified as Gauri Devi (35), her daughter Komal (2), Kunti Devi (28), her daughter Priyanka (2), and Kajal (17), police said.

Ponzi case: ED conducts raids

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday conducted searches against a Noida-registered company that is alleged to have duped numerous investors in the garb of a data computing and cloud storage providing Ponzi scheme, official sources said. About 13 premises of the company named VueNow and its promoters in Zirakpur in Punjab's Mohali district, Delhi, Noida and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, and Mumbai are being searched by the Jalandhar office of the agency under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the sources said.

ED questions Tamannaah

Guwahati: Actor Tamannaah Bhatia was questioned by the ED here Thursday in connection with a money laundering case probe linked to the 'HPZ Token' mobile app in which several investors were allegedly duped on the pretext of mining Bitcoins and some other cryptocurrencies, official sources said.

BOMB THREATS

Govt plans strict norms

In four days, at least 25 flights of various Indian airline companies received bomb threats, including international flights, and some of them were diverted. Most of the threats have turned out to be hoaxes

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Oct 17: The civil aviation ministry plans to put in place strict norms to prevent incidents of hoax bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators on the no-fly list, a senior official said Thursday.

Civil Aviation Minister K Ramamohan Naidu said Thursday said the ministry is looking at amending civil aviation regulations to ensure strict action is taken against incidents of bomb threats to airlines.

In four days, at least 25 flights of various Indian airlines received bomb threats, including international flights, and some of them were diverted. Most of the threats have turned out to be hoaxes. "We are taking things seriously... we will take action," Naidu said about the bomb threats.

He also emphasised that there needs to be changes in civil aviation rules and regulations to ensure strict action with respect to bomb threats to airlines.

To a query on whether there is a conspiracy behind the bomb threats, the minister said, "whatever we know now are that of individuals and minors..." He



More flights receive hoax bomb threat

MUMBAI: The pattern of domestic airlines receiving bomb threats continued for a fourth day with multiple flights being targeted Thursday, as authorities suspended or blocked about 10 social media handles for posting threats, according to official sources. Among the flights that received threats Thursday four were of Air India Express, two of Vistara and one Indigo. Air India said "a number of" their flights also received hoax bomb threat, but they did not specify the number.

spoke on the sidelines of a function for the inauguration of a civil aviation park on the premises of the civil aviation ministry in the national capital. The ministry is looking at amending existing rules, including those related to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), in order to ensure stringent punishments are in place for the

culpits, the official said. Placing individuals making hoax bomb threats in the airlines' no-fly list is one of the proposals being looked at, the official added.

The official also said legal opinions are being sought with respect to making the changes in the rules. The provisions being followed in foreign coun-

tries to deal with hoax bomb threats are also being examined by the ministry.

Further, the official said that if necessary, legislative amendments will be explored for having a strong deterrent to prevent people from making hoax bomb threats to airlines.

Currently, there are strict norms against unruly passenger behaviour onboard flights but there are no specific provisions under the aviation regulations to deal with instances where a bomb threat has come from outside sources such as social media.

At present, the actions against hoax bomb threat incidents are taken by the police under criminal laws.

The official also said that discussions are going on with home and law ministries while inputs are being gathered from airlines.

"We want rules that can act as a deterrent," the official said. Naidu Wednesday said law enforcement agencies are actively pursuing all cases of bomb threats against airlines and the government is closely monitoring the situation.

He had also condemned any attempt to compromise the safety, security and operational integrity of the aviation sector.

MARITAL RAPE

Apex court to decide validity of laws granting immunity to husbands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: The Supreme Court Thursday said it will decide the constitutional validity of penal provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) which grant immunity from prosecution to a husband for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex with him.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra sought views of the petitioners on Centre's contention that making such acts punishable would severely impact the conjugal relationship and cause serious disturbances in the institution of marriage.

Senior advocate Karuna Nundy, appearing for one of the petitioners, began arguments and referred to the provisions of the IPC and BNS on "marital rape". "It is a constitutional question. There are two judgments before us and we have to decide. The core issue is of the constitutional validity (of the penal provisions)," the CJI said.

Nundy said the court must strike down a provision, which was unconstitutional. "You are saying it (penal provision) violates Article 14 (right to equality), Article 19, Article 21 (life and personal liberty)... Parliament intended when it enacted the exception clause that when a man engages in a sexual act with wife above 18 years of age it cannot be constituted as rape," remarked the top court.

The bench wondered if the immunity clause in the penal codes



was struck down, the offence would fall under the main provision on rape and in such a scenario whether the court "can a separate offence or adjudicate the validity of the exception (clause)". Arguing against the immunity clause, Nundy said, "It needs no mention that patriarchy and misogyny have no place in constitutional order."

The bench referred to alleged criminal offences done by a husband in the quest for having non-consensual sex with wife.

"Husband demands. Wife declines. Now when husband confines her. It is wrongful confinement. When he is hurting her, it could be a simple or grievous hurt... Criminal intimidation also comes to play. Then wife succumbs and the last act is not considered rape... So your argument is that if all these are offences then why not the last main part where she succumbs. That is what you are saying," Justice Pardiwala said. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, representing a petitioner, said,

"No means no. If a woman says 'no', it is 'no' and if there is 'rape' within a matrimonial home then FIR has to be lodged," he added. The hearing would resume October 22.

GST fraud case: ED conducts raids in Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Oct 17: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday conducted multi-city searches in Gujarat in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged GST fraud in which eight people, including a journalist, were arrested recently by the state police, official

sources said. About 23 premises in Rajkot, Junagadh, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar and Veraval were raided by the federal agency after a case was filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

Premises linked to arrested journalist Mahesh Langa, who works with The Hindu newspaper, were also being covered.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is also looking at the role of a number of other entities in this alleged GST evasion case as it probes the allegations of a wider conspiracy and generation of purported proceeds of crime, the sources said. The money laundering case stems from an FIR registered by the Ahmedabad Police Crime Branch.

SNIPPETS

Wankhede likely to contest Maha polls

Mumbai: Indian Revenue Services (IRS) officer Sameer Wankhede is likely to contest upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra on Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) faction, reports said. The officer has always in the news due to his raids he conducted during his postings at Mumbai Customs and NCB. He led Cordelia case where a cruise ship was raided and Aryan Khan, the son of actor Shah Rukh Khan was arrested on charges of drug use and possession. All charges against Aryan Han were dropped later, with Wankhede removed from the case after being accused of blackmail. Sameer is currently posted in Chennai.

