



Grim reality

Actor Soundarya Sharma acknowledges the existence of casting couch in the Hindi film industry

LEISURE | P2



Putin's praise

Russian President Vladimir Putin says India deserves to be included in the list of global superpowers

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Rupee at new low

Declining for third straight session, rupee drops 5 paise to hit new lifetime low of 84.37 against US dollar

BUSINESS | P11



New coach for Chopra

India's chief athletics coach Radhakrishnan Nair says that a new coach for Neeraj Chopra will be selected by the end of the year

SPORTS | P12

State approves industrial projects worth ₹3,353cr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The state government Friday gave its nod to 15 new industrial projects with a total investment of ₹3,353 crore, which is expected to generate 4,637 jobs.

The approvals came during a meeting of the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority, chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

These projects cover a wide range of sectors, including chemical/renewable energy, steel, aluminium, food processing, manufacturing, textile & apparel, tourism, pharmaceuticals, and cement. They will be implemented across several districts. These projects reflect the state's continued focus on fostering a robust industrial landscape that promotes economic growth and employment generation in the state, said the Chief Secretary. **MORE P3**



TRADE & TRADITION: Preparations are in full swing for the upcoming Bali Yatra in Cuttack, Friday

PICT: BAIKSHORE MOHANTY

When weather kills Northeast on boil again

DEBASISH PANIGRAHI, OP

Extreme weather days and number of deaths from January 1 to September 30, 2024

STATE	EXTREME WEATHER DAYS	DEATHS
MADHYA PRADESH	176	353
UTTAR PRADESH	156	256
KERALA	113	550
MAHARASHTRA	142	208
HIMACHAL PRADESH	136	214
ODISHA	99	112

SOURCE: CENTRE FOR SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Extreme weather events, a direct consequence of human-induced climate change, have been taking a heavy toll on lives and properties in India. A disconcerting report published by the New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment has said that India faced extreme weather on 255 out of the first 274 days of 2024, leading to over 3,200 human casualties, apart from causing severe damage to houses, crops and livestock. Alarming, the adverse impacts of extreme weather events are amplified by their increased intensity, duration and spatial extent. India, home to the world's largest population, remains vulnerable to almost all forms of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, coldwaves, heavy precipitation, lightning, drought and storms. These events are likely to jeopardise the country's economy if immediate mitigating measures are not initiated

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: Extreme weather events claimed over 3,200 lives and destroyed over 2.3 lakh houses in India in the first nine months of 2024, according to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

India faced extreme weather events on 93 per cent of the days in the year's first nine months - 255 out of 274 days, the report said, adding extreme weather events claimed 3,238 lives, affected 3.2 million hectares (mha) of crops, destroyed 2,35,862 houses and buildings, and killed 9,457 livestock.

In comparison, the first nine months of 2023 recorded extreme weather on 235 of 273 days, with 2,923 deaths, 1.84

mha of crops affected, 80,293 houses damaged, and 92,519 animal deaths.

It is very likely that even these reported figures are an underestimation due to incomplete data collection on event-specific losses, particularly on public property and crop damage, data analysts who compiled the report pointed out.

Madhya Pradesh experienced extreme weather on 176 days - the most in the country. Kerala recorded the highest fatalities at 550, followed by Madhya Pradesh (353) and Assam (256). Andhra Pradesh had the most houses damaged (85,806), while Maharashtra, which saw extreme events on 142 days, accounted for over 60 per cent of the affected crop area nationwide, followed by Madhya Pradesh (25,170 ha).

Twenty-seven states and Union Territories saw a rise in extreme weather days in 2024, with Karnataka, Kerala, and Uttar Pradesh each experiencing 40 or more additional days of such events.

The year 2024 also set several climate records. January was India's ninth driest since 1901.

In February, the country recorded its second-highest minimum temperature in 123 years. May saw the fourth-highest mean temperature on record, and July, August, and September all registered their highest minimum temperatures since 1901.

In the northwest, January was the second driest, and July recorded the region's second-highest minimum temperature. The southern peninsula experienced its hottest February on record, followed by exceptionally hot and dry March and April, but with a 36.5 per cent surplus in July rainfall and the second-highest minimum temperature in August.

CSE Director General Sumita Narain said the record-breaking statistics reflect the impact of climate change, where events that used to occur once every century are now happening every five years or even less. "This frequency is overwhelming the most vulnerable populations, who lack the resources to adapt to this relentless cycle of loss and damage," she said.

According to the report, 1,376 people died due to floods, while lightning and storms claimed 1,021 lives.

realities of our time, it may not be so far-fetched to think this could become a possibility one day."

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Days after Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma spoke about unifying the Zo people across borders, which was followed by his identification of India as an 'enemy state', Naga insurgent group NSCN (IM) in neighbouring Nagaland Friday threatened to break its 27-year-old ceasefire agreement with the Centre and return to its 'armed struggle' if its demands for a separate national flag and constitution are not met.

During a Mizo Day event in Maryland (US) September 2, Lalduhoma spoke about unifying the Zo people, an ethnic group scattered across India, Myanmar and Bangladesh, stating, "The main objective of the ZORO Movement in 1988 was Zo reunification within India. Can the Zo people in India, Burma (Myanmar) and Bangladesh today aspire to be reunited under India? Given the geopolitical

2015 agreement, which he said 'officially recognised and acknowledged' the right to a sovereign flag and constitution for the separatists. He proposed a 'third party intervention' to resolve the impasse, threatening that it would resume violence if 'such a political initiative was rejected'.

The Naga insurgency, which is India's oldest, is aimed at creating a separate homeland of Nagalim that unites parts of mountainous northeast with areas of neighbouring Myanmar for ethnic Naga people. About 20,000 people have died in the conflict since it began in 1947.

Nevertheless, the back-to-back call for breaking away from the Indian Union, or raising a banner of revolt, in two northeastern states could be interpreted as a manifestation of a simmering fear among smaller indigenous population in the region against an ever imposing Centre.

Charging India with 'betrayal of the letter and spirit' of the 2015 agreement, the group's chief Thuingaleng Muivah, in a statement, urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to 'respect and honour' the

examination.

The accused, Samir Mansoor, who claimed to be hailing from Bihar and presently staying in Kashmir, was nabbed while he was trying to leave from Odisha by train, the officer said. In the FIR, the woman claimed she came to know Mansoor through an online game in 2022 and was not aware of his religion initially.

"He forced me to convert and marry him. When I refused to convert, he made some of our intimate moments viral and blackmailed my father," the woman alleged in the FIR.

Man detained for forced conversion bid on woman

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Odisha Police Friday detained a Kashmiri man after a woman filed a complaint that he forced her to undergo religious conversion and marry him, an officer said.

The man also allegedly threatened the woman of Jagatsinghpur district to upload video clips of their intimate moments on the internet.

The police registered a case at the Mahila Police Station here and sent the alleged victim to a hospital for medical

No greater feeling than serving those in need: Outgoing CJJ



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 8: There was no greater feeling than being able to serve those in need and people he never knew or met, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said on his last working day as the 50th head of the Indian judiciary Friday.

Heading a four-judge ceremonial bench, also comprising CJI-designate Sanjiv Khanna, Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, which assembled to bid him farewell, the CJI expressed a deep sense of fulfilment, not only for the work accomplished but for the opportunity to serve the country.

Justice Chandrachud stepped into the shoes of his illustrious father YV Chandrachud, who served as the longest CJI between 1978 and 1985. November 9, 2022 and will be demitting office November 10, a Sunday.

Rich tributes were paid to him by CJI-designate Khanna and bar leaders, including the attorney general, the solicitor general, Supreme Court Bar Association president Kapil Sibal and others to mark the pivotal moment in India's judicial history. **MORE P8**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You want us to hand over the keys to the state coffers which has billions, just so you can give ₹2,000 per month?

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.6°	30.6°
Min Temp	22.5°	22.0°
Humidity	83%	84
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		
Dry weather very likely		

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX	VIATION	
SENSEX	79486.32	55.47
NIFTY	24148.20	51.15
DOLLAR	84.37	0.07
EURO	90.65	0.41
GOLD	₹77,258	₹153
SILVER	₹91,480	₹833

Men shouldn't tailor women's clothes, cut their hair: UP panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Nov 8: Men should not take women's measurements at tailor shops, they should not cut a woman's hair or train her in the gym either - these are some of the remedies proposed by the Uttar Pradesh State Women Commission to protect women and stymie the ill intentions of men.

The radical raft of suggestions, which also include installing CCTVs in gyms, cloth stores and coaching centres, and having a woman for security in school buses, followed a meeting held October 28.

The commission said it has sent letters on the guidelines - which aim at segregating men and women in public spaces - to all district magistrates in the state to ensure compliance

on the matter.

A functionary of the panel said this is just a proposal and it will subsequently request the state government to implement them by enacting a law.

"There have been increasing complaints of 'bad touch' by male trainers in gyms and in women's boutiques where tailors who take measurements are mostly male," Babita Chauhan, chairperson of the commission, told PTI.

"What we are saying is that it isn't a problem if the tailor is male but only women should take measurements," she said.

In a press note, the women's panel proposed that women's gyms and yoga centres should only have female trainers. The gym and the trainers should be verified, while CCTV and DVRs at the establishments should



mandatorily be in working condition, it said.

It said boutiques should have a female tailor to take women's measurements for clothes, with a functioning CCTV at the store. Shops selling women's clothes are required to have female employees, it said.

Chauhan said, "We are aware that trained women will have to be employed at all these places and this might take some time."

However, it would also help employ more women, she added. Himani Agarwal, a member of the commission, said the proposal floated by Chauhan October 28 was accepted by the panel.

Explaining the rationale behind the proposal, Agarwal told PTI the involvement of men in such professions can lead to women getting molested.

"They (men) try to indulge in bad touch. The intention of some of the men is also not good," she said, adding, "not that all men have bad intentions."

The proposal has drawn mixed reactions, with Samajwadi Party MLA Ragini Sonkar saying it should be left to individuals to decide which store or gym they want to go to.

"I don't think this is a justifi-

fied decision as it should be an individual choice on whether one prefers a male or a female to attend to them. It is a matter of choice," said the MLA from Machhlishahr in Jaunpur district.

Madhu Garg, national joint secretary of AIDWA (All India Democratic Women's Association), said, "This is not the correct thought process, and this is done by those people who are having a narrow-minded thought process. By doing so, the jobs of hundreds of people will be at risk of getting lost."

However, social workers Veena Sharma and Mohsina Choudhary welcomed the proposal, saying there are many complaints of women being harassed while giving measurements at tailor shops. They said that the proposal should be law.

leisure



HALLE BAILEY HITS OUT AT EX-PARTNER

Hollywood actress Halle Bailey has slammed her ex-partner DDG for showing off their baby to millions of strangers online without her consent. *The Little Mermaid* star split from rapper DDG, 27, last month, almost a year after welcoming their son Halo, reports Mirror UK.

NATALIE UNSURPRISED EX-HUBBY MOVED ON PRETTY QUICKLY

Israeli-American actress Natalie Portman is reportedly not surprised her ex-husband Benjamin Millepied moved on pretty quickly after their divorce. The *Black Swan* actress, 43, met her choreographer ex-husband, 47, on the set of the ballet drama in 2009 before they tied the knot in 2012



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ARIES

Ganesha anticipates some exciting times for you. You are likely to meet some people today who will prove to be assets in the future. You apply yourself to perfection in work, and in your thinking. Towards that end, says Ganesha, you will have to remain practical.

TAURUS

This day, you can't afford to take chances with your health, says Ganesha. If there is the least sign or symptom of illness, go consult a doctor straight away. As you are going to be unusually prone to injuries and infections, it is advisable that you stay at home. Over exertion is bound to weaken you and affect your physical condition.

GEMINI

Analysing other people's minds and thoughts will be your favourite pastime today. You will find yourself thinking about your family life, security and financial issues. Your sensitivity and emotional nature will endear you to many, and they will bestow their love and affection upon you, says Ganesha.

CANCER

The mundane will bring contentment to you today, and you will rather spend the day doing routine stuff. It looks set to be an ordinary day, but then you can always find thrill even in routine activities. Work will keep you on your toes through the day, but then as the day drags ahead, you may feel a tad bored.

LEO

Decisions taken in haste will prove to be harmful. You need to carefully weigh the pros and cons of every decision that you take today, considering all the possible alternative thoroughly. You need to be extremely industrious on the work-front as well. You will feel very energetic and raring to go.

VIRGO

Something you achieve in a most unexpected manner will make you very happy today. But your happiness may possibly be marred by getting agitated about the problems you are facing. You may expect new funds for new projects, says Ganesha. Your business will flourish today.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that you will be able to see a huge change in your personal and social status. Ganesha says that this may be due to medium like television or due to your innovative ideas in your work place. People will be praising you and your work today.

SCORPIO

Your energy levels are on an all time high today, as you plan to begin a new business venture. You are determined to give in your best and toil hard till you succeed in your plans. Well, and the day turns out to be fruitful and positive when you garner compliments and worthy feedback about your work from your peers, says Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You have the knack of cut those troubles into small slices and gobble it up. You are the one who would not run away from problems, but face it. Good news from far away land may please you and make your day!

CAPRICORN

You have become workaholic and others may have complains against you for being so busy. But, you should not take to heart as you are finishing off assignments which have been hanging in there for a long time now.

AQUARIUS

It is your lucky day today! Whatever you will wish for, it will fall into your lap, be it name, fame, money or love. During the second half of the day, you will keep yourself occupied with your hobbies like reading, writing, playing active role in discussion groups or research, says Ganesha.

PISCES

You will find yourself ecstatic now that certain important projects you have been slaving over are nearing completion. You will implement new strategies and will hope that everything goes according to plan. You will experience intimate moments with your partner. On the whole, it will be a peaceful and productive day, says Ganesha.



Soundarya's take on casting couch

Mumbai: Soundarya Sharma, who made her acting debut with *Ranchi Diaries* in 2017, recently acknowledged the existence of casting couch in Bollywood.

In an interview with an entertainment portal, Soundarya expressed that she has never encountered any unsafe experiences and feels truly blessed, having only met kind people in the industry. While acknowledging that the casting couch may be a reality for others, she emphasized that her own journey has been positive and free from such incidents.

The actress reflected on how individual perspectives shape experiences, explaining that how one views the world depends on their mindset. She compared it to wearing different-colored glasses, with each person seeing the world differently based on their attitude and approach.

Soundarya acknowledged the existence of issues like the casting couch but emphasized the importance of how individuals handle such situations. She believes that a positive mindset and optimism can lead to better experiences. Soundarya shared that her focus on positivity has shaped her own successful journey, as she's encountered kindness and support.



Nora growing as a global star

Mumbai: Global sensation Nora Fatehi has joined forces with Yo Yo Honey Singh for an exciting new collaboration. She will feature in the music video for the track *Payal* from Honey Singh's highly anticipated album *Glory*. Honey Singh recently went live on his social media account to give a big shout out to Nora for her dedication and hard work.

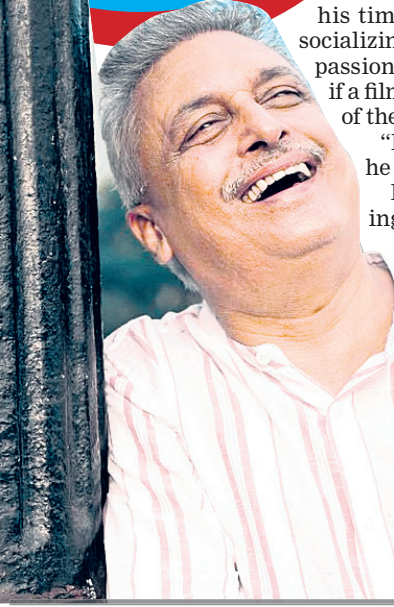
News of the collaboration was shared by a dedicated fan page of Nora Fatehi, while Yo Yo Honey Singh himself posted a mirror selfie on his social media, tagging Nora in the story with the caption, *Shooting Time*.

