



HISTORIC FEAT

A LONG-OVERDUE: Members of team Odisha celebrate after winning the 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship final against Haryana, at Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, Saturday

CM: Odisha will be the first choice of investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday embarked on a four-day visit to Singapore to present the state's investment opportunities to global investors.

He was accompanied by Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain and other state government officials.

"Our message will be clear that Odisha is open for business, and we are ready for it," Majhi told reporters before starting his tour which aligned with the annual festival of Bali Yatra, symbolising Odisha's ancient maritime trade legacy.

Stating that the objective of his visit is to position Odisha as a premier destination for global investments, the CM said Singapore is famous for its businesses in the fields of chemicals, petrochemicals, green energy, logistics, ship making, financial services, electronics, semiconductors and others.

"They (Singapore) have good presence in these fields. We will meet them, so that businesses come to Odisha," Majhi told



reporters, adding that the trip will be helpful in furthering Odisha's industrial growth and economic development.

The CM said, "When investors will think about investing in India, Odisha will be their first choice for doing business."

He went on to add, "We will discuss with the business heads and make them aware of Odisha's resources and skilled manpower and industrial policy and organise a road show."

According to official sources, the delegation will explore potential collaborations and opportunities with industry leaders, investors, and policy-

makers in Singapore. The tour is organised to attract investments ahead of the upcoming Utkarsh Odisha 2025 Summit in January next year.

Meanwhile, Opposition BJD welcomed Majhi's tour to Singapore to bring investment to the state.

"However, the state government must take steps to create conducive atmosphere to keep big investments like ArcelorMittal/Nippon Steel & JSW EV project in the state for which MoUs have been signed earlier," BJD MLA and former Industries Minister Pratap Deb told reporters.

Maiden national hockey title for Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Nov 16: Dubbed as the capital of Indian Hockey for producing a number of India internationals including current Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, Odisha surprisingly didn't ever win Senior Men National Championship.

That jinx was broken Saturday here at Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium as Odisha outplayed Haryana 5-1 in the final

of the 14th Hockey India Senior Men's National Championship 2024.

Tamil Nadu's deputy CM Udayanidhi Stalin handed over the trophy to the Odisha team in the presence of Hockey India president and Odisha hockey legend Dilip Tirkey.

Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi congratulated the Odisha team on its historic victory.

Taking to X Majhi wrote, "Huge congratulations to the

#Odisha Hockey team on clinching their historic first ever gold medal at the 14th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2024! The Odisha team triumphed over Hockey Haryana today, marking a major milestone."

India international Shilananand Lakra slammed a hat-trick to hand Odisha the much-needed trophy.

Shilananand (48th, 57th, 60th minutes) scored three goals in a span

of 12 minutes, while Rajat Akash Tirkey (11th) seized an early opportunity to give Odisha the lead, scoring from close range. Prapat Lakra (39th) then doubled the lead in the third quarter, converting a penalty stroke.

In the fourth quarter, Shilananand rose to the occasion for Odisha. Haryana's lone goal was scored by Joginder Singh (55th). Uttar Pradesh defeated Manipur 2-1 to claim the third spot.

ECoR plans to install Kavach system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) plans to install the Kavach, train collision avoidance system, an official said.

The Kavach system will be installed between Ranital (Bhadrak) in Odisha and Duvvada (Visakhapatnam) in Andhra Pradesh, a vital section of the Howrah-Chennai main line covering a distance of 595 km. "Tender has been notified for the survey, design, supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of Kavach equipment, as well as other associated works, with an estimated value of about ₹280 crore," an official statement said.

"A detailed estimation is underway for installing Kavach in the remaining sections of ECOR. It is also focusing on modern signalling and interlocking systems to minimise human error," it said.

The installation of Kavach, the indigenous system, is a top priority set by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to enhance safety on busy and critical rail corridors.

The automatic train protection (ATP) system is designed to prevent train collisions and ensure enhanced operational safety.

NHRC notice to UP govt

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Saturday has issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh government in connection with a fire at the children's ward of a medical college in Jhansi that claimed the lives of 10 newborns. Describing reports of the incident as 'disturbing', the NHRC has sought a detailed report within a week. The commission observed that the contents of the reports are "indeed disturbing and indicate negligence" resulting in a "grave violation" of the human rights of the victims as they were in the care of a government institution. P3&8

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



C'mon, prioritise-clean the roads, call the photographers, arrange refreshments... be ready for VIP visits!

Indian universities not up to mark: NITI

Flashy infra and high capitation fees notwithstanding, the quality of education in Indian varsities is falling far short of standards which may come in the way of the country's aspiration to become a world leader in years to come. A point in that direction has been made by NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, Friday. The assertion holds considerable significance in the backdrop of NEP-2020 which envisaged sea change in streamlining curriculum to create new opportunities for students. At least 50 per cent students of the country should be in colleges whereas the existing universities can accommodate only 29 per cent of students. India has 1,200 varsities at the moment and it needs another 1,300 to accommodate these students, Subrahmanyam said. Though the number looks good on paper, many of the existing varsities do not meet required standard and there is a need to deliver education differently, he pointed out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Nov 16: In order to have 50 per cent of the country's students in universities, India needs to double the varsities' strength to 2,500, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has said.

Delivering a keynote address at the Indian School of

Business (ISB) here Friday, he said though one university and two colleges were opened every week in the past ten years, only 29 per cent of the age cohort enroll in the varsities.

"Today we have 1,200 universities and slightly more than four crore students, but that's only 29 per cent of the cohort age enroll in the university



system. Actually, at least 50 per cent of the students should be in colleges.

"We need to double the colleges and universities in the country. The country needs 2,500 universities. It may look like a good number but a lot of universities are not up to the mark. But the fact is, you need those numbers. Maybe we need to deliver education differently," he said.

Speaking on the silver lining, Subrahmanyam said that with a huge digital infrastructure, India has become the biggest

laboratory in the digital world where one can experiment at a scale.

The CEO said India has created a huge architecture called digital public infrastructure by going the public route rather than the private.

The official further said Estonia was the first country with a population of two million which went for digital identity. However, India did at the scale of 140 crore people and everybody has a digital identity and 120 crore people have bank accounts.

"India has become the biggest laboratory in the digital world. A laboratory where you can experiment at a scale which is impossible and inconceivable anywhere else, probably except the United States. Maybe we even leapfrog them for a variety of reasons," he said.

Bird's stress could spread in group, affect the non-stressed



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: An individual bird's stress could be contagious, with other non-stressed birds displaying lower levels of activity, meaning that they possibly 'explore their environment less' or limit movement, according to a study that explored the social effects of a stressed bird.

With habitats changing rapidly due to urbanisation and climate change, animals are increasingly exposed to stress.

However, little research has shown how an individual's stress

levels affect the group, including behaviour of other members who may not be experiencing stress themselves, said researchers at the University of Konstanz, Germany.

For the study, published in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B Biological Sciences*, the researchers looked at 96 zebra finches, which are native to countries such as Australia and Indonesia.

The birds were kept in four separate groups -- 12 females and males each -- for six months prior to the study.

Birds had ample time to form pairs and most pairs had bred be-

fore, the researchers said.

Over three rounds of experiments, each lasting four weeks, some members of the groups were exposed to disruptions of differing nature -- such as being restrained, cage disturbances or loud music -- thereby causing stress to the birds.

The researchers measured levels of the stress hormone 'corticotestosterone' in the birds' tail feathers in addition to recording the behavioural responses on cameras.

The social environment was found to impact both activity and behaviour of the zebra finches that were not exposed to stress, with the non-stressed birds responding in a way similar to the stressed ones.

"Our experiments show that stress responses can spread beyond individuals to other members of their social group, even to those who are not exposed to stress themselves," said co-author Hanja Brandl, a behavioural biologist at the University of Konstanz.

"In groups where a larger proportion of birds experiences stress, we observed this effect even more strongly," she said.

The researchers also found that unexposed birds in groups, with more numbers experiencing stress, moved less.

US returns \$10mn worth looted antiquities to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Nov 16: A sandstone sculpture looted from Madhya Pradesh in 1980s and another in green-grey schist, looted from Rajasthan in 1960s are among the over 1,400 antiquities collectively valued at USD 10 million that the US returned to India.

More than 600 more antiquities looted from India are scheduled to be repatriated in coming months.

The pieces were returned here at a ceremony in the presence of Manish Kulhary from the Consulate General of India and Alexandra deArmas, Group Supervisor from the Homeland Security Investigation of New York Cultural Property, Art, and Antiquities Group, according to a statement from Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L Bragg, Jr.

The sandstone sculpture depicting a celestial dancer was looted from a temple in Madhya Pradesh in the early 1980s. The looters had cleaved the sculpture into two halves to facili-

tate smuggling and illicit sale and by February 1992, the two halves were illegally imported from London into New York, professionally reassembled, and donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met).

It remained on display at the Met, until it was seized by the Antiquities Traffic Unit (ATU) in 2023. The second sculpture, Tanesar Mother Goddess, carved from green-gray schist, was looted from a village of Tanesara-Mahadeva in Rajasthan.

First documented in the late 1950s by an Indian archaeologist along with 11 other sculptures of mother goddesses, the Tanesar Mother Goddess and her fellow mother goddesses were stolen one evening in the early 1960s, the statement said Wednesday.

By 1968, the Tanesar Mother Goddess was in a Manhattan gallery and after passing through two other collectors in New York, the Met accessioned the Tanesar Mother Goddess in 1993, where it remained on display until it was seized by the ATU in 2022, it added.

Eminent English Professor and renowned singer
Late Anima Mishra Kar
(11th December 1941 - 28th November 2023)
is fondly remembered today on her first "Shraddha".
Her life and contributions continue to inspire us.
May she rest in eternal peace!

Family members, Trustees of Sarat Kar & Anima Kar Foundation, and Members of CHESTA

leisure

NICOLE KIDMAN TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL STAR AWARD



Actor Nicole Kidman will receive the International Star Award at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. The honour is in recognition of Kidman's acclaimed performance in the *Babygirl*, for which she won the Venice Film Festival's best actress award.

CONAN O'BRIEN TO HOST OSCARS 2025



Emmy Award-winning TV host, writer, producer, and comedian Conan O'Brien will be the sole host for the 97th Academy Awards March 2. Conan will be following in the footsteps of fellow comedian Jimmy Kimmel, who hosted the Oscars for two consecutive years.

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

The stars urge you to focus on your finances and savings, and today, you might remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesh, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film.

TAURUS

Your think tank will be running on overdrive today. Your possessiveness might kick in to cause a conflict. Keep your anger under the carpet to avoid any unnecessary complications. Introspection will also play upon your thoughts, leading you to explore your problems and pry for solutions, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI

Today may not be very meaningful and productive for you, though you will get to spend plenty of quality time with yourself in the afternoon, which may not necessarily be to your liking. By evening, you may feel a little extra sensitive. A lonely day, or as an optimist would put it, you've got the whole day to yourself; it could have been worse (For instance, a day alone with your nagging mother-in-law).

CANCER

You are likely to be at your inventive best today, feels Ganesh. You are likely to taste success, much to the delight of your colleagues at work and loved ones back home. However, experience counts, and if you are a beginner at something, you may face problems in your new venture.

LEO

Chess is a good start, but it is nothing compared to the strategic intrigues of your day today. Arguments will lead to further arguments, and nowhere else, reminds Ganesh. So, it only makes sense to counter a disagreement with an agreement. But then again, total agreement is doubly secretive.

VIRGO

You will shine exceedingly well in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of starting business operations on foreign shores will fructify today, says Ganesh. You may pay more attention to your personal appearance, which will boost your morale considerably.

LIBRA

Call it your generous side, but today is the perfect day to give back to all those from whom you have received so far. With roots set firmly in community service, it might do you well to extend that helping hand and return something back to them, preferably in the double.

SCORPIO

An upcoming project of a new joint venture will capsize your personal life and keep you on your toes today, says Ganesh. You may not find the results in proportion to the efforts that you put in, but be patient because everything will fall in place only in due time.

SAGITTARIUS

To do or not to do? That will be the question for most of today as you find yourself pulling out of one dilemma only to trip into the next one. Controversy will surround you and you may find yourself at the crossroads, where you are unsure of which direction to take.

CAPRICORN

There are good days and bad days; your day today will oscillate between the two extremes, says Ganesh. While on the one hand, your mind will be flooded with negative feelings that will make you feel miserable, on the other, your efforts at work will yield good results in the future.

AQUARIUS

You are already overloaded with work. On the top of it, people around you will conveniently put their share of load on your back, and you will take it most of the times. You, however, will not get bogged down by the additional responsibilities.

PISCES

Are you fretting over the obstacles you are facing on the business front? Ganesh tackles the root of your problem and advises you to be patient and have faith in your undertakings. Good things will come your way, in good time.

Ananya on importance of 'taking a step back'

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday has spoken about the importance of taking a "step back" and being "grateful" in the moment. Ananya was talking to content creator Ankush Bahuguna on her podcast *So Positive*. The glimpse of the chat was uploaded on Instagram. In the video Ankush can be heard saying: "Biggest fear is that whatever I've accumulated, how do I protect it and how do I like to move forward and not lose it. If I ever get this lucky again in life, I'll find such a loving audience." To which, Ananya added, "Stepping back and being grateful for how far you've come is very important and you know giving

yourself a little pat on your..." Ankush shared that the actress just gave him the "solution to deal with this". "Yeah, I think just because I feel that all the time because when a good thing is happening to you, your first thought is like, oh what if it goes away? And I think just stepping back and kind of being grateful in the moment and taking it all in and realizing how far you've come. Instead of thinking about how far you need to go, you've also come a long way," said Ananya. **IAN5**

A sneak peek into Manushi's life

Mumbai: Actress Manushi Chhillar, who was last seen in *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan*, has shared her checklist for the week.

Saturday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared several pictures of herself going about her routine, and enjoying life. In the pictures, she can be seen inside a gym doing pilates, getting decked-up during her make-up session, enjoying a few drinks, and posing next to a punching bag.

She wrote in the caption, "My week checklist, work and travel, exercise, glam, catching up with friends, finishing my painting, revisiting childhood memories in Delhi". Earlier, the actress credited her father and doctor Mitra Basu Chhillar for his dedication that inspired her to dream of being a "clinician" when she was younger. **IAN5**



Nayanthara-Dhanush rift turning ugly

Mumbai: The upcoming streaming documentary *Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale*, based on superstar Nayanthara, has triggered a rift between the actress and superstar Dhanush. The actress called out Dhanush after he sent a legal notice to her seeking compensation over the use of certain clips in the documentary without authorisation.

The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a long letter addressed to Dhanush in which she pointed the gun at the actor for trying to block the release of her documentary as it features footage from the film *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan*.

She wrote, "A well-established actor like you, with the support and blessings of your father and your brother, an ace director, needs to read and understand this. Cinema as we all know is a fight for survival for people like me, a self made woman with no links in the industry and someone who had to struggle my way to the position I hold today. I'd owe this to my work ethic that is no secret to all who know me but more importantly, to the good-will of the audience and my film fraternity".

She shared that the release of her Netflix documentary has been much awaited by many of her fans. She continued, "This Netflix Documentary about me, my life, my love and marriage includes clips of many of my industry well-wishers who have graciously contributed and memories from multiple films, but sadly does not include the



most special and important film, *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan*. She shared that after two long years of battling it out with the actor for an NOC (No Objection Certificate) and waiting for his approval for the documentary release, the team finally decided to give up, re-edit and settle for the current version since he declined to permit the usage of *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan* songs or visual cuts.

She went on, "What's even more shocking is your legal notice after the release of the trailer of the Netflix Documentary. We were startled to read those lines wherein you questioned the usage of some videos (just 3 seconds) which were shot in our personal devices and that too BTS visuals that are already very much publicly present on social media and claimed a sum of Rs.10 crores as damages for the mere 3 seconds. This is an all time low from you and speaks so much about your character. I wish you were half on stage in audio front of your fans but clearly you do not practice what you preach, at least not for me and my fans".

Nayanthara said she would be giving a "befitting" reply to Dhanush's notice through lawful means. **IAN5**



Palak, Ibrahim spark dating rumours

Mumbai: The growing closeness between Palak Tiwari and Ibrahim Ali Khan has always been a topic of discussion among their fans. Both have been spotted together many times. However, they have never publicly confirmed their relationship, but now their latest Instagram posts from Maldives have added fuel to the dating rumours.

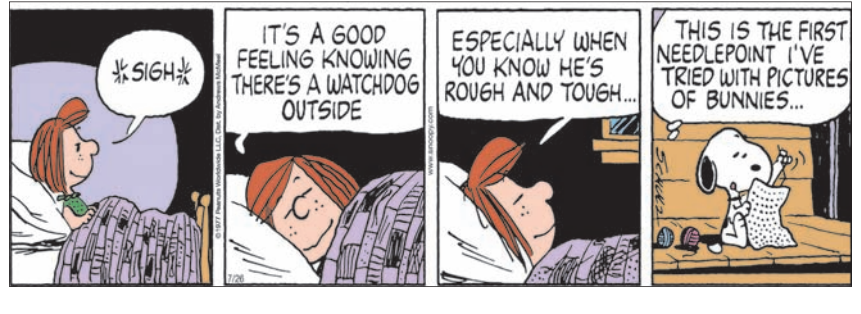
Recently, Palak shared a couple of photos and videos from her Maldives vacation and now Ibrahim, too has shared his Maldives trip photos. Although they do not feature in each other's posts, but, the eagle-eyed followers observed that the photos are taken in a similar location.

Commenting on the uncanny similarities, one fan noted, "Palak clicking his pictures, wow." Another chimed in, "They aren't even trying to hide it, lmao." A third fan took it a step further, declaring, "Means it is confirmed that you are dating Palak."