Tearful adieu to Kannur ADM

Pathanamthitta (Kerala): Emotional scenes were witnessed at the District Collectorate and at the residence of former Kannur ADM Naveen Babu here, where his mortal remains were kept for public display before his pyre was lit by his daughters Thursday afternoon. Meanwhile, CPI(M) leader P P Divya who was earlier in the day booked for the offence of abetment to suicide in connection with the death of Naveen Babu, was removed from the post of Kannur District Panchayat President by the Left party.

India extends first-ever rupee-denominated line of credit; Mauritius gets ₹487 crore

New Delhi: India has extended a new line of credit amounting to ₹487.60 crore to the government of Mauritius for financing of a water pipeline replacement project, the Ministry of External Affairs said Thursday. "This is the first-ever rupee-denominated Line of Credit to have been extended by India for project financing to any country under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS)," the ministry said in a statement. The project envisages replacement of nearly 100 km of obsolete water pipeline in Mauritius.



Various folk artists take part in a Valmiki Jayanti event in Bangalore, Karnataka

PTI PHOTO

SECTION 6A OF CITIZENSHIP ACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Section 6A, which was incorporated in the Citizenship Act 1955 following the signing of the 1985 Assam Accord, was upheld by the Supreme Court. The following explains the special provision of the law and its possible ramifications.

What is Section 6A of the Citizenship Act 1955?

Section 6A was inserted into the Citizenship Act as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the 1985 Assam Accord signed by the then Rajiv Gandhi government with the All Assam Students Union (AASU), then headed by Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, who later twice became Chief Minister of Assam. It is referred in the law as "special provisions as to citizenship of persons covered by the Assam Accord".

Origin, issue, top court verdict, explained



The provision provides that those who had come to Assam on or after January 1, 1966, but before March 25, 1971, from specified territories, including Bangladesh, and since then are residents of Assam, must register themselves under Section 18 for citizenship. These people were barred from registering as citizens of India for 10 years from the day of their detection as per the provision of the Assam

Accord. As per Assam Accord, those who had come after March 25, 1971, are bound to be deported from India. As a result, the Section 6A fixes March 25, 1971, as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to migrants, particularly the ones from Bangladesh, residing in Assam.

Why the validity of Section 6A was challenged in the top court?

The Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha and many other

petitioners challenged the provision, saying that it singles out Assam and has facilitated mass immigration. They claimed that Assam's demography has changed drastically due to the citizenship being granted to immigrants who claim that they entered Assam before the March 25, 1971. They wanted 1951 as the cut-off year for detection and deportation of illegal immigrants from Assam. The petitioners had challenged Section 6A first in 2012 while arguing that Section 6A was discriminatory, arbitrary and illegal so far as it provides for different cut-off dates for regularising illegal migrants who entered Assam and the rest of India.

What apex court held?

In a majority verdict, the Supreme Court Thursday upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955. Chief Justice of India

(CJI) D Y Chandrachud, writing for himself, upheld the validity and said the magnitude of influx of migrants in Assam is higher as compared to other states considering the smaller land size and the detection of foreigner is an elaborate process. Besides, Justice Surya Kant, who wrote for himself and Justices M M Sundresh and Manoj Misra, concurred with the CJI and held that Parliament had the legislative competence to enact such a provision.

The majority verdict held that cut off date of March 25, 1971 for entry into Assam and granting citizenship is correct. Justice J B Pardiwala, however, dissented and held Section 6A as unconstitutional.

He said the open-ended nature of Section 6A had become more prone to abuse due to the advent of forged documents.

Mixed reactions

AASU, which has spearheaded a six-year-long agitation against illegal immigrants in Assam between 1979 and 1985, welcomed the Supreme Court judgment. The influential students body said the Supreme Court has given its stamp of approval to the Assam Accord under which all those who had entered Assam illegally must be detected and deported from the country. However, Matiur Rahman, a former AASU leader, who filed the original petition in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Sanmilita Mahasangha, an Assam-based organisation, challenging the inclusion of Section 6A in the Citizenship Act, said he was not expecting such a verdict. He termed the ruling as "unfortunate" saying it will make the state a "dumping ground" for foreigners.

international

of the day quote

We have information from our intelligence that some officers of the North Korean army are already on Ukrainian territory temporarily occupied by the Russian enemies. So they joined the Russian army

For too long, the government failed to live up to its commitments. We vowed to fix that, and because of actions from our administration, now over 1 million public service workers have gotten the relief they are entitled to under the law

Those who worked with me during the last two and a half years are well experienced in handling the economy. They have the experience to do it. Whether you are in the Opposition or government, experience will be important in handling the economy

SHORT TAKES

US' B-2 targets Houthi rebels

Dubai: US long-range B-2 stealth bombers launched airstrikes early Thursday morning targeting underground bunkers used by Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said. It wasn't immediately clear what damage was done in the strikes. However, it is incredibly rare for the B-2 Spirit to be used in the strikes targeting the Houthis, who have been attacking ships for months in the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel reported airstrikes around Yemen's capital, Sanaa, which the group has held since 2014. They also reported strikes around the Houthi stronghold of Saada. They offered no immediate information on damage or casualties.

Suicide bomber attack in Somalia

Mogadishu: Seven people died and six others were injured after a suicide bomber detonated an unidentified device at a café outside a police training school in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, police said Thursday. Police say the victims included officers and civilians who were having tea outside the General Kaahiye Police Academy Thursday. The al-Qaeda linked militant group, al-Shabab, claimed responsibility for the attack through a statement published on its affiliate website. The group has in the past carried out attacks in Somalia. Resident Mohamed Ali said he heard a loud blast. "The café was full of people enjoying their tea, and then everything was chaos," he said.

Italy's crackdown on surrogacy

Rome: Italy's Parliament made it illegal Wednesday for couples to go abroad to have a baby via surrogacy, a pet project of Prime Minister's Giorgia Meloni party which activists say is meant to target same-sex partners. The legislation extends a surrogacy ban already in place in Italy since 2004 to those who go to countries such as the United States or Canada, where it is legal, imposing jail terms of up to two years and fines of up to 1 million euros (\$1.09 million). Earlier this year, Meloni called surrogacy an "inhuman" practice that treated children as supermarket products, echoing a position expressed by the Catholic Church.



I was just saying what was reported (regarding immigrants eating pets). All I do is report. I was there, I'm going to be there and we're going to take a look

DONALD TRUMP | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

MURMU IN MALAWI

President Droupadi Murmu Thursday says that India and Malawi can come together to find synergy in multiple sectors as there is immense scope for enhancing cooperation



Israel confirms Hamas chief's death

The Israeli military says it has killed Yahya Sinwar in an operation in the southern Gaza Strip

REUTERS

Jerusalem, Oct 17: Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, mastermind of the October 7, 2023 attack that triggered the Gaza war, has been killed by Israeli forces in the Palestinian enclave, Israel said Thursday.