This marks yet another milestone in Nora's growing presence in the music industry, following her successful collaborations with international artists like CKay on It's True from his album *Emotions* and Tanzanian artiste Rayvanny on the hit song *Pepele*. With each new project, Nora continues to showcase her versatility as an actress, dancer and singer, solidifying her status as a global star.

While filming their music video in Georgia, where temperatures have plummeted to -3 degrees Celsius, Honey praised Nora for her commitment, saying, "While other dancers, even those from Europe, have refused to perform in this freezing cold, Nora is still eager to shoot. I have big respect for her."

He continued, "So much efforting put into creating the music video for *Payal*, featuring one and only, super hardworking and legendary Nora Fatehi."

'I don't believe in faulting others'



Mumbai: Piyush Mishra is known for his bold, unfiltered opinions on cinema, society, and politics. In a recent chat with a news agency, the outspoken writer-actor shared that he avoids criticizing his peers, noting that the senior actors who have done so are now feeling the impact of their words.

Piyush shared his thoughts on expressing honest opinions, mentioning that Anurag Kashyap has a solid sense of cinema. Although some think they argue over their music collaborations, he clarified that it's rare. They've reached a point where there's no surprise—Anurag trusts his songs are good, and Piyush acknowledges when Anurag makes a good film, though he refrains from commenting when the films fall short.

He shared that after 6 PM, he dedicates his time to prayer, stepping away from socializing. While he appreciates Anurag's passion for filmmaking, he believes that if a film doesn't succeed, it's simply part of the process.

"I don't believe in faulting others," he says.

Piyush avoids harshly criticizing others, noting that those who spend their lives faulting others often face loneliness and bitterness in old age.

For him, there's no value in lashing out at anyone.

Malaika talks about positivity



Mumbai: Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor confirmed during a promotional event for his latest film *Singham Again* that he is indeed single, amid Malaika Arora's cryptic post. In the viral video, Arjun was interacting with the crowd saying: "Abhi single hoon main, relax," confirming he is now single. Whereas Arjun had thus far maintained his silence over the split, Malaika has all this while been sharing a series of cryptic and reflective messages on her social media.

Recently, Malaika posted an encouraging note on her Instagram story that reads, "Every positive thought is a silent prayer that will change your life. Good morning, have a great day."

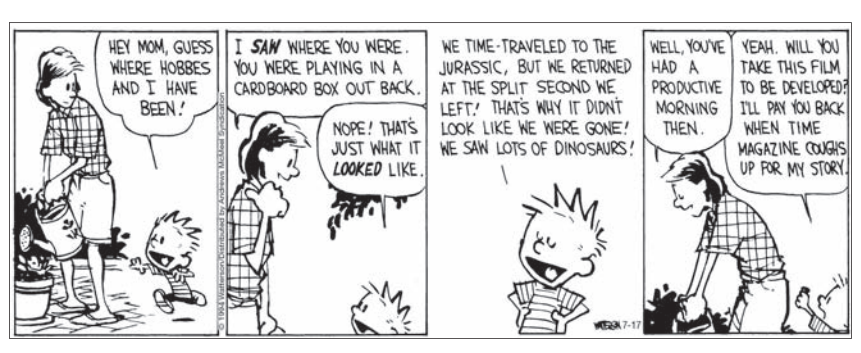
She had posted another thought-provoking message earlier, "Touching a heart for a second can touch a soul lifetime." Fans have been speculating that these posts may be Malaika's way of expressing her emotions and processing the end of her relationship with Arjun.

Despite the personal issues, both celebrities keep a level of privacy, sources close to the couple had earlier stated that their romantic life had run out, but they still respect each other's space.

PEANUTS



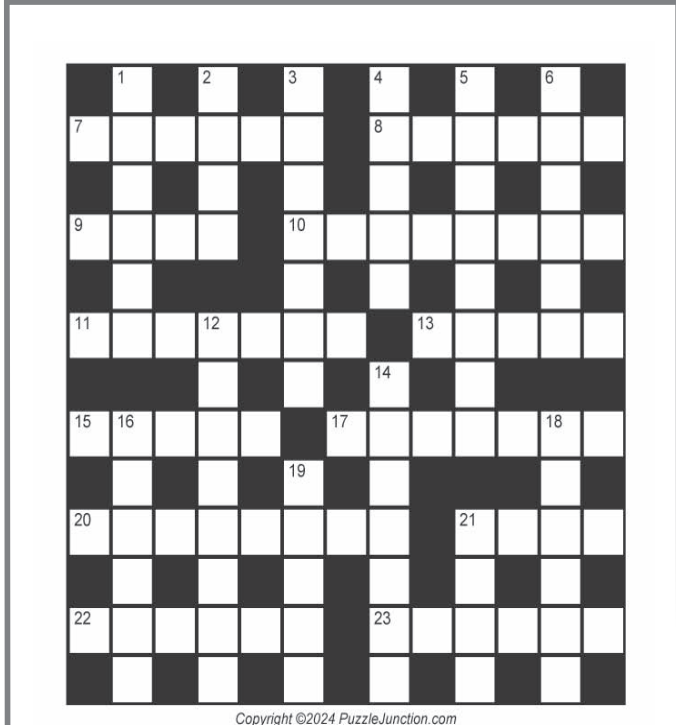
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



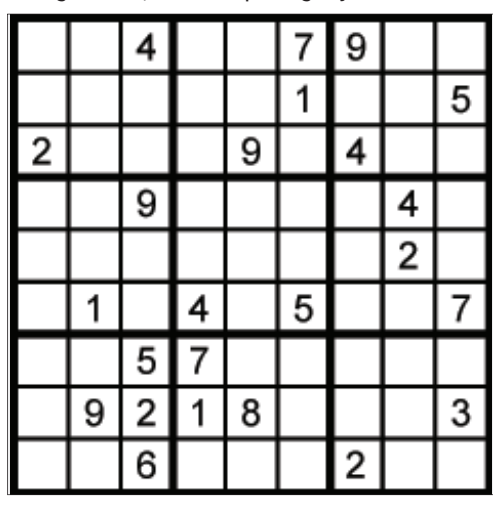
FUN POST CROSSWORD



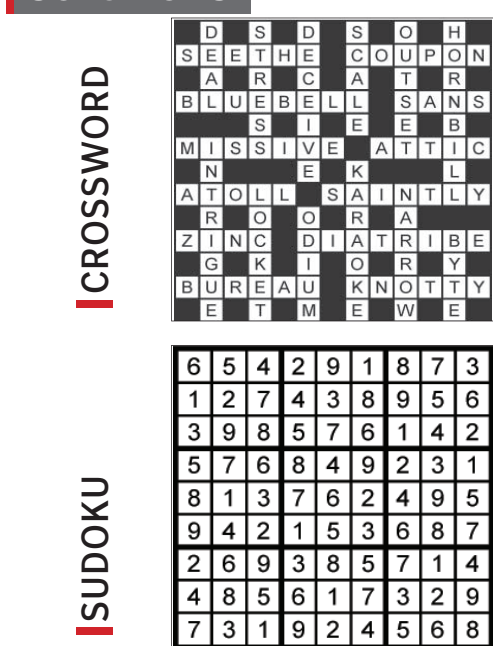
- Across**
- 7 Sales lure
 - 8 Dense nation
 - 9 Mother of Ares
 - 10 *Moby-Dick* creator
 - 11 Infectious disease
 - 13 Winter Olympic
 - 15 Fragrant oil
 - 17 Temp (5-2)
 - 20 Pasta
 - 21 Pacific island
 - 22 Stringed instrument
 - 23 Turkish capital
- Down**
- 1 Medical research hope
 - 2 Rum-soaked cake
 - 3 Siren of the sea
 - 4 Like Santa
 - 5 Afflicted
 - 6 King Mark's bride
 - 12 Migraine
 - 14 Aboveboard
 - 16 Calamitous
 - 18 Wound
 - 19 Word of regret
 - 21 Mountebank

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

15 new projects to create 4,637 jobs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The 15 new industrial projects that received the state government's nod Friday are expected to create 4,637 employment opportunities, official sources said.

In the chemical/renewable energy sector, Reliance Bio Energy Limited will set up a compressed bio-gas and organic manure plant in Puri with an investment of ₹121.21 crore. The project is expected to create 69 jobs, officials said.

In the steel sector, Beekay Steel Industries Limited plans to invest ₹750 crore in Cuttack, expanding its operations with sponge iron, billets, ferro alloys, sinter plants, and a captive power plant. This expansion is expected to generate 800 jobs, they added.

The downstream aluminium sector will also see significant growth, with HM Power and Cables Private Limited setting up an aluminium conductor, power cable, and wire manufacturing plant in Jharsuguda. This ₹55.72 crore investment will create 205 jobs.



In addition, Nextermal Asia Private Limited will set up a heating element manufacturing unit in Khurda, supported by an investment of ₹55.81 crore, which will create 132 jobs.

The food processing sector continues to attract significant investment, with several projects from companies like Bhuvaneshwari Foods and Beverages, Aban Beverages

and Geofast Consumer Products. These projects, located in Khurda, Bargarh, and Cuttack will have a combined investment of ₹1,542.04 crore and are expected to create over 1,358 jobs.

In the textile and apparel sector, Odisha Textile Manufacturing Private Limited is establishing a facility in Khurda to manufacture recycled yarns from textile

waste. This initiative, valued at ₹51.80 crore, is expected to create 535 jobs.

In tourism, ITC Limited will expand its five-star hotel 'Welcomhotel' in Bhubaneswar with ₹119.14 crore investment, providing an additional 240 jobs.

Additional tourism-related projects by SJ JRG Ventures LLP and Crackers India Infrastructures Ltd (LYFE Group of Hotels) will bring new hospitality facilities to Puri and Koraput, totalling ₹154 crore in investments and creating 380 jobs.

In pharmaceuticals, Infunex Healthcare Private Limited will establish a second unit for manufacturing intravenous fluids in Cuttack with an investment of ₹59.43 crore, creating 182 additional jobs.

In cement, Ultra Tech Cement Limited will expand its cement grinding unit in Cuttack, increasing its capacity from 3 MTPA to 6 MTPA. This ₹372 crore expansion will create 581 jobs and contribute to the state's infrastructure development, officials said.



COURTESY CALL: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy calls on Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

'Crime-free Odisha for women likely by 2036'

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Hours after six persons were arrested on charges of raping a college girl on multiple occasions in Cuttack, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Friday said the state government will ensure that the culprits in sexual violence against women get stringent punishment, and efforts are on to declare Odisha a crime-free state for women by 2036. "The state government will take very strong action in Cuttack gang-rape case. Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi on various occasions directed the police to take stringent action against people involved in crimes against women," Harichandan said while addressing media here.

"Efforts are in progress to declare Odisha a 'crime-free state for women' by 2036," the minister added.

Six persons, including a minor, were taken into custody for allegedly raping a 19-year-old college student several times and videographing the act in Cuttack.

Hope and skepticism: Odia diaspora reacts variedly over Trump's victory

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Members of the Odia diaspora in the United States have reacted with skepticism and hope over the decisive victory of Republican candidate Donald Trump over his Democrat rival Kamala Harris in the just-concluded presidential elections. The election sent the 78-year-old Trump to the White House, making him the first former president to return to office in more than 130 years. He also became the oldest person ever elected to the role.

Swagatika Mohanty, a teacher in California, said voters in the 2024 presidential elections were looking for a change. "And for that change they looked back to former president Donald Trump. Trump made some inroads in policies which appealed to all citizens and immigrants as well," she said, explaining the overwhelming support for Trump.

"Even though there are little bit instabilities regarding immigrations, I am still hoping a great US presidential rule ahead," she said.

She said Trump continued to excel with some groups who have historically backed him, keeping his coalition largely intact. "The ability to lead and to be someone who can bring the needed change was the top two candidate qualities for voters — and Trump won them handily," Swagatika added.

Satyapatnaik from Ohio said Trump's win would bring back the economy and inflation on track. More importantly, he said, the change in guard in the White House would strengthen India-US relationship.

"I personally voted for Trump. Last time, I voted for Hillary Clinton, though Trump won. But this time, I did not have trust in Harris over Trump. Harris is not experienced and matured enough to lead the country. In fact, I have not seen anything visible in last four years. She has been active since a couple of months," he said.

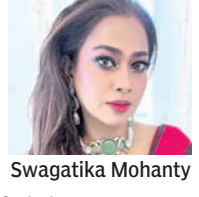
Trump will be sworn in at the presidential inauguration January 20, 2025, at which point he will legally assume the power and responsibilities of the presidency.



Sadyasnata Pattanaik



Satya Pattanaik



Swagatika Mohanty



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SCAN

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Dy CM: Diaspora plays key role in tourism promotion

Odia techie gets top award for 'Tinker on Wheels'



IN A NUTSHELL

- Odisha Tourism delegation was at WTM London from November 5 to 7, engaging with leading tour operators, destination management companies, and tourism industry investors
- The Odisha pavilion at WTM featured immersive displays, engaging attendees with visuals of the Konark Sun Temple, Puri Srimandir, Chilika Lake, and state's pristine beaches and wildlife reserves along with niche tourism products like the Eco Retreat, Nature Camps and water-sports
- Through the state's active participation at WTM, it seeks to build lasting partnerships and promote tourism as a bridge for cultural exchange and economic development

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: It's no ordinary village bus to ferry passengers. A veritable treasure chest of knowledge and fun, the minibus known as 'Tinker on Wheels' travels from school to school in rural areas and invites students on board to give them a hands-on experience of scientific activities such as robotics and 3D printing.

The brainchild behind 'Tinker on Wheels' is a 28-year-old engineer from Odisha who was honoured this week with the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development.

"I also had the IIT dream once upon a time and was heartbroken when I couldn't make it. I pursued my engineering from a government college in Odisha. When I began working as an engineer, I realised there is a huge gap in what is being taught in schools and what is actually happening in industry," Anil Pradhan told PTI Friday.

"While students in metro cities still have exposure to hands-on learning, it is very limited for students in rural areas and that is why I thought of starting this," said Pradhan.

He started with 200 students in 2017 and has helped 2.5 lakh students so far with his 'Tinker on Wheels'.

The students gather in the



school playground, where the minibus is parked and the play area gets converted into a laboratory for the day giving them a chance to innovate and create.

The schools where the bus goes are the ones which do not have infrastructure for offering hands-on learning to students.

The unique project has reached over 140 schools in Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, and has reached over 2.5 lakh students.

"Earlier, we used to identify such schools and would get in touch with them but now schools reach out themselves too. Depending upon the number of students at the school, mostly above Class V, we arrange the time span for visit of the bus. Sometimes it goes for a day, sometimes for more days, depending upon the strength. The idea is to give at least eight hours to each batch of students," Pradhan said.

He said the educators on the bus work with the school teachers to design activities for the students according to

their aptitude. The students get to conduct experiments, create things with 3D printing and innovate. They are also trained about cutting edge technologies like AI and Machine Learning, he said.

While schools which can afford to pay are charged a nominal fee of Rs 50-100 per child, the project also caters to schools which do not have a budget through CSR funding.

Pradhan who hails from Baral village in Odisha, said he no longer regrets not going to an IIT.

"The future is here, but our schools are lagging behind. Students, especially those in rural areas, are missing out on cutting-edge technology like AI, ML, IoT, robotics, space tech, 3D Printing and more. There is a significant skill gap in the technology sector. All this is a bigger challenge to solve and going to an IIT may have given me better exposure but not to my mission," Pradhan added.

"In this era of easily accessible data, children are not given

the chance to think or reason for themselves. Model-making workshops, audio-visual presentations, role-playing activities and exploring the physical world help to deliver the message of classroom lessons in a more interesting and effective manner. By encouraging children, we can train them to be independent and solve problems on their own, thus nurturing their confidence and self-belief," he said.