Rumours of Palak and Ibrahim's relationship started after a movie premiere in 2022 when Palak was spotted with Ibrahim and his friends. **AGENCIES**



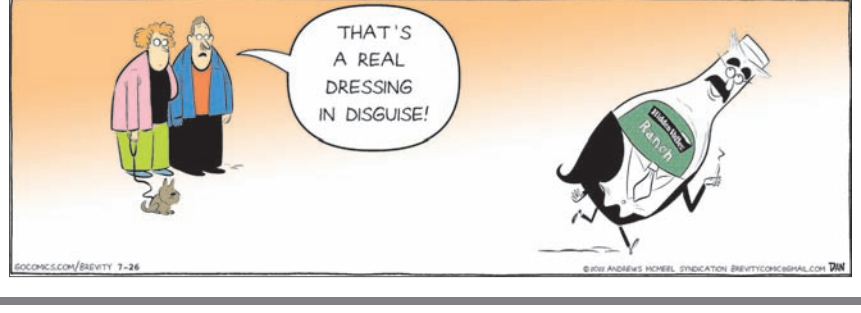
PEANUTS



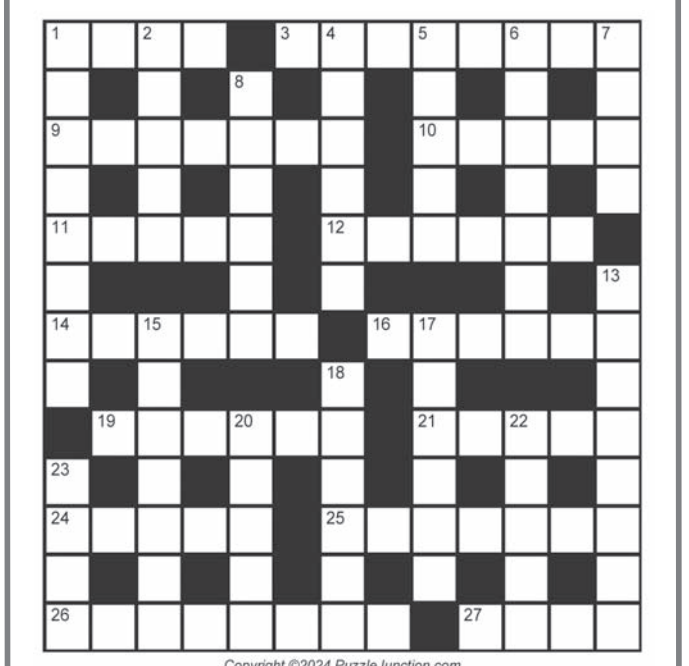
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD



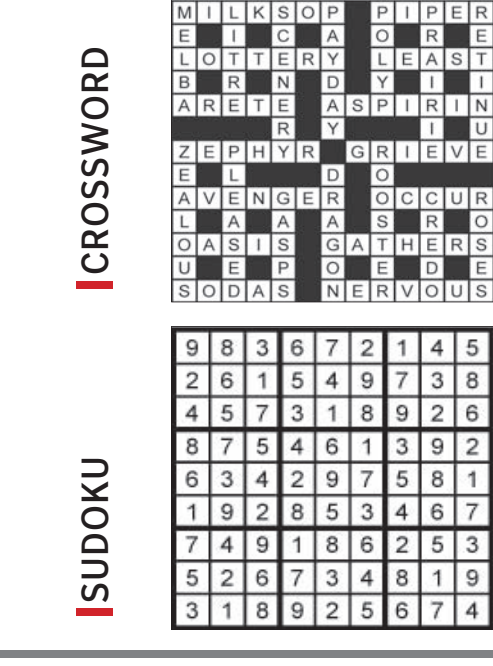
- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Scuff
 - 3 Indistinct
 - 9 Tableland
 - 10 Animal kingdom
 - 11 Sound from a nest
 - 12 Eggnog additive
 - 14 Scimitars
 - 16 Sew together
 - 19 Nook
 - 21 Freshen
 - 24 Inner circle
 - 25 Trace
 - 26 Arrange
 - 27 Shade of blue
 - Down**
 - 1 It's all in the family
 - 2 Christmas wish
 - 4 Zebra, e.g.
 - 5 Ill-suited
 - 6 Luxurious
 - 7 Wild guess
 - 8 Tea maker
 - 13 Chinese restaurant dish (4,4)
 - 15 Pooch with an undershot lower jaw
 - 17 Whip
 - 18 Gardener's Fall clean-up
 - 20 Ancient Greek theatre
 - 22 In need of a muffler
 - 23 Audio effect

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

GIRL POWER

Artistes perform folk dance during Path Utsav at Bali Yatra in Cuttack, Saturday



FOURTH PILLAR: I&PR department Principal Secretary Sanjay Kumar Singh and Director Saroj Kumar Samal at an exhibition to mark the state-level celebration of National Press Day, at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

BHARATPUR PANEL TENURE EXTENDED

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: The state government Saturday extended the tenure of Justice (Retd) Chitta Ranjan Dash panel, probing the alleged torture of an Army officer and sexual assault of his female friend at Bharatpur police station here, by another 60 days to January 31, 2025.

"In exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 of the Orissa Commission of Inquiry Rules, 1979, the government extended the tenure of the Chitta Ranjan Dash Inquiry Commission," the Home department said.

The existing tenure of the commission was 60 days and scheduled to be completed November 22.

The incident took place September 15 at Bharatpur police station when the Army officer and his female friend went there to lodge a complaint of road rage.

Instead of taking the complaint, the police personnel allegedly assaulted the Army officer and molested the woman.

In connection with the incident, the Odisha Police suspended five police personnel.

In the wake of a nationwide outrage, the state government ordered a judicial probe into the alleged custodial torture of the Army officer and sexual assault of his female friend, and accordingly, the commission was set up.

The commission has so far received over 500 affidavits, summoned 16 people and recorded the statement of the Army officer and his female friend in the case.

Following the incident, the state government introduced a comprehensive standard operating procedure (SOP) for police interaction with defence personnel.

As per the SOP, police officers must maintain a respectful and courteous demeanour when dealing with defence personnel. It mandates prompt attention to their grievances and provision of necessary legal and logistic support.

The SOP strictly prohibits its manhandling, assault or handcuffing of defence personnel in custody. Police must immediately inform the nearest Military Station headquarters about any arrests, including details of offences and custody location.

Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024: Climate Change- Building Resilience

Dr Raman Sukumar's fight for safe elephant habitat

The eminent ecologist's work has been instrumental in bridging the gap between scientific research and practical conservation efforts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Eminent ecologist Dr Raman Sukumar will grace the fourth edition of Dharitri Youth Conclave, to be held November 24, as the keynote speaker. The thematic annual conclave is set to witness a congregation of experts and panellists who will debate and

deliberate on this year's subject 'Climate Change- Building Resilience' and suggest actions for climate safety.

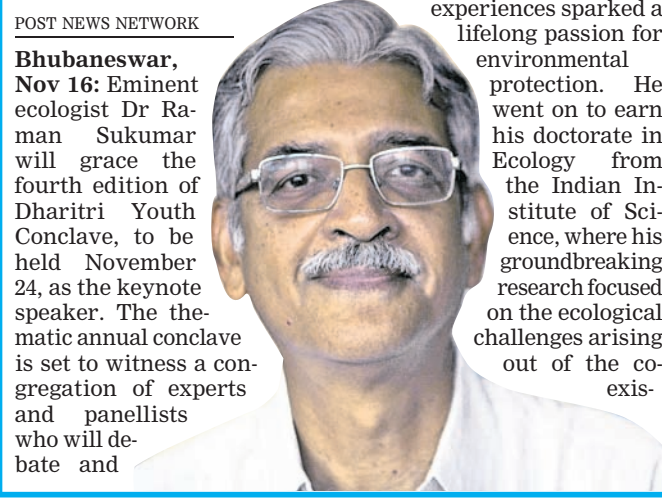
Dr Sukumar's work on Asian elephants has had a profound impact on both conservation science and the relationship between humans and wildlife. His journey began in Madras where his early experiences sparked a lifelong passion for environmental protection. He went on to earn his doctorate in Ecology from the Indian Institute of Science, where his groundbreaking research focused on the ecological challenges arising out of the co-existence of elephants and humans.

As a professor at the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Dr Sukumar has mentored generations of students and researchers, shaping the field of wildlife conservation in India.

His accolades include prestigious honours such as the Presidential Award of the Chicago Zoological Society in 1989, the Order of the Golden Ark in 1997, Whitley Gold Award in 2003 and the International Cosmos Prize in 2006, among others. He was elected vice chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change during the recently held elections at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi. Dr Sukumar also chaired the Asian Elephant Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union from 1997 to 2004.

Dr Sukumar's contributions go beyond academia, with his insights influencing policy and management practices for elephants and other wildlife species. His work has been instrumental in bridging the gap between scientific research and practical conservation efforts.

In an effort to provide a safe habitat for elephants, Dr Sukumar carried out surveys and tried to establish protected corridors so that elephant herds could move from one reserve to another. He experimented with various forms of fences around village perimeters to keep the animals away from crops and human habitation. He also helped design the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, the first-of-its-kind in India, which was established in 1986. There he conducted research on climate change, tropical forests, and wildlife conservation.



Elderly man injured in road mishap dies

Bhubaneswar: A 64-year-old man who was critically injured after being hit by a speeding four-wheeler while crossing the road under infovalley police station area here Thursday, died during treatment Friday night. Significantly, the local police are yet to identify the vehicle involved in the accident. IIC Infovalley police station, Krupasindhu Barad, said the deceased, identified as Bauri Bandhu Pattanaik, a resident of Gangapada, was on his way to buy groceries at around 6:30 pm Thursday when the mishap occurred. A car driven in the direction of NH 16 ran over Pattanaik while he was crossing the road near Dumduma. Locals took an injured Pattanaik to a private hospital in the vicinity. Doctors said he had suffered deep injuries on his head, chest and legs. He succumbed during treatment Friday night, Barad said.

Raja slams BJP over UP hosp fire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: CPI general secretary D Raja Saturday criticised the BJP's 'double-engine' theory, saying it has brought 'multiple disasters' in states where the party is in power, particularly in Uttar Pradesh. Raja demanded a clarification from the PM regarding the deaths of newborns in UP, which he attributed to 'negligence' in maintaining hospital standards under CM Yogi Adityanath's leadership.

At least 10 children died in a fire that engulfed the children's ward of a medical college in UP's Jhansi Friday night.

District Magistrate Avinash Kumar said the fire broke out around 10.45pm in the NICU of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College possibly due to an electrical short circuit.

Expressing deep sorrow over the incident, Raja called it a 'shocking' tragedy and accused Adityanath of failing to provide security to people of the state.

He slammed the BJP's 'double-engine' government, claiming it results in 'double trouble' and 'multiple disasters' wherever the party governs, citing the ongoing crisis in UP as an example. The CPI leader further called the deaths of the newborns an 'institutional killing' and demanded that Adityanath take moral responsibility for the tragedy.

Turning his attention to Odisha, Raja criticised Modi's economic policies, which he said had worsened the nation's financial condition.



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Rajasthan



**RAJASTHAN
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9-10-11 DEC 2024 • JAIPUR



SH. BHAJAN LAL SHARMA
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan



SH. NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Government of Rajasthan is organising Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit on 9-10-11 December 2024 at JECC, Jaipur. The 3-day Summit will string together 12 thematic sessions, partner country sessions, MSME Conclave and Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave bringing together thousands of people from across the globe.

A key highlight of the summit is the Rajasthan Global Business Expo featuring thematic pavilions such as the Rajasthan Pavilion, Partner Countries Pavilion and Startup Pavilion, and displays from leading companies and government departments.

Exhibit at Rising Rajasthan Global Business Expo, showcase your offering to the world.

KEY SECTORS

- Renewable Energy
- Auto & Auto Components
- Logistics & Warehousing
- Agri & Food Processing
- Handloom & Handicrafts
- Education & Skill
- Textiles
- Startups
- Chemicals & Petrochemicals
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9 DEC
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10 DEC
Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave

11 DEC
MSME Conclave

16 Thematic & Country Sessions

Rajasthan Samwad

Ramoji Rao remembered on his birth anniversary

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: 'Odisha Media Parivar,' an open group of media professionals from various sectors in the state, remembered late Ramoji Rao on his birth anniversary here Saturday.

The fraternity offered a token of support to meritorious and economically weaker students of mass communication across various universities on the occasion.

"With his immense contribution to media and entertainment sector in India, Ramoji Rao will be an inspiration for the upcoming generation engaging in this field. Thus, on the occasion of his birth anniversary we extended a small support to some deserving students from different universities in Odisha, helping them to buy reference books and study materials," senior journalist Nilambar Rath said.



The support of Odisha Media Parivar has reached out to six students two each from Berhampur University, Rama Devi Women's University, and Fakir Mohan University, Balasore nominated by the Journalism and Mass Communication department of the respective institutions.

On the occasion, the media fraternity recalled Ramoji's contributions in the areas of journalism, television and film production, tourism and hospitality and agro industries and finance.

Through starting his early ventures from the state of Andhra Pradesh in 1969, Ramoji expanded his footprints to the whole of the country in subsequent decades. A harbinger of the satellite TV boom in the country, Ramoji served largely to the regional news and entertainment television. He also played an important role in growth of television media in Odisha.

WEATHER

Table with weather data: BBSR, CTC, Max Temp, Min Temp, Humidity, Rainfall

FORECAST: Mainly clear sky

10TH NAT'L CHILDREN'S LITERARY FEST

Cultivate love for literature: Bond



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: We must cultivate love for literature and festivals which play a vital role in promoting books, celebrated author Ruskin Bond said while addressing the audience virtually at the 10th National Children's Literary Festival held at KIIT International School here Saturday.

Inspiring young readers to embrace the joy of books, Bond stressed on the habit of reading.

The festival, organised by KIIT International School and Kloud 9, the school's magazine, brought together authors, actors, and educators to celebrate the power of literature.

The event was inaugurated by KIIT and KISS president Saswati Bal who commended the enthusiasm of the students and officially declared the festival open.

Notable guests included international curriculum head Marc L Coleman, who shared his thoughts on how literature remains central to education. "Education is a journey and not a destination. Books, whether fiction or non-fiction, are an integral part of our heritage," he said.

Attending the festival for the first time, actor Soha Ali Khan

said that children should read books for at least 15 minutes every day. "Books are real friends of a child. If children read more, they get more knowledge and, in turn, they can be self-empowered contributing to the society" she underscored.

Joining the event, one of the best-selling authors Preeti Shenoy encouraged students to read widely for pleasure. "Read for the joy of reading. Read for the love of reading. Read more books, whether they are best-sellers or not," she said, motivating the young audience to explore diverse genres and perspectives.

Popular actor Vikrant Massey, in a video-recorded message congratulated the organisers for hosting the festival. "I hope to meet you all again next year," he said.

KIIT International School chairperson Mona Lisa Bal and principal Sanjay Suar also addressed the gathering, emphasising the importance of such platforms in nurturing creativity and critical thinking among students.

In a significant announcement, the school magazine Kloud 9 revealed its transition to an all-digital format starting December 2024.

Special policy for road construction

Bhubaneswar: The state government is planning to formulate a special policy for road construction that will enhance traffic management and address construction-related challenges. During a review meeting chaired by Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan Saturday, the status of various roads in the state was discussed. A comprehensive database was prepared at the meeting. According to official sources, a roadmap was outlined to address traffic problems, taking into consideration the construction of new roads, repair of existing roads, construction of bridges, and the acquisition of private and forest land for development. Harichandan emphasised the need for a dedicated policy on road construction, citing frequent issues arising from a lack of coordination during road construction and repair projects. He stated that this policy would aim to address these challenges while planning for the state's road infrastructure needs over the next 50 years. The meeting explored innovative approaches, such as using waste materials like plastic in road construction, minimizing the use of raw materials, and creating a special corpus fund for maintaining construction quality and durability. The Minister also highlighted recurring problems where various organizations dig up roads without government permission for laying cables, constructing drains, or installing sewers.

Indian Navy puts up 11 stalls at Bali Yatra

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Nov 16: Bali Yatra 2024 bears a significant attraction for visitors with the Indian Navy pavilion featuring 11 distinct and intricately designed stalls, each offering a unique insight into its diverse capabilities. Navy's presence at Bali Yatra reflects its commitment to preserving the country's historic heritage, while also emphasising the nation's modern maritime prowess and self-reliance.

The thematic stalls span a broad spectrum of three-dimensional operations, showcasing Navy's technical advancement across various fields. Exhibits from the Naval Repair Yards highlights the self-sustenance in technical upkeep, dedicated stalls displaying weapons and missiles, aviation, indigenisation, marine commandos and diving, naval communication, India's shipbuilding strength and Navy's spirit of adventure. These stalls are set up by various units, located at Visakhapatnam, under Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.

As part of Indian Navy pavilion, team of Naval Officer-in-Charge (Odisha) has also set up two stalls. The first stall



40 AIRCRAFT, 25 WARSHIPS IN NAVY'S 'OP DEMO'

Bhubaneswar: Indian Navy's operational demonstration, set to take place at Blue Flag Beach in Puri December 4, will feature 40 aircraft, including MiG-29Ks and LCAs, as well as 25 warships, showcasing the Navy's maritime strength and operational capabilities, officials said Saturday. The event, which will include impressive parades, will be attended by President Droupadi Murmu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Governor Raghubar Das, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, and senior Indian Navy officials. At a high-level meeting here Saturday, Odisha DGP YB Khurania instructed senior police officers to ensure the event is organised smoothly, stressing the need for cooperation between the state government, local administration, and the Navy.

showcases the longstanding maritime connection between the Indian Navy and the state of Odisha, emphasising shared history, achievements, and

cultural links. Another stall serves as a recruitment and publicity platform, designed to inspire Odisha's youth to join the Navy and be a part of

its esteemed legacy. Indian Navy's band from INS Chilka also performed Saturday, adding a festive spirit to the maritime trade fair.

Parida inaugurates facilities for women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida inaugurated the newly-installed Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines and Sanitary Napkin Disposal Machines at Lok Seva Bhawan here Saturday.

The machines have been installed in strategic locations for maximum accessibility, including the ladies' toilet complex adjacent to the central lift lobby on the second floor and the ladies' common room, ensuring convenience for employees and citizens visiting the premises.

Parida interacted with female employees and listened to their grievances. She was accompanied by Development Commissioner-cum-Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg, Housing and Urban Development principal secretary Usha Padhee, and Women and Child Development principal secretary Shubha Sarma. Parida also visited the Creche located in the vicinity and interacted with the service providers and children, taking note of the infrastructure and operations. During the interaction, the need for a larger space to accommodate more children was highlighted.

DEBRIGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Around 659 Indian Bisons counted in 1st-ever census

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Nov 16: In the first ever census, the population of Indian Bison or Gaur (Gayala in Odia) has been estimated at 659 in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Bargarh district.

The census was conducted recently for assessment of their current population in the sanctuary, an official letter of district forest officer (DFO) Hirakud Wildlife Division in Sambalpur district to the Regional Conservator of Forests stated.

The overall population of Gaur stood at 659 including 210 juveniles comprising 30 per cent of the total population. The Indian Bisons were seen in 52 herds. The size of the herd varied from eight to 33. Also massively built and strong bulls weighing up to 1500 kg were also recorded during Census.

The landscape-wide exercise was taken up by direct observation technique and direct



count by 53 census units with 114 team members from 6am to 6pm. Census was conducted by foot with systematic surveys along the forest roads, animal trails, water bodies, grasslands and meadows.

The tourism zone in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary has recorded presence of more than 100 Gaurs in six herds including few massively built adult bulls. Three herds in the zone have more than a dozen Indi-

an-Bison. Age and sex classification could not be ascertained because of difficulty in identifying the seen animals due to dense forested areas and presence of tall grasses.

Gaur, which is the largest and tallest wild cattle in the world, is a Schedule-1 animal in Wildlife Protection Act 1972, and vulnerable category in IUCN Red List. Nearly 85 per cent of its world population is in India.

A LIFE OF INTEGRITY, SERVICE & SELF-ESTEEM

JAYANTA K MOHAPATRA

Writing about Harish Chandra Buxipatra is a challenging task for me because I fear that my admiration of him may get in the way of an objective analysis of the person that he was. My association with Bakshi Babu, as I addressed him, dates back to the 1970s when I met him as a young boy at our home in Paralakhemundi. He had come to visit my uncle, now 91 years old, who was his batch-mate in SKCG College in the '50s. Subsequently, when I moved to Jeypore in 1972 to study in Vikram Dev College and later in 1980 as a Lecturer in the same college, I saw him from close quarters and interacted with him. The relationship that I built with Bakshi Babu in the '70s lasted till the end. I respect and admire him for the value-based life: at no cost would he compromise his principles for political gain even as he maintained high self-esteem.

People remember Buxipatra as a student leader, jurist, advocate of social justice, and above all, a political activist. In all of these roles, he proved to be the finest. Bakshi Babu took up several issues that affected the common people of Odisha single-mindedly never using them as opportunities for personal or electoral gain.

Popular among his friends and associates as Harish, Bakshi Babu was born 17 November 1933 in Rayagada, Koraput to Sashirekha and Gopinath Buxipatra. His political career began early as the Vice-President of the student union of SKCG College where he studied as an undergraduate. Very soon, he began to be recognised as an up and coming leader of considerable worth. By 1955, he led an elaborate youth relief and rehabilitation work following the Jagatsinghpur floods and the consequent breach of the embankment. The next year Odisha witnessed struggle on its northern border which gave rise to the critical student agitation for the preservation of Odia language, culture and political identity. As the student union president of Ravenshaw College, Bakshi Babu was in the forefront of that agitation. Student politics shot him to a level of prominence and fame that no other contemporary political leader has been able to achieve.

Buxipatra was elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1974 on Utkal Congress ticket. He became the chief whip of the party. Inspired by Jayaprakash Narayan's ideal of total revolution, he actively participated in the JP Movement in the early '70s. Bakshi Babu courted arrest and spent nineteen months in jail during Emergency.



HARISH CHANDRA BUXIPATRA

Subsequently, he contested the 1977 elections and became a cabinet minister in Nilamani Routray's government. Being in charge of the departments of Industries, Mining and Geology, Rural Development, and Tourism and Culture, Buxipatra initiated a number of innovative schemes and programmes. The establishment of the District Industry Centres during his tenure as Industries Minister is a case in point. Bakshi Babu's popularity as a leader even when out of power could be gauged from the fact that he was elect-

ed and led several trade unions in the state in the '80s. His activism remained unabated as he single-mindedly strove for the alleviation of the living conditions of the working class and the daily wage labourers. He raised his voice against the unjustified control of non-Odia elements in southern districts of Odisha. In 1990, he returned to serve in the cabinet of Biju Patnaik when the Janata Dal returned to power.

The year 1994 saw Harish Buxipatra taking up the cause of separated Odia speaking people both within and outside Odisha. The session of Utkal Sammilani in Rayagada in the same year was memorable in contemporary Odia history for its remarkable congregation and the renewed objective of unifying Odia-speaking people. Buxipatra became the president of Utkal Sammilani after Radhanath Rath. During this period, he picked up an old thread from his early political career: he demanded the merger of Odia speaking tracts into the fold of the state at a time when the State Reorganisation Committee was determining the formation of Jharkhand. Under the leadership of Buxipatra, a team from the Utkal Sammilani went to Delhi and met the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and other ministers, and MPs to place this long-neglected but legitimate demand of the

state. When he realised that the Centre was unwilling to co-operate in the matter, he returned to Odisha, mobilised all political parties and people to organise the historic Odisha Bandh of August 11, 2000. Sadly, he did not live long to sustain the campaign and take it forward.

Buxipatra is also known for his literary involvement. He wrote articles in newspapers on the state of the world. He is the founder-editor of the fortnightly newspaper Lokaneeti. Speaking up for the underprivileged was his mantra and he lived by it until he breathed his last October 27, 2000. Bakshi Babu is no more with us but his dedicated work for the Odias is remembered fondly by Odias all over the world.

Buxipatra's legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments. As a mentor, leader, and change-maker, Buxipatra has left a lasting impact. His journey reminds us that true fulfilment lies in serving others and striving for excellence. He would have turned 91 this year, but his absence is to some extent compensated by the lectures that the memorial committee organises every year with sincerity. Bakshi Babu was a man of supreme value, and a 'Bhoomi Putra' in the true sense of the term.

The writer is a former Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University.

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'Ganjam Darshan' falters as buses gather dust at depot



'Ganjam Darshan' bus service was inaugurated by former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik December 12, 2022, with an aim of showcasing key destinations across the district to the tourists

POST NEW NETWORK

Berhampur, Nov 16: To attract more tourists to Ganjam's scenic destinations, the district administration had introduced the 'Ganjam Darshan' bus service, assigning its operations to the Berhampur Development Authority (BeDA). However, the project failed to roll out as anticipated and the brand new buses have been gathering dust at the City Bus Depot in Haladi- apadar near Berhampur. Initially launched with much fanfare, the service faced a significant setback due to high ticket prices, which led to a decline in passenger numbers and ultimately rendered the project

unsuccessful. As a result, the buses have been left unused for an extended period, exposed to weather conditions at the BeDA office premises. Moreover, the BeDA and the district administration took no measure to reuse the buses by reviving the service.

The 'Ganjam Darshan' bus service was inaugurated by former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik December 12, 2022, with an aim of showcasing key destinations across the district to the tourists. The itinerary included stops at scenic and cultural tourist sites, with provisions for refreshments and lunch along the way.

The bus service started operations a few days after the inauguration and the first batch of tourists were from Sraddha Sanjeevani Ashram. Departing from Ramalingeswara Park at 7am in the morning, the bus visited popular locations like the Tara Tarini temple shrine before taking a halt at the Puroshottampur Dak Bungalow for breakfast.

Later, the bus took the tourists to Jaugarh, Nirmaljar and

stopped at Bateswar for lunch. The bus then left for Potagarh, Tampara lake and reached Gopalpur beach by evening where the tourists were served snacks before returning to Ramalingeswara Park in Berhampur by 6.45pm. The bus used to cover 165 kilometres for a ticket price of ₹950.

However, with rising fares from time to time, tourists expressed dissatisfaction, prompting the administration to add additional sites such as Biranchi Narayan temple at Buguda, Buddhakhola, Marada, Sarana Srikhetra, Singhasini, Tapapani, Ujjaleswar, Ghodahada dam, Maa Bala Kumari temple, Pati Sunapur and the Mahuri Kalua temple to the itinerary.

Unfortunately, this expansion failed to revive the popularity of the tourist bus service. The vehicles, now parked at the BeDA office, show visible signs of deterioration, including damaged tyres and peeling paint.

In addition to the 'Ganjam Darshan' buses, four buses were also introduced for trips to the hilltop Tara Tarini temple. These buses are also out of service now, gathering dust at the depot — a clear indication of the district administration's planning failure.

When contacted, Ramesh Hansda, secretary of BeDA said there are plans to reintroduce the bus service by floating a tender. Moreover, efforts are on to make the project successful, he added.

Irked by jumbo menace, villagers tie forester to tree

POST NEWS NETWORK

Deogarh, Nov 16: Tension ran high after villagers detained a forester by tying him to a tree late Friday night over the failure of Forest personnel in driving away elephants, which destroyed crops at Bhejikudar village under Kundheigola police limits in Deogarh district.

The forester was identified as Chhabila Behera of Nuadihi forest section under Riamal forest range in the district. Behera had gone to the area to drive away the elephants when villagers



caught and tied him to a tree with a napkin. On being informed, Riamal

forest ranger Niranjan Dharua and Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Arun Kumar Behera rushed to the spot and released the forester from detention after holding talks with the villagers. However, no complaint has been filed by the Forest department in the police station.

Behera was accused by the people of negligence in duty, objectionable behaviour, and failure to stop the elephants from straying into the farmlands and villages. The area is hit by elephant menace for the last few

months. The loss of livelihood has hit the farmers hard and left them frustrated.

Villagers alleged that Behera, posted in the area for over two years, always showed a dismissive attitude toward their concerns. They had repeatedly demanded his transfer. Their anger and resentment flared up when Forest personnel failed in driving away a 10-member herd of elephant destroying crops on the farmlands, Friday night.

Later, they detained Behera and tied him to a tree as a form of protest.

Tigress 'Zeenat' in good health: STR authorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Nov 16: The authorities of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district Saturday said that three-year-old tigress 'Zeenat' brought from Maharashtra, is in good health and made her first prey inside the soft enclosure.

The tigress made its first kill, a wild pig, inside the soft release enclosure. After feeding it took water and is resting. It is in good health, a senior STR official said Saturday.

A special team of Odisha's Forest department, comprising a veterinarian, a range officer, and an assistant conservator of forests, had gone to Maharashtra to bring the tigress.

Earlier October 27, another tigress 'Jamuna' was brought to Similipal with the approval of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). It was kept in quarantine before being released into the wild recently.

The Forest department is planning to bring six tigers from central India to supplement the big cat population in STR, which now has 27 tigers and 12 cubs, officials said.

The tigers are being brought under the big cat supplementation project to introduce a new gene pool to the population at Similipal, they said.

Farmers' smart meter boycott gathers steam

PNN & AGENCIES

Bargarh/New Delhi, Nov 16: With Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) extending support, a massive struggle by Bargarh farmers against the privatisation of electricity distribution has gathered steam.

As part of their protest, the farmers in Bargarh and surrounding districts of western Odisha are boycotting prepaid smart meters installed by the discom.

SKM said prepaid smart meters were being installed against the agreement made by the Narendra Modi government December 9, 2020, under which a discussion was to be held with SKM before the enactment of the Electricity Privatisation Bill.

SKM has demanded 300 units of free electricity per month to the families engaged in farming, it said in a statement.

More than 15,000 farmers from Bargarh district protested against the smart metres and voluntarily removed them from their homes and farms and piled them up in the office of the distribution company in Padampur and other blocks, SKM said.

SKM strongly condemns the suppression of the peaceful movement of farmers against privatisation of the power sec-



tor by the BJP government of Odisha led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. The BJP that has come to power for the first time in Odisha has adopted a repressive approach towards this movement, it said.

SKM also said farmer leader Ramesh Mohapatra was called a habitual offender in an official notice. It should be noted that the only FIRs registered against him by the police are in the cases of farmers voluntarily boycotting smart meters, the SKM said. A petition has been filed in the Orissa High Court to get the notice quashed, it said.

The court has issued notice to the state government. Bargarh District Bar Association and Orissa High Court Bar Association are supporting the farmers' movement. SKM said the privatisation of electricity has become another tool to exploit the farmers and the public in general.

Denizens push for Rourkela airport land transfer to AAI

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Nov 16: Concerned denizens are urging the transfer of Rourkela Airport land from SAIL Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), citing the move as essential for the Steel City's growth prospects.

Local MP and Union Minister Jai Oram recently convened meetings with officials from the state government and RSP to facilitate the smooth transfer of the land. Reports indicate that RSP has agreed to transfer the land without delay, as the plant incurs significant annual costs maintaining the airport.

"This transfer will undoubtedly boost tourism across Sundargarh district," said historian

Prabhat Mallick. "It is crucial for the city's development, and I hope it happens soon."

Currently, the land is owned by RSP, limiting AAI's ability to undertake essential development projects. The airport, operating under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme, lacks critical infrastructure such as instrument landing system (ILS) which allows flights to land at night.

Additionally, the runway cannot accommodate larger aircraft, restricting the potential for expanded air services. Currently, a 72-seater ATR operates from the airport irregularly but enjoys strong demand from travelers.

An NIT professor, speaking anonymously, highlighted the

broader implications. "NIT is losing revenue as international students and high-quality visiting faculty are deterred by the lack of proper air connectivity. This affects our ability to secure projects and align with the government's vision of becoming self-sufficient."

Industrialists also echoed the need for better infrastructure. "Proper air connectivity will encourage more industries to set up here. Time is money, and good connectivity saves time," said a local entrepreneur.

Citizens have petitioned Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, urging action to expedite the land transfer and unlock the region's economic and developmental potential.

Dana-hit Habalikhathi reopens after 24 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rajnagar, Nov 16: Habalikhathi beach, a famous tourist site within Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Kendrapara district, reopened for tourists Saturday after remaining closed for 24 days after cyclonic storm 'Dana' made its landfall in the area October 24.

The cyclonic storm caused significant damage to the tourist facilities in the area. Dolphin Houses and cottages for tourists suffered ex-

tensive damage with its pillars sinking approximately five feet into the sand. Moreover, windows, doors, water tanks, and toilets were also damaged by the cyclone's impact.

As a safety measure, the Forest department closed down the tourist site from October 23. After 24 days of recovery efforts, Habalikhathi reopened for visitors Saturday. All accommodations in the island, including four Dolphin Houses and five tent houses, were fully booked on the first day of reopening.

Habalikhathi features a serene and isolated beach stretching from Ekakula to Satabhaya. Accessible via a two-and-a-half-hour boat ride from Gupti, visitors must then trek approximately 2kms from Habalikhathi jetty to reach the guesthouse area.

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, KALAHANDI : BHAWANIPATNA (TOUZI SECTION)
No. 225/Tz dt. 08.11.2024

It is brought to the Notice of the general public that District Survey report of Minor Mineral Sairat sources (Sand, Stone, Morrums & Brick Earth) and Specified Minor Mineral Sairat Sources (Quartz & Quartzite, Decorative Stone) has been prepared in the district against the Tahasils noted in the Table annexure to the Notice for necessary inclusion in the Final District Survey Report (DSR) for their settlement and operation. Objections are being invited from the public if any, within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. The objections must reach at the office of the Collector, Kalahandi within the stipulated period. Receipt of objections after the time period is over shall not be considered.

The copy of Notice has been up-loaded in the public domain i.e. district portal www.kalahandi.nic.in.
Sd/-
Collector & District Magistrate, Kalahandi, Bhawanipatna

Regional Office (Sambalpur Region) POSSESSION NOTICE
G.M. College Chowk, Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001 (Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon the Borrowers/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
SONEPUR BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Radheshyam Mahakur, S/o: Mr. Banta Mahakur / Co-Borrowers: 1) Mr. Banta Mahakur, S/o: Late Rajan Mahakur, 2) Mrs. Manju Mahakur, W/o: Sri Banta Mahakur / Guarantor: Mrs. Manjukt Mendilli, W/o: Mr. Radheshyam Mahakur, all are residing at Anandapur, P.O. Jatesingha, P.S. Subalya, Tahasil: Birmaharajpur, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, PIN-767018.	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.042 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari, situated at Mouza: Anandpur, P.S: Birmaharajpur, P.S. No.: 157 of 05th Settlement under Birmaharajpur Tahasil Office, Tahasil No.: 312, Dist.: Subarnapur, having Khata No.: 114, Plot No.: 755, standing in the name of Mr. Banta Mahakur, S/o: Late Rajan Mahakur, Bounded by East: Trahi Achyuta Ashram, West: Suratha Sethi, North: Subash Danta, South: Lal Bihari Bagha.	02.08.2024 / 13.11.2024	₹3,51,274.80 as on 09.11.2024 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
SONEPUR BRANCH / Borrower: Ms. Sunitarani Patra, D/o: Sri Simanchal Patra, At: H. No.: 19, Malipada Gali, Badabazar, Sonepur, P.O/P.S/Tahasil: Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, PIN-767017 / Guarantor: Mr. Jayakrushna Saha, S/o: Sri Prafulla Kumar Saha, At: Malipada, Sureswaripada, Sonepur, P.O/P.S/Tahasil: Sonepur, Dist.: Subarnapur, PIN-767017	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.045 Dec., situated at Mouza: Sonepur Town Unit No.: 4, P.S: Sonepur, P.S. No.: 81, Dist.: Subarnapur, Area having Holding No.: 1145/278, Plot No.: 2381/3984, standing in the name of Ms. Sunitarani Patra, D/o: Sri Simanchal Patra, Bounded by East: Bhabani Shankar Panigrahi, West: Proposed Road, North: Part Plot of 2381/3984, South: Part Plot of 2381/3984	14.08.2024 / 13.11.2024	₹26,87,965.93 as on 09.11.2024 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
SONEPUR BRANCH / Borrower: Mrs. Gitanjali Hota, W/o: Sri Damodar Hota / Guarantor: Sri Damodar Hota, S/o: Mr. Sitaram Hota, Both are At: Krushnapali, P.O: Baghbar, P.S: Birmaharajpur, Dist.: Subarnapur, Odisha, PIN - 767018	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.250 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari, situated at Mouza: Krushnapali, P.S: Birmaharajpur, P.S. No.: 127, Tahasil: Birmaharajpur, Dist.: Subarnapur, having Khata No.: 39, Plot No.: 216/971, standing in the name of Mr. Damodar Hota, Bounded by East: Chandra Sekhar Hota, West: Road, North: Radha Govinda Mahaprabhu Marfatdar Muralidhar Chand, South: Rameswar Hota.	07.08.2024 / 13.11.2024	₹2,14,699.54 as on 09.11.2024 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment
KOIRA BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Manoj Mishra, S/o: Sri Jaleswar Mishra, At: New Garden Colony, P.O/P.S: Koira, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN - 770048	Equitable Mortgage and Extension of Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.050 Dec., Kissam: Gharbari, situated at Mouza: Koira, Tahasil: Koira, Tahasil No.: 399, Khata No.: 149/737, Plot No.: 948/2625, standing in the name of Mr. Manoj Mishra, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 948/2625, West: Plot No.: 948/1972, North: Plot No.: 949, South: Plot No.: 948/1972	07.08.2024 / 14.11.2024	₹27,59,137.10 as on 09.11.2024 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