His killing marks a huge success for Israel and a pivotal event in the year-long war, although there are a number of possible scenarios.

The Israeli military said it had killed Sinwar, 62, in an operation in the southern Gaza Strip Wednesday.

"After completing the process of identifying the body, it can be confirmed that Yahya Sinwar was eliminated," it said.

There was no immediate comment from Hamas.

In Israel, families of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza said they hoped that a ceasefire could now be reached that would bring home the captives. In Gaza, pounded relentlessly by Israeli forces for a year, residents said they believed the war would go on.

Israeli Foreign Minister Katz said: "This is a great military and moral achievement for Israel and a victory for the entire free world against the axis of evil of radical Islam led by Iran."

He called Sinwar a "mass murderer who was responsible for the massacre and atrocities of October 7", the Hamas-led attack on Israel that triggered the Gaza war. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant addressed Hamas fighters, saying it "is time to go out, release the hostages, raise your hands, surrender."



Yahya Sinwar was an insurmountable obstacle to achieving all of those goals. That obstacle no longer exists. But much work remains before us

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

Sinwar, who was named as Hamas' overall leader following the assassination of political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July, was believed to have been hiding in the warren of tunnels Hamas has built under Gaza over the past two decades.

His death could dial up hostilities in the Middle East where the prospect of an even wider conflict has grown. Israel has launched a ground campaign in Lebanon over the past month

and is now planning a response to an October 1 missile attack carried out by Iran, ally of Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Israel's Army Radio said the killing had occurred during a ground operation in the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip during which Israeli troops killed three militants and took their bodies. It said visual evidence suggested it was likely that one of the men was Sinwar. The corpse was taken away for DNA tests and checking of dental records. Israel has samples of Sinwar's DNA from time he spent in an Israeli jail.

A ruthless enforcer once tasked with punishing Palestinians suspected of informing for Israel, Sinwar made his name as a prison leader.

He emerged as a street hero from a 22-year Israeli sentence for masterminding the abduc-

tion and murder of two Israeli soldiers and four Palestinians. He then quickly rose to the top of the Hamas ranks. He was dedicated to eradicating Israel.

Israel has killed several commanders of Hamas in Gaza as well as senior figures of Hezbollah in Lebanon, dealing heavy blows to its arch-foes.

In Milan, Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani. Speaking just before the death

The leader was believed to have been hiding in the warren of tunnels Hamas has built under Gaza

was confirmed, told reporters: "I hope that the disappearance of the Hamas leader will lead to a ceasefire in Gaza."

US President Joe Biden said that slain Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar's death marks a moment of relief for Israelis while providing the opportunity for a "day after" in Gaza without the militant group in power.

"Yahya Sinwar was an insurmountable obstacle to achieving all of those goals. That obstacle no longer exists. But much work remains before us," Biden said in a statement. "I will be speaking soon with Prime Minister Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders to congratulate them, to discuss the pathway for bringing the hostages home to their families, and for ending this war once and for all, which has caused so much devastation to innocent people," Biden said.

China prefers Harris over Trump

During Trump's presidency, the relations declined sharply and the two countries ended up in serious confrontation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Oct 17: China will prefer Kamala Harris to Donald Trump as the next US presidential candidate considering that bilateral ties deteriorated sharply during the latter's presidency leading to serious confrontation, a senior member of the Chinese national advisory body said on Thursday.

The Chinese government prefers not to comment on the US presidential election because it doesn't want to be accused of interfering in American domestic politics, Jia Qingguo, member of the Standing Committee of the national advisory body CPPCC said.

The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is a key component of the state governance system and a distinctively Chinese political institution.

The views of the Chinese general public are divided over Harris and Trump, but "I would prefer Harris because of the bad experience with Trump. We don't want to have that experience again," he told BBC in a rare comment voicing Beijing's preferred choice in the US presidential election.

During Trump's presidency, the relations declined sharply and the two countries ended up



in serious confrontation. "From China's point of view, US Vice President Kamala Harris, who has worked under President Biden, represents the continuity," he said.

Trump, during his Presidency, was quite emotional and spread a lot of bad information about China, said Jia, who is also the Director of the Institute of Global Cooperation and Understanding of the Peking University.

"We have problems with the Biden admiration too," but Biden inherited a lot of tough measures initiated by Trump against China for the reasons of domestic politics and perhaps out of his ideological conviction, he said, adding, "Under Biden, the US policy towards China is more stable, predictable."

"We are re-engaging with each other. Officials are meeting with each other; talking about issues," which he said is stabilising the relations.

While following a tough policy towards China, including firming up US policy to challenge Beijing's claims over the disputed South China Sea and Taiwan, and restricting China's ambitious move to export its electric vehicles, Biden, however, has maintained regular dialogue with President Xi Jinping to keep the tensions under control.

SNIPPETS

Ex-Pak PM Nawaz Sharif reaches out to New Delhi

Lahore: India and Pakistan should "bury" the past and look at the future to live like good neighbours, former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Thursday, in remarks seen as an attempt to reach out to New Delhi following Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar's trip to Islamabad this week. In an interaction with a group of Indian journalists, the three-time Prime Minister and President of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) described Jaishankar's visit as a "good opening" and said both sides should now engage and move forward. Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise trip to Lahore in December 2015, Sharif said he was not happy with the "long-pause" in the ties between the two countries and hoped that both sides should look ahead with a positive approach. "We can't change our neighbours, neither can Pakistan nor can India. We should live like good neighbours," the 74 year-old leader said.



B'desh tribunal issues arrest warrants against Hasina

The arrest warrant against Hasina can, technically, open up the possibility of the country's interim govt seeking her extradition from India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Oct 17: Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal Thursday issued arrest warrants against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted after massive anti-government protests, and 45 others for alleged crimes against humanity.

The tribunal directed the authorities to produce Hasina and the others before it by November 18, local media reported.

The arrest warrant against Hasina could, technically, open up the possibility of the country's interim government seeking her extradition from India, where



she fled August 5.

The decision to approach India on this is likely to be a political call. Dhaka, however, has indicated earlier that this remains an option. Advocate Tajul Islam, the tribunal's chief prosecutor, Sunday said Interpol's assistance would be sought to bring back the "fugitives", including Hasina.

Hasina, 77, landed at the Hindon airbase near Delhi August 5 as the protests, which started out as an agitation by students over a controversial quota for government jobs, peaked. She was believed to have been shifted later to an unspecified location, and has not been seen in public since then.