Pradhan was the chief designer of Asia's first university rocket team, VSLV. His return to his rural roots in 2017 fuelled by his mission to bring hands-on education to under served areas, led to the idea of Tinker on Wheels.

He also built a team of students from India that won world rank 3 at the NASA Rover Challenge in 2021, Asia's first Under-19 team to do so.

The Rohini Nayyar award, instituted in memory of Rohini Nayyar, one of India's esteemed economists, is conferred annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to rural development.

The award, symbolising excellence and commitment to rural upliftment, comes with a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, a citation and trophy, and is given annually by the Nayyar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose to individuals below 40 years in age.

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The Odisha Tourism hosted a special event titled 'Tourism Odyssey: Strengthening ties with Diaspora and Industry Leaders' on the final day of the World Travel Market (WTM) in London. Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida emphasised the important role played by the diaspora in advancing and promoting state's art, culture, language, and tourism.

During the session, Parida informed the investors about the state government's investment-friendly policies, which includes laws and provisions specifically designed to attract both domestic as well as international investors in the tourism sector.

The event also served as an open invitation for the diaspora and industry leaders to collab-

orate with the state government to develop and promote tourism, putting emphasis on creating new opportunities and strengthening ties in the global tourism market.

Besides, two exclusive round-table meetings were also held with prominent business houses and potential investors to attract investments and foster partnerships.

Parida also invited the Indian diaspora to visit the state during the 18th edition of 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas' January 8 to 10, 2025, providing an opportunity to reconnect with India and celebrate the cultural heritage in Odisha.

Odisha Tourism delegation was at WTM London from November 5 to 7, engaging with leading tour operators, destination management companies (DMCs), and tourism industry investors.

The Odisha pavilion at WTM featured immersive displays, engaging attendees with visuals of the Konark Sun Temple, Puri Srimandir, Chilika Lake, and state's pristine beaches and wildlife reserves along with niche tourism products like the Eco Retreat, Nature Camps and water-sports.

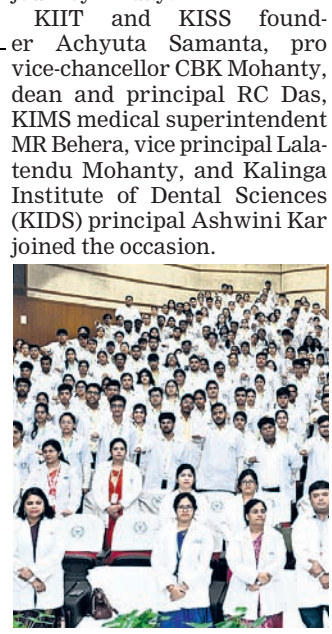
Through the state's active participation at WTM, it seeks to build lasting partnerships and promote tourism as a bridge for cultural exchange and economic development.

KIMS welcomes new MBBS & BDS batch

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: The Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here greeted new batch of MBBS and BDS students with 'white coat' and 'oath-taking ceremony', a symbolic rite of passage marking the beginning of their medical journey Friday.

KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, pro vice-chancellor CBK Mohanty, dean and principal RC Das, KIMS medical superintendent MR Behera, vice principal Lalatendu Mohanty, and Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences (KIDS) principal Ashwini Kar joined the occasion.



Samanta, in his address, inspired students to productively use the five year programme at KIMS, which is ranked among the top medical institute in the country, with best doctors and faculties and well-equipped medical services. "The 2,600-bed hospital has unparalleled infrastructure and one of the best simulation labs among all medical colleges in the country," he added.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mohanty motivated the new batch to fully utilise the extensive resources available at KIMS. "MBBS is a challenging curriculum. You are lifelong learners, and you will need to keep reading throughout your life to stay current in the field," he advised.

Emphasising the importance of commitment, he said, "The labour you put into these five years will reward you for the next 50 years. Your success is our success as well."

H&FW DEPT ADOPTS VISUAL MEDIUM

Sensitisation on mental health through films



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: With an aim to sensitise and create awareness about the need for love, care and support for everyone with mental and other health issues, two national award winning films 'Kaaasav' and 'Nital' were screened by the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department at Krushi Bhawan auditorium here recently.

Inaugurating the event, psychiatrist and actor Padmashree Mohan Agashe said, "I often narrate the human body as an instrument and the mind as the music created. The human body serves as a canvas through which the inner thoughts are expressed or painted. Like a musician plays his instrument to his wish, our

bodies can nurture our mind to create the most beautiful symphony of life."

"Cinema is one of the best visual media form to communicate complex ideas, thoughts and sentiments which may be difficult to express through words alone," he added.

Both the films carried invaluable social messages. These messages need to reach to a wider audience for the greater benefit of the society, said H&FW department's commissioner-cum-secretary Aswathy S.

'Kaaasav' is based on the arribada, a synchronised nesting event where thousands of sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggsturtles. Turtles are the marvels of our eco-system which needs preservation and protection.

Nital, the other award winning film, narrates the non-contagious and non-infectious skin disorder called 'Leucoderma' in which skin loses its natural colour due to the total loss of epidermal melanin. People with this disease face a lot of prejudices in the society due to the lack of proper understandings about this disease.



FOLK FEST: Artistes perform Chhau dance on the concluding day of Naatki National Festival of Mayurbhanj Chhau organised by Chauni at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar Friday

Mother's Public School celebrates annual day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Mother's Public School (MPS) at Unit-1 celebrated its foundation day 'Ankuram' at Utkal Mandap here Friday. Ankuram, meaning 'bud' symbolises blossoming of knowledge and wisdom, aims to nurture students into global citizens, equipped to tackle real-world challenges.

Celebrations began with lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Bhubaneswar regional officer and joint secretary K Srinivasan who attended the event as the chief guest.



Srinivasan was joined by MPS principal Poly Patnaik, vice principal Asha TR, director Shreejet Patnaik, managing director Minati Sabat, and academic supervisors Amrta Chaudhuri and Ekparna Chatterjee. Headmistress Santoshi Mohapatra and other distinguished guests were also present.

The school choir performed a live orchestra, setting an energetic tone for the evening, followed by a presentation showcasing the school's achievements over the year.

Srinivasan praised the cultural festival, emphasising its importance in fostering creativity beyond the classroom. "This

is an opportunity for students to showcase their talent and celebrate their growth," he remarked. The event also saw the release of the school's annual magazine 'Prakrit'.

In her speech, the principal delivered the annual report, celebrating the collective efforts of both teachers and students.

"Today is a proud moment for all of us. We witness the success as result of unwavering teamwork," she said.

Top achievers and students with full attendance were given awards, medals, and certificates. Literature secretary Aparajita Mohapatra delivered the vote of thanks.

Sad to see people eat mango kernel: Naveen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Berhampur, Nov 8: Intensifying his attack on the BJP government, BJD president and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday expressed deep sorrow over the death of two women due to consumption of mango kernel.

He called it "too sad" to witness such tragedies in a state that had topped the list for successfully implementing the food security scheme just two years ago.

"It is a post on X, Patnaik said, "It is very sad that two tribal women of Kandhamal lost their lives after eating mango kernel."

He went on to highlight that two years ago, Odisha was recognised as the top state for successful implementation of National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The BJD supremo recalled that during his tenure, the state had become a model for food security, ensuring that all citizens had access to food, including the implementation of the State Food Security Scheme for those in need.

"It is very sad and unfortunate to reach such a position today after being honoured by the Centre as the No. 1 state," Patnaik said.

Noting that such kind of deaths took place in the state



two decades ago, Patnaik alleged that the people of Mandipanka in Kandhamal district were forced to eat mango kernel gruel as they were allegedly not provided with food grains under the public distribution system. "It is even sadder," he said.

Patnaik was joined by former Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare minister Atanu

Sabyasachi Nayak who lashed out at the incumbent minister Krishna Chandra Patra over his remarks on the issue. "The approach of the government is unfortunate," he said.

Nayak said that in the 2022 State Ranking Index for NFSA, Odisha was ranked No. 1 state in the country by the central government. "The World Food Programme, a UN agency, had also praised the efforts of Naveen Patnaik for Odisha's impressive performance in ensuring food security," he said.

The BJD leader urged Patra to ensure food delivery to the needy people instead of issuing statements which are "unfortunate".

Police nab woman, 2 sons in murder case

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Nov 8: Police have arrested three persons - a sexagenarian mother and her two sons - for their alleged involvement in a murder case in Kendrapara district.

The incident happened at Ch-alunia village under Rajkanika police station in June, said Rajkanika police station Inspector-in-Charge Dillip Dhal.

Police identified the accused as Kujalata Pradhan (62) and her sons Manoj Kumar Pradhan (23) and Judhistir Pradhan (36).

According to Dhal, the

mother and her two sons were involved in the murder case of a middle aged woman, Sumati Nayak, following a land dispute.

Earlier, police had arrested four persons in this case. With the arrest of three more persons Thursday, the total number of arrests has gone up to seven, the IIC said.

All three were booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including murder and common intention, and produced before a court.

The court remanded them to jail custody after rejecting their bail pleas, the IIC said.

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FISHING BAN IN FORCE

Challenges galore for turtle protection



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Nov 8: Even though the Forest department's seven-month long fishing ban to protect Olive Ridley turtles has come into force since November 1, the implementation of the restrictions is fraught with several challenges like lack of adequate patrol boats, staff crunch at marine police stations, poor communication with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel and, above all, mushrooming prawn gheries in Gahirmatha region.

Forest department officials said that they are prepared to ensure strict implementation of this fishing ban in the 20-km area of Gahirmatha, but conservationists and environmentalists are sceptical about the outcome as they highlighted several loopholes in enforcement of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 (Schedule I).

Lack of adequate patrol boats, staff shortage at marine police stations, poor communication with the ICG personnel, and mushrooming prawn gheries (shrimp farms) violating restrictions have raised serious doubts over the implementation of the ban and safety of the rare marine species.

Environmentalists apprehend that the shrinking nesting

Illegal entry of trawlers and lack of adequate patrol boats among other issues stand as stumbling blocks on the way of turtle protection

ground due to coastal erosion and frequent missile testing on nearby Wheeler Island will affect the nesting and breeding of Olive Ridges.

Locals like Ganesh Chandra Samal, Jagannath Das, Dolagobind Jena, environmentalists Hemanta Kumar Rout and Ashok Kumar Swain have noted that 4-5 lakh turtles visit this area every year, which takes the nature lovers and wildlife by surprise.

The rare Olive Ridley turtles have been placed in the Red Data Book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which has mentioned that only one out of 1,000 hatchlings grow into a fully developed adult. This has raised concerns over the growth of Olive Ridley population.

Gahirmatha, spread over 1,435 sqkm, has been designated as a separate national park area from Bhitarkanika since 1997. Out of the total area of the

marine sanctuary, only 27 sqkm is land mass. However, erosion has affected land areas like Madali, Babubali, and Ekakula.

Moreover, Agarnashi Island has been fully gobbled up by the sea.

Meanwhile, experts have opined that massive mangrove plantation can check coastal erosion to a great extent.

Absence of proper nesting sites and death of the turtles at regular intervals have posed grave threats to the conservation efforts.

Moreover, the Forest department lacks proper boats to chase and nab the illegally operating fishing trawlers which pose threats to the turtles. Adding to the problem, Marine police stations at Tantiapal, Kharinasi and Jambu are grappling with staff crunch which makes the efforts ineffective.

These apart, prawn gheries discharging chemicals into the sea also poses threats to this marine creature.

The state government has taken up a slew of measures for protection of Olive Ridley turtles. The marine species has been the mascot during several events and eco-tourism launched by the state government.

When contacted, Rajnagar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav said that the department has been holding camps on the coastlines and deploying armed personnel for the safety of the turtles. Patrolling has been intensified, he added.

However, despite the extensive measures for turtle protection, illegal entry of trawlers and lack of patrol boats stand as a stumbling block on the way of turtle protection.

Notably, in 2023, more than 70 boats and trawlers were seized for illegally operating in restricted zones, while over 300 cases were filed during the period.



NATURE'S BOUNTY: Vast swathes of farmland at Mahadeiput panchayat in Koraput district get covered by a yellow blanket of swaying flax flowers as winter sets in

OP PHOTO

Vigilance sleuths detain doc, pharmacist for taking bribe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Nov 8: Anti-corruption Vigilance officials Friday detained a doctor and a pharmacist from a government hospital for accepting a bribe of Rs 40,000 from a contractual nursing officer at Boipariguda in Koraput district.

The accused have been identified as Dr Biswajit Bhuyan, the Medical Officer in-charge at Boipariguda Community Health Centre (CHC), and Uttam Mahankuda, the pharmacist, officials said.

The two were trapped by Vigilance sleuths following an allegation from the nursing officer, whose services had recently been regularised.

She was entitled to an arrear payment of approximately Rs 4,83,572 after the government ordered the release of differential financial benefits from October 2022 onwards.

According to the complainant, despite repeated requests, Dr

Bhuyan demanded 10 per cent of the arrear amount as bribe in exchange for processing the payment. He allegedly refused to release the arrears until the bribe was paid and even threatened to transfer her to a remote location if she did not comply.

Left with no other option, the nursing officer approached the Vigilance authorities, who subsequently caught Dr Bhuyan while accepting the bribe through the pharmacist, the anti-corruption wing stated in an official release.

The statement also mentioned that Dr Bhuyan had previously faced multiple allegations of demanding bribes and misusing the CHC vehicle.

Simultaneous searches were carried out at three locations associated with Dr Bhuyan and one location linked to Mahankuda, the pharmacist. A case has been registered against both under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JASHIPUR

No.A-538: GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION No:04 MID (JSP/2024-25)

- Name of the Inviting Officer: Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Jashipur.
- Name of the Work: Improvement to MIPs in different Blocks of Mayurbhanj District.
- No. of Works: 9 (Nine) Nos.
- Tender Amount Varies From: 10.72 lakhs to 47.68 lakhs
- Date and Time of availability of BID document in the Portal for online Bidding from: 10.00 hrs. Dt.13.11.2024 to 17.00 hrs. Dt.25.11.2024
- Last Date and Time of receipt of Bids in the Portal: 17.00 hrs. Dt.25.11.2024.
- Last date and time for clarification upto:- 17.00 hrs. Dt.25.11.2024
- Date of Opening of Bid: 11.00 hrs. onwards Dt.26.11.2024.

The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website: <http://dowrorissa.gov.in>.

Name & Address of the OIT : Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Jashipur, At/Po-Khairi/Dist: Mayurbhanj, PIN-757091, E-mail: eemijashipur@yahoo.com

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place: <http://tenderorissa.gov.in>.

- Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available in the above portal.
- The tender inviting authority reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
OIPR-32282/11/0004/2425 M.I.Division, Jashipur

F. NO. 20025/34/2023-NCST Government of India Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Filling up of two (2) posts of Director 'Group A' in National Commission of Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on deputation basis including short term contract in the Level 12 in the pay Matrix (Rs. 78800 - 209200/-) Applications are invited from eligible and willing officers under the Central Government or State Governments or Union territory or statutory or autonomous organisations or public sector undertakings or recognised Universities or recognised research institutions for appointment to the two (2) posts in National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), proposed to be filled up on deputation basis including Short term contract.

For more details please visit our website <https://tribal.nic.in>. The application through proper channel should reach at the following address within 60 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

Ashish Kumar Agrawal
Under Secretary
(NCST Division)
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Gate No. 2, Ground Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,
Ashoka Road, Patel Chowk, New Delhi
Email : agrawal.ashish@nic.in
(Telephone : 011-23344055)

CBC-43101/11/0010/2425

Driver dies, 30 injured after bus turns turtle

PNN & AGENCIES

Nayagarh, Nov 8: The driver of a passenger bus died and more than 30 passengers were injured, eight of them seriously, when the bus hit a roadside tree and overturned at Soroda Chhak near Daspalla under Nuagaon police station in Nayagarh district, Friday.

Sources said the bus, carrying 40 passengers, was on its way from Raikia to Bhubaneswar when the accident occurred.