Place: Sambalpur Date: 16.11.2024
Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda

UCO BANK ZONAL OFFICE: POSSESSION NOTICE
C-2, Ashok Nagar, Unit-II, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751009, Ph.: 0674-2620423

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

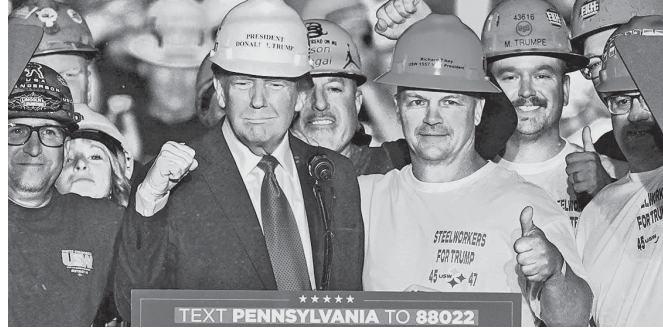
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the borrowers, co-borrowers & guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned below within 60 days from the date of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, co-borrowers & guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned below. The borrowers, co-borrowers & guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for the amount plus interest plus expenses- thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Demand / Possession Notice Date	Description of the Immovable Property/ies
PHULBANI BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Pratap Kumar Panda, S/o- Pranakrishna Panda / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Laxmi Priya Panda, W/o- Late Pranakrushna Panda, Both are At: Peonpada, Near Peonpada School, Phulbani, PO: Phulbani, Kandhamal, PIN-762001.	₹ 4,70,261.54 as on 03.08.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon from 01.05.2024	05.08.2024 / 12.11.2024	All that part and parcels of Land and Building standing in the name of Mrs. Laxmipriya Panda, W/o- Late Pranakrushna Panda, situated at Mouza: Jiringipada, Tahasil: Kandhamal, PS: Phulbani, Dist.: Kandhamal, Sabik Khata No.: 218/284, Hal Khata No.: 532, Sabik Plot No.: 1066/2006 (Gharbari), Hal Plot No.: 3533, Total Area: 0.007FR. Bounded by- North: Pankaj Kumari Mishra, South: Purastam Kanhar, East: Govt. Land, West: Public Road.
SAHID NAGAR BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) Mr. Basanta Kumar Bedamatta, S/o- Dinabandhu Bedamatta & 2) Mrs. Prativa Bedamatta, W/o- Basanta Kumar Bedamatta, Both are at Flat No.: 402, Ashok Vatika, Near Mangala Mandir, Chakeisiani, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751010.	₹ 14,93,801.01 as on 29.07.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	28.08.2024 / 13.11.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land and Building standing in the name of Mrs. Prativa Bedamatta, W/o- Basanta Kumar Bedamatta and Mr. Basanta Kumar Bedamatta, S/o- Dinabandhu Bedamatta, at Flat No.: 402, 4th Floor, Ashok Vatika, Near Mangala Mandir, Chakeisiani, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751010, measuring Area: 1011 sqft (Super Built up Area). Flat Bounded by- North: Flat No. 403, South: Flat No. 401, East: Road & Building, West: Building.
SAHID NAGAR BRANCH / Borrowers: 1) Mr. Gyana Ranjan Panda, S/o- Mr. Shridhar Panda & 2) Mrs. Sonali Panda, W/o- Mr. Gyana Ranjan Panda, Both are at Plot No.: 1107/1958/2258, Jaya Durga Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.	₹ 6,86,732.84 as on 20.07.2024 + further interest & other charges thereon	28.08.2024 / 13.11.2024	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Land & Building standing in the name of Mr. Gyananjan Panda at Mouza: Gobindaprasad, Bhubaneswar, SRO: Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Khata No.: 1057/55, Stitiban, Plot No.: 1107/1958/2258, Mutation Patna No.: 1057/55, Plot No.: 1107/1958/2258, measuring an Area: Ac.0.055Dec. Bounded by- North: Plot No. 1103 & 1911, South: Road, East: Plot No. 1958, West: Plot No. 1959.

Date: 16.11.2024 Place: Bhubaneswar
Sd/- Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

FOCUS FOREIGN TRADE

WHEN TRUMP WALKS THE TALK



In most democracies, the primary concern following an election is that the winners will fail to deliver on their campaign promises. The 2024 US presidential election is one of those rare instances where there is palpable fear - in America and around the world - that the winner will actually follow through

proposed restrictions could have far-reaching geopolitical consequences, potentially undermining three decades of US diplomatic efforts to forge closer security ties with India.

Moreover, restricting access to cheap foreign labour would enable other countries, especially China, to outcompete American firms in the product market. As the US increasingly isolates itself, China is busy expanding its foothold in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Its growing presence in these regions could open new avenues for production and sourcing, boosting Chinese productivity and enhancing its geopolitical clout.

While the debate about outsourcing in the US is often framed as a simple conflict between American and foreign workers, what is often overlooked is that outsourcing pushes up corporate profits. The solution lies not in restricting access to lower-cost overseas labour but in using taxation to redistribute some of the gains from the rich to the poor, ensuring that the benefits of global trade are shared more equitably.

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The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

of Trump's proposed trade barriers, warning that his import tariffs will lead to higher prices, with the burden falling disproportionately on low- and middle-income households.

To be sure, some may argue that Trump's tariffs will not result in sustained inflation, just a one-time price spike. According to this view, the long-term benefits would outweigh the short-term costs.

But there is reason to believe that instead of delivering lasting economic gains, the trade policies Trump favours would cause serious damage. This is because, although consumers would undoubtedly shoulder much of the burden, they are only part of the story. A tariff wall around the US would raise costs for domestic producers - an outcome that would hardly come as a shock to anyone but Trump.

The fundamental flaw in Trump's tariff plan is that domestic producers rely heavily on imported inputs. Consider steel: the US, the world's larg-

est steel importer, sources its supplies from 80 countries, including Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and China. A sharp increase in steel tariffs would thus drive up the cost of American-made products, erode the country's economic competitiveness, and ultimately undermine Trump's stated goal of bringing back manufacturing jobs.

Trump's plan to limit the use of foreign labour would exacerbate the problem. India, for example, has been one of the largest providers of labour to the US since India's 1991 economic reforms. Over the past three decades, outsourcing has been a boon for both India and the US, as the digital revolution enabled American companies to take advantage of India's lower labour costs.

Restricting outsourcing in the name of protecting American workers will not only hurt India's economy but also increase production costs in the US. In addition to reduced competitiveness, Trump's



Kaushik Basu

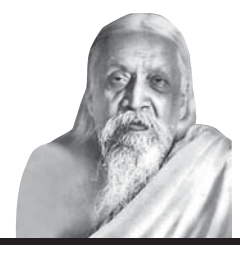
AS THE US INCREASINGLY ISOLATES ITSELF, CHINA IS BUSY EXPANDING ITS FOOHOLD IN AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA

At first glance, Trump's vision of a "manufacturing renaissance" may seem appealing. Given the election's outcome, it has clearly resonated with voters. Financial markets also reacted positively: after the election was called, the dollar rose against most major currencies, and the S&P 500 recorded its largest weekly gain in a year.

But the reality is not as rosy as it may seem. The stock-market rally is primarily driven by expectations of significant tax cuts and deregulation. Plans to raise taxes on the super-rich and large corporations - a centerpiece of Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign - will be shelved, at least for now.

When it comes to Trump's plans to restrict the flow of goods and people, experts remain far less optimistic. A recent Peterson Institute paper by Kimberly Clausing and Mary Lovely examines the potential consequences

“When we have passed beyond knowings, then we shall have Knowledge.”
SRI AUROBINDO



Cricket Nationalism

If I have a dispute with you, I can solve it in one of three ways. One is by talking ("negotiation"). We engage, on the assumption that both sides are rational and though both are looking out for their self-interest, a compromise is possible. The second way is having a third party mediate between us ("arbitration") and we find someone that both trust and then accept their solution. The third way is through force ("war") and one of us compels the other to accept the imposed solution. There is no fourth way.

India does not want to tour Pakistan to play in a tournament next year. A report said that "the Pakistan Cricket Board has received an email from the ICC, stating that the BCCI has informed them that their team will not travel to Pakistan for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025." This is consistent with the position that we have had for several years. In fact, if one is getting it right, even under the previous government India had stopped touring Pakistan or inviting it over to play. The reason, sometimes stated and sometimes not, is that till cross-border terror stops we will not "talk" to Pakistan diplomatically and by extension not engage with it culturally.

I have little interest in cricket these days, don't know who our captain is and cannot identify half the test team. I do not particularly care if our team goes and plays or sits it out and loses points. The reason I am writing this is to rationally examine the government's position that we will not engage with the enemy.

As my twitter friend Dr Ajay Kamath pointed out, this position did not apply to India's tennis players going to Islamabad earlier this year to play (and win) against Pakistan in the Davis Cup. It also did not apply to our Foreign Minister going to Islamabad last month to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Jaishankar's opening words, according to our Ministry of External Affairs' website, were: "At the outset, let me congratulate Pakistan for its Presidency of the SCO Council of Heads of Government this year. India has extended its full support for a successful Presidency."

The Davis Cup and the SCO are multilateral (more than two nations involved) events. So is the ICC Champions Trophy. Why will we not go over to play cricket when we are willing to go over and play tennis? If we are extending "full support" to Pakistan in one realm, as serious as the SCO, why are we not doing so in another, more frivolous, one?

The answer is not to be found in the realm of logic or reason. The fact is that India's government has elevated cricket, which when examined without emotion is about adult men hitting a ball with a stick and then chasing after it, into something it is not. Cricket is not the repository of national honour and playing, or not playing, and winning or losing on its fields does not affect the external world. Not playing cricket with the enemy definitely does not address our problems, which can be solved by one of only three ways as explained above. There is no fourth way and doing katti with the rival, as children do in our schools, is not one an effective or meaningful response. It is not a mature one either and, as many of you already know, it is aimed at Indians ('we took a tough stand by not playing') rather than at the other side.

Boycotting the Champions Trophy will not tackle the issue we have with Pakistan.

India's relations with Pakistan have reached a strange impasse over the years where we are unwilling to use the first two options, talking and arbitration, and cannot use the third option after both sides weaponised their nuclear programmes a quarter century ago.

Has the nature of the problem changed during this time? Let's look at the data. In 2001, the most violent year in Kashmir's history, total fatalities were over 4000 including over 600 security forces and over 2000 militants. After that year, violence fell each year going under 3000 fatalities in 2002, then 2000 in 2003, then under 1000 in 2007. For the last four years before the Modi government took office, fatalities were under 200 each year. They have risen since particularly after the events of 2019 and the gutting of Article 370 but not to the levels of two decades ago. The Line of Control has been fenced, and it has become difficult for locals to exfiltrate and receive training, according to security officials that I have spoken to in the past. Those who fight and die are usually locals.

Outside of Kashmir, violence linked to Pakistan is absent. Is there still a problem? Perhaps there is. Our government is definitely saying it is. If so, this requires us to use one of the three tools available to us to resolve it. This is especially so if, as this government is signalling to us, the issue is serious. Then it is incumbent on the government to deal with it in serious fashion. This it is not doing though it is pretending to, as the Champions Trophy matter shows.



Aakar Patel

The Davis Cup and the SCO are multilateral (more than two nations involved) events. So is the ICC Champions Trophy. Why will we not go over to play cricket when we are willing to go over and play tennis?

SPECTRUM INEQUALITY

Why economists abandon the poor

Prof. Meghnad Desai, the well-known economist, has made an insightful observation that economics as a subject lost its concern for the poor somewhere along the way in his recent book titled 'The Poverty of Political Economy: How Economists Abandoned The Poor'. It has been pointed out that the Smithian concern for the greater good was lost long back during David Ricardo's works where the value of a good was determined by production and not by exchange. It was during this time that economics started losing its concern for the poor.

Desai referred to a Cambridge economist, Prof. Arthur C. Pigou, who, according to him, was the first to be worried about inequality and wastage that capitalism brought about. Desai has aptly called to promote a more humane economy. His reference for a basic income for all and ideas on how to make it feasible are greatly relevant today. Though some economists oppose universal basic income primarily due to fiscal constraints and also people losing the incentive to work, these are not judicious arguments.

In India, it has been pointed out by several economists that the pro-rich and pro-urban policies followed by the ruling dispensation are meant to better the conditions of the upper echelons of society. Projects and programmes are taken that greatly make life easy for the rich and the upper middle class. Whether it is education and health, this section prospers because they can pay and get the best facilities while the vulnerable and marginalised communities suffer for an existence.

The role of the private sector in India is quite deplorable as its welfare activities are quite limited compared to the Western world. Moreover, workplace exploitation, extended working hours and other inhuman activities in the private sector have put an obstacle on employment generation. In recent years, private business has entered that health sector in a big way as this is the best avenue of reaping profits without much hassles.

The same is the case in the education sector where big institutions of business houses are set up with very high annual fees that only the rich

and the upper middle class can afford. Though educational standards are commendable, this education is limited to a very small segment of society. There is no place for the poor in either getting access to education or health facilities in private centres.

In recent years, one may mention the observation of Sam Pitroda who had vouched for the need for an inheritance tax that is prevalent in the US and many other countries. In the US, more than half of the wealth of the rich gets transferred to the government after their death. Many economists and institutions like Oxfam had vouched for implementation of such a law in India. Can the government not bring an inheritance tax law whereby say around 20-23% is transferred to the government for welfare of the poor and the oppressed sections?

There is thus enough reason to find justification in Meghnad Desai's observation of economists and planners having forgotten their concern for the poor. And this is very much manifest in India where resources are a huge constraint to development and such steps could augment the

government's funds to transform the rural sector and the living conditions of the lower echelons of society.

The concentration of power and wealth in the hands of the business class and their subsequent funding of elections have made them an important class who dictate terms to most political leaders of the country. Their craving for more wealth and neglect of the vulnerable sections is a part of the country's political culture. There is absolutely no one to listen to the poor, to the lower castes and the economically weaker sections. They do not have any rights in society and the government machinery is not interested in looking after their problems. It is indeed distressing to note that the lack of proper governance as also the fact that bureaucrats come mostly from the upper classes make them immune to grassroots problems and neglect of the marginalised.

Will the condition not improve in coming years? Even the most optimist will agree that though theoretically the answer may be possible, in reality this may not be possible.

INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THOUGH SOME ECONOMISTS OPPOSE UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME PRIMARILY DUE TO FISCAL CONSTRAINTS, AND ALSO PEOPLE LOSING THE INCENTIVE TO WORK, THESE ARE NOT JUDICIOUS ARGUMENTS

WISDOM CORNER

“The discovery of truth is prevented more effectively, not by the false appearance things present and which mislead into error, not directly by weakness of the reasoning powers, but by preconceived opinion, by prejudice.”

ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER

“He who would learn to fly one day must first learn to stand and walk and run and climb and dance; one cannot fly into flying.”

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

“Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people.”

CARL SAGAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1858: The start of Modified Julian Date. Mostly used by astronomers and astrophysicists, the Modified Julian Date (MJD) is a dating method that is defined by subtracting 2,400,000.5 days from the current Julian date (JD), which is calculated by counting the number of days past since Noon January 1, 4713 B.C.E. The MJD gives the number of days past Midnight November 17, 1858. MJD was first used in 1957 by scientists at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory to track satellites.

1869: Construction on Suez Canal finished. The 120 miles (193 kms) long artificial waterway connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea took 10 years to be built and was opened to ships. The canal connected Europe to Asia without ships having to go all the way around Africa.

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



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Preventable scourge

Sir, Every second child in India suffers sexual assault. Approximately every fifteen minutes a child is molested, or raped, in the country. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), more than 50,000 cases of crime against children fell under the ambit of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO). Sexual assault, sexual harassment and collection, and distribution, of pornography are common sexual offences covered under the POCSO, 2012. The 2012 POCSO was a strengthened law, different from the earlier one. The ordeal of having to bear the indelible scars of abuse lifelong can be crippling. Emotional upheaval and stunted growth, in due course, are known after-effects. Community participation in educating the child about "safe" and "unsafe" touch is an important factor that can control the preventable scourge.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA (MAHARASHTRA)

Retrograde step

Sir, Bangladesh's AG has called for the removal of the words "socialism" and "secularism" from its Constitution. The AG's assertion that socialism and secularism do not reflect the realities of a nation where 90% of the population is Muslim has to be taken with a fistful of salt. Minus secularism in particular, the nation will relapse into a Muslim state that will have more than its share of fundamentalists and become a breeding ground for terrorists and self-proclaimed defenders of the faith, as has happened in the past. The need of the hour is to restore stability and bring the economy and administration back on track. The AG's hurry to bin secularism is worrisome and is a sign that the troubled state is cosying up to Pakistan with which, despite the catastrophic events of the 1971 war, it shares a common religious thread. To ditch secularism will be a retrograde step, a step that will only go to buttress the fact that Bangladesh has elected to go the Pakistan way, knowing full well that Pakistan has not covered itself in glory by branding itself an Islamic country.