The warrants against Hasina and others, including her party Awami League's top leaders, were issued on the first day of the judicial proceedings by the re-constituted tribunal, the Dhaka Tribune said.

The tribunal led by Justice Golam Mortuza Majumdar passed the order after the prosecution filed two petitions seeking the arrest warrants, Islam was quoted as saying by the Daily Star. So far, more than 60 complaints of enforced disappearance and murder have been filed at the tribunal against Hasina, other leaders from the Awami League-led 14-party alliance, journalists and former officials of law enforcement agencies.

Altogether, Hasina faces almost 200 cases, mostly murders during the student protests.

Hundreds of people were killed also in the violence that erupted across the country following the fall of the Hasina government.

Lahore college rape case

Over 250 students held as protesters ransack campuses



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Oct 17: At least 250 students were arrested Thursday in Rawalpindi for violence during protests against an alleged on-campus rape in a Lahore college as the agitation spread to other cities of Punjab province in Pakistan.

The protests erupted Monday in at least four boys' and girls' campuses of the privately-owned Punjab Group of Colleges following social media reports that a female student at the Gulberg girls' campus in Lahore had allegedly been raped by a security guard in the institution's basement.

Police claimed they have the suspect in custody, but he has denied the allegation.

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has blamed jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for spreading fake news on social media and said that no such incident had taken place. On Wednesday, a large number of students held demonstrations in Jehlum, Faisalabad, and Gujrat, demanding justice for the alleged rape victim.

On Thursday, protests spread to Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujrat, Attock, Sargodha, and Vehari districts of Punjab. The student protesters ransacked a college building in Rawalpindi, forcing police to fire tear gas to disperse them.

Later, 250 students were taken into custody, the police said.

The police said legal actions were being taken against those involved in disrupting peace. The guilty would be punished, they added. "Police personnel have been deployed at various locations across the city," Rawalpindi Police said on X, adding that it was fully prepared to deal with any law and order situation.

"Parents are requested to keep their children away from illegal activities. The future of children can be ruined in case of legal action," it added.

UN report says 1.1 billion people in acute poverty

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

United Nations, Oct 17: More than one billion people are living in acute poverty across the globe, a UN Development Program report said Thursday, with children accounting for over half of those affected.

The paper published with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) highlighted that poverty rates were three times higher in countries at war, as 2023 saw the most

conflicts around the world since the Second World War.

The UNDP and the OPHI have published their Multidimensional Poverty Index annually since 2010, harvesting data from 112 countries with a combined population of 6.3 billion people.

It uses indicators such as a lack of adequate housing, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, nutrition and school attendance.



THE REPORT ECHOES LAST YEAR'S FINDINGS THAT 1.1 BILLION OUT OF 6.1 BILLION PEOPLE ACROSS 110 COUNTRIES WERE FACING EXTREME MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

"The 2024 MPI paints a sobering picture: 1.1 billion people endure multidimensional poverty, of which 455 million live in the shadow of conflict," said Yanchun Zhang, chief statistician at the UNDP.

"For the poor in conflict-affected countries, the struggle for basic needs is a far harsher and more desperate battle," Zhang told AFP.

The report echoed last year's findings that 1.1 billion out of 6.1 billion people across 110 countries were facing extreme multidimensional poverty.

Thursday's paper showed that some 584 million people under 18 were experiencing extreme poverty, accounting for 27.9 percent of children worldwide, compared with

13.5 percent of adults.

It also showed that 83.2 percent of the world's poorest people live in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Sabina Alkire, director of the OPHI, told AFP that conflicts were hindering efforts for poverty reduction.

"At some level, these findings are intuitive. But what shocked us was the sheer magnitude of people who are struggling to live a decent life and at the same time fearing for their safety, -455 million," she said.

"This points to a stark but unavoidable challenge to the international community to both zero in on poverty reduction and foster peace, so that any ensuing peace actually endures," Alkire added. India was the country with the largest number of people in extreme poverty, which impacts 234 million of its 1.4 billion population.

It was followed by Pakistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The five countries accounted for nearly half of the 1.1 billion poor people.

business

of the day quote

The price at which the Chinese are selling their solar glasses in India is even lower than the prices of raw material, power and fuel expenses. If the Indian government does not impose anti-dumping duty on imports, then the domestic industry will die

SHREEVAR KHERUKA | VC, BOROSIL RENEWABLES

Steady realisation and increased volume will propel revenue of secondary long-steel producers this fiscal. Owing to higher volume, the sector's capacity utilisation will rise to 83 per cent this fiscal from 80 per cent last fiscal

RAHUL GUHA | DIRECTOR, CRISIL RATINGS

The festive season sparked renewed sales momentum, leading to a sharp rise in property registrations

SHISHIR BAJAJ | CHAIRMAN AND MD, KNIGHT FRANK

Q2 RESULTS

Infosys profit rises

New Delhi: Infosys Ltd Thursday reported a 4.7 per cent rise in the September quarter net profit and raised revenue guidance after broad-based growth. Net profit of ₹6,506 crore in July-September was up 4.7 per cent when compared to ₹6,212 crore earnings in the same period last year. It was 2.2 per cent higher quarter-on-year. Infosys for the second consecutive quarter raised the 2024-25 fiscal year revenue guidance.

Wipro profit climbs

New Delhi: IT company Wipro Thursday reported a 21.2 per cent increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹3,208.8 crore for the second quarter of FY25. It had reported a profit of ₹2,646.3 crore in the year-ago period. The revenue from operations for the reporting quarter was ₹22,301.6 crore, a 0.95 per cent decline from ₹22,515.9 crore in Q2 FY24.

Central Bank zooms

New Delhi: State-owned Central Bank of India Thursday posted a 51 per cent jump in profit at ₹913 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024. The lender had earned a net profit of ₹605 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Total income increased to ₹9,849 crore during the quarter under review, as against ₹8,412 crore in the same period last year, Central Bank of India said.

Axis Bank net up

New Delhi: Axis Bank Thursday reported an 18 per cent growth in net profit to ₹6,918 crore in the second quarter ended September 2024. The private sector lender had earned a net profit of ₹5,864 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Its total income increased to ₹37,142 crore during the quarter under review against ₹31,660 crore in the same period last year, Axis said.

JSL net profit slips

New Delhi: Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL) reported a 20 per cent fall in consolidated net profit at ₹609.42 crore during the quarter ended September 30, 2024 due to increased input costs. It had posted a net profit of ₹764.03 crore in the July-September period of the preceding 2023-24 fiscal, the company said. The company's total income fell to ₹9,823.88 crore in the quarter under review, from ₹9,828.97 crore in the same quarter a year ago.