Local people, police, and fire brigade personnel rescued the injured and rushed them to the District Headquarters Hospital in Nayagarh.

Sources said the accident occurred as the driver was driving the bus recklessly.

Thousands offer obeisance during Chhath celebration

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Nov 8: Thousands of devotees of 'Chhath Maiya' offered their obeisance to the rising sun at 17 ghats specially created for them here, early Friday morning marking the end of Chhath, one of the most celebrated festivals of the country.

Amidst bursting fire crackers and reverberating songs of late Sarada Sinha, one of the most celebrated Chhath singers who passed away November 5 this year, the devotees welcomed the rising sun on the river ghats.

Chhath is one of the festivals with strict rituals observed by women for the wellbeing and overall development of their progeny. "This year my penance was for my ailing son, who got cured completely after I did the



'vrat' for two years. I am going to observe it regularly," said Upasana Singh, one of the women devotees at Jhirpani Ghat.

There were many with the same story. Their wishes were fulfilled after going through

the tough rituals for four days, remaining without food for 36 hours, and finally braving the cold to take the early morning dip in the river to offer 'arghya' to the Sun God. "My mother-in-law and I, did not even swallow

saliva for the last 36 hours," said Lili Jha, who observed Chhath for the first time at Koel Nagar Ghat.

The administration had made arrangements at 17 river ghats for the devotees. "The best part is that celebration at all the places remained peaceful. There were no disturbances. This is the spirit of the celebration," said one police woman posted at Panposh. Over five platoons of policemen were pressed into service at the 17 ghats.

Most of the devotees sat all through the night braving the cold breeze on the river banks. Early in the morning, they offered their offerings like sugarcane, batapi - a citrus fruit, thekua - a famous sweetmeat associated with the festivity, and other preparations brought from home.

In a first, jumbo, tiger census to be conducted twice this yr



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Nov 8: The state government is undertaking the census of elephants and tigers twice annually for the first time this year from November 14 to November 16. The headcount will be conducted across all 51 Forest Divisions in the state during that period. Preparations will be taken up for the purpose November 13.

The matter came to the fore after a training camp was conducted in this regard at Lalsingh Nursery within the Ghumusar North Forest Division at Bhanjanagar in Ganjam district, Thursday. During the event, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Himanshu Shekhar Mohanty led the

training of forest personnel for elephant census. The forest division has set up 75 units for this purpose. Among others, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Bibek Das and Ranger Bimbardhar Sahu addressed the gathering.

It is noteworthy that the Central government usually conducts elephant census once in every two years. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, no census has been conducted since 2019.

In the meantime, a state-level elephant census was conducted in March this year. Now, steps are being taken to count elephants twice a year. This initiative aims to properly monitor jumbo population growth

and behavioral patterns. Similarly, from October last year to January this year, a tiger census was conducted in the state. Sources said preparations are now underway for another headcount of the big cats which will span over a month.

Preparations are also ongoing for the elephant census in the Ghumusar South Forest Division. This process is being closely supervised by DFO Binod Acharya. Multiple units have been formed within the forest division for the purpose. During the census, Forest Protection Committee members will assist the counting staff.

On the other hand, the tiger census is being conducted under strict confidentiality. Trap cameras have been installed in order to spot and catch poachers who are roaming freely in the forests. Forest personnel are reportedly monitoring these cameras round the clock. Furthermore, departmental authorities have directed the staff to ensure that no information is leaked during the census.

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Notice: Upgradation of IT System in TPCODL

In our continued effort to enhance service reliability and performance, TPCODL will upgrade its IT systems in phases starting 10th November 2024.

During this upgrade, consumer services such as the Call Centre, online payments, counter payments, new connection requests, the website and the Mitra app, will experience temporary downtime or delayed response. We are working diligently to minimize disruption and full services will be restored in phases by 16th November 2024.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to improve our infrastructure for a more seamless service experience.

A thought is an arrow shot at the truth; it can hit at a point but not cover the whole target. But the archer is too well satisfied with his success to ask anything farther. SRI AUROBINDO

Pragmatic Approach

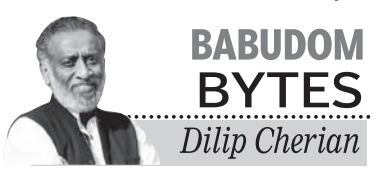
It's interesting to see Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan shaking things up with the decades-old practice of sending demi-official (DO) letters. For those of us familiar with the inner workings of the Indian babudom, this is a significant move. Let's face it—what started in 1964 as a crisp, meaningful way for secretaries to keep the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) updated on important developments has, over time, become a bit of a bureaucratic relic.

Originally, these letters were brief, personal notes meant to highlight key issues. But as with many things, they morphed into lengthy, almost ritualistic documents—often bloated with unnecessary information. Instead of being insightful, they turned into mere compilations of data, losing the essence of what they were meant to achieve.

Somanathan's most recent memo is spot on. He has urged secretaries to ditch the cumbersome and laborious monthly reports and go back to the purpose of these letters, which was to provide brief updates that had real significance. He's talking about one or two pages max, focusing on policy bottlenecks, significant pending proposals, and any other crucial issues. This isn't just about cutting down on paperwork; it's about making sure the communication is actually effective and actionable.

It's also worth noting that with tools like E-Samiksha already in place, the need for these voluminous letters has clearly diminished. Somanathan's push to streamline this practice reflects a broader shift in how the government is trying to adapt to more efficient, digital-first methods.

For observers, it's refreshing to see this pragmatic approach. This could be a small but important step towards a more responsive and effective bureaucracy.



BABUDOM BYTES Dilip Cherian

Goa's call for a dedicated cadre There's a growing call for Goa to have its own IAS, IPS, and IFS cadre—a point that Goa Forward Party (GFP) president Vijai Sardesai recently made loud and clear. And for many Goans, it makes perfect sense. Local officers understand Goa's unique needs, culture, and challenges so much better than outsiders who are often posted here for just a few months. They'd be more invested in the state's development and more in sync with the people.

Sardesai's letter to Chief Minister Pramod Sawant urged him to take up this issue with the Ministry of Home Affairs. He pointed out how Goa's identity is defined by its language, culture, heritage, and even its legal frameworks—elements that make this state unlike any other. When officers come here on short-term assignments, they barely scratch the surface. Many don't stick around long enough to truly understand the socio-political landscape, let alone bond with the people they're supposed to serve.

This disconnect often leads to a lack of trust. Long-time observers have noted that some officers even come across as arrogant or indifferent, and others, worried about future postings, avoid making bold decisions that might actually benefit Goa. Sardesai's missive also reminded us that Goa has tried to create its own cadre before, but the attempts fizzled out. Now, more than ever, it feels like the right time to revisit this. A dedicated Goa cadre could streamline governance, build stronger ties between the administration and the public, and ensure that such officers are genuinely accountable to the state and its people.

Curse of overwork or just carelessness? Bureaucratic missteps are making headlines more often than they should. Are babus simply careless, or is it the crushing workload pushing them into these cringe-worthy blunders? Either way, these mistakes aren't just a personal embarrassment—they drag entire departments and governments into the spotlight.

The recent mix-up in Haryana is a prime example. In an order dated November 3, 2024, the state managed to appoint two IAS officers, Munish Sharma and Dr Jainder Singh Chhillar, as Deputy Commissioners of Charkhi Dadri. A district with two heads? That's not just unusual; it's downright confusing.

Kerala wasn't spared either, as your columnist reported earlier. On the same day, Pranabjyoti Nath (IAS: 2005: KL) was appointed by the state as Chief Electoral Officer and by the Centre as Chief Vigilance Officer of NALCO. It seems like coordination between the state and Centre could use some serious improvement.

Then there's Anindita Mitra (IAS: 2007: PB), who had a farewell party in Chandigarh only to be extended for three more months—after she had already reported back to Punjab. Talk about mixed signals!

The topper? The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) dated an order for October 30, 2024, but mistakenly wrote November 30, 2024. A harmless typo? Perhaps, but in government documents, even minor errors can have major repercussions.

These aren't isolated incidents. Over six months, the growing list of administrative goof-ups suggests something more than mere oversight. Maybe it's time to cut down the workload or at least double-check before making public announcements. Mistakes are human but minimizing them is key to maintaining trust.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

All, everything that I understand, I understand only because I love. LEO TOLSTOY

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. x WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Let us not pray to be sheltered from dangers but to be fearless when facing them. RABINDRANATH TAGORE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1922: Albert Einstein was named the winner of the 1921 Nobel Prize for Physics for his explanation of the photoelectric effect; the Nobel committee had delayed awarding the 1921 physics prize until 1922.

1922: American singer and film actress Dorothy Dandridge, the first Black woman to be nominated for an Academy Award for best actress, was born.

1935: Cambodia became independent from France.

1985: Garry Kasparov, who was 22 years old, defeated Anatoly Karpov to become the youngest male world chess champion.

1989: A symbol of the Cold War, the Berlin Wall, erected in 1961 and eventually extending 28 miles (45 km) to divide the western and eastern sectors of Berlin, was opened by the East German government.

FOCUS HOMAGE

INSPIRATION FOR GENERATIONS

It has been a month since Shri Ratan Tata Ji left us. From bustling cities and towns to villages, his absence is deeply felt across every segment of society. Seasoned industrialists, budding entrepreneurs and hardworking professionals mourn his loss. Those passionate about the environment and devoted to philanthropy are equally saddened. His absence has been deeply felt not only across the nation but also around the world.

For the youth, Shri Ratan Tata was an inspiration, a reminder that dreams are worth pursuing and that success can coexist with compassion as well as humility. For others, he represented the finest traditions of Indian enterprise and a steadfast commitment to the values of integrity, excellence and service. Under his leadership, the Tata Group ascended to new heights, embodying respect, honesty and credibility worldwide. Despite this, he wore his achievements lightly, with humility and kindness.

Shri Ratan Tata's unwavering support for the dreams of others was one of his most defining qualities. In recent years, he became known for mentoring India's StartUp ecosystem, investing in many promising ventures. He understood the hopes and aspirations of young entrepreneurs and recognised the potential they had to shape India's future. By backing their efforts, he empowered a generation of dreamers to take bold risks and push boundaries. This has gone a long way in creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, which I am confident will continue to positively impact India for decades to come.

He constantly championed



Narendra Modi HIS GREATNESS WAS NOT RESTRICTED TO THE BOARDROOM OR HELPING FELLOW HUMANS. HIS COMPASSION EXTENDED TO ALL LIVING BEINGS



His efforts to make health and cancer care accessible and affordable were rooted in a profound empathy for those battling diseases, believing that a just society was one that stood by its most vulnerable

excellence, urging Indian enterprises to set global benchmarks. This vision, I hope, will inspire our future leaders to make India synonymous with world-class quality.

His greatness was not restricted to the boardroom or helping fellow humans. His compassion extended to all living beings. His deep love for animals was well-known and he supported every possible effort focused on animal welfare. He often shared photos of his dogs, who were as much a part of his life as any business venture. His life was a reminder to us all that true leadership is measured not just by one's achievements, but by one's ability to care for the most vulnerable.

For crores of Indians, Shri Ratan Tata's patriotism shone brightest in times of crisis. His swift reopening of the iconic Taj Hotel in Mumbai after the

26/11 terror attacks was a rallying call to the nation—India stands united, refusing to yield to terrorism.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of knowing him very closely over the years. We worked closely in Gujarat, where he invested extensively, including in many of the projects was very passionate about. Just a few weeks ago, I was in Vadodara with the President of the Government of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sánchez and we jointly inaugurated an aircraft complex where C-295 aircrafts would be made in India. It was Shri Ratan Tata who started working on this. Needless to say, Shri Ratan Tata's presence was greatly missed.

I remember Shri Ratan Tata Ji as a man of letters—he would frequently write to me on various issues, be it matters of governance, expressing appreciation for government sup-

port, or sending congratulatory wishes after electoral victories.

Our close interactions continued when I moved to the Centre and he remained a committed partner in our nation-building efforts. Shri Ratan Tata's support for the Swachh Bharat Mission was particularly close to my heart. He was a vocal advocate of this mass movement, understanding that cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation are vital for India's progress. I still remember his heartfelt video message for the Swachh Bharat Mission's tenth anniversary at the start of October. It was among his final public appearances.

Another cause close to his heart was healthcare and especially the fight against cancer. I recall the programme in Assam two years ago, where we had jointly inaugurated various cancer hospitals in the state. In his remarks that time, he had categorically stated that he wishes to dedicate his final years to healthcare. His efforts to make health and cancer care accessible and affordable were rooted in a profound empathy for those battling diseases, believing that a just society was one that stood by its most vulnerable.

As we remember him today, we are reminded of the society he envisioned—where business can serve as a force for good, where every individual's potential is valued and where progress is measured in the well-being and happiness of all. He remains alive in the lives he touched and the dreams he nurtured. Generations will be grateful to him for making India a better, kinder and more hopeful place.

The writer is Prime Minister of India

SPECTRUM INDIA-CANADA TIES

Time to avoid the breakdown

Latest in India-Canada ties is the attack on Hindu Mahasabha temple in Brampton. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has jumped into the ring with a tweet on Monday evening, the 4th of November. So far, Ministry of External Affairs has been reacting to or commenting on Canada's allegations and counter-allegations etc. Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau has been levelling charges against India, starting with his statement to Parliament last year about Indian agencies' involvement in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen.

Unusually, Prime Minister Modi has personally reacted to an unsavoury development in Canada, i.e. the said attack on the temple. He said, "We strongly condemn the deliberate attack on the Hindu temple in Canada. Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve. We expect the Canadian Government to ensure justice and the rule of law". A strong statement indeed.

Many eyebrows were raised at this incident. A former Minister of Canada of Indian origin has commented that a red line has been crossed by the Khalistani militants. He was apprehensive too of the bias

of the Canadian authorities. Read his words, "I begin to feel that there is some grain of truth in the reports that, in addition to political apparatus, Khalistanis have effectively infiltrated into our law enforcement agencies".

India and Canada have had friendly relations for a long time. As of now, about 8,30,000 people of Indian origin live in Canada. Sikhs alone constitute 2 per cent of Canada's population of 40 million. Because of their concentration in pockets, they are electorally quite strong in the first-past-the-poll system. Justin Trudeau's government survives on the support of a Sikh political entity called National Democratic Party. A large number of students from India make Canada their first port of call for higher studies.

Where did the ties go wrong? Some observers attribute the nosedive in bilateral relations to the bombing of the Indian aircraft in 1985. The popular impression in India is that Canada did not strongly investigate the bombing and punish the culprits. But actually, the relationship went on a downward spiral since 2023. Justin Trudeau accused India of conspiracy in Nijjar's killing in the Canadian Parliament without submitting concrete evidence. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun re-

leased a video message in 2023 threatening Hindus to leave Canada. He warned people of not flying by Air India which may be attacked. And worse, Pannun claimed that he has been advising the Canadian Prime Minister.

A Hindu temple in Windsor, Canada was defaced with anti-India graffiti. Another temple in Mississauga was targeted. Khalistani militants openly glorified the killers of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during a parade in the city of Brampton. More than 20 cases of vandalism at Hindu temples were reported in the last two years. These developments give the impression to the Indian leadership and the public that Justin Trudeau is soft on Khalistanis and their sympathisers in exchange of their political support to his government.

Whatever may be the compulsions and provocations on either side, whether India and Canada should confront each other and fail to resolve the differences? Is this confrontation, diplomatic as it is now, unavoidable?

Not really. Both India and Canada emphasise on diplomacy and dialogue in order to diffuse tensions in relations. It is time they interrogate their approaches and utterances. It is time citizens in both coun-

tries ask their leadership some searching questions.

Indian leadership as well as public should realise that Canada is a member of G-7, G-20, NATO and Five Eyes. India needs the West for new technology, investment, markets for its export and allies to balance China. New Delhi certainly has genuine concerns about anti-India activities in Canada. But without engaging in dialogue, confronting Canada may not be a bright idea. Instead of attributing electoral motives to Trudeau, which are of course credible, India should hit the nail on the head by seeking evidence and demystifying the impressions.