Avinash Godbole, DEWAS (MADHYA PRADESH)



People warm themselves with a bonfire during a cold and foggy winter morning, in Jammu, Saturday

People vs Kerala HC: Jumbo row intensifies

Festival buffs hold 'symbolic' pooram without elephants as mark of protest in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thrissur, Nov 16: Days after the Kerala High Court stipulated conditions to be followed for grant of permission to parade elephants in festivals or other events, a group of festival buffs Saturday staged a protest holding a symbolic "Thrissur Poomam" here without jumbos. The protest was held in front of the famed Vadakkunnathan Temple, the venue of the iconic Thrissur Poomam festival here annually.

In the place of parading jumbos, the protesters stood at the southern entrance of the shrine holding "nettipattam" (caparisons) and "venchamaram" (decorative circular fan) in their hands. "Pooma premi sangham", an outfit of pooram admirers who organised the protest, said it was part of their effort to make the court and the government to understand the necessity to continue the traditional rituals and practises without any fail.

Senior CPI leader and former minister VS Sunilkumar, who inaugurated the protest, wanted the state and union governments to look into the matter.

"The state government should examine the possibility to bring out new legislation to practically address the conditions in the recent verdict of the High Court," he told reporters here.

The festival buffs, who took part in the protest, expressed concern that many famed temple festivals in the state could not be held as per the new conditions prescribed by the court.



The Kerala High Court, Wednesday, termed the life of a captive elephant as an "eternal" Treblinka -- the second deadliest extermination camp built and operated by Nazis during the second world war-- and stipulated conditions to be followed for grant of permission to parade jumbos in festivals or other events.

The court observed that captive elephants were being extensively used in religious festivals in Kerala and the same was being sought to be justified on the touchstone of tradition and religious practice. It said that in reality, the animals were being commercially exploited without any care.

"As such, the possession of the majority of the elephant appears to be illegal, which needs to be verified by the government," the court said while stipulating the conditions to be followed for grant of permission to parade jumbos in festivals or other events. The conditions included ad-

herence to the model feeding schedule, issuance of fitness certificates by a government veterinarian only, providing a shaded, clean and adequate shelter and eight hours of rest in a day.

The court also laid down conditions on transportation of elephants for exhibition, saying that no pachyderm should be transported on foot for more than 30 kilometers a day and anything more than that, upto a maximum of 125 km per day, has to be by vehicle.

It also said that no elephants should be transported between 10 pm and 4 am, no procession of pachyderms be permitted through public roads between 9 am and 5 pm and no jumbos be exhibited for a continuous period of more than three hours.

The bench also said that no contest like head lifting, saluting, showering of flowers or making elephants stand on their two rear legs and salute -- a practice now introduced at the "Thirunakkara Poomam" -- shall be permitted under any circumstances.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Srinagar set to host World Craft Council

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 16: In a historic first, Srinagar is set to host a three-day event of World Craft Council to commemorate its 60th Jubilee, themed "Craft, Creativity and Compassion," scheduled for November 25 to 27.

An official statement said that this significant event will celebrate Srinagar's recent recognition as a World Craft City, highlighting the traditional crafts of Jammu and Kashmir, such as pashmina, carpet weaving, and papermache. The initiative is supported by UNESCO and various Indian government ministries. The gathering will feature international artisans, designers, and craft leaders, fostering cultural exchange and providing global visibility to the handicraft sector of Jammu & Kashmir.

In this regard, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, convened a meeting to assess the arrangements for the Jubilee celebration.

Tourists enthralled as Kashmir sees snowfall

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Nov 16: Higher reaches of Kashmir valley received light snowfall Saturday as the plains witnessed light rain.

MET department officials said that further precipitation is likely to occur in Jammu & Kashmir during the next 48 hours due to a weak Western Disturbance presently passing over J&K.

Tourist resorts of Sonamarg, Gulmarg and Pahalgam received fresh snowfall Saturday as the mountain peaks around the valley were clad in a thin white blanket in the morning.

Tourists in Gulmarg were thrilled to witness the snowfall, some of the young ones said that this was the first snowfall they had ever since physically.

"Snowfall in movies was all I saw till today. When I woke up in the morning, small flakes of whirling snow were coming



down from the sky. It was an unforgettable experience," said Satish, 18, belonging to Delhi and presently on vacation with his family in Gulmarg ski resort.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar city was 4.6 degrees Celsius Saturday while it was minus 0.5 and 0.3 in Gulmarg and Pahalgam respectively.

Jammu city had 13, Katra 11.6, Batote 7.1, Banihal 4.6 and Baderwah 4.3 as the minimum temperature Saturday.

MET officials said that due to cloud cover, the night temperatures would improve in the valley while the day temperatures are expected to drop during the next 48 hours. Kashmir valley is already bracing up for a bitter winter as the cold has started a little earlier than usual this year.

The kind of heavy woolen clothes and thick tweed over-garment called the 'Pheran' are seen more and more in use by the locals these days.

Pilgrims throng Sabarimala temple on opening day of festive season

The temple, which bars the entry of women who have attained puberty, is accessible only on foot from the Pamba River



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Sabarimala, Nov 16: The first day of the two-month-long festival season at the famed Sabarimala temple opened in the wee hours of Saturday, with pilgrims thronging the temple for darshan of Lord Ayyappa.

The temple doors were opened at 3 am by Arun Nampoothiri, the chief priest of the temple who has taken charge of the temple for the next one year.

The maximum numbers allowed for a day (70,000 pilgrims) have booked online for darshan Saturday. Every day only 10,000 pilgrims will be allowed darshan through spot booking at the foothills of the temple town.

Pilgrims started to arrive from Friday evening and were seen standing in the queue according to the timing of the darshan that they

does not wear footwear, wears a black dhoti, and sticks to strict vegetarian food. Every pilgrim carries on his head 'Irumudi', a prayer kit which contains coconuts which are broken just before climbing the 18 steps, and without it, no one is allowed to step onto the holy 18 steps at the 'Sannidhanam'.

Also in this season, the TDB has decided to provide free insurance coverage for the pilgrims and through it, the kin of any pilgrim who passes away during the pilgrimage will get

The present two-month-long season will continue till the last week of December and then the shrine closes for a few days and will open again to close in the third week of January

a sum of ₹5 lakh and the authorities will also make arrangements for conveying the mortal remains to the pilgrim's hometown.

This season, a record close to 14,000 police officials, along with volunteers, will be on security duty and give a helping hand to the pilgrims.

The parking facility for pilgrims has now been increased to 10,000 parking slots, besides, there will be rate cards in various south Indian languages on display at all the restaurants in and around the temple town. The healthcare facilities in and around the temple town will also have state-of-the-art facilities for the pilgrims.

The present two-month-long season will continue till the last week of December and then the shrine closes for a few days and will open again to close in the third week of January. Since several years now, the temple opens for a few days at the beginning of every Malayalam month for a few days.

<p>Indian Bank ALLAHABAD</p>		<p>ZONAL OFFICE: SAMBALPUR 2ND FLOOR, SHYAM ARCADE, KHETRAJAPUR, SAMBALPUR - 768003, e-mail: zosambalpur@indianbank.co.in</p>		<p>E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (See proviso to rule 6(2) & 8(6) Sale Notice for sale of property /ies under SARFAESI Act 2002)</p>	
<p>Sale of Immovable property/ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)</p>					
<p>Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.ebkray.in.</p>					
Sl. No.	BRANCH / Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagees	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession Notice/ Outstanding Dues	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount	
1.	SONEPUR BRANCH, MOB NO.: 9776109109/ Borrower: Mrs. Sasmita Bhu, W/o.: Sri Shiba Bhu, At: Mayurudan, P.O/GP.: Mayurudan, Dist: Sonepur - 767017	All that piece and parcel of Land and Building recorded in the name of Smt.Sasmita Bhu, W/o.: Shiba Bhu, under Khata No.: 290/44, Plot No.: 885, Area: Ac.0.45 Dec., Mouza: Mayurudan, P.O/GP.: Mayurudan, Tahasil: Sonepur, Dist: Sonepur, Bounded by North: Govt Land, South: Harisankar Dani, East: Govt Land, West: Road	28.07.2023 / 23.10.2023 / ₹ 25,50,578/- as on 11.11.2024 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹10,50,000/- / ₹1,05,000/- / ₹10,000/-	
2.	BAREIPALI BRANCH, MOB NO.: 9778399766/ Borrowers: 1) M/s. Chaini & Co, Prop: Mr. Sunil Chaini, S/o.: Ram Chandra Chaini, At: Kalyan Nagar, SRIT Colony, Budharajai, Sambalpur-768004, 2) Mrs. Satyabhama Chaini, W/o.: Sri Ram Chandra Chaini, At: Contractors Colony, SRIT Colony, Budharajai, Sambalpur-768004	All that piece and parcel of Land recorded in the name of Mrs. Satyabhama Chaini, W/o.: Ram Chandra Chaini, Khata No.: 89, Plot No.: 264, Mouza: Piplipali, Tahasil: Jujumura, Dist: Sambalpur, admeasuring Ac.0.950 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, Bounded by North: Road, South: Plot No.: 223, East: Plot No.: 264, West: Vacant Land.	17.08.2023 / 21.11.2023 / ₹ 74,31,176/- as on 11.11.2024 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹22,50,000/- / ₹2,25,000/- / ₹ 10,000/-	
3.	NUAPADA BRANCH, Mob No.: 9131584169/ Borrower & Mortgagee: Sri Ganesh Sharma, S/o: Sri Mulchand Sharma, At: Bazar Pada, Ward No.: 4, P.O: Khariar Road, Dist.: Nuapada, PIN - 766104	All that piece & parcel of Land & Building recorded in the name of Sri Ganesh Sharma, S/o: Sri Mulchand Sharma, Khata No.: 167/35, Plot No.: 233, KISSAM: Gharabari, Area: Ac. 0.047 Dec., at Mouza: Khariar Road Unit No.: 5, P.S.: Jonk, Dist.: Nuapada. Bounded by North: Plot of Sudha Sharma, South: Plot of Nanak Ram, East: Road, West: Plot of Nanda Kishor Soni	21.02.2024 / 11.06.2024 / ₹ 22,95,112/- as on 11.11.2024 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹31,00,000/- / ₹3,10,000/- / ₹ 10,000/-	
4.	BARBIL BRANCH, Mob No.: 9337381340/ Borrower: M/s. Sony General Store, Prop: Firdosh Alam, S/o: Javed Mohammad, At: Khan Hotel, Daily Market, Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar-758035 / Guarantor /Mortgagee: Javed Mohammad, S/o: Mohammad Hanif, At: Khan Hotel, Daily Market, Barbil, Dist.: Keonjhar-758035.	All that piece and parcel of Land recorded in the name of Javed Mohammad, S/o: Mohammad Hanif at Khata No.: 113/2, Plot No.: 283, Mouza: Dalki, Tahasil: Barbil, Block: Joda, Dist.: Keonjhar, admeasuring Area: Ac. 0.10 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 281 & 281/1355, South: Plot No.: 286, East: Plot No.: 283/1247 and 283/1514, West: Plot No.: 280 & 281	28.12.2009 / 20.09.2024 / ₹ 48,81,428/- as on 11.11.2024 + further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	₹10,00,000/- / ₹1,00,000/- / ₹ 10,000/-	
<p>DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION: For SI No.: 1 to 3 on 04.12.2024 and For SI No.: 4 on 20.12.2024 from 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 Minutes duration</p>					
<p>LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE FOR SI No.: 1 to 3 on 03.12.2024 and for SI No.: 4 on 19.12.2024 upto 05.30 PM by online</p>					
<p>Date & Time of Inspection of Properties: for SI No.: 1 to 3 on 19.11.2024 to 03.12.2024 and for SI No.: 4 on 03.12.2024 to 19.12.2024 between 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM (with prior appointment from bank) at their own expenses</p>					
<p>TERMS & CONDITIONS: 1) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: https://www.ebkray.in (PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.). Prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers / Branch as mentioned in above list., 2) This is a statutory 15/30 days sale notice to the above mentioned borrowers/guarantors under Rule 9(1) / 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002. 3) This is a 15/30 days notice to the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagee of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date., 4) All expenses relating the stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate/conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder. 5) The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale. 6) The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.</p>					
<p>STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) / 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002. Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagees are hereby notified to pay the total dues along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of E-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost.</p>					
<p>Place: Sambalpur Date: 16.11.2024</p>				<p>Sd/-Authorised Officer Indian Bank</p>	



The statue of Shivaji Maharaj outside Parliament was removed. The statue installed in Sindhudurg, collapsed as corruption took place in its construction. What is the point of taking the name of the legendary king if you want to insult that person?

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONG GENERAL SECY

17 HOUSES GUTTED IN KOLKATA

As many as 17 small houses were gutted in a devastating fire late Friday night that continued till Saturday morning at Nimtala in North Kolkata. However, since the residents staying in those houses located near the crematorium at Nimtala, managed to evacuate in time, following which, there was no casualty



Sukhbir Singh Badal resigns as SAD chief



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Nov 16: Sukhbir Singh Badal, who had been declared 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct) by the Akal Takht, tendered his resignation Saturday as the Shiromani Akali Dal president, a position he held since 2008.

Badal's resignation paves the way for the election of the new party chief. The resignation of Badal (62), who is the son of five-time Punjab chief minister late Parkash Singh Badal, came amid vociferous demand by several rebel party leaders including former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra, former SGPC chief Bibi Jagir Kaur who wanted him to step down for the party's consistent dismal performance in the state assembly as well as parliamentary elections.

Badal submitted his resignation to the party's working committee, said party leader Daljit Singh Cheema. "The SAD President Sukhbir Singh Badal submitted his resignation to the working Committee of the party today to pave the way for the election of new President. He thanked all the party leaders & workers for expressing confidence in his leadership and extending wholehearted support & cooperation throughout the tenure," Cheema said in a post on X.

Cheema further said that the elections of Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) office bearers are due December 14 and Badal will complete his five-year term next month. The party's working committee will hold a meeting November 18 to discuss the resignation and ensuing party's elections including new membership drive, appointments of circle delegates and state delegates, he said, adding that last elections were held December 14, 2019. Badal, the former deputy chief minister, was the youngest chief of SAD, when he was elevated to the post in 2008.

MAN FORCING WIFE TO LEAVE HER JOB IS CRUELTY: MP HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Nov 16: A man forcing his wife to quit her job and live according to his wishes is cruelty, the Madhya Pradesh High Court said while allowing a woman's divorce plea.

The 33-year-old woman works as a manager with a Central government undertaking.

She moved the HC after the Family Court dismissed her

divorce plea, which claimed her husband was mentally harassing her to leave her job and live with him in Bhopal.

In its order of November 13, a division bench of MP High Court comprising Chief Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari overturned the family court's decision and allowed the woman's plea for divorce. "Whether husband or wife wants to live together,



it is their wish. Neither husband nor wife can force the other side not to do a job or

do any job as per the choice of the spouse. In the present case, the husband compelled his wife to leave the government job till he gets a job. In this manner, forcing the wife to leave her job and live as per his wish and style amounts to cruelty," the bench said.

After getting married in 2014, the couple started preparing for government recruitment exams while staying in Bhopal, her lawyer

Raghavendra Singh Raghuvanshi told PTI.

"In 2017, my client got a job in a government undertaking but her husband did not. This hurt his ego. He then started harassing her to quit her job and stay with him in Bhopal. He told her not to take up any job until he finds one. However, she refused, which created differences among the couple," he said in a statement.

4-member panel to probe hospital fire

The incident sparked a political blame game in the state where bypolls to nine Assembly seats are to be held November 20. Opposition parties blamed the BJP government in the state and said the deaths raise many serious questions on the administration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Jhansi (UP), Nov 16: The Uttar Pradesh government Saturday formed a four-member committee to probe into the fire at the children's ward of a medical college in Jhansi that snuffed out the lives of 10 newborns as officials suspect electrical short circuit to be the cause of the tragic incident.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has already directed the Divisional Commissioner of Jhansi, the fire department and the deputy inspector general of police to submit a report on the incident within 12 hours. Amid claims that the medical college had expired fire extinguishers, Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak asserted all firefighting equipment in the college was completely fine and a fire safety audit was carried out in February and a mock drill in June.

Principal of the medical college, Dr Narendra Singh Sengar, also termed the allegations "baseless". The committee, to be headed by the Director General of Medical Education and Training, has been tasked with identifying the cause of the fire and determining whether any negligence was involved and asked to submit its report within seven days.

Yakub Mansuri was sleeping on the pavement outside the children's ward Friday night when the fire broke out. He broke in through a window and managed to rescue some newborns but not his two daughters.

Santoshi, who gave birth just 11 days ago, sat on the ground sobbing with her face covered by her palms, not ready to accept the loss of her child.

Post-mortem of seven infants was carried out Saturday while the autopsy of three could not be done as their parents have not been identified yet. Additional Superintendent of Police (City) of Jhansi Gyanendra Kumar Singh told PTI.

According to District Magis-



Family members wait outside the emergency ward

THE BLAZE AT THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT (NICU), WHERE THE INFANTS ADMITTED WERE MOSTLY PREMATURELY BORN, HAS BEEN DOUBTED BUT THE AIR AROUND IS HEAVY WITH SORROW

PARENTS, MOSTLY YOUNG MOTHERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO GATHERED OUTSIDE THE CHILDREN'S WARD CLUNG TO ONE ANOTHER, DRAWING STRENGTH IN THEIR DARKEST HOUR

trate Avinash Kumar, the fire broke out around 10.45 pm on Friday in the NICU wards of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College, one of the largest government hospitals in the state's Bundelkhand region, possibly due to an electrical short circuit.

President Droupadi Murmu termed the incident "extremely heartbreaking" while Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an assistance of Rs 2 lakh for the family of each deceased.

The Uttar Pradesh government has also announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the parents of the newborns who died and Rs 50,000 to the kin of each of the injured.

The Congress targeted the Adityanath dispensation with Rahul Gandhi saying such tragic incidents happening one after another in Uttar Pradesh

speak of negligence of the government and administration.

Party president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded an investigation into the accident and strict legal action against whoever was found guilty of negligence. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said Adityanath should leave the poll campaign and focus on improving the state's health and medical facilities. He also demanded that Rs 1 crore should be paid to all bereaved families, adding, "Gorakhpur should not be repeated".