Within two years, we are going to reduce our logistics cost to 9 per cent

NITIN GADKARI | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

AIRLINES' WINTER SCHEDULE

Indian airlines will operate 25,007 flights every week to and from 124 airports in the winter schedule starting October 27, according to aviation regulator DGCA. The number of flights is three per cent higher than 24,275 departures per week from 125 airports in the current summer schedule. In comparison to the winter schedule 2023, the number of flights has increased by 5.37 per cent. The winter schedule is from October 27, 2024 till March 29, 2025



India poised to be 3rd largest economy by '30: S&P

Rising population presents challenges, says the global ratings agency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: India is poised to be the third largest global economy by 2030 but rising population presents mounting challenges in basic service coverage and growing investment needs to maintain productivity, S&P Global Ratings said Thursday.

It said emerging economies have high ambitions for the next

decade and beyond with India aiming to become a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, from the current \$3.6 trillion.

"India is poised to be the fastest-growing major economy over the next three years and the third largest globally by 2030. Its 2024 entry into JP Morgan's Government Emerging Market Bond Index could provide additional government funding and unlock significant resources in domestic capital markets. This is only a first step - investors will continue looking for improved market access and settlement procedures," S&P said.



India is currently the fifth largest economy

In its report titled 'Look forward Emerging Markets: A decisive decade', S&P said emerging markets will play a crucial role in shaping the global economy over the next decade, averaging 4.06 per cent GDP growth

through 2035, compared to 1.59 per cent for advanced economies.

By 2035, emerging markets will contribute about 65 per cent of global economic growth. This growth will be driven mainly by emerging economies in Asia-Pacific, including China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines.

"Also by 2035, India will be cemented as the world's third-largest economy, with Indonesia and Brazil ranking eighth and ninth, respectively," S&P said.

India, it said, has also taken measures to improve its weak fiscal flexibility by boosting its capital expenditure, further sup-

porting long-term growth.

But population challenges are meaningful, with the country expected to have the world's largest population by 2035. This presents mounting challenges in basic service coverage and growing investment needs to maintain productivity, S&P said.

Stating that India is positioned to grow its economy in the next decade, the US-based agency said as the next decade approaches, the economic trajectory of emerging markets will likely be heavily influenced by their governments' design and execution of long-term growth strategies.

IPO FRENZY

Hyundai's record IPO oversubscribed

New Delhi: The initial public offer of Hyundai Motor India Ltd, the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, got subscribed 2.37 times on the third day of the bidding Thursday, helped by institutional buyers. This is the largest IPO in the country, surpassing LIC's initial share sale of ₹21,000 crore. The ₹27,870 crore initial share sale got bids for 23,63,26,937 shares against 9,97,69,810 shares on offer, translating into 2.37 times subscription, as per NSE data. The demand was led by Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) who bid for 6.97 times the shares earmarked for them. The portion meant for non-institutional investors fetched 60 per cent subscription and Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 50 per cent subscription. This is the first initial share sale by an automaker in over two decades, following Japanese carmaker Maruti Suzuki's listing in 2003. Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) on Monday raised ₹8,315 crore from anchor investors. The IPO has a price band of ₹1,865-1,960 per share.



INVESTORS' SENTIMENT SPOOKED

Shares continue slide

FALLING FOR THIRD STRAIGHT SESSION, SENSEX AND NIFTY DROP TO TWO-MONTH LOWS ON SELLING IN BANKING AND AUTO SHARES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Oct 17: Benchmark Sensex lost nearly 495 points Thursday to close at a nearly two-month low due to selling in select banking, auto and realty shares and foreign fund outflows.

Falling for the third straight day, the 30-share Sensex tanked 494.75 points or 0.61 per cent to settle at 81,006.61, the lowest closing level since August 21, 2024. During the day, the barometer tumbled 595.72 points or 0.73 per cent to 80,905.64.

The broader 50-issue Nifty slumped 221.45 points or 0.89 per cent to settle at 24,749.85 as 41 of its constituents declined.

Analysts said intense selling in realty, auto, consumer discretionary and consumer durable stocks dragged the markets down.

Among Sensex firms, Nestle declined the most by over 3 per cent after the FMCG major reported a drop in its net profit to ₹899.49 crore for the second quarter that ended September 2024, as some of its key brands faced



softer consumer demand and high commodity prices.

Mahindra & Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Maruti, Axis Bank and Tata Steel were among the other big laggards.

However, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro and State Bank of India were among the biggest gainers.

The BSE midcap gauge declined 1.65 per cent and smallcap index fell 1.42 per cent.

Among the indices, realty tumbled 3.76 per cent, auto (3.48 per cent), consumer discretionary (2.45 per cent), consumer durables (2.28 per cent), commodities (1.77 per cent), oil & gas (1.54 per cent) and power (1.48 per cent).

BSE IT and teck emerged as

the only gainers. A total of 2,690 stocks declined while 1,272 advanced and 102 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Rupee traded in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 4 paise to 84.06 against the US dollar Thursday.

Investors' wealth erodes by ₹6L-crore

Investors' wealth slumped Rs 6 lakh crore Thursday as markets fell sharply amid unabated foreign fund outflows. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tanked ₹6,03,862.06 crore to ₹4,57,25,183.01 crore (\$5.44 trillion). Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,435.94 crore Wednesday.

Traders said increased buying by local jewellers to meet festive demand and a rally in the precious metal rates in the global markets mainly lifted gold prices to record high levels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Rallying for the second straight day, gold prices advanced ₹450 to hit another record of ₹79,350 per 10 grams in the national capital Thursday on the back of continued buying by jewellers and stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹78,900 per 10 grams in the previous session Wednesday.

However, silver remained flat at ₹93,500 per kg.

In futures trade on the Multi

Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for December delivery reached a lifetime high of ₹77,019 per 10 grams. However, silver contracts for December delivery depreciated ₹181 or 0.2 per cent to ₹92,002 per kg on the bourse.

In the Asian market hours, Comex gold futures rose 0.43 per cent to \$2,703 per ounce.

According to Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, gold climbed toward a fresh record high on Thursday. Safe haven demand and a positive outlook from the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) supported the recent rally in bullion prices.

Meanwhile, silver futures slipped 0.15 per cent to \$31.93 per ounce in the international markets.

The European Central Bank looks set to deliver another rate cut later on Thursday, while a drop in inflation was indicated a rate cut next month by the Bank of England.

Airtel AI putting an end to spam calls, messages in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Oct 17: Bharti Airtel's new AI-powered spam detection system has provided much-needed relief to customers in Odisha. In the 20 days since its launch, this pioneering telecom solution has successfully identified 54 million potential spam calls and 2 million spam messages in the state of Odisha.