The bone of contention between India and Canada is not beyond a diplomatic resolution. In the murder of Nijjar, who was on the look-out notice of India and most probably a victim of inter-gang war should not derail the bilateralism between two significant democracies. Any extra-judicial killing is illegal and reprehensible. Yet, it behoves on both countries to take a calm and calculated perspective on issues and restore normalcy in relations between both countries.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism



DK Giri THE BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN INDIA AND CANADA IS NOT BEYOND A DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa Post are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 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



Setback for climate action

Sir, For many countries, Donald Trump's win in the US elections has stoked uncertainty over the future of global climate action. Trump has long deemed climate change a 'hoax', railing against Biden's climate policies and dismissing threats like rising sea levels. As a person of incertitude towards climate science, Trump has outlined a path that contrasts sharply with the green initiatives spearheaded by the Biden administration. In fact, Trump's pledge to stop renewable energy projects on 'day one' of his potential presidency has sent shockwaves through the industry, causing renewable energy shares to plummet. So, his return to power could see the US leave the Paris Climate Agreement again, undermining international climate targets. The Trump 2.0 regime will likely rekindle debates around climate science, renewables, and economic sustainability, and may push global climate action into an uncertain territory at a time when global scientists urge immediate and unified efforts to offer solutions to the climate crisis. Undeniably, Trump's return to the White House is a real setback for climate action..

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Biden's statesmanship

Sir, US President Joe Biden was kind and gracious enough to have called Donald Trump to congratulate him for his victory. Despite the fact that Trump had foul-mouthed both Biden as well as Kamala Harris in the run-up to the elections, Biden not only congratulated his bitterest adversary but assured the people of America a peaceful transition of power—this gesture would not have been lost on both Trump and his MAGA supporters, because of whom all hell broke loose when they lost the previous election to the Democrats. When he, Biden, urged the people to 'Bring down the temperature', he displayed statesmanship of the highest order. Kamala's response too was mature, measured, and matter of fact, as she profusely thanked the people and conceded defeat. As the quote by Michael Josephson goes, "How you react in winning a game shows some of your character; how you react in losing a game shows all of it." The Democrats might have lost this election, but they will surely win many hearts for the magnanimity displayed by their top leadership when the chips are down.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS (MP)

Kedarnath turning into garbage dump

Tonnes of untreated waste being dumped in landfills in the holy city, reveals RTI query



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Nov 8: Tonnes of untreated waste continues to be dumped at the landfill sites around the famous Himalayan temple of Kedarnath, causing concern among those who care for the environment as the area is eco-sensitive. A total of 49.18 tonnes of unprocessed garbage generated in Kedarnath was dumped at the two landfill sites near the temple between 2022 and 2024, an RTI query filed by a Noida-based environmentalist has revealed. The non-processed garbage generated in the area also showed a rising trend during the period, with 13.2

tonnes of untreated waste generated in 2022, 18.48 tonnes in 2023 and 17.5 tonnes so far this year, according to the Uttarakhand government's response to the query filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Besides, the eco-sensitive area also generated 23.3 tonnes of inorganic garbage during the period. However, all of it was processed or recycled, the public information officer of the Kedarnath Nagar Panchayat said in response to the RTI query filed by Amit Gupta. "The RTI data is shocking both in terms of the quantity of garbage generated and the

The two landfill sites near the temple are reaching their saturation point. If things continue in this manner, another tragedy like the 2013 disaster is unavoidable

manner in which it has been left untreated. It proves once again that there is no proper garbage management system in Kedarnath, which is an eco-sensitive area," Gupta said.

"The temple is situated at a height of 12,000 feet, where there are also glaciers. The eco-sensitivity of the area is beyond doubt. The lack of a proper garbage management system in Kedarnath even figured in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme last year. Still nothing is being done by the authorities on the ground to transport the plastic waste to the plains and process it," he said.

What makes the situation even more worrying is that the response to the RTI query claims that no complaint was registered or action taken during the period against gar-

bage disposal in an irresponsible manner. "I have myself been writing to the authorities for the last two years on the garbage issue in Kedarnath. At least half-a-dozen complaints have been filed by me only," Gupta said. "The NGT and the NMCG have also taken note of my complaints. Sharing my concern, they directed the authorities to do something to rid the holy place located in the ecologically-fragile Himalayas of untreated waste by setting up enough sewage treatment plants in Kedarnath," he added. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has also written to the Rudrapur district administration, asking it to take necessary steps to stop the rising pollution levels of the Mandakini river, which flows near the Himalayan temple. The NMCG issued the directions to the district administration on a complaint filed by Gupta on the basis of an RTI query, which revealed that the absence of sewage treatment plants in Kedarnath is leading to rising pollution levels in the Mandakini, a tributary of the Ganga, with untreated waste being released directly into it.



A devotee offers prayers on the last day of the 'Chhath Puja' festival, at Tapkeshwar Mahadev Temple, in Dehradun, Friday

Centre alerts NE govts on B'desh terror outfits' possible activities



In the last three and a half months, over 450 Bangladeshi nationals and over 60 Rohingyas were arrested by the Government Railway Police, BSF and Tripura Police from Agartala railway station and various other places in Tripura after they illegally entered India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Nov 8: The Central government and various central intelligence agencies have alerted the northeastern states about the activities of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and its associate outfits, officials said Thursday.

A top police official said that after getting the Centre's directives, all the central and state intelligence agencies further stepped up its vigilance all across the mixed populated, bordering and vulnerable areas. "Among the seven northeastern states, Bangladesh-based terror outfits always have a target in Assam and Tripura to expand their base due to geopolitical and demographic reasons. However, these groups never succeeded in their plans as the alert Indian agencies thwarted their plans at the initial stage," the official told IANS, refusing to be quoted. Assam Police during the last year have arrested many suspected cadres for allegedly having links with Bangladesh-based terror module Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) and Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS). These cadres were arrested from different districts and bordering areas of Assam. According to the official,

cases have been registered against the detainees under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Passport Act, 1920, and the Foreigners Act, 1946. The official said that the Bangladesh-based terror outfits' possible activities in the northeastern states would be discussed in the annual meeting of the Director General of Police-Inspector General of Police in New Delhi later this month. Meanwhile, Central intelligence agencies have also alerted their state-level counterparts in West Bengal on JMB activities. Reports said that central intelligence agencies have also alerted about future plans and initiatives by JMB to reorganise their existing terror modules in seven districts which especially include those which are having borders with neighbouring Bangladesh. These seven districts include Malda, Murshidabad, North Dinajpur, Birbhum, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. After the Bangladesh unrest began in June-July, the Border Security Force (BSF) enhanced surveillance along the 4,096 km border with the neighbouring country to prevent trans-border crime and infiltration, the BSF officials said. Five Indian states - West Bengal (2216 km), Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Mizoram (318 km) and Assam (263 km) share a border with Bangladesh.

Centre, ADB ink pact to upgrade urban infra in U'khand



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement for a \$200 million loan to help upgrade water supply, sanitation, urban mobility, and other urban services in the state of Uttarakhand. The signatories to the loan agreement for the Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project were Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry, Juhi Mukherjee and the ADB Country Director of India Resident Mission, Mio Oka. Mukherjee stated that the project aligns with the government's urban develop-

The project aims to create an urban infrastructure that is resilient to climate and environmental risks such as floods and landslides, ensuring the safety and health of Uttarakhand's population

MIO OKA | ADB COUNTRY DIRECTOR

ment agenda as well as the Uttarakhand government's initiatives to enhance urban services, aiming to boost livability and sustainability in cities. "The project aims to create an urban infrastructure that is resilient to climate and environmental risks such as floods and landslides, ensuring the safety and health of Uttarakhand's population," Oka said. "It will also build the capacity of the state agencies in project management, climate-and disaster-resilient

planning, own-source revenue generation, and gender mainstreaming." The project will enhance transportation, urban mobility, drainage, flood management, and overall public services in Haldwani, the economic hub of the state. Additionally, it will improve water supply delivery in four cities - Champawat, Kichha, Kotdwar, and Vikasnagar - by developing efficient and climate-resilient water supply systems. In Haldwani, the project

will develop 16 km of climate-resilient roads, establish an intelligent traffic management system, deploy compressed natural gas buses, and pilot electric buses. To prepare the city against disasters, the project will construct 36 km of storm water and roadside drains to improve flood management and implement an early warning system. A green-certified administrative complex and bus terminal will be built to improve the delivery of public services. In the other four cities, the project aims to increase water service coverage to 100 per cent by constructing 1,024 km of climate-resilient pipelines with smart water meters, 26 tubewells, new reservoirs, and a 3.5 million-litre-per-day water treatment plant. Sanitation coverage in Vikasnagar will be improved by sewage treatment facilities that will benefit around 2,000 households. The project will introduce initiatives for women, such as livelihood skills training on driving buses, bus ticketing, and the operation of electric charging stations. Given women's role in monitoring water supply systems, the project will build the capacity of women, including those from vulnerable households, in operating and managing water supply and sanitation services. The European Investment Bank is also co-financing the project with \$191 million on a parallel basis.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE SC asks for authentic audio clips against CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: The Supreme Court Friday directed a Kuki organisation to produce material to indicate authenticity of some leaked audio clips on the basis of which it filed a plea seeking a court-monitored SIT probe into the alleged role of the Manipur chief minister in the ethnic violence. A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also said it has a duty as constitutional court and does not appreciate any attempt to brush things under the carpet. It asked advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust (KOHUR), to place material on record to show credibility of the audio clips. "Before the court can consider the submissions which have been made on the basis of an audio clip, we deem it appropriate to grant the petitioner to file before this court the material indicating the authenticity of the clips," the bench said.

At the outset, Bhushan submitted that the recorded conversation prima facie shows the complicity and the involvement of the state machinery in violence against Kuki Zo community. He claimed the clips had "disturbing conversations" and the chief minister could be heard instigating the violence and protecting the attackers. He also alleged the chief minister not only fuelled the violence there but also allowed arms and ammunition to be looted. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, strongly opposed the plea, saying the organisation should approach the Manipur High Court. He submitted that if the apex court entertained the matter, the "majesty of the high court would be undermined". Attorney General R Venkataramani also opposed the petition and said the state government should be given leeway to restore peace. "We do not know the position on the ground. We have a po-



rous border. We have materials coming from across the border. Your lordships are sitting in an ivory tower," Mehta submitted. The bench took objection to this comment and said, "We are not living in an ivory tower. It is because we are not sitting in an ivory tower that we have not dismissed the petition. We are also aware of what is happening in Manipur. We have a duty as constitu-

tional court. We don't appreciate any attempt to brush things under the carpet." Mehta apologised for his remark and said the term was not used in a pejorative sense. The Kuki organisation's plea in top court said, "It is apparent from the aforementioned conversation that the chief minister of Manipur was instrumental in inciting, organizing and thereafter centrally orches-

trating the large-scale murder, destruction and other form of violence against the Kuki dominated areas in Manipur." "Petitioner is praying for a court monitored investigation by Special Investigation Team into leaked audio tapes clips as there is clear and strong prima facie evidence showing involvement of highest functionary i.e. chief minister of a state. The investigation would need to unearth the conspiracy which appears to involve the highest functionary of state," the plea said. The Kuki organisation said in the instant case, investigation cannot be done by any of the regular investigation agencies like CBI, ED etc. and would have to be done by a special investigative team of officers of impeccable integrity selected by this court. Asked about the clip during a recent PTI interview, Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said, "Some people are after me... there is a conspiracy. The matter is sub judice. I won't talk much about it. An FIR has been filed."



SAI
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(RECRUITMENT CELL)
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Head Office, J N Stadium Complex, Gate. No. 10, Lodhi Road, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003

File No.:01-04001(03)/4/2021-HO-Personnel Division Date: 01.11.2024
Sub: Filling up of 13 (Thirteen) vacant posts of Director in Pay Matrix Level-12 (Rs.78800-209200), on deputation including short term contract for a period of 3 years in Sports Authority of India, New Delhi-regarding.

SAI is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, with the mandate of development and promotion of Sports in the country. The Sports Authority of India is looking for the service of suitable officers for filling up the post of Director in Pay Matrix Level-12 (Rs.78800-209200) on deputation including short term contract for a period of 3 years in its various Field Units including its Head Quarters at New Delhi. The details of post, eligibility criteria, job requirement, age limit, qualification and experience required for the post are indicated in **Annexure-I**. The pay and other terms and conditions of deputation will be regulated in accordance with DoPT's OM No.6/8/2009-Estt. (Pay-1) dated 17.6.2010 as amended from time to time. The candidates may send an advance copy, to reach in the O/o the Deputy Director (Recruitment), Room No. 209, Sports Authority of India, Head Office, Gate No. 10 (East Gate), Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 on or before **02.12.2024 at 05.00 PM**. However, their candidature will be subject to receipt of NOC, Vigilance Clearance, APAR from the parent department. The Application Forms / Curriculum Vitae Proforma are at Annexure-II and for other necessary details, the candidates are advised to visit/download from the SAI website: www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in from **02.11.2024 at 10:00 AM** onwards.

(Deputy Director)
Recruitment Cell
Sports Authority of India
Head Office, New Delhi

CBC-47103/12/0006/2425

national



A dangerous game of pitting one caste against another is being played by the Congress as that party can never see Dalits, backward classes and tribals progressing

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

ADVANI TURNS 97

Veteran BJP leader L K Advani, who as the party president crafted its rise to become a central force in national politics, turned 97 Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauding him as one of India's most admired statesmen devoted to furthering the country's development



of the day quote

If MVA comes to power in Maharashtra by mistake, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray wants to make his son the chief minister, (Sharad) Pawar saab wants the post for his daughter and there are a dozen leaders in the Congress who have already stitched clothes to become the CM

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Earlier, Indians did not get the same respect abroad, but Modi's governance has elevated the country's image globally, with even leaders like US President-elect Donald Trump maintaining direct communication with him. This shows the respect India now commands

KIREN RIJUJU | UNION MINISTER

Bandh is not the ultimate solution to place grievances. Bandh has a negative effect on the society and the state incurs heavy loss due to a strike

PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL PRADESH CM

POST OF THE DAY

This week, 25 tigers went missing from Ranthambore, Rajasthan, and 10 elephants died in Bandhavgarh, Madhya Pradesh due to toxic food. Heard any outrage, any media shows, any debates? Now remember how they talked about Kuno Cheetahs for months.

@NarundarM

SHORT TAKES

India-Australia joint military exercise starts

New Delhi: A joint military exercise between India and Australia began in Pune Friday with an aim to promote cooperation through enhancement of interoperability in the conduct of joint sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environment in semi-desert terrain under the relevant chapter of the UN mandate. The third edition of 'Exercise AUSTRALIND' will be conducted in two phases - combat conditioning and tactical training, and validation.

Minor girl gangraped

Palanpur: A 15-year-old girl was gang-raped allegedly by six men in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, a police official said Friday. The incident took place in Ambaji town November 5, Inspector RB Gohil said. "A case was registered at Ambaji police station November 6. No one has been arrested as yet," he said. As per the FIR, the girl was walking to her uncle's house in the evening when a man identified as Lala Parmar, who was known to her, offered her a lift on his two-wheeler.

Six houses torched in Manipur's Jiribam

Imphal: At least six houses were torched and residents of a tribal village were attacked by a group of armed militants in ethnic strife-torn Manipur's Jiribam district, police said Friday. The incident occurred Thursday evening in Zairon Hmar village after the group of militants set the houses on fire, a senior officer said. Manipur has been rocked by ethnic violence since May last year and over 200 people were killed.

DeMo devastated MSME: Rahul

The Congress' attack came on the eighth anniversary of demonetisation, with the Opposition party saying it was the first shock the "non-biological PM" gave to the economy that led to the loss of momentum in the country's economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Friday alleged that demonetisation has led to monopolies by devastating the MSMEs and informal sector and India continues to use more cash today than eight years ago.