A statement from the Uttar Pradesh government said that on Adityanath's directions to expedite the rescue work, senior officials took charge of the situation Friday night itself. Most of the children were evacuated to safety within 15 to 20 minutes through the rescue operation, it said, adding that most of the infants were shifted to the PICU ward.

Expressing his condolences to the families of the deceased children, Adityanath directed the officials to provide all possible help to the victims. At an election rally at Phulpur in Prayagraj, he said the fire was caused by a short circuit. The state government also said that as soon as information about the incident was received, Adityanath sent his deputy Pathak and the principal health secretary to the spot.

DELHI POLLUTION

More areas in 'severe' category

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Delhi's air quality worsened further Saturday, with many areas in the "severe" category, even as authorities intensified their action by imposing penalties of around Rs 5.85 crore on the first day of anti-pollution measures under the third stage of GRAP (GRAP).

The city's 24-hour Air Quality Index (AQI), recorded at 4 pm daily, stood at 417, making it the worst in the country. On Friday, the AQI level was 396. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the "severe" category air poses risks to healthy individuals and severely impacts those with existing health conditions.

Out of Delhi's 39 monitoring stations, data shared by the CPCB showed that all except for Sri Aurobindo Marg reported air quality in the "severe" category, with AQI levels above 400. Following Delhi, Jind in Haryana recorded the second-worst air quality with a reading of 394, while Bahadurgarh, also in the neighbouring state, ranked third with a reading of 388.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', 401 and 450 'severe' and above 450 'severe plus'. As the restrictions under



the third stage of GRAP came into force on Friday, authorities intensified action against those violating norms with teams of traffic police, transport department and others penalising violators.

On Friday, Delhi Traffic Police issued around 550 challans for violation of a ban on the plying of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles, imposing a fine of over Rs 1 crore on the first day of restrictions under the third stage of GRAP. Violation of this rule invites a penalty of Rs 20,000. Diesel and petrol inter-state buses, except for BS VI diesel, from the NCR cities to Delhi are also banned.

The police also cracked down on vehicles not having Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUC), as it issued fines to 4,855 vehicles totalling Rs 4.85 crore on Friday. A fine of Rs 10,000 is imposed on motorists for not having a valid pollution under control (PUC) certificate. These challans get released from courts.

SHORT TAKES

Siddique murder: Man detained from Punjab

Mumbai: Mumbai police Saturday made the 24th arrest in the Baba Siddique murder case by apprehending Akashdeep Karajisingh Gill from Punjab, an official said. The NCP leader was gunned down October 12 near his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Bandra East's Nirmal Nagar area. Gill (22) hails from Pacca Chisti village in Punjab's Fazilka district and was held by the Mumbai Crime Branch in coordination with the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) of the northern state, the official said.

Army chief to visit Nepal next week

New Delhi: Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi will embark on a four-day visit to Nepal starting November 20 to explore ways to further expand the already close defence and strategic ties between the two countries and review the evolving regional security situation. In Kathmandu, Gen. Dwivedi will be conferred the honorary rank of "General of the Nepal Army" by Nepalese President Ramchandra Paudel in continuation of an age-old tradition that first started in 1950, reflecting the strong ties between the two militaries.

AP CM's brother passes away

Hyderabad: Former TDP MLA and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's younger brother N Ramamurthy Naidu passed away at a private super-specialty hospital here Saturday, while undergoing treatment for health complications, the hospital said. He was 72. Ramamurthy Naidu, who was admitted to the hospital November 14 following a cardiac arrest, breathed his last at 12.45 PM, the hospital said in a bulletin.

Man kills father

Ballia: A mentally unstable man allegedly killed his 55-year-old father in a village here Saturday, police said. The incident took place in the morning when Jai Prakash Chauhan and his son Mohit Chauhan were working in their field in Chandraul village in Ubhaon area, they said.



BJP supporters during a rally in support of party candidate Deepak Patel ahead of Phulpur seat by-elections, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

Baramati: In Saheb vs Dada battle, people are king

The respect for the four-time former Chief Minister, often referred to as Saheb, in his stronghold of western Maharashtra is palpable in much of the region. But his estranged nephew also appears to enjoy a stature of his own in Baramati, a constituency represented by the senior Pawar for six terms before he passed the baton to Ajit Pawar in 1991

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baramati, Nov 16: Ajit Pawar's development pitch encounters Sharad Pawar's emotional hold over voters as this constituency of glitzy shops and spotless roads turns into a do-or-die battlefield for the younger Pawar amid an intense canvassing never seen before by most voters. And people are not complaining.

Dada, as the deputy chief minister is often addressed, carries a certain air and would not even bother spending much time in campaigns as his win was a forgone outcome, Sandeep Jagtap (32), a farmer, said. "He is now smiling, bowing and folding his hands seeking our votes," he adds with a laugh. His friend Amol Kulange

notes that the election has also seen an unlikely turnout of the members of the Pawar clan who are mostly backing Yugendra Pawar, the grand nephew of Sharad Pawar and fielded by him as his NCP(SP) candidate to take on the deputy chief minister. Sharad Pawar's wife Pratibha Pawar, not much seen in previous polls, has hit the campaign trail and so have some other members of the family, Kulange says.

The respect for the four-time former chief minister, often referred to as Saheb, in his stronghold of western Maharashtra is palpable in much of the region. But his estranged nephew also appears to enjoy a stature of his own in Baramati, a constituency represented by the senior Pawar for six terms



before he passed the baton to Ajit Pawar in 1991.

Ajit Pawar is now seeking his eighth straight term and the first after splitting from his uncle in 2023 along with



40 of then undivided party's 53 MLAs. His faction was recognised as the real Nationalist Congress Party.

In the town, Srikrishna Borkar, a teacher, says Ajit

Pawar is behind its development, including the V P College whose infrastructure, he added, is as good as one can find anywhere. However, the picture takes on another shade as the conversation is joined by older generations.

A section of people criticises Ajit Pawar for "capturing" his uncle's party to join hands with the ruling BJP. Mohan Akhade, a farmer in his 60s, claims that the core supporters of the NCP will never desert 'Saheb'. He asserts that it was Sharad Pawar who nursed Baramati as a model of development before picking his nephew for the job.

It is this sentimental connection with the 83-year-old leader that ensured the defeat of Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar, now a Rajya Sabha member,

against Supriya Sule in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

In this Assembly poll, Yugendra Pawar may be the candidate of the NCP(SP) against the deputy chief minister, but nobody has any doubt that their choice is between Saheb and Dada.

There are also voters who say that they voted for Sule in the Lok Sabha polls for their fealty to Sharad Pawar when he faced one of his biggest political crises and they will now support Ajit Pawar as an acknowledgement of his work. In this developed constituency of one of the more prosperous regions of Maharashtra, the state government's welfare pitch built around cash transfer schemes like 'Ladki Bahun' does not enjoy the same traction as in other places.

national



It is not easy to be independent. On one side, there is Pakistan, a nuclear power, and on the other, there is China, another nuclear power. How is it possible? Where is your economy as you are dependent on everything?

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

NO REGULAR HEARING MATTERS WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY IN SC

Days after Justice Sanjiv Khanna took charge as the Chief Justice of India, a new circular was issued Saturday regarding the hearing of cases in the Supreme Court. According to the circular, regular hearing matters will not be listed Wednesdays and Thursdays



EC notices to Cong, BJP over poll code violations



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: In the wake of the BJP approaching the Election Commission (EC) against Rahul Gandhi and the Congress against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for alleged poll code violations, the election panel asked the presidents of the two parties Saturday to comment on the charges levelled against their leaders.

ing Assembly polls in the two states. During the Lok Sabha election too, the poll authority had exchanged complaints filed by the two parties against the other's star campaigners, including Modi, Shah, Gandhi and Kharge.

According to one of the complaints filed by the Congress, at election rallies in Maharashtra's Nasik and Dhule November 8, Modi made a series of "false, malicious, and slanderous statements targeting the Indian National Congress (INC) and its allies".

It has also accused Shah of making a "slew of false, divisive, malicious and slanderous statements about the Indian National Congress (INC) and its allies" at a poll rally in Jharkhand's Dhanbad November 12.

The BJP has moved the EC against Gandhi, the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, for alleged poll code violations during a rally in Mumbai.

It has accused Gandhi of making false claims that big international brands are opening manufacturing plants in other states at the cost of Maharashtra. The saffron party has said Gandhi's remarks were false and "totally unverified to true facts".

of the day uote

The BJP is dividing the society in the name of religion with an intention to divert people's attention from real issues such as employment generation, poverty eradication and reduction of inflation. The saffron party did nothing to deal with these issues

TEJASHWI YADAV | RID LEADER

The BJP governments are deliberately sending diesel buses, that are prohibited under the current guidelines, to worsen Delhi's air pollution problem

GOPAL RAI | ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

There is an attempt to change the faith (of tribes) by talking with them sweetly, pretending to be well-wishers, luring and tempting. I consider this a malicious attempt

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

POST OF THE DAY

Not long ago, Leaders used to hide in shame if something as tragic as Jhansi happened. But there's no shame, no accountability now. UP CM is already doing election rally and not even 24 hours have passed. Height of insensitivity.

@Nher_who

SHORT TAKES

Noted Sarod maestro Aashish Khan dies

New Delhi: Aashish Khan, the legendary sarod maestro who popularised the instrument world over and collaborated with international musicians like George Harrison, Eric Clapton, and Ringo Starr, has died, his family said. The 84-year-old musician breathed his last at a hospital in Los Angeles in the US Thursday, surrounded by family, friends, and students, his brother Alam Khan said in an Instagram post.

Petrol bombs hurled at TN cinema theatre

Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu): Some unidentified miscreants hurled petrol bombs at a cinema hall screening actor Sivakarthikeyan's biographical drama, 'Amaran', early Saturday, police said. A group of Hindu Munnani (Hindu Front) activists were detained by the police for allegedly entering the theatre after the incident occurred, and were later released, the outfit said. "Two miscreants hurled petrol bombs inside the compound wall of the cinema complex in Melapalayam. It exploded. No one was, however, injured and it did not cause any damage to property," the police said.

India sends food grains to Suriname

New Delhi: India Saturday sent 425 metric tonnes of food grains and other edible items to Suriname as part of its development assistance to the South American country. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the consignment was sent to support Suriname's social welfare programme. "Fulfilling India's commitment to support Government of Suriname through supply of food grains and other edible items for their Social Welfare Programme," he said on 'X'.

MANIPUR UNREST

Protesters target houses of ministers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Nov 16: A day after the bodies of three persons out of six missing people were recovered from a Manipur river, protestors attacked the residences of three state ministers and six MLAs Saturday, prompting the government to impose prohibitory orders in five districts for an indefinite period and suspended internet services in parts of the state.

Protesters ransacked the houses of three of six legislators, including that of Chief Minister N Biren Singh's son-in-law, and set their properties on fire while security forces fired tear gas shells to disperse protesters in different parts of Imphal, police said.

The bodies of two women and a child, who had been missing since Monday from a camp for the displaced, were recovered from Barak River in Jiribam Saturday, while three other bodies, including a woman and two children, were found Friday night.

Bodies of six people, including those of three children, recovered from Manipur's Jiribam district, were sent to Silchar Medical College Hospital (SMCH) in Assam for post-mortem.

Among the state ministers whose residences were stormed by the protesters are Sapat Ranjan, L Susindro Singh and Y Khemchand, an official said. The curfew was imposed for an indefinite period in Imphal East and West, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Kakching districts of Imphal valley "due to developing law and order situation", he said. The state administration suspended internet services



Protesters in Manipur

temporarily in seven districts Saturday evening in the wake of protesters storming into the residences of state ministers and MLAs, another official said. A mob stormed the residence of Health and Family Welfare Minister Sapat Ranjan at Lamphel Sanakeithel in Imphal West district, police said. Protesters also stormed the residence of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Minister L Susindro Singh in Khurai area in Imphal East district, police said. Later in the evening, a mob also attempted to attack his residence, prompting security forces to fire several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the agitators.

The residence of Y Khemchand, the minister for Municipal Administration Housing Development, in Singjamei area in Imphal West district was also targeted by the protesters, police said. Agitators in Sagolband area in Imphal West district gathered in front of the residence of BJP MLA RK Iimo, who is also the son-in-law of Chief Minister N Biren Singh, and raised slogans demanding an "appropriate response from the government" and urging the authorities to "arrest the culprits within 24 hours". The mob vandalised the BJP MLA's house and set ablaze the properties of the legislator, a senior police officer said. Protesters also stormed the residence of BJP legislator Sapat Ranjan in Tera in Imphal West and ransacked his properties, another official said. One vehicle parked outside the MLA's residence was also torched. The residence of another BJP legislator Joykishan Singh at Thangmeiband in the district was also vandalised, police said. Agitators gheraoed the houses JD(U) MLA T Arun of Wangkhei constituency and BJP legislator Karam Shyam of Langthabal. No damage to their properties was reported. Protesters, who had come to

Security forces directed to restore peace: MHA

NEW DELHI: All security forces deployed in Manipur have been directed to take necessary steps to restore order and peace in the state as the security scenario remained "fragile" in the past few days, the Union Home Ministry said Saturday. A fresh cycle of violence erupted in Manipur last Monday after 11 suspected militants, who allegedly attacked a police station and adjoining CRPF camp with sophisticated weapons in Manipur's Jiribam district, were killed in an exchange of fire.

meet Keishamthong constituency's independent legislator Sapat Nishikanta Singh at his residence in Tiddim Road in Imphal West, targeted the office building of a local newspaper owned by him after they were informed that the legislator was not present in the state. The mob destroyed some temporary structures in front of the office building, another official claimed.

Agitators also set tyres on fire in the middle of a road in Imphal town's Thangmeiband area, just 200 metres away from the Manipur Legislative Assembly building, demanding justice for three persons whose bodies were found Friday night near the Assam-Manipur border. Woman BJP MLA S Kebi Devi wanted to talk with the protesters in Naoriya Pakhanglakpa area in Imphal West district and went to the protest site. But she was taken to a vehicle of the state forces after the agitators became hostile, a senior officer said.

Seven, including newly-wed couple, die in road accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bijnor (UP), Nov 16: Seven people, including a newly-wed couple, returning from Jharkhand died while two others were injured when a car hit a tempo from behind while overtaking another vehicle, police said Saturday.

After being hit by the car, the tempo rammed into an electric pole around 2 am Saturday near the fire station of Dhampur on the Dehradun-Nainital Highway, Superintendent of Police Abhishek said. The tempo passengers were thrown on the ground by the impact of the accident, he said.

Jha said that all six people including the bride and groom died on the spot while the tempo driver Ajab Singh died while being taken for treatment. Two persons who were moving in the car have been injured, police said, adding the bodies of the deceased have been sent for post-mortem examination.

Khurshid (65) of Tewari village of Dhampur was returning with his daughter-in-law Khushi (22) after getting his son Visal (25) married in Jharkhand. Khurshid's brother-in-law Mumtaz (45), Mumtaz's wife Ruby (32) and daughter Bushra (10) were also with them, the police said. The SP said these people had come to Moradabad by train. From there they were going back to the village by a tempo. Other passengers, Sohai and Aman, were badly injured and they are being treated.

According to the police, prima facie the cause of the incident was dense fog. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed deep condolences on the loss of lives in a road accident in Bijnor district, his office said on X.



'Modi eliminated freedom of speech'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Nov 16: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge Saturday launched a fresh attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of "eliminating freedom of speech" and imprisoning those who speak out against his mistakes.

Kharge also labelled former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren, who joined the BJP from JMM, a "traitor," claiming there were many such people who betrayed those who nurtured them.

Kharge said, "There are many traitors like Champai Soren who proved unfaithful to those who nurtured them" and warned the people of Jharkhand being cautious alleging that "Modiji will be-

tray you, hand over your 'Jal, Jungle, Jameen' to industrialists." He also alleged that the "BJP-RSS who break the nation and divide the poor proclaim 'batenge toh katenge'."

Kharge raised concerns about wealth inequality in the country, claiming that 62 per cent of the wealth is controlled by just 5 per cent of the rich, while 50 per cent of the population holds only 3 per cent of the assets.

Earlier, addressing a rally, he attacked Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing them of delaying helicopters of his and Rahul Gandhi in Jharkhand, and alleged that despite holding Cabinet minister rank, the Opposition leaders were not given access to reserved airport lounge.

Foreign cos need Union govt nod to do surveys: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Nov 16: The Kerala High Court has held that if any foreign organisation wants to conduct a survey in India, permission from the central government is necessary.

The ruling from the High Court came while disposing of a plea seeking quashing of criminal proceedings against an Indian company for conducting a survey in Thiruvananthapuram in 2010, which according to the police was aimed at "injuring the emotional feelings of the Muslim community".

The survey was conducted by the Indian company - Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS) PLC - for US-based Princeton Survey Research Associates (PSRA). Rejecting the Indian company's plea to quash the criminal proceedings against it, Justice P V Kunhikrishnan said that if such surveys were allowed to continue, they "will affect the security of our country and importantly religious harmony".

The High Court further said that it was "surprising" that a foreign company was conducting a survey in the country "with a bunch of suspicious questions".



High Court of Kerala

central government should take it very seriously, and if there is any intention to topple the integrity of our country by conducting such surveys, appropriate steps should be taken in accordance with the law."

The court also said that "there is force" in the prosecutor's argument that if the entire questionnaire was gone through, it was not only sensitive and objectionable, but also created suspicion about the intention of the survey itself. It also noted that in the instant matter, there was no sanction from the central government for conducting such a survey.

The High Court was also of the opinion that a investigation by the state police was not enough in the case and directed the investigating officer to forward a report to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

about the probe carried out so far in the case.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs will do the needful in accordance with law, and order further enquiry or investigation, if necessary, in accordance with law," it said. The police had told the court that its probe revealed that "in the name of a harmless survey, they selected highly sensitive and vulnerable areas in India to interview the people belonging to a particular religious background".

"According to the investigating authority, all the questions were clear citations injuring the emotional feelings of the Muslim community," the police told the court. Also, it submitted that the TNS "purposely and knowingly entered into the alleged contract with a foreign organisation".