All Airtel mobile customers



in the state can now have automatic access to the free so-

lution without needing to request service or download an app.

Balaji Singh, Chief Operating Officer, Odisha, Bharti Airtel said, "As connectivity becomes more widespread, customers increasingly face a barrage of scams, fraud, and malicious communications that can leave them feeling vulnerable. To combat these digital threats, Airtel is proud to introduce a cutting-edge, AI-driven solu-

tion that proactively detects suspected spam calls and messages. By leveraging advanced technology, Airtel is enhancing protection for its 19.2 million-strong customer base and helping to create a safer communication landscape for all."

Developed in-house by Airtel's data scientists, the AI-powered solution uses a proprietary algorithm to identify and classify calls and messages as 'suspected spam'.

SPECTRUM BATTLE

Musk's win raises prospect of price war with Ambani

IGNORING ASIA'S RICHEST MAN, MUKESH AMBANI, GOVT SIDES WITH MUSK ON SATELLITE SPECTRUM ALLOCATION

REUTERS

New Delhi, Oct 17: Having just lost a battle with Elon Musk over how India's satellite spectrum is awarded, Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani could face a bigger challenge if Musk's Starlink launches services in India and the two go head-to-head on price.

India's government said Tuesday it will allocate spectrum for satellite broadband administratively and not via auction, hours after Musk criticised the auction route being sought by rival billionaire Ambani as "unprecedented".

Musk's Starlink, a unit of SpaceX which has 6,400 active satellites orbiting earth to provide low-latency broadband to 4 million customers, has publicly expressed interest in launching in India, but its plans faced repeated regulatory roadblocks.

Ambani, who runs India's biggest telecom company, Reliance Jio, had tried since last year to seek a "balanced competitive landscape" and wanted to keep Musk at bay, as experts say a spectrum auction would have required much more investment and deterred foreign players.

Reliance, which has dominated India's telecom sector for years, is now concerned that after spending \$19 billion in airwave auctions it risks losing broadband customers to Musk, and potentially even data and voice clients later as technology advances, a person with direct knowledge said Thursday.

The Indian government says its decision to allocate spectrum administratively to whoever applies for it is in line with global trends.

It has not set a timeframe for when the process will start but Musk's Starlink has already ap-



Starlink's entry into the Indian market would create a new battleground between the two billionaires: Pricing. Mukesh Ambani once gave data for free on his mobile plans, but Elon Musk is no stranger to such tactics which can unsettle local players

plied for necessary permits.

Musk has thousands of operational satellites, while Reliance has partnered with Luxembourg-based SES Astra, which non-

Starlink can price aggressively because it doesn't need to add more satellites

TIM FARRAR | SATELLITE INDUSTRY ANALYST, TMF ASSOCIATES

United States, with rental plans available for higher hardware cost. Kenya's Safaricom in July complained to local regulators, calling for players like Starlink to be required to partner with mobile networks, and not operate independently.

ONLINE BANTER
For now, even before the real battle starts on the ground, the Musk-Ambani rivalry is increasingly on display.

A Reuters report this week said that Ambani was again lobbying New Delhi to auction satellite spectrum for a "level playing field" caught Musk's attention, after a social media user asked if Ambani was scared of Musk disrupting the Indian billionaire's telecom empire.

"I will call (Ambani) and ask if it would not be too much trouble to allow Starlink to compete to provide internet services to the people of India," Musk joked in

a post on X in response.

INDIA POTENTIAL

In India, a Reliance Jio fibre-based, high-speed broadband plan costs \$10 per month, with router free on long-term plans. It has a 30% market share in the wired broadband market.

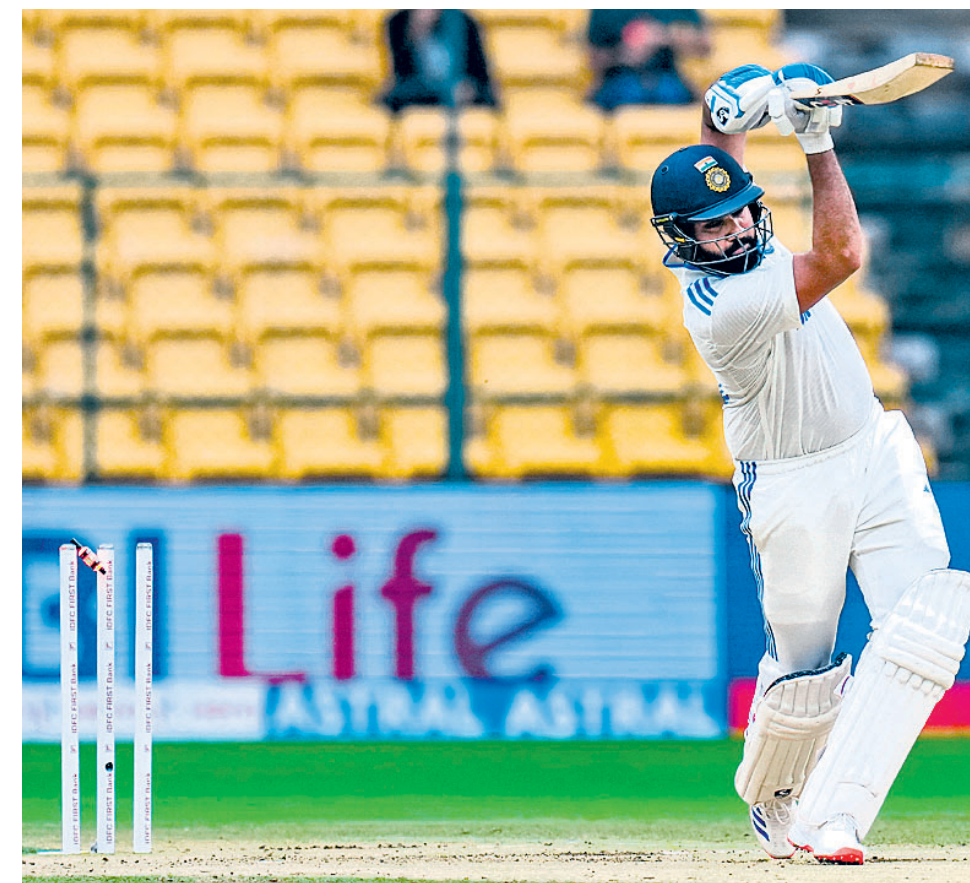
Starlink has plans to offer an unlimited internet data plan in India initially and target corporate clients, said a second industry source familiar with the matter.

With 42 million wired broadband internet users and 904 million telecom users on networks like 4G and 5G, India is the world's second-biggest telecom market after China.