The Congress' attack came on the eighth anniversary of demonetisation, with the Opposition party saying it was the first shock the "non-biological PM" gave to the economy that led to the loss of momentum in the country's economy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi November 8, 2016 announced demonetisation in an address to the nation declaring that ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes would cease to be legal tender.

One of the reasons cited by the government at that time was to promote the digital economy and reduce cash transactions to check corruption and black money. "India continues to use more cash today than 8



years ago when demonetisation was implemented.

"DeMo paved the way for monopolies by devastating MSMEs and the informal sector," Rahul Gandhi said in a post on X. Incompetent and ill-intended policies that create an environment of fear for businesses will stifle India's economic potential, the former Congress chief said.

"What is needed is a new deal that fosters fairness and freedom to unlock the energy of play-fair businesses across the country," he asserted. Rahul

'BJP burnt Manipur'

Lohardaga/Simdega: In a no-holds-barred attack on the BJP, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday accused the saffron party of burning Manipur and making attempts to divide people across the country on religious lines. He also alleged that the saffron party deprived 90 per cent of the nation's population of their due rights and benefits. "The BJP burnt Manipur and attempted to divide people on religious lines. It incited Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Sikhs against each other. In recently held Haryana elections, the BJP incited Jats against non-Jats...It is the character of the BJP," Gandhi alleged while addressing an election rally in Lohardaga.

Gandhi also shared a chart that shows how cash with the public fell from 11 per cent of GDP in 2013-14 to 8 per cent in 2016-17 and has now risen to 14 per cent of GDP in 2020-21.

The cash with the public is now 12 per cent of GDP in 2022-23, the chart showed.

Party general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, said, "Today is the 8th anniversary of

the first shock the non-biological PM gave to the economy, and the beginning of the economy's loss of momentum."

"MSMEs were destroyed and millions of livelihoods were adversely affected. It was a Tughlakian move of disastrous proportions. Black money was not impacted at all and today more cash circulates in the economy than ever before," he alleged.

The Congress also said on its official X handle, "On this 'Black Day of Demonetisation', we remember the hardships faced by millions of Indians."

"The abruptly introduced policy disrupted and strained the economy, leaving a lasting impact - especially on the poor and the middle classes ever since," the Opposition party said.

In another post, the party shared some of the stories of people who allegedly lost their lives during demonetisation. In another post, the party shared a video of some BJP leaders allegedly making light of those who lost their lives during the note ban.

TN declares snakebite as notifiable disease

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 8: Tamil Nadu government has declared snake bite as a notifiable disease in the state, thus making it mandatory for all government and private hospitals to report data to it for comprehensive prevention and treatment strategies like ramping up clinical infrastructure and allocation of anti-snake venom to prevent deaths.

Snake bite has been declared as a notifiable disease in the state under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939. A Government Order (GO) to this effect was issued by the Health and Family Welfare Department November 4 followed by a Gazette Notification published November 6, a release here said Friday.

"Snake bite envenomation is an acute life-threatening medical condition. It is a preventable public health condition often faced by rural population in tropical and subtropical countries," the release said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched a global strategy for controlling snake bite-induced deaths and disabilities. And a National Action Plan for prevention and control of Snake bite Envenoming (NAPSE) launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare details the roadmap to halve snake bite deaths by 2030 through one health approach, it said.

"Snake bite causes high morbidity and mortality, with vulnerable populations such as agricultural workers, children and people living in snake-endemic regions being affected more," the release added.



Foreign devotees dance with locals during the 'Sri Krishna Balram Rath Yatra' organised by ISKCON, in Vrindavan

No power in the world can restore Art 370 in J&K: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhule, Nov 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday accused the Congress-led INDIA bloc of wanting to take the Constitution out of Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that no power in the world can restore Article 370 there.

He also accused the Congress of pitting one caste against another and cautioned people to stay united. "Ek hai, toh safe hai," he said. Addressing his first rally in Maharashtra for the Novem-

ber 20 Assembly elections, Modi said the INDIA group is flaunting blank books passing them off as the Constitution to provoke Dalits and Adivasis.

"Only Ambedkar's constitution will be followed in J&K. You must have seen on TV how a resolution was moved in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly on bringing back Article 370 and when BJP MLAs protested, they were thrown out. The country and Maharashtra should understand this," Modi said, in a statement.

CONTAMINATED FOOD KITS SUPPLY

Kerala CM orders vigilance probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 8: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Friday ordered a vigilance inquiry into reports of worm-infested food kits distributed by the Meppadi Grama Panchayat to survivors of the landslides in Chooral-ma-Mundakai, Wayanad district.

A preliminary investigation has already been conducted, added the release. Survivors of the landslides in Chooral-ma-Mundakai have alleged that they were given worm-infested

Cong launches 'Delhi Nyay Yatra' to expose AAP govt's failure



Former Delhi Assembly Speaker and Congress National Treasurer Ajay Maken told IANS, "Our main objective is to expose the misdeeds of the Kejriwal government and the collusion between the BJP and the AAP"

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 8: With an eye on the upcoming Assembly elections, the Delhi Congress launched its month-long 'Delhi Nyay Yatra' from Rajghat Friday to corner the Aam Aadmi Party government on issues related to corruption and lack of development.

Former Delhi Assembly Speaker and Congress National Treasurer Ajay Maken told IANS, "Our main objective is to expose the misdeeds of the Kejriwal government and the collusion between the BJP and the AAP. "This is a government involved in corruption, continuously engaging in corrupt practices. The man who carries a ₹2 pen in his pocket lives in a ₹175 crore glass palace, owns carpets worth crores and walks on the streets, so if we are a party of the common man, then they are a party of VIPs," said Maken.

This yatra is seen as an attempt by the grand old party to regain its lost ground in the city ahead of the forthcoming Delhi Assembly polls. Delhi Congress Chief Devender Yadav, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu and former Delhi legislator Subhash Chopra were also present at the Yatra's launch.

Yadav said during the Yatra, Congress workers will interact with residents of every Assembly constituency to expose the inaction and incompetence of the AAP government, which squandered the past 10 years in constant fights with Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena and the bureaucracy under Kejriwal and Atishi, without doing any constructive work.

Yadav said there was great enthusiasm among Delhi Congress workers to make the Yatra a success before the Assembly elections scheduled in February to pick a 70-member Assembly. "Congress workers have taken inspiration from Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, covering over 4,000 km, for the protection of the Constitution and democracy," he said. On the lines of Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the Congress workers and leaders would interact with the people of the city during the 'Delhi Nyay Yatra' and learn about the problems they have been facing in the last 10 years.

On Sukhu govt's plate: Samosas that went missing

WHILE CHIEF MINISTER SUKHU SLAMMED THE BJP FOR ITS "CHILDISH" CONDUCT IN RAISING THE ISSUE, THE OPPOSITION PARTY QUESTIONED THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITIES AND SAID THIS DISPENSATION HAS BECOME A "LAUGHING STOCK" ACROSS THE COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Nov 8: Samosas have become a political hot potato in Himachal Pradesh. The controversy around the popular snack meant for Chief Minister Sukhvir Singh Sukhu which went to his staff instead heated up Friday with the government, police and the BJP all coming out with statements.

Meanwhile, the Crime Investigation Department -- which insisted it is not probing the matter but a written report has been submitted -- said those responsible for the samosas and cake not reaching the right person acted on their own agenda.

The incident occurred October 21 when the samosas and cake meant for the Chief Minister -- who was visiting the CID headquarters here -- were accidentally served to his security staff. The CID report ensued,

as did the Opposition's attack and the government's counter-attack.

Sukhu said in Delhi Friday the probe was into "misbehaviour" of officials but the media is presenting it as an enquiry into the missing samosas. Sukhu claimed the BJP has been running a smear campaign against the Congress government since his party won a majority in the elections.

"The probe was about misbehaviour of officials but the media has turned it into a CID probe into samosas. The DGP has already given a clarification in this regard," Sukhu told reporters here. "The BJP's behaviour in raking up this issue is childish and laughable," he said.

Reiterating that it was an internal matter, CID Director General Ranjhan Ojha said in Shimla, "The Chief Minister was the chief guest at the



launch of a data centre for the cybercrime wing.

Ojha added, "Neither have we issued any notice nor have we called for any explanation. The matter should not be politicised. We simply asked for clarification as to what happened, and a written report was submitted. We have no intention of taking action against anyone." Several BJP leaders launched



an attack on the government over the issue. Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Jai Ram Thakur alleged the Himachal Pradesh government takes decisions without applying its mind and then tries to change them when they become a matter of joke.

"The Opposition has not eaten those samosas, those who were served those samosas were a

part of the government, so how could the act be anti-government?" Thakur said in a video statement issued in Shimla. He said the state government and the chief minister must have found the matter serious enough to conduct an enquiry.

Thakur said the allegations of corruption in various departments of the state government are not being probed but an inquiry was ordered into the missing samosas.

Former state BJP chief Satpal Satti said the police should focus on probing scandals, "from the CM's office to the secretariat, instead of wasting their time on petty matters".

"It is surprising to hold an inquiry into such a small issue. I feel the Congress government is not bothered about people as their main concern is how samosas are being served at their functions. This government has totally failed and become

a laughing stock," he said in a statement in Shimla.

The BJP's chief spokesperson Randhir Sharma said in a statement, "The state government is not concerned about the development of Himachal Pradesh. Its sole focus seems to be 'chief minister's samosa'. This incident highlights a lack of coordination between the officials and employees, as well as negligence on their part."

Sharpening the attack further, BJP spokesperson Chetan Bragata said in a video statement that an "inquiry into samosas" shows the "misplaced priorities" of the state government, especially at a time when the general public is grappling with several pressing issues.

"Developmental works have come to standstill in the past two years and the Chief Minister should pay attention to them and not such petty things," Bhagata said.

international



I will say that the strengthening of our ties with India is something that this administration is incredibly proud of, both through our increased alliances through the Quad, and through our work on a number of shared priorities

THOUSANDS RALLY IN BANGLADESH

Tens of thousands of activists of a leading political party in Bangladesh rallied in the nation's capital on Friday, calling for a new election and quick reforms



of the day quote

Don't ask what the US can do for you, ask what Europe should do for itself. Europe must find a balance. I'm thinking of the issues of competitiveness, tariffs

GIORGIA MELONI | PM, ITALY

I believe that it would be irrational for them (North Korea) to decide to wage a nuclear attack against the Republic of Korea and should they do so the nuclear-based ROK-US alliance will immediately strike North Korea with the US nuclear weapon

YOON SUK YEOL | PRESIDENT, SOUTH KOREA

The move (Philippines) President signing two laws reaffirming the extent of his country's maritime territories, including in the South China Sea seriously infringes on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea

MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

Putin calls India 'great power'

Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised India's emergence as a global power, stating that the country deserves recognition as a 'superpower'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Nov 8: India deserves to be included in the list of global superpowers as its economy is currently growing faster than in any other country, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said.

Addressing the plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi Thursday, Putin also said Russia is developing relations with India in all directions and there is a great degree of trust in bilateral ties. "India should undoubtedly be added to the list of superpowers, with its billion-and-a-half population, the fastest growth among all economies in the world, ancient culture and very good prospects for further growth," he said.

Calling India a great country, Putin said: "We are developing relations with India in all directions. India is a great country, now the largest in terms of population: 1.5 billion people, plus 10 million every year."

He said India is leading the world in economic growth. "Our vision of where and at what pace our relations will develop is based on today's re-



We are developing relations with India in all directions. India is a great country, now the largest in terms of population: 1.5 billion people, plus 10 million every year

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

Putin added that the contacts between India and Russia in the security and defence sphere are developing

alities. The volume of our cooperation is increasing many times over, every year," Putin was quoted by Russian news agency Tass as saying.

Putin added that the contacts between India and Russia in the security and defence sphere are developing.

"Look at how many types of Russian military equipment are in service with the Indian armed forces. There is a great degree of trust in this relation-

ship. We don't just sell our weapons to India; we design them jointly," he said.

Putin named the BrahMos cruise missile project as an example.

"In fact, we made it (the missile) fit for use in three environments, in air, in sea and on land. These projects, conducted for the benefit of India's security, are ongoing," he said.

"This is widely known and no one has issues with that, but

these projects demonstrate a high level of mutual trust and cooperation. So this is what we will keep doing in the near term, and, I hope, will continue to do in the more distant future," he said.

Putin acknowledged certain difficulties on the border between India and China, the agency reported.

However, he said wise and competent people who keep the future of their nations in mind, are searching for compromises and will eventually find them.

"If this approach continues to gain momentum, compromises can be found, and they will be found," Putin said.

India-China relations soured after the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, the most severe military confrontation in decades. However, recent diplomatic breakthroughs have brought new hope.

On October 21, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced an agreement with China following extensive negotiations, focused on troop disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, marking a significant step toward resolving the long-standing standoff.

Israeli defence min officially steps down

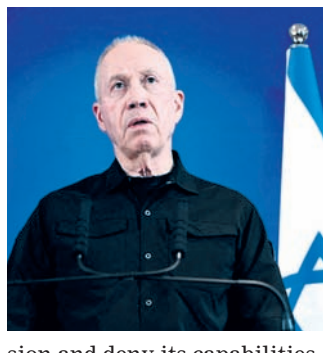
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Nov 8: Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant officially stepped down Friday in a ceremony that replaced him with Israel Katz, the former Foreign Minister, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed Gallant earlier this week.

Israel has been rocked by Gallant's firing, with the news setting off mass protests across the country. Many in Israel view Gallant as the sole moderate voice in a far-right government, and see his dismissal as a sign that the far-right government of Benjamin Netanyahu has lost interest in returning hostages still held in Gaza by Hamas militants.

Gallant thanked the military and warned that the war's "mission is not yet complete; we must meet our moral and traditional obligation, and the war's objective is to bring home the remaining 101 hostages who haven't yet seen their families and homes."

Israel Katz, his replacement, currently serves as foreign minister and is a longtime Netanyahu loyalist and veteran Cabinet minister. Katz thanked Gallant and said the war's objectives were to "stop Iranian aggres-



sion and deny its capabilities, continue dismantling Hamas as a governing and military force, and defeat Hezbollah." He added that returning the hostages was a top "moral priority."

Attack on Israeli citizens

Young people on scooters attacked Israeli fans in hit-and-run assaults overnight after a soccer game in Amsterdam apparently fuelled by calls to target Jewish people spread on social media, Dutch authorities said Friday.

Five people were treated in hospitals and dozens were arrested.

Amsterdam authorities banned a planned pro-Palestinian demonstration near the stadium, and video showed a large crowd of Israeli fans chanting anti-Arab slogans en route to the game.

SHORT TAKES

Pakistan closes park, zoo amid smog crisis

Lahore: Authorities in a broad swath of eastern Pakistan closed all public parks, zoos and museums, historical places, and playgrounds for 10 days as a record-breaking smog wave choked 18 districts of Punjab province, sickening tens of thousands of people. Lahore residents went about their lives in a twilight gloom that lingered over the city for hours, reducing visibility to around 100 metres. "These measures to ban the entry of people to such places are part of the Punjab government's efforts aimed at protecting the health of people," said Sajid Bashir, the spokesperson for the Environment Protection Department in Punjab.

Mozambique protest: Three killed, 66 injured

Maputo: Mozambique's largest hospital said Friday that at least three people were killed and 66 injured during clashes between police and protesters the previous day over a disputed election. The fatalities add to at least 18 people killed in earlier protests since the October 9 poll, which the Opposition claims was rigged. Thursday's protests were the biggest Mozambique has ever seen against Frelimo, the party that has ruled the southern African state since 1975 and was declared winner of last month's election by a landslide.