PSRA had claimed that they were conducting the same research in more than 20 countries as part of a project titled 'Green Wave 12'. The research,

according to PSRA, was to help the clients understand, respect, and be mindful of a country's traditions, values and attitudes.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.MM-244
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER,
BAMRA WILDLIFE DIVISION, BAMRA, SAMBALPUR
 At/PO - Bamra, Dist - Sambalpur E-Mail - dfobmbwlo4@gmail.com
BID IDENTIFICATION No. 1F-BMB/01
Dt. 15.11.2024 (online)/2024-25
E-procurement notice
 No. 256 Dated 15.11.2024

The Divisional Forest Officer, Bamra Wildlife Division, Bamra, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in single cover System in ONLINE Mode	
1 No. of work	: 6 (Six) nos. Building work (composite)
2 Estimated cost	: Rs. 12,74,076/- to Rs. 17,08,789/- (Excluding 18% GST)
3 Tender Cost	: Rs. 6,000/- for each project
4 Class of Contractor	: "C" & "D" Class Contractors
5 Period of completion	: 03 (Three) Calendar Months (90 days)
6 Availability of bid document in the website	: 18:00 Hours of 18.11.2024 to 17:00 Hours of 04.12.2024
7 Date of Opening of Tenders	: 11:30 Hours on dt. 05.12.2024
8 The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the WebSite www.tendersodisha.gov.in only. Any Corrigendum / Addendum / cancellation of tender will be displayed in the website said only.	

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer,
Bamra Wildlife Division

OIPR-08144/11/0001/2425

international



Elon Musk and I are in a position to start the mass deportations of millions of unelected federal bureaucrats out of the DC bureaucracy. That, too, is how we're going to save this country
VIVEK RAMASWAMY | ENTREPRENEUR-TURNED POLITICIAN, US

ITALY SENDS GAZA AID

An Italian air force plane took off Saturday carrying more than 15 tons of humanitarian aid to be delivered to the population in Gaza, a defence ministry statement said



of the day quote

The chancellor urged Russia to be willing to negotiate with Ukraine with the aim of achieving a just and lasting peace and stressed Germany's unwavering determination to support Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression for as long as necessary
STEFFEN HEBESTREIT | GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN, GERMANY



Polarization in society is dangerous because it undermines the bond between people. Because of that, we start seeing each other as opponent instead of fellow citizens
NORA ACHAHBAR | CENTRIST NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT PARTY, THE NETHERLANDS



The change in Washington means Europe will have to invest more in its security and defense rather than relying on the American protective shield as it has done for decades
MICHAL BARANOWSKI | MD, GMF EAST



COP29: Activists hold biggest protest day

Protesters gather at UN climate talks in global day of action as progress slows

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baku, Nov 16: Hundreds of activists formed a human chain outside one of the main plenary halls at the United Nations climate summit on what is traditionally their biggest protest day during the two-week talks. The demonstration in Baku, Azerbaijan will be echoed at sites around the world in a global "day of action" for climate justice that's become an annual event. Activists waved flags, snapped their fingers, and hummed and mumbled chants in a silent protest, with many covering their mouths with the word "Silenced."

not going to get the results that the world needs in this round of negotiations, but at least to bring us many steps closer is our hope, is our aim." Tasneem Essop said she was inspired by the action, which was challenging to organise. "To be able to pull off something where people feel their own power, exercise their own power and get inspired in this creative way, I'm super excited about this," she said. Essop says she's "not very" optimistic about an outcome on finance, but knows next week will be pivotal. "We can't end up with a bad deal for the peoples of the world, those who are already suffering the impacts of climate change, those who need to adapt to an increasing and escalating crisis," she said. "We fight until the end."

I think we have no option but to keep fighting... It's the instinctive response that anyone, any living being, living creatures will have, which is to fight for life and fight for survival
NACPIL | COORDINATOR, ASIAN PEOPLES' MOVEMENT ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

On a deal for climate cash, there's not much progress

Negotiators at COP29, as the talks are known, are working on a deal that might be worth hundreds of billions of dollars to poorer nations. Many are in the Global South and already suffering the costly impacts of weather disasters fueled by climate change. Several experts have said \$1 trillion a year or more is needed both to compensate for such damages and to pay for a clean-energy transition that most countries can't afford on their own.

Tired but inspired, activists vow to keep fighting

Lidy Nacpil said protesters like her are "not surprised" about how negotiations are going. But past wins — like a loss and damage fund that gives developing nations cash after extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change — keep organisers going, said Nacpil, a coordinator with the Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development. "The role we play is to increase the pressure," she said of the action. "We know we're

Samir Bejanov, deputy lead negotiator of this year's climate talks said in a press conference that the climate finance talks were moving too slowly. "I want to repeat our strong encouragement to all parties to make as much progress as possible," he said. "We need everyone to approach the task with urgency and determination." Observers were also disappointed at the pace of progress.



A man interacts with police during an anti-government protest, in Quito, Ecuador

UK varsities snub Indian students

As per Office for Students analysis, a 20.4% drop is witnessed in Indian student numbers – down from 139,914 to 111,329



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Nov 16: Indian students are being put off applying to UK universities, adding to their financial woes at a time when education institutions are already coping with constrained budgets, a new report into the stability of the higher education sector in England has revealed.

Based on UK Home Office data on confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS) by UK providers from 2022-23 to 2023-24, an Office for Students (OfS) analysis released Friday shows a 20.4 per cent drop in Indian student numbers – down from 139,914 to 111,329.

"There has been a considerable decline in student visa applications from prospective non-UK students in some major source countries," notes the report by OfS, a non-departmental public body of the government's Department for Education. "This data shows an 11.8 per cent decline in the total number of sponsor acceptances issued to international students, as well as considerable variation for students with different nationalities, with the largest declines reported in the number of CAS issued to Indian and Nigerian students, down 28,585 (20.4 per cent) and 25,897 (44.6 per cent) respectively," it said. It warns that universities

Students are not allowed to bring their partners to the UK under the new policy and given the economic conditions here and recent rioting stories, unless the government addresses this issue the outlook for UK universities is bleak as they rely heavily on Indian students
AMIT TIWARI | PRESIDENT, INSA UK

with financial models that depend heavily on students from countries such as India, Nigeria and Bangladesh are likely to be significantly affected due to this downward trend.

"The number of international students from certain countries that send significant numbers to study in the UK has decreased significantly," OfS cautions. "By 2025-26, based on current trends and not taking into account significant mitigating action, we estimate a net income reduction for the sector of GBP 3,445 million, and, without significant mitigating actions, a sector-level deficit of minus GBP 1,636 million, with up to 72 per cent of providers being in deficit, and 40 per cent having low liquidity," it adds. The Indian National Students' Association (INSA) UK said it was not surprised with the significant decrease in students from India given the government's clampdown on foreign students being allowed to bring along their dependent partners and spouses. Indians overtook the Chinese in recent years as the leading

nationality granted study visas to the UK and are the largest cohort to access the Graduate Route post-study work visa, which was thrown into disarray due to a review which has since concluded it is here to stay. "Many reasons contribute to the decline in numbers, including the Conservative ban on dependents, confusion around post-study work visa, increase in skilled worker salary thresholds and an apparent lack of jobs in the UK," said Sanam Arora, chair of the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK. "We discovered the scale of misinformation that continues to persist; for the first time, safety is also being raised as a concern... Universities need to ensure that they are communicating the UK offer adequately and at scale in India to address the confusions that persist," she said. "Universities also need to invest significantly in their employability support in order to stay competitive and provide a wholesome, outcome-oriented offer for students," she added.

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SMOG CRISIS

Schools in Pak's Punjab shut till November 24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Nov 16: All schools in Pakistan's Punjab province will remain closed till November 24 while colleges and universities will hold online classes due to heavy smog.

The Punjab government of Maryam Nawaz extended smog-related restrictions in the province till November 24 after Lahore, Multan and some other cities remained most polluted.

Dense smog, caused by toxic pollutants, has engulfed several cities in Punjab over the past few weeks, with Lahore and Multan being the worst hit. The Air Quality Index (AQI) reading in Multan has already crossed 2,000 twice, setting a new record for air pollution.

The Punjab government has declared an emergency in Lahore and Multan, where a complete lockdown will be imposed from Fridays to Sundays due to the intensity of smog.

Construction activities in Lahore and Multan have also been suspended for 10 days, and vehicles carrying construction materials will be stopped at the entry points of the cities.

Punjab Senior Minister Maryam Aungzeb said the closure of schools has been extended till November 24 while colleges and universities will hold online classes in Lahore and Multan.

Private and government offices would operate with 50 per cent of staff working from home, while restaurants would operate till 4 pm with takeaway services allowed till 8 pm. "We are not imposing restrictions on weddings during this smog season but are preparing for next year," the minister said.

SHORT TAKES

Boy's remains laid to rest after 65 yrs

Wisconsin: The remains of a 7-year-old boy were buried Friday, a solemn last act in a yearlong effort to confirm the identity of a skeleton found decades ago in a road culvert in Wisconsin. The boy was known as Markku Jutila when he disappeared in 1959, the name given to him by his adoptive parents in Houghton County, Michigan. But records and DNA tests this year revealed that his birth name was Chester Breiney, the Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, sheriff's office announced November 8. The boy's adoptive parents were charged in his death in 1966. Despite incriminating statements, the case against them was ultimately dismissed in Houghton County because of a lack of solid evidence connecting the couple to the skeletal remains.

Russia stops flow of gas to Austria

Vienna: Russia's state-owned natural gas company Gazprom stopped supplies to Austria early Saturday, according to the Vienna-based utility OMV after it said it would stop payments for the gas following an arbitration award. The official cutoff of supplies before dawn Saturday came after Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer Friday held a hastily called news conference to emphasise his country has a secure supply of alternative fuel for this winter. OMV said it would stop paying for Gazprom gas to its Austrian arm to offset a 230 million-euro (\$242 million) arbitration award it won from the International Chamber of Commerce over an earlier cutoff of gas to its German subsidiary.

IMF, Pakistan wrap up \$7 billion bailout

Washington: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Friday it held constructive talks with authorities in Pakistan on economic policy and reform efforts to reduce vulnerabilities during an unscheduled staff visit. The unusual visit from Nov 12 to Nov 15 discussed a \$7-billion bailout within six weeks of its approval by the IMF board, but came too early for the first review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), due in the first quarter of 2025. "We are encouraged by the authorities' reaffirmed commitment to the economic reforms supported by the 2024 EFF," Nathan Porter, the chief of the IMF's Pakistan mission, who led the talks, said.

Israeli troops reach deepest point in Lebanon

Since late September, Israel has dramatically escalated its bombardment of Lebanon, vowing to cripple the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and end its barrages in Israel that the militants have said are in solidarity with Palestinians during the war in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, Nov 16: Israeli ground forces reached their deepest point in Lebanon since they invaded six weeks ago before pulling back Saturday after battles with Hezbollah militants, Lebanese state media reported.

The clashes and further Israeli bombardment of Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold, came as Lebanese and Hezbollah officials study a draft proposal presented by the US earlier this week on ending the war.

Israeli troops captured a strategic hill in the southern Lebanese village of Chamaa, about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the Israeli border, the state-run National News Agency reported. It said the troops were later pushed back.

The agency added that Israeli troops blew up the Shrine of Shimon the Prophet in Chamaa



as well as several homes before they withdrew, but the claim could not be immediately verified.

Israel's military did not immediately respond to requests for comment but said in a statement that its troops "continue their limited, localized and targeted operational activity

warning by Israel. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Israel said Hezbollah fired more than 60 projectiles into Israel Saturday but gave no details.

More than 3,400 people have been killed in Lebanon by Israeli fire — 80% of them in the past eight weeks — according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. Israel has said it wants to ensure that thousands of Israelis can return to their homes near the border with Lebanon.

On Friday, Lebanon's caretaker prime minister apparently urged Iran to try and convince Hezbollah to agree to a cease-fire deal with Israel, which would require the group to pull back from the Israel-Lebanon border. The proposal is based on UN Security Council resolution 1701, which ended the last Israel-Hezbollah war in 2006.

SNIPPETS

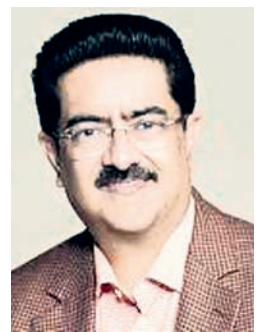
Gabon votes on new constitution, key step towards democratic rule

Libreville: Voters in Gabon headed to the polls Saturday to decide on a new constitution that would pave the way to democratic rule after a coup ousted the Bongo dynasty last year. The new constitution would introduce two-term limits on the presidency, remove the position of prime minister and recognise French as Gabon's working language. The presidential term would be set at seven years. General Brice Oligui Nguema, the interim president who seized power in a coup last year, is urging voters to agree to the new constitution, which he says embodies the junta's commitment to charting a new course for Gabon. Military officers toppled the government in August last year. The ousted president, Ali Bongo, had ruled since 2009. His father, Omar, had ruled since 1967. It was the eighth coup in West and Central Africa since 2020. Western powers and regional bodies have pressured military rulers to hold elections within reasonable timeframes.

Illegal pesticides: Increasing food poisoning deaths mar South Africa

Johannesburg: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced stringent steps to control the increasing number of child deaths due to food poisoning from illegal pesticides across the country. "Across the country, there has been a rise in reported cases of food-borne illnesses and deaths. A number of people are becoming severely ill and even dying after eating contaminated food. It has been found that some of the food items would have been purchased from spaza shops and street vendors," Ramaphosa said in a nationally televised address Thursday. His address followed national outbreaks and attacks in townships on spaza shops by local residents. "Spaza" shops are the name given to small, informal, mostly unlicensed shops, operated by foreign nationals in townships, largely by Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, Somali and Ethiopian migrants. "Since the beginning of September 2024, there have been a total of 890 reported incidents of food-borne illnesses across all provinces. Over the last few weeks alone, food-borne illnesses have claimed the lives of over 22 of our nation's children. Last month there was a major food-borne incident in Naledi in Soweto in which six children died. The youngest of these children was just six years old," Ramaphosa said.

Business



“We want to be number one or two in every business that we are in or get into. So, like they say, scale is in everything, but it's the only thing. Without scale, I think it's very difficult to survive today unless you have something very unique, very high technology, which gives you very high margins. So, scale is very important”
KM BIRLA | ADITYA BIRLA GROUP CHAIRMAN

GEMS, JEWELLERY EXPORTS, RISE 9.18%

India's gems and jewellery exports grew by 9.18 per cent to USD 2,998.04 million in October due to revival in demand for cut and polished diamond, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said. The overall exports stood at USD 2,746.09 million during the corresponding period of previous year, GJEPC said in a statement.



of the day quote

We are going to produce five hundred thousand barrels of oil and gas...so many other things they are doing, but these are the major thing for me to do...



ANIL AGARWAL | VEDANTA CHAIRMAN

Matrimony has been a gateway for happy marriages for over two decades now. We are the trusted partners for millions who wish to find the right match. With WeddingLoan.com, we wish to extend our services to make the process of wedding planning, budgeting and execution simpler



MURUGAVEL JANAKIRAMAN | MATRIMONY.COM CEO

Our focus on delivering benchmark quality residences, construction products and services through our unique backward integrated operating model would continue to be our mainstay as we pursue scale



JAGADISH NANGINENI | SOBHA LTO MANAGING DIRECTOR

FIIIs may reduce selling towards year-end

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 16: After their heavy selling so far, it is expected that the foreign institutional investors (FIIs), will reduce their selling near the end of the calendar year and fresh allocations or significant investments are likely to occur once there is greater clarity regarding the US' incoming Donald Trump administration's policies, market experts said Saturday.

Several factors have led to the selling activity by FIIs in the Indian stock market - weak earnings, high valuations compared to other markets, and global economic influences such as rising US bond yields.

"While some of the selling by FIIs in the secondary market is being counterbalanced by buying in the primary market - through large initial public offerings like those from Swiggy and Hyundai - it is expected that FIIs will reduce their selling as we near the end of the calendar year," Waterfield Advisors' Senior Director, Listed Investments, Vipul Bhowar said.

Fresh allocations or significant investments are likely to occur once there is greater clarity regarding the Trump administration's policies.

"FIIs this calendar year have been reducing their weightage in mature sectors when growth would be closer to our nominal GDP and allocating capital to high-growth businesses. For



Sensex, Nifty may consolidate

Mumbai: The domestic market remains in correction terrain and from the recent peak, the main indices, Nifty and Sensex, have corrected around 10 per cent, according to trade experts. According to market watchers, weakness in Q2 FY25 results and sustained outflow of foreign funds weighed on the sentiment. On the other hand, a spike in domestic CPI inflation to a 14-month high of 6.2 per cent, a firm dollar index, and a rising US 10-year yield signal that the volatility will continue in the short term. "Investors are rushed to unwind their positions in the riskier assets as the continuity of the premium valuation without a fair earnings growth will not be sustained," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Consolidation may continue in the near term; however, the beaten-down value stocks may witness bottom fishing due to their potential outlook.

example, in the financial sectors, FPIs have been increasing allocation in Capital Market themes like Asset management, exchanges, and healthcare," said Bhowar.

FPIs turned net sellers in October, withdrawing \$11.5 billion (in equity, debt and hybrid cat-

egories) compared to an inflow of \$11.2 billion in September. The equity market saw a record-high net outflow of \$11.2 billion (vs an inflow of \$6.9 billion in the previous month) in response to the rise in Chinese equities following the announcement of aggressive fiscal

stimulus measures, according to the latest Crisil report.

Domestic financial conditions in India are in the comfort zone despite the FII outflows. The new framework established by the RBI and SEBI for reclassifying foreign FPIs as FDI is expected to positively impact foreign inflows into India, said experts. This framework provides greater flexibility for foreign investors and reduces barriers to entry.

"With the new regulations, FPIs can hold larger stakes in Indian companies without the need for immediate divestment. This creates opportunities for increased foreign investment, particularly in mid-cap companies, and helps attract long-term capital," said Bhowar.

Spice exports projected to reach \$10bn by 2030

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 16: The domestic spice exports market is likely to reach \$10 billion by 2030, entering newer geographies, according to Ramkumar Menon, chairman of the World Spice Organisation (WSO).