Internet penetration in India stood at 52.4% as of early 2024, according to DataReportal and there are still 25,000 villages without internet. And even in urban cities, many areas don't have fibre-based fast internet offerings.

HOSTS GET BOWLED OUT FOR 46, THEIR LOWEST TEST TOTAL ON HOME SOIL

Apocalypse in Bangalore



(Left): Rohit Sharma's bats go flying as he attempts to play a shot; Matt Henry celebrates with teammates after picking up a wicket

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Oct 17: The first Test between India and New Zealand here was scheduled to start Wednesday, but it did not happen due to incessant rains. A day before, that is Tuesday, head coach Gautam Gambhir had said that India will play high risk cricket as without it there can be no gains. He had also said that if the side get bowled out for less than 100 runs, then the situation will be tackled accordingly. Little did he know then that such a situation will materialise so soon as the hosts were bowled out Thursday for 46, India's lowest total on home soil.

At the end of the day, India who were looking for a clean sweep of the series find themselves in a precarious condition as New Zealand reached 180 for three riding on Devon Conway's 91. The visitors have already got a lead of 134 runs and from here on, India's only hope is to save the game and forget about the se-

INDIA'S LOWEST TOTALS IN TESTS		
Total	Opposition	Year
36	Australia	2021
42	England	1974
46	New Zealand	2024
58	England	1952
66	South Africa	1996
75	West Indies	1987

ries sweep. Daryl Mitchell (14) and Rachin Ravindra (22) were manning the crease at stumps. India's day turned gloomier as Rishabh Pant limped out of the field after a sharply-turned ball from Ravindra Jadeja slammed on to his left knee.

The visiting batters needed to build on the phenomenal effort of the bowlers, and Conway did the job to perfection. He first added 67 runs for the opening wicket with skipper Tom Latham (15), who fell to Kuldeep Yadav, and then 75 with Will Young for the second as New Zealand

marched ahead confidently. Conway brought up his 50 off 54 balls with a six off Ravichandran Ashwin over the bowler's head. Young was more fortuitous but gave brave company to Conway before perishing to Jadeja in his attempt to sweep the left-arm spinner.

The 33-year-old Conway gauged the pace and bounce of the surface to a nicety and displayed the footwork of a boxer to negate the Indian spinners. It was quite exceptional to play over 100 balls without even a single false shot on a pitch like this and against

STATS FACTS	
5	Number of top eight batters who were dismissed for ducks
46	India's lowest total at home, beating the 75 against West Indies in 1987
46	Lowest total by any team in Test cricket in Asia, beating the 52 by West Indies against Pakistan in 2002
26	Tests required by Matt Henry to complete 100 wickets, the 2nd quickest after Richard Hadlee (25)

an accomplished set of bowlers. However, he decided to play a needless reverse sweep against Ashwin to get bowled, and he was understandably gutted while walking away.

Earlier, Kiwi pacers Mark Henry (5/15) and William O'Rourke (4/22) engineered a batting collapse of Adelaidean

proportions, smantling India for 46. The duo used their high release point to generate disconcerting bounce from hard lengths, which the India batters found tough to negotiate.

However, it was Tim Southee's wobble seam and fuller length that helped New Zealand gain the first breakthrough. Southee castled Rohit Sharma, who opted rather inexplicably to bat first in conditions which were more Christchurch than sub-continental, with a nip-backer.

Even at that point, a slip-up akin to that 36 all out in Adelaide was unimaginable. However, that horror script from three years ago found an encore here, as India were all out shortly after lunch, comfortably beating the previous lowest of 75 they made against the West Indies at New Delhi in 1987. Five of the batters were dismissed for ducks including Virat Kohli. India lost their last seven wickets for only 15 runs as they failed to tackle the Kiwi pacers.

Rohit admits he made a mistake

INDIAN SKIPPER ASSERTS THAT HOSTS CAN STILL SAVE THE MATCH

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Oct 17: India skipper Rohit Sharma admitted he was 'hurting' after his team crashed to their lowest-ever total of 46 at home on the second day of the opening Test against New Zealand here Thursday. After Rohit opted to bat in overcast conditions, India's innings folded in just 31.2 overs with five home batters not even managing to open their accounts.

"I am hurting to see this score of 46 as a captain as it was my bad calls in a year is quite alright," Rohit said at the day-end press conference. "I thought that if we could see off the initial overs, we would post a good score. However, that did not happen. I take full responsibility for my mistake," the Indian skipper added.

The 46 all-out is the first instance in which the team failed to cross the 50-run mark in a Test innings at home.

Rohit however asserted that all hope is not lost for the hosts. "We have the capability to bat for two days. I know the talent that we have. We may be at the back-foot at present, but we can cer-

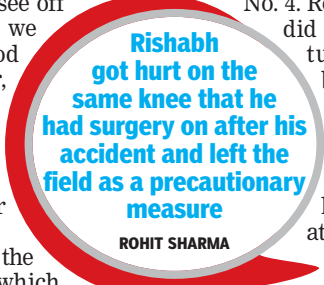
tainly save this Test match," the Indian skipper said.

Rohit also allayed concerns around a limping Rishabh Pant on the second day. He said the keeper-batter left the field 'more as a precautionary measure'. The sight of Pant walking off the field added to India's woes on a forgettable day.

"Rishabh got hit on the left knee, the same he had surgery on. So he left the field more as a precautionary measure. Hopefully we can see him back on field tomorrow (Friday)," Rohit said.

Rohit was asked about the decision to promote Virat Kohli to No. 3 in the batting order as the latter's position is usually No. 4. Rohit said that he did not want to disturb KL Rahul's batting position.

"We did not want to touch KL's batting position much, he has found a place at No. 6 so let's give him a rope there, same with Sarfaraz (Khan). Virat was the one who wanted to take the responsibility and that's a good sign indeed," Rohit stated. It should be stated here that Sarfaraz was inducted into the side at the last moment after Shubman Gill was ruled out with a stiff neck.



PTI PHOTOS

SHORT TAKES

Ganguly gets new role in JSW Sports

New Delhi: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly was Thursday appointed Director of Cricket for JSW Sports, his role covering all its cricketing properties including the Delhi team in the IPL and the WPL along with Pretoria Capitals franchise in SA20. JSW Sports and GMR Group co-own Delhi Capitals in the IPL and WPL while Pretoria Capitals is owned solely by JSW Sports. "In his role, Ganguly will spearhead all cricketing properties owned by JSW Sports, including the Delhi Capitals men's IPL and women's WPL teams, and the Pretoria Capitals that play in the SA20 League in South Africa," said JSW Sports in a statement.