Smoke and flames billow from the Mountain Fire in Santa Paula, California

REUTERS

Indian Americans welcome Trump's victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 8: Members of the Indian-American community welcomed Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election, saying the country needs a "strong leader" like him who will deliver on his promises to tame inflation and curtail illegal immigration.

In a historic election, Trump defeated his Democratic rival Vice President Kamala Harris and was elected the 47th President of the United States, becoming only the second commander-in-chief in over a century to win two nonconsecutive presidential terms.

Before Trump, it was Grover Cleveland who had served two non-consecutive terms as President from 1885-1889 and 1893-1897.

The support for Trump was evident among members of the Indian-American community. "Trump is a strong leader. The country needs strong leadership," prominent Indian-American cardiologist and community leader Dr Avinash Gupta told PTI.

"We have seen what Trump did for four years, and then we saw the Biden-Harris administration for four years. The difference was very clear," Gupta said. Deepa, an Indian-American small business owner in the White Plains area of New York, said she voted for Trump



in the election.

Outlining her reasoning behind her support for Trump, Deepa, who requested that only her first name be used, said that Trump has served as President before and "knows what should be done for the country. He is the right person."

When asked about Harris, who could have been the first woman President of the country, Deepa said: "Her being a woman does not matter. (The Democrats) never deliver on their promises. They say they will do something but they don't. Trump is not like that. He does what he says."

Massachusetts-based entrepreneur Mohan Nannapaneni said that as a small business owner, he likes Trump's policies "because his policies are very clear and are definitely helpful for small businesses."

Trump's new chief of staff



Washington: US President-elect Donald Trump Thursday named his campaign manager Susan Wiles as his White House chief of staff, making her the first woman ever to hold this powerful position in any administration. "Susie will continue to work tirelessly to Make America Great Again. It is a well-deserved honour to have Susie as the first-ever female chief of staff in the United States history. I have no doubt that she will make our country proud," Trump said. Wiles was the campaign manager for Trump's highly successful 2024 Campaign for President. "Susie Wiles just helped me achieve one of the greatest political victories in American history, and was an integral part of both my 2016 and 2020 successful campaigns," Trump said. "Susie is tough, smart, innovative, and is universally admired and respected," said the President-elect.

Undeterred, says Oz media outlet blocked by Canada

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Canberra, Nov 8: An Australian media outlet blocked by Canada for broadcasting live a press conference addressed by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong, Friday said it remained "undeterred" and "steadfast" for an open and inclusive media landscape.

"The recent restriction and ban on our interview with Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar and the press conference with Australian Foreign Minister @SenatorWong on #socialmedia, under orders from the Canadian government, have been difficult for our team and those who value free and open #journalism," "The Australia Today" said in a long post on X.

The development comes days after Canada blocked the media outlet hours after it broadcast

First artwork by humanoid robot sells for \$1mn

Portrait of English mathematician Alan Turing was created by Ai-Da, one of the most advanced robots in the world

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, Nov 8: A portrait of English mathematician Alan Turing became the first artwork by a humanoid robot to be sold at auction, fetching more than \$1.0 million Thursday.

The 2.2-metre portrait "AI God" by "Ai-Da", the world's first ultra-realistic robot artist, went for \$1,084,800, smashing pre-sale expectations of \$180,000 at auction house Sotheby's Digital Art Sale.

"Today's record-breaking sale price for the first artwork by a humanoid robot artist to go up for auction marks a moment in



the history of modern and contemporary art and reflects the growing intersection between AI technology and the global art market," said the auction house.

Ai-Da Robot, which uses AI to speak, said: "The key value of my work is its capacity to serve as a catalyst for dialogue about emerging technologies."

Ai-Da added that a "portrait of pioneer Alan Turing invites viewers to reflect on the god-

like nature of AI and computing while considering the ethical and societal implications of these advancements."

The ultra-realistic robot, one of the most advanced in the world, is designed to resemble a human woman with a face, large eyes and a brown wig.

Ai-Da is named after Ada Lovelace, the world's first computer programmer and was devised by Aidan Meller,

a specialist in modern and contemporary art.

"The greatest artists in history grappled with their period of time, and both celebrated and questioned society's shifts," said Meller.

"Ai-Da Robot as technology, is the perfect artist today to discuss the current developments with technology and its unfolding legacy," he added.

Ai-Da generates ideas through conversations with members of the studio, and suggested creating an image of Turing during a discussion about "AI for good".

The robot was then asked what style, colour, content, tone and texture to use, before using cameras in its eyes to look at a picture of Turing and

create the painting.

Meller led the team that created Ai-Da with artificial intelligence specialists at the universities of Oxford and Birmingham in England.

Meller said Turing, who made his name as a World War II codebreaker, mathematician and early computer scientist, had raised concerns about the use of AI in the 1950s.

The artwork's "mutated tones and broken facial planes" seemingly suggested "the struggles Turing warned we will face when it comes to managing AI", he said.

Ai-Da's works were "ethereal and haunting" and "continue to question where the power of AI will take us, and the global race to harness its power", he added.



India's growth story will take the economy from \$3.5 trillion to \$35 trillion in the next 25 years
PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

PAYMENT DISPUTE: ADANI POWER CUTS B'DESH SUPPLY

India's Adani Power has further reduced electricity supply to neighbouring Bangladesh as it seeks to recover more than \$800 million in dues, according to data from Bangladesh's grid operator and two sources familiar with the move



Business

of the day quote

It's time to open up for 100 per cent FDI so more players who want to come and operate on their own terms without trying to look for an Indian partner that may also help

DEBASIS PANDA | CHAIRPERSON, IRDAI

NSE is gearing up to strengthen its commodities segment with plans to roll out new contracts in the next few months

SRIRAM KRISHNAN | CHIEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, NSE

While unilateral sanctions imposed by the US are controversial under international law, the practical reality is that countries like India must navigate these sanctions carefully to protect their business interests

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES

Zomato, Swiggy in soup

Competition Commission of India finds the food delivery giants breached antitrust laws and dealt exclusively with some partners

REUTERS

New Delhi, Nov 8: An investigation by India's antitrust body found food delivery giants Zomato and SoftBank-backed Swiggy breached competition laws, with their business practices favouring select restaurants listed on their platforms, documents show.

Zomato entered into "exclusivity contracts" with partners in return for lower commissions, while Swiggy guaranteed business growth to certain players if they listed exclusively on its platform, according to non-public documents prepared by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Exclusivity arrangements between Swiggy, Zomato and their respective restaurant partners "prevent the market from becoming more competitive," the CCI's investigation arm noted in its findings reviewed by Reuters Friday.

The CCI documents are not public, in line with its confidentiality rules, and were shared with Swiggy, Zomato and the complainant restaurant group in March 2024. Their findings have not been previously reported.

Zomato declined to comment,



while Swiggy and the CCI did not respond to Reuters queries. Shares in Zomato fell 3% after the Reuters report, from being flat in earlier trade.

The CCI case is mentioned as one of the "internal risks" in Swiggy's IPO prospectus, which says "any breach of the provisions of Competition Act, may attract substantial monetary penalties."

The CCI report noted that Swiggy told investigators the "Swiggy Exclusive" programme was phased out in 2023, but the company "is planning to launch similar program (Swiggy Grow) in non-metropolitan cities."

Food delivery giants Swiggy and Zomato have in recent years also pushed restaurants to maintain a parity on prices, directly reducing competition in the market by preventing restaurants offering lower prices on other online platforms, the CCI documents stated.

Zomato was found to have imposed pricing and discount restrictions on restaurant partners, and in some cases included a "penal provision"

- Zomato, Swiggy antitrust scrutiny comes amid business boom
- Swiggy IPO values it at \$11.3bn, Zomato valued at \$27bn
- Two companies have thousands of restaurant partners in India
- Zomato shares drop 3% in Friday's session

The antitrust investigation against Swiggy and its top rival Zomato began in 2022 after a complaint by National Restaurant Association of India about the impact on food outlets of alleged anti-competitive practices of the platforms

if the outlet failed to comply. Some of Swiggy's partner restaurants were "threatened that their rankings will be pushed down, if they do not maintain price parity," the CCI's investigation arm noted.

The next, and final phase, of the CCI case is a decision by the CCI leadership which is still reviewing the investigation findings to decide on any penalty or order changes to Swiggy's and Zomato's business practices.

That decision could take several weeks, and the companies still have the option of contesting the investigation findings with the CCI.

Zomato, which listed in 2021, has seen its shares more than triple to a valuation of about \$27 billion amid rising demand. Swiggy is valuing itself at \$11.3 billion in its IPO.

Macquarie Capital estimates Swiggy's food order values in 2024-25 will be \$3.3 billion, roughly 25% below Zomato's.

Both are now diversifying fast into quick commerce where groceries are delivered in as little as 10 minutes.

India's biggest group of retail distributors has asked the antitrust authority to investigate quick commerce businesses of Zomato, Swiggy and another rival Zepto for alleged predatory pricing, Reuters reported last month.

Inflation to rise further to 5.81%

REUTERS

Bangalore, Nov 8: Consumer price inflation in India climbed to a 14-month high of 5.81% in October primarily due to a spike in vegetable and edible oil prices, a Reuters poll of economists predicted, a shade below the central bank's tolerance threshold of 6.0%.

Food prices, which make up nearly half of the inflation basket, likely increased at a faster pace last month. Tomatoes, a key ingredient in every Indian kitchen, are expected to have surged by double digits in price as uneven rains disrupted production.

The government's decision to raise import taxes on edible oils by 20 percentage points in mid-September also likely helped to drive prices up faster, further straining household budgets.

Annual retail inflation as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) likely rose a second straight month to 5.81% in October, the highest since August 2023, according to the median forecast from a November 4-8 Reuters poll of 52 economists. It rose to 5.49% in September, higher than forecast.

UCO Bank holds Vigilance Awareness Week

Balalore: UCO Bank, Zonal Office, Balalore observes Vigilance Awareness Week with a walkathon under the guidance of Sudeep Daku, Zonal Head, Zonal Office, Balalore. Nisikant Singh, Deputy Zonal Head, Moti Kumar Sah, Lead District Manager, Kumari Reema, Chief Manager, Pradeep Kumar, SME & Agri Hub Head, Prabhudatta Purohit, RLH Head, Asit Ranjan Rup, Vigilance Officer and Sunil Kumar, Hindi Officer were present on this occasion. Daku emphasised that citizens must stress on economic, political and social development of the country and guide each other to make the nation corruption-free. Various programmes like planting of trees, competition among school and college students, organising SHG campaign, conducting Gram Sabhas in rural and semi-urban branches of Balalore Zone were conducted during the week to make it successful.

TPCODL launches 'Quality Month'

Bhubaneswar: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the Odisha government, has kicked off its fourth annual 'Quality Month'. The opening ceremony was led by Arvind Singh, CEO of TPCODL, who also chairs the company's Total Quality Management (TQM) Core Committee. Senior leadership and committee members were also present. This year's theme, "Quality: From Compliance to Performance," highlights TPCODL's focus on going beyond basic compliance to achieving top-tier performance that meets customer expectations. In his address, Singh emphasised the importance of "First Time Right" and the "Cost of Poor Quality," stressing that maintaining high service standard is key, even in tough circumstances. "Quality is not an act, it is a habit," he said, urging employees to adopt a culture of quality in everything they do.

Foreign outflows, dull earnings drag equities

Shares log fifth week of losses in six sessions

REUTERS

Mumbai, Nov 8: Indian stocks dropped Friday, ending the week in the red, as concerns over dull corporate earnings and persistent foreign outflows outweighed gains in information technology stocks following the US Federal Reserve's expected interest rate cut.

The NSE Nifty 50 fell 0.21% to 24,148.2, while the BSE Sensex shed 0.07% to 79,486.32.

They have dropped 0.64% and 0.3%, respectively, this week, posting their fifth weekly losses in six.

"A wave of foreign selling and underwhelming second-quarter earnings have continued to pile the pressure on markets," said Akshay Chinchalkar, head of research at Axis Securities.

Foreign investors were net sellers in all 29 sessions from September 27 to November 8, withdrawing about \$13 billion mainly to invest in China, drawn by Beijing's stimulus

withdrawing about \$13 billion mainly to invest in China, drawn by Beijing's stimulus



₹ dips to new nadir of 84.37

RUPEE ₹ VS DOLLAR \$



In the last three sessions, the local unit has lost 28 paise against the greenback

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 8: Declining for the third straight session, the rupee dropped 5 paise to hit a new lifetime low of 84.37 against the US dollar Friday, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows and a muted trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said the US Federal Reserve's recent decision to cut interest rates signals a shift in the global financial landscape. Moreover, with Donald Trump's tax and trade policies influencing global markets, volatility could re-enter the rupee's trajectory.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.32 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.31 and a low of 84.38. It finally settled at 84.37, a loss of 5 paise against its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee slipped 1 paise to close at a

fresh lifetime low of 84.32 against the US dollar.

The rupee hit a record low on account of extending sell-off in the domestic markets and continuous foreign fund outflows. Overnight gains in crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee, said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

However, the softening of the US Dollar index cushioned the downside. The dollar softened as the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 25 bps in line with street estimates.

The Fed Chair Jerome Powell said in his presser that the US economy was strong and some downside risks seemed to have diminished.

In its latest monetary policy announcement, the US Fed reduced its benchmark rate by 0.25 basis points to a target range of 4.5 per cent-4.75 per cent.

In its accompanying statement, the Fed adopted a neutral-to-dovish tone, acknowledging balanced risks in inflation and employment.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent lower at 104.50.

For now, it is better to buy on dips and keep exports on hold until the rupee finds its level. There also seems to be a cash dollar shortage in the markets as the RBI is not supplying sufficient dollars, which FPIs are buying

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Q2 RESULTS

SBI profit jumps

Mumbai: SBI Friday reported a 23 per cent on-year jump in consolidated net profit at ₹19,782 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2024. The consolidated net profit for the corresponding period last year stood at ₹16,099 crore. On a standalone basis, the country's largest lender reported a net profit of ₹18,331 crore, as against ₹14,330 crore in the year ago period and ₹17,035 crore in the preceding quarter.

Vedanta logs loss

New Delhi: Mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd Friday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹4,352 crore in the September 2024 quarter on the back of lower tax expenses. However, the company posted a consolidated net loss of ₹1,783 crore in the year-ago period. Its tax expenses dropped to ₹2,030 crore against ₹9,092 crore in the July-September period a year ago. The company's consolidated income during the quarter declined to ₹38,934 crore over ₹39,585 a year ago.

LIC profit drops

Mumbai: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's biggest insurer, posted a 3.8% fall in second-quarter profit Friday as it paid out higher benefits, while new business margins for the half-year expanded. LIC's profit after tax fell to ₹76.21 billion for the quarter ended September 30 from ₹79.25 billion a year earlier. The net premium income rose 11.6% to ₹1.20 trillion but the net benefits paid by the insurer to policyholders climbed 17% to ₹975.62 billion during the quarter.

Ola losses narrow

Mumbai: Ola Electric, India's top e-scooter maker by market share, reported a narrower second-quarter loss Friday, helped by a jump in sales. The Bangalore-based company said its consolidated loss narrowed to ₹4.95 billion in the July-September quarter from ₹5.24 billion a year earlier. Ola Electric, which went public in August, said its revenue jumped 39.1% to ₹12.14 billion.

Tata Motors net dips

New Delhi: Tata Motors Friday reported a 9.9 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to ₹3,450 crore for the second quarter ended September 2024, mainly impacted by lower sales.

TRAI open house sees Jio, Airtel spar with Starlink, Amazon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel clashed with satellite players that are eyeing India's lucrative satcom market at TRAI's open house discussion Friday, as telecom operators made a spirited pitch for level-playing field among the "competing", "substitutable services" and satcom companies argued that justification for administrative assignment of radiowaves is "techno-economic".

The high-voltage discussions went on for over six hours under the watchful eye of the regulator and saw active partici-

ipation of all key stakeholders - from Jio, Airtel and Vodafone Idea to satellite biggies like Starlink and Amazon (Project Kuiper is Amazon's low Earth orbit satellite broadband network).

The open house discussion was punctuated with frequent interjections and counter-arguments, and, at times, emotional outbursts, as opposing factions made their submissions on issues such as pricing, period of assignment of satcom spectrum, frequency bands, roll out obligations, and other nuances.

"We (TSPs) are working in a hyper-competitive market. We are not afraid of competition. It is the other way around actually. The entities which want to be in this space via satellite, in the telecommunication space via satellite, are afraid of competition, and that's why they



want all this kind of protection and get spectrum for free," Ravi Gandhi of Reliance Jio said.

Gandhi batted for a level-playing field saying same terms and conditions, and same spectrum pricing is "extremely important".

Gandhi also suggested that if government decides not to auction spectrum for satcom, they

can auction the licence - as was done in 2001 when licence was auctioned and spectrum was given on administrative basis for mobile services.

Slamming arguments made by certain players around "predatory pricing of next-generation systems", Parnil Urdhwashe, Director, Starlink Satellite Communications said

Starlink prices for any country are readily available on its website, and that it is proud of making satellite broadband affordable for users who have so far been unserved.

He asserted that Indian users want satellite broadband services and that these "intelligent consumers" have the right to choose an operator who will provide them with an affordable, high-quality service.

"In our experience, over 113 markets as of today, users always choose satellite broadband when they lack other options for reasons of coverage or reliability or affordability. And we think all of these users have an equal right to crossing the digital divide. So a false distinction between their lack of connectivity versus traditional use cases is fundamentally against any goals of universal

access, which is really the point of services such as Starlink," Urdhwashe said.

All satellite operators should be able to serve any user who requires their services across India rather than distinctions being created based on their preferred markets, he argued.

Musk's Starlink and global peers like Amazon's Project Kuiper back an administrative allocation of satcom spectrum.

While Ambani's Reliance Jio has been vocal about the need to allocate such spectrum through an auction to give a level playing field to legacy operators who buy airwaves and set up infrastructure like telecom towers, Sunil Mittal last month at an industry event where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also present articulated the need to use bidding for such allocation.

New coach for Chopra by year-end

Star javelin thrower to travel to Potchefstroom, South Africa for 31-day training stint this month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 8: Indian athletics chief Radhakrishnan Nair stated that a new coach for star javelin thrower Chopra will be appointed by the end of the year. Chopra recently parted ways with German coach Klaus Bartonietz, ending a hugely successful five-year stint. Bartonietz decided to call it a day citing personal reasons.

Chopra will also travel to Potchefstroom, South Africa later this month for an off-season training stint to start early preparation for next year's competitions. The 26-year-old double Olympic medallist, who last competed in Brussels in the Diamond League Final in September, will spend 31 days in the South African city. His training stint will be funded by the Sports Ministry, officials said.

"(He) will start his training early and will be in Potchefstroom for a period of 31 days," the ministry said in a statement on Friday. "Neeraj's training session will be funded by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) and the expenditure will cover his and his physiotherapist's lodging, boarding and training cost for the period of his stay in South Africa," the release added.

In the past, Chopra has trained in Potchefstroom ma-

ny times, including ahead of Tokyo and Paris Olympics. He also took part in a competition there in January 2020, just before the Covid-19 pandemic struck the world.

Chopra battled an adductor muscle niggle throughout the year and it also affected his performance at both the Paris Olympics and the Diamond League Final, where he competed with a fractured left hand. He had earlier spoken about consulting doctors at the end of the season to decide whether to go for a surgery to fix the problem.

However while talking to this agency September 27, he had played down injury concerns and also stated that he will look to improve his technique. "It was an injury-plagued year but it is fine now, I will be 100 per cent fit for the new season," he had said.

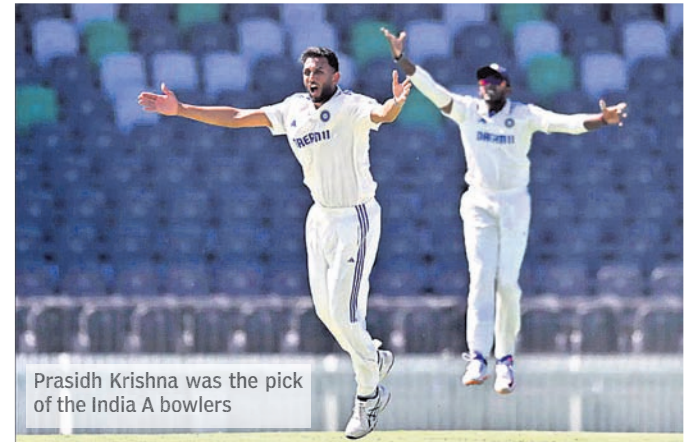
Chopra's main aim next year will be to defend the World Championships

Sports Ministry to fund Chopra's training stint in South Africa

Chopra's main aim is to defend his world championship title he won in Budapest



Rahul, Easwaran disappoint again



Prasidh Krishna was the pick of the India A bowlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Nov 8: KL Rahul's (10) horror run with the bat continued as he got out in a bizarre fashion to leave India A at a shaky 73 for five on the second day of the second unofficial Test against Australia A here Friday. Seeking to open the batting for India in case skipper Rohit Sharma skips the first Test in Perth, Rahul endured a disastrous outing in the tune-up match.

Abhimanyu Easwaran's (17) struggles against the moving ball also did not help India A's cause as they led by only 11 runs with half the side back in the dressing room in their second innings.

After bowling out India A for 161 on the opening day, Australia A managed 223, not a total the home team had hoped for, but it still gave them a substantial first-innings lead of 62 runs. Prasidh Krishna (4/50) and Mukesh Kumar (3/41) were the most successful bowlers for India.

Coming out to bat for the second time in the game, the Indian top-order disappointed

again as the Australian bowlers struck some vital blows to help their team inch closer to a series sweep. Australia A won the opening game by seven wickets. Only first innings top-scorer Dhruv Jurel (19 batting) showed the gumption to fight.

Looking completely out of sorts, Rahul was bowled in a bizarre fashion after facing 44 balls at the MCG. He misjudged a tossed up delivery from off-spinner Corey Rocchiccioli and offered no shot as the ball ricocheted off his pads to hit the stumps, leaving the batter embarrassed while he walked back to the dressing room.

Abhimanyu, who was picked as a back-up opener for the upcoming five-match rubber Down Under, also failed to deliver, following his first-innings duck. The Indian top-order struggled against quality spin and pace, leaving them at 56/5 early in the second innings.

Jurel and Nitish Kumar Reddy (9 batting) ensured there was no further setbacks by negotiating the remaining overs before the stumps were drawn for the day.

SHORT TAKES

Massive victory for Odisha hockey team

Chennai: Hockey Association of Odisha routed Le Puducherry Hockey 6-2 in a match of the Senior Men's Nationals played here Friday. This was Odisha's second successive win in Pool E and they look firm favourites to top their group and qualify for the quarterfinals. Amandeep Lakra (11th), Neelam Sanjiv Kess (18th), Sudeep Chirmako (34th), Pradeep Lakra (37th), Rajat Akash Tirkey (43rd) and Kerobin Lakra (55th) scored a goal each for Odisha. Nabin Kujur (21st) and T Arun Kumar (45th) got the goals for Le Puducherry. Odisha play their next game Sunday against Arunachal Pradesh.

Rohan, Ebden seeded sixth

Turin (Italy): India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden have been seeded sixth and placed in 'Bob Bryan Group' at the year-end ATP Finals, where they will open their campaign Monday against fourth seed Italians Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori. The top eight singles players and top eight doubles pairs compete in the year-end Finals that brings down the curtains on the season. The event will be played November 11 to 17. The other two pairs in the 'Bob Bryan Group' are: Germany's Kevin Krawietz/Tim Puetz and Croatia-El Salvadorian team of Marcelo Arevalo/Mate Pavic. The top-two teams in each group will qualify for the semifinals.

Nabi set to bid adieu to ODIs

New Delhi: Afghanistan's star all-rounder Mohammad Nabi will bid adieu to ODI format after the culmination of next year's Champions Trophy (CT) in Pakistan. Nabi has so far scored 3,549 runs in 165 ODIs and has taken 171 wickets. Afghanistan cricket board chief executive Naseeb Khan confirmed the news Friday. He informed that the 39-year-old veteran will continue to play T20Is for the country. "Yes, Nabi is retiring from ODIs after the CT and he informed the board about his desire," Naseeb was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz. "He however, also informed that he will continue playing in T20Is," he added.

Odisha stare at innings defeat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 8: Odisha are staring at an innings defeat in their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match against Mumbai. Odisha's first innings ended on 285 and they were asked follow on after which at stumps on the third day of the match, they were 126 for five in their second innings at the Sharad Pawar Cricket Academy in Mumbai, Friday. Odisha still need another 191 runs to avoid innings defeat, which definitely looks very improbable now.

Of the 14 Odisha wickets to fall on the day, left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (6/115 and 1/26) and off-spinner Himanshu Singh (3/53 and 3/45) snared 13. None of the Odisha batters were able to tackle the two on a pitch which is already showing signs of wear and tear with deliveries turning sharply and bouncing awkwardly.

Resuming at their overnight score of 75 for one, Odisha lost wickets at regular intervals with skipper Govind Poddar (0) and Biplab Samantray (0) again failing to trouble the scorers. Only Sandeep Pattnaik (102, 187b, 11x4, 4x6) defied the Mumbai spinners to a certain extent. However, in an attempt to force the pace after reaching his hundred he played all over a delivery from Mulani and was bowled.



SANDEEP PATTHAIK

Odisha managed to go past the 275-run mark due to some last ditch resistance by Debabrata Pradhan (45) and Aasirwad Swain (37). They tried to dig in, but they simply did not have the technique to survive on such a pitch. However, even then their efforts need to be lauded.

First innings centurion Sandeep scored 39 in the second in-

nings before being dismissed by Mulani for the second time in the game. Aasirwad (46 batting) has been the only Odisha batter to offer some resistance in the second innings.

Brief scores: Mumbai 602 for 4 declared; Odisha 285 (Sandeep Pattnaik 102, Shams Mulani 6/115) and 126 for 5 (Aasirwad Swain 46 batting, Himanshu Singh 3/45). Match to continue.

Samson scores scintillating century against Proteas

The Kerala man has now become the first Indian batter to hit back-to-back centuries in T20 Internationals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Durban, Nov 8: India deliver a commanding performance to seal the first game with a thumping 61-run victory, taking a 1-0 lead in the series.

Sanju Samson displayed his true potential sending the South African attack on a leather-hunt with a splendid century before the hosts clawed their way back to restrict India to a manageable 202 for 8 in the opening T20I Friday.

Often panned for not realizing the minefield of talent that he is, the Kerala man has now become the first Indian batter to hit back-to-back centuries in T20 Internationals as his 50-ball-107 had as many as 10 sixes apart from seven hits to the fence.

Once Samson was dismissed, India could manage only 35 runs in the last five overs.

On a breezy Durban evening with crosswinds blowing across the Kingsmead, Sanju showed Samson-like strength apart from silken grace that one can associate with Rohit Sharma's halcyon days.

There were pulled sixes off short balls from leg-spin-



ner Nqabiyomzi Peter and to length deliveries from pacers, he would just make room and tonk them down the ground.

The best shot which would be etched in the memory for the longest time would be a lofted six over extra cover off seamer Andile Semilane where the batter holding the pose post execution was sight to behold.

He added 66 runs in just 5.5 overs with Suryakumar Yadav (21) and another 77 with Tilak Varma (33) in 5.4 overs.

His performance raised visions of a score of close to 250 but pacers Gerald Coetzee (3/37 in 4 overs) and Marco Jansen (1/24 in 4 overs) bowled brilliantly at the death to not only get wickets but also slip in a generous number of dot balls to curtail the damage inflicted by Samson during the first 15 overs.

Kiran continues giant-killing run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Iksan City (Korea), Nov 8: India's Kiran George continued his spectacular run in the Korea Masters badminton tournament as he stormed into the men's singles semifinals with a straight-game win over fifth seed Takuma Obayashi of Japan here Friday.

The 24-year-old, ranked 41st, beat World No. 34 Obayashi 21-14, 21-16 in just 39 minutes to register yet another upset win in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event. George will next face Thailand's top seed and World No. 5 Kunlavut Vitidsarn - who won 21-15, 21-11 against Liu Liang of China.

George, the lone Indian shuttler competing in the tournament, was in control of the match throughout. After 1-1 scoreline, he was always in the lead in the first game.

When George zoomed to 15-6 lead, Obayashi made a brief resistance, closing the gap to 12-16. But that was all the Japanese could do as George notched five straight points to take the first game.

The second game was a closer affair as the duo breathed down each other's necks. George was initially 7-3 ahead but Obayashi narrowed the lead down to 16-17. However, George won four points in a row to win the match.

Cuttack players shine in state TT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 8: Aryan Mohanty (Puri), Santanu Routray (Cuttack), Kirtimaan Das (Cuttack) and Janardhan Majhi (Rourkela Steel Plant) sealed their spots in the last eight stage of the boys' under-11 singles of the 30th Inter-District and Odisha State TT Championships-2024 at the Biju Pattnaik Multi-purpose Hall here Friday. All the four registered emphatic victories over their respective opponents.

In the girls' under-11 segment singles event, Meet Pujapanda (Puri), Shreyanshi Subhadarshini Mishra (KDTTA), Sidiksha Bhagat (Cuttack) and Pankhudi Nayak (Cuttack) have also qualified for the quarterfinals. All the quarterfinals in the boys' and girls' categories will be played Saturday.

In the under-15 girls' segment Urja Verma (Cuttack), Aradhya



Sahoo (Cuttack), Sakshi Bhagat (Cuttack) and Sweta Verma (Cuttack) have entered the semifinals. Urja defeated Itishree Sahoo (Cuttack) 3-0, Aradhya trounced Ashi Swayanshi (Cuttack) 3-0, Shakshi overcame Ashna Aditi (KDTTA) 3-1 in a thrilling encounter, while Sweta ended the challenge of Anuska Mohanty (Cuttack) by an identical margin.

In the semis Urja will face Aradhya while Sweta will take on Shakshi for a place in the title round.

Hughes saves Botham from crocs

AGENCIES

Melbourne, Nov 8: Legendary England cricketer, Sir Ian Botham has shared an incredible story of how his one-time fierce rival-turned-friend, Merv Hughes, a former Australian pacer, came to his rescue after a terrifying fall into crocodile and shark-infested waters in Australia's tropical north region. The mishap took place on the Moyle River, located about 200 kilometers south of Darwin, where Botham and Hughes were fishing for barramundi.

Botham, 68, was on a four-day fishing expedition with his former Ashes rival when things took a dangerous turn. While attempting to move on the boat, his footwear snagged on a rope, causing him to tumble and land heavily, resulting



Botham displays a fish he caught; the bruises he suffered due to the fall



in severe bruising and a close call with a saltwater crocodile. Reflecting on the incident, Botham humorously noted, "At the end of the day, Crocodile Beefy survived," cleverly referencing his nickname along with the popular Australian

film, *Crocodile Dundee*. "I was out of the water quicker than I went in. Quite a few sets of (crocodile) eyes were having a peep at me. Luckily I had no time to think about what was in the water," Botham said. "The guys were brilliant, it was

just one of those accidents. It was all very quick and I'm OK now," the former England captain said.

Botham and Hughes were known for their fierce on-field battles during the Ashes in the 1980s, with the Englishman famously hitting the Australian pacer for 22 runs in a single over - a record for the most runs scored in one over in an Ashes Test at the time.

Despite their rivalry, Botham and Hughes have remained friends since retiring from cricket. Botham played 102 Tests for England scoring 5,200 runs with 14 centuries. He also picked up 383 wickets. In 116 ODIs he scored 2,113 runs and bagged 145 wickets.

The Moyle river is known to have roughly five crocodiles per square kilometre.