Swiatek appoints Wim as her coach

New Delhi: World No.1 in women's tennis, Iga Swiatek announced Thursday the appointment of Wim Fissette as her new coach ahead of next month's WTA Finals in Riyadh. Fissette became Swiatek's first non-Polish coach as well as third coach at the top level of her career. "I'm excited and motivated to start a new chapter. I'm happy to announce that Wim Fissette is joining our team as my coach. I want to say that I'm very excited and looking forward to working with Wim. He seems to have a great attitude, vision and huge experience," Swiatek said on Instagram.

Steyn quits SRH

Mumbai: Fast bowling great Dale Steyn has confirmed he will not be returning to the IPL side Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) for the next edition as their bowling coach. "Cricket announcement. A big thank you to Sunrisers Hyderabad for my few years with them as bowling coach at the IPL, unfortunately, I won't be returning for IPL 2025," Steyn wrote on 'X'. Steyn however, will continue with the franchise in SA20.

Sindhu sinks Han to enter quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Odense (Denmark), Oct 17: PV Sindhu overcame a sluggish start to defeat World No. 7 Han Yue of China in a thrilling contest, progressing to the quarterfinals of the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here Thursday. Sindhu currently ranked 18th, won 18-21, 21-12, 21-16 in a second round match which lasted 63 minutes. This marks her first win over a top-10 player since defeating Han in the Malaysia Masters final in May.

A finalist in the 2015 edition here, Sindhu, the lone surviving Indian in the fray, will next face either Indonesia's Paris Olympic bronze medallist Gregoria Mariska Tunjung or Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in only her third quarterfinals this year.

Sindhu, who returned medal-less from Paris for the first time in three Olympics, has an overwhelming 10-2 record against Tunjung but the two haven't played each other this year so far.

Sindhu and Han started with



PV Sindhu

short rallies, splitting the initial eight points but Sindhu conceded five straight points to fall behind. She looked to extend the rallies to tire out her opponent, who had played a 79-minute opener Wednesday.

Han led 14-10 after the break, with Sindhu faltering in her aggressive approach. Poor execution of shots saw her struggle at 13-17. A body return cramped Sindhu, allowing Han to grab six game points, but the Indian saved four before Han won the game with a cross-court shot.

In the second and third games, Sindhu dominated the show to emerge a winner.

Vivaan, Naruka light up India's day

India finish with 4 medals in ISSF World Cup Final courtesy a silver and medal on concluding day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Two young shotgun marksmen from Jaipur, Vivaan Kapoor and Anantjeet Singh Naruka, lit up an otherwise lacklustre Indian campaign, winning a silver and a bronze on the concluding day of the year-ending ISSF World Cup Final here Thursday.

Vivaan, the 22-year-old trap shooter and 26-year-old Olympian skeet marksman Anantjeet, clinched the biggest medals of their careers at the famed Karni Singh Range as the hosts ended the elite competition with two silver and an equal number of bronze medals.

Vivaan shot 44 in the final as he was beaten to the gold by Paris Olympics silver medallist from China, Qi Ying, who shot 47. Vivaan had earlier shot 120 out of 125 in the qualification round to finish third and make it to the six-shooter final.

"It is a significant confidence booster as this is my first individual medal in the senior circuit," said the marksman. "I hope I can continue the good work," Vivaan added.

Undaunted by the strong field, which also had the likes of Czech Republic's David Kostelecky, the 2008 Beijing Olympics gold medal-



ECSTATIC MOMENT: Vivaan Kapoor smiles as he displays his silver medal Thursday at the Karni Singh Range

list, and former World Champion James Willett of Australia, Vivaan maintained his composure to miss only six targets out of 50 on way to silver.

"I told myself that I am competing at the same level as them

(top shooters). So I am not second to anyone, this is how one wins a medal," Vivaan said after the medal ceremony.

Naruka gave an equally commanding performance in the men's skeet final but was unlucky to finish with a bronze medal, partly due to the malfunction in the clay target machines, which upset his rhythm.

Twice during the final a snag in the clay target-throwing machine just when Anantjeet was about to take aim, forced the tall marksman to wait for a few minutes. He finally shot 43 to finish third, while Italy's Tammara Cassandro and country-mate Gabriele Rossetti clinched the top two positions with scores of 57 and 56 respectively.

Anantjeet however, was a little frustrated with the two malfunctions when he was taking aim. "When a 'no target' comes, it breaks your rhythm, and then you have to restart. I kept telling myself that silver or gold is another stage, I have to just concentrate," he said.

Discussion on draft sports bill held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Oct 17: Governance reforms, athlete welfare measures, and promotion of transparency in administration came up for deliberations as Union Sports Minister Manusukh Mandaviya chaired a consultation meeting with stakeholders on the 'Draft National Sports Governance Bill 2024' here Thursday.

Present in the meeting were Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha, representatives from national sports federations (NSFs), and national



Union Sports Minister Manusukh Mandaviya speaks during the meeting Thursday

sports promotion organisations (NSPOs).

"The 'Draft National Sports Governance Bill 2024' is a milestone in our mission to build a robust and transparent sports

governance structure in India that aligns with international standards, including the Olympic and Paralympic Charter. The active involvement of various stakeholders and public is crucial for shaping policies that reflect the aspirations of our sports community," Mandaviya said.

"By empowering athlete-centric federations, introducing the 'Safe Sports Policy', and establishing an 'Appellate Sports Tribunal', we are building a robust framework that not only elevates our athletes but also strengthen India's position on the global sports stage," Mandaviya added.

Indian thrash Pak in SAFF opener

AGENCIES

Kathmandu, Oct 17: India made an excellent start to their SAFF Women's Championship 2024 campaign as they outclassed Pakistan 5-2 in a Group A match at the Dasharath Stadium here Thursday. The five-time champions led 4-1 at half time. The game also marked skipper Ashalata Devi's 100th international match, the only Indian woman to do so.

Grace Dangmei (2), Manisha, Bala Devi and Jyoti Chauhan scored for India.

Tuchel ready for new challenge

AGENCIES

London, Oct 17: Thomas Tuchel has said he must rise to the challenge of ending England's wait for a first major trophy since 1966 as the German was unveiled as the new manager of the Three Lions Wednesday. Former Chelsea boss Tuchel will start his new job from January 1, 2025 on an 18-month deal to the conclusion of the 2026 World Cup.

"I know that there are some trophies missing in the federa-

tion and, of course, I want to help to make it happen," Tuchel told a press conference at the Wembley here.

"We will build on everything that Gareth (Southgate) and the FA built and hopefully we can add a little bit of extra to get it over the line. We will try to install values and principles and rules as quickly as possible to make the dream come true. I am sure the players want to win a trophy too," Tuchel added.