At the 'National Spice Conference (NSC) 2024' event in Ahmedabad, Menon said the spice export growth in the first half this fiscal has seen 8.8 per cent growth (year-on-year).

India's spice exports for the first half of FY24 reached ₹17,488 crore (\$2.09 billion), according to Menon. The spice exports are set to surpass \$4.7 billion for FY 24-25.

To meet the ambitious \$10 billion target, India needs to produce nearly 15 million tonnes of spices, he mentioned.

The export of spices and spice products reached an all-time high in FY 2023-24 and attained \$4.46 billion.

During 2023-24 the export of spices and spice products from the country has been 15,39,692 tonnes valued ₹36,958.80 crore (\$464.17 million), according to data by the Spices Board, under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The growth was seen owing to a rebound in volumes and higher prices for certain varieties such as pepper, cardamom and turmeric. The red chilli exports hit a record \$1.5



billion in FY24, a 15 per cent increase from the previous year's \$1.3 billion which is driven by robust demand from China and Bangladesh.

Red chilli exports, worth \$1.5 billion, comprised about 34 per cent of India's total spices exports. China was the top importer of Indian red chillies in FY24, purchasing over 1.79 lakh tonnes valued at ₹4,123 crore, according to Kedia Advisory.

The Spices Board is set with a transformative scheme aimed at significantly enhancing the export of spices and value-added spice products as well as improving the productivity of cardamoms and upgrading the post-harvest quality of spices across India for export.

Various programmes rolled out under the scheme 'Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development (SPICED)' will be implemented during the remaining period of the 15th Finance Commission cycle, till FY 2025-26, with a total approved outlay of ₹422.30 crore.

SHORT TAKES

EaseMyTrip to foray into study tourism

New Delhi: Travel booking platform EaseMyTrip has announced it will acquire 49 per cent paid-up share capital of Planet Education Australia Pty Ltd to foray into international study tourism. The acquisition creates synergy between EaseMyTrip's customer base, B2B agents' network, tech capabilities and Planet Education's extensive global education network, a statement said. Sydney-headquartered Planet Education has a presence across 25 offices globally and connections with over 350 universities worldwide. EaseMyTrip CEO & Co-Founder Nishant Pitti said every year lakhs of students pursue higher education in countries such as the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, and Ireland.

HZL preferred bidder for Raj gold block

New Delhi: Hindustan Zinc said it has emerged the preferred bidder for a gold mine block in Rajasthan that will help it expand its previous metal portfolio. The company secured a composite licence for a gold mining block in Rajasthan through the state government auctions held November 13, it said in a statement. The company has been declared the preferred bidder for the Dugocha Gold Block, as confirmed by the Department of Mines & Geology, Rajasthan, vide notification dated November 15, 2024, it said.

Rapido halves losses in FY24

New Delhi: Ride-hailing platform Rapido has reported narrowing of losses to ₹370 crore in FY24 from ₹675 crore a year earlier. This is the third consecutive year the Bengaluru-based unicorn has posted a loss. It incurred a loss of ₹440 crore in FY22, the company said in a statement. The company's revenue came in at ₹648 crore in FY24, up 46.3 per cent from ₹443 crore in FY23. "Last year's performance is underscored by a 2x increase in Gross Order Value (GOV), which soared to ₹4,257 crore in FY24 from ₹2,419 crore in FY23, further demonstrating the platform's expanding market presence," the statement said.

BIZ BUZZ

Paradeep Phosphates celebrates World Quality Day



Bhubaneswar: World Quality Day celebration was inaugurated at Paradeep Phosphates Limited November 14 at Plant Site, Paradeep. The weeklong celebration marked many activities involving all employees and contractual workers. Suresh Krishnan, Managing Director, inaugurated the event by hoisting the Quality Flag in presence of Rajeev Nambiar, Chief Operating Officer, Bijoy Kumar Biswal, Chief Financial Officer, Palanisamy Velusamy, Chief Manufacturing Officer, Sumit Senapati, Chief General Manager (HR & IR) and other Senior Executives of the Organisation.

Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head-Corporate Affairs, made the employees to take the Quality Pledge. This Year the theme of the World Quality Day was 'Quality from Compliance to Performance.' Krishnan, in his speech, stressed on maintaining highest quality standard in the products produced by PPL and services rendered by the company. Among other events a quality campaign-knowledge sharing session, farmers' meet and theme-based talk were held to create awareness about the importance of quality.

Union leaders and other senior executives were present on the occasion. Prizes were distributed to the winners of essay, slogan and quiz competitions. Sanjeeb Tripathy, Dy. General Manager (Quality and R&D) conducted the proceedings.

Candidates partly responsible for falling prey to job scams: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Nov 16: Over 75 per cent of respondents feel that candidates are partly responsible for falling prey to scams due to their failure to verify company's credentials before making payments or sharing sensitive personal information, a report said Saturday.

A substantial 75 per cent of surveyed employees indicated that many job seekers fail to exercise the necessary caution when engaging with potential frauds posing as employers or recruiters, the report by workforce staffing and HR services provider Genius Consultants said.

The report by Genius Consultants is based on a survey of 1,427 employees across sectors including FMCG, Technology, Manufacturing, Telecom, E-Commerce, Logistics, Real Estate, and BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance).

Further, the report revealed that while 28 per cent of respondents believed that there have been serious steps taken by the government or regulatory bodies to curb such frauds, a significant 55 per cent disagreed saying there has been inadequate efforts and a lack of stringent measures.

Lithium-ion battery demand to grow to 127 GWh by FY30

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Nov 16: The lithium-ion battery demand in India is set to grow exponentially to 54 gigawatt hour (GWh) by FY27 and 127 GWh by FY30, as the country sets an ambitious target to meet 50 per cent of its primary energy requirement from renewable energy by 2030.

Currently, domestic lithium-ion battery storage demand of 15 GWh is being almost entirely met through imports of lithium-ion cells and batteries.

India imports almost its entire requirement of Li-ion batteries. However, CareEdge Ratings expects India's import dependency to decline to 20 per cent by FY27, despite significant growth in demand due to large-scale integrated capacities being built for Li-ion battery storage.

The substantial growth in demand is primarily driven by expected increase in EV penetration and decarbonisation of electricity grids, supported by ambitious government targets and policies/incentives from both central as well as state governments, the report mentioned.

The government has taken initiatives on several de-



mand-side measures, such as Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), helping to bring down cost of EV and BESS, thereby stimulating demand.

The Centre has set the target of achieving 30 per cent EV penetration by 2030 (as a per cent of annual sales). India has already allocated 40 GWh of integrated battery capacities under the PLI scheme, with the remaining 10 GWh expected to be awarded shortly. Additionally, existing conventional battery manufacturers in India are expected to set up battery capacities outside of the PLI scheme.

Hardik Shah, Director at CareEdge Ratings, said that the demand for lithium-ion battery storage in India is expected to grow significantly driven predominantly by migration towards EVs and renewable energy storage requirements.

Consequently, India's dependence on imports is expected to decline sharply to 20 per cent by FY27 from near-full dependence presently, due to giga-size integrated battery capacities coming onstream in India.

"Furthermore, the relative cost-competitiveness of Indian manufacturers, in the context of capacity addition and pricing policy of large global integrated players especially Chinese manufacturers, will be a key factor to monitor," he added.

Musk's political ascendancy stirs hopes of redemption for X banks

REUTERS

San Francisco, Nov 16: Elon Musk's political ascendancy has some Wall Street banks hoping they may soon be able to offload \$13 billion of debt that backed the billionaire's purchase of the social media platform X, three banking sources said.

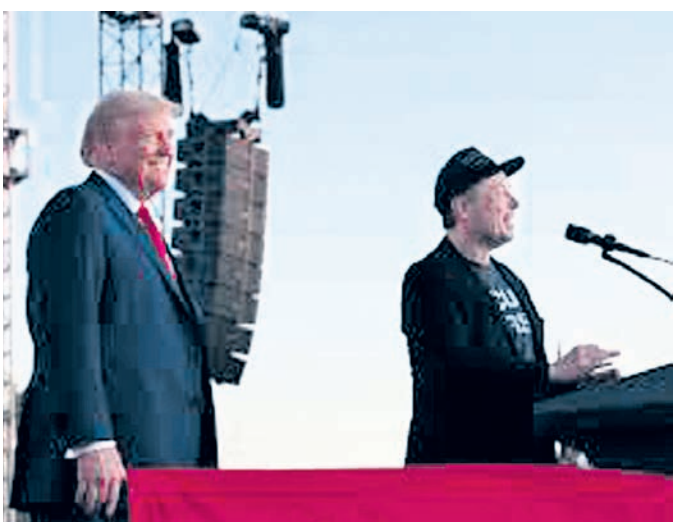
Some of the lenders in the consortium, which included Morgan Stanley and Bank of America, think Musk's emergence as a close aide to Republican President-elect Donald Trump could boost the prospects of X, previously known as Twitter, the sources said. If that were to happen, it would allow them to sell the debt without having to take a massive loss on the deal, the sources said.

Musk, X, Morgan Stanley and Bank of America did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Banks typically sell such loans to investors soon after the deal is done, but in the case of

X, which Musk bought for \$44 billion in 2022, they have been stuck holding the debt. Musk's sweeping changes to the platform, including laying off many people who worked to moderate content, and one of his posts on X, scared away advertisers and hit revenues. That reduced the value of the debt, as the risk of default increased.

In recent months, one of the sources said, some banks expected X had seen increased traffic as users flocked to the platform around big events like the U.S. elections. Trump, whose account on the platform was restored by Musk after the previous management banned him in January 2021, has been regularly posting on it.

The banking sources said they wanted to see whether that and a robust U.S. economy would translate to increased revenues for the platform. Analysts have said Musk's ties with Trump - who put him in charge of a new government



department on efficiency - could benefit the entrepreneur's various business ventures, which range from Tesla electric vehicles to SpaceX rockets. Tesla's market value surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time in two years in the days after the election results.

The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

It is unclear to what extent Musk's close connection in the new administration could help revive X's business. One of the sources said it could also further divide its user base.

Newer platforms like Bluesky and Meta's Threads have been benefiting from a user exodus from X since the election.

U.S. web traffic on X reached its highest point this year on election day with 42.3 million visits, which climbed another 10% to 46.5 million visits the day after the election, according to data from web analytics company Similarweb. But by the weekend, X's web traffic tapered off to more normal levels, Similarweb said. The data firm said 115,000 web users in the U.S. deactivated their X account on Nov. 6, higher than any other day since Musk took over the platform.

The social media company is expected to report its latest finances to the lending consortium in the weeks after the quarter ends next month, the sources said. The banks could then decide whether they should continue holding onto the debt or look to engage investors on it, the sources said.

Other banks in the consortium include Barclays, Mitsubishi UFJ, BNP Paribas, Mizuho and Societe Generale.

BNP, SocGen, and Barclays declined to comment. The other banks did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Sources have said banks have marked down the value of the debt to different degrees on their books, depending on their outlook on it.

One of the lenders is marking potential losses on the loan weekly, and had already set aside reserves to fully cover them, according to a source familiar with the situation. Attempts to sell the debt in late 2022 attracted bids which would have seen banks taking as much as a 20% loss on the face value of the debt, sources at the time said.

Instead of crystallizing those losses, banks have been holding on to the paper, the sources said. X has kept up with interest payments on the bonds, they said.

India stun China, enter semis

Records topple as Tilak, Sanju redefine T20I

Defending champions India to square off their round robin campaign against Japan Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajgir, Nov 16: Defending champions India stunned Olympic silver medallist China 3-0 to seal a semifinal spot at the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Saturday.

India scored two field goals through Sangita Kumari (32nd minute) and skipper Salima Tete (37th) before tournament's highest scorer Deepika (60th) converted a penalty corner in the final minute.

The win against world No 6 China was India's fourth consecutive win in the tournament. The hosts are now on top of the standings with eight points from four games.

China have dropped to the second place with six points from four matches.

The top four teams from the six team continental tournament will qualify for the semifinals.

India were the offensive from the word go and created most of the opportunities without any success as the Chinese defended deep into their own territory and relied on counter attacks.

India secured their first real chance in the opening minute of the game in the form of back-



WOMEN'S ACT HOCKEY

to-back penalty corners but wasted both the opportunities.

Minutes later, Sharmila Devi essayed a precision pass to Sunelita Toppo, whose first touch opened up the Chinese defence, giving Deepika a one-on-one situation with the opposition goalkeeper, who came out on top to deny the Indian forward.

China also secured a penalty corner in the first quarter but the Indian defence stood tall.

Both the sides were cagey in the first quarter with India making some silly mistakes after a bright start.

India secured their second penalty corner in the 21st minute but to no avail.

Five minutes later, India se-

cured another penalty corner but Manisha Chauhan's flick was saved by second Chinese goalkeeper Ting Li and Lalremchiam's try from the rebound went wide as the deadlock continued after half time.

The Indians came out with the same tempo after the change of ends and controlled the proceedings of the match.

Their efforts finally bore fruit in the 32nd minute when Sangita deftly met with Sushila Chanu's defence splitting pass from the midfield.

Five minutes later, the Indians doubled their lead with another fine field goal. It was skipper Salima who found the target after she was neatly set up by Beauty Dung Dung and Preeti Dubey's combined effort.

The Indians continued their domination with relentless attacks on the Chinese citadel but was denied by the rival goalkeeper on several occasions.

The Chinese too tried their best but credit must go to the resolute Indian defence which stood firm. Desperate for goals, China withdrew their goalkeeper with little over three minutes to go and the move backfired as India scored their third goal in the final minute of the game.

Sangita secured India's fourth penalty corner with her smart stickwork in the final minute and Deepika rose to the occasion flicking the ball to the right corner for her seventh goal of the tournament.

Meanwhile in other matches of the day, Japan beat Malaysia 2-1 while Korea defeated Thailand 4-0.



AGENCIES

Johannesburg, Nov 16: Records toppled as Team India sent fans into a frenzy with a thumping 134-run victory in the 4th T20I against South Africa.

Johannesburg saw India make history with Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma redefining the standards of T20I cricket. Their blitzkrieg made it a hard day for statisticians as records tumbled. Runs, runs, and more runs were the story of the final T20I of the series as India continued to surge to new heights under the leadership of Suryakumar Yadav, with a 3-1 series win over the Proteas.

The duo didn't spare any part of the ground as they brought thunder to the field with their sheer aggression. The effort from Samson and Tilak, laced with Abhishek Sharma's

quick-fire 36, propelled India to a gigantic score of 283/1, the fifth-highest total in men's T20I.

Samson and Tilak became just the third pair with hundreds in the same men's T20I innings.

India has hammered three 250-plus totals in men's T20Is, the most by any team in the history of the format.

The unbeaten 210-run partnership forged by Samson and Tilak for the second wicket is the first-ever double-century stand for India in T20Is.

On a record-breaking night in Johannesburg, India smoked 23 sixes, the joint-third-highest by any team in a men's T20I innings. Zimbabwe holds the record with a whopping 27 sixes against Gambia last month.

India's memorable 283/1 is the highest total by any team in South Africa in the T20 format.

SHORT TAKES

Oz clinch T20 series

Sydney: Fast bowler Spencer Johnson grabbed a career-best 5-26 and propelled Australia to a 13-run win over Pakistan as the home team clinched the three-match T20I series with a game to spare Saturday. Johnson sliced through the top order and Pakistan crumbled to 134 all out in the final over that gave Australia a decisive 2-0 lead in Josh Inglis' first series as skipper. Usman Khan made a fighting 52 and Irfan Khan scored unbeaten 37 but the visitors otherwise struggled with Johnson's pace on a bouncy wicket with captain Mohammad Rizwan (16) the only other batter to cross the double-figure mark.

Pogba contract ends

Turin: Paul Pogba will no longer be a Juventus player from next month. Juventus announced Friday it came to "a mutual agreement" with Pogba to cancel his contract despite the France World Cup winner having a ban for doping slashed last month. The Serie A club never seemed overly enthusiastic about welcoming Pogba back after his four-year ban for doping was reduced to 18 months following an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The 31-year-old Pogba, who will be free to resume his career in March 2025, had said he was ready to give up money to play for Juventus again.

Alcaraz misses out

Turin: Carlos Alcaraz was the big name missing when the last two semifinal spots were filled at the ATP Finals Friday. Alcaraz's 7-6 (5), 6-4 loss to Alexander Zverev meant the French Open and Wimbledon champion - who has been sick this week - was eliminated from the elite, eight-man tournament.

INDIA BLITZ 2024

Carlsen, Lagno lead; Praggnanandhaa close second



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Nov 16: World No 1 Magnus Carlsen and three-time World Women's Blitz champion Kateryna Lagno occupied the top spot while India's R Praggnanandhaa took second place at the halfway mark of the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz 2024 here Saturday.

Carlsen concluded the first nine rounds with an impressive 6.5 points out of a possible 9.

The Norwegian maestro had a dominant start, but his momentum was halted in round eight by Arjun Erigaisi, who defeated him in spectacular fashion in just 20 moves.

In the final round of the day, Carlsen settled for a draw against Vidit Gujarathi.

Young Indian prodigy Praggnanandhaa tailed him closely in second place with 6 points, recovering remarkably after losing his first three games to register six consecutive wins.

Erigaisi and Russia's Daniil Dubov are tied for third with 5.5 points each.

In the women's section, Lagno led the field with 7 points, maintaining an undefeated streak with five wins and four draws.

Valentina Gunina trails her by a single point in second place, while Rapid Champion Aleksandra Goryachkina occupies third with 5 points.

Goryachkina had a strong start with three consecutive wins but managed only four draws in the remaining six games.

BLOW FOR INDIA AS GILL FRACTURES LEFT THUMB

Men in Blue's top-order in doubt ahead of Perth Test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: India were dealt a telling blow Saturday after star top-order batter Shubman Gill sustained a left thumb fracture which is likely to rule him out of the opening Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the Optus Stadium in Perth, starting November 22.

Gill, one of the young heroes of India's last Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph, is a batting mainstay and in case skipper Rohit Sharma opts out of the first Test, India's top-order could look very thin.

Gill got hurt while fielding on the second day of the intra-squad match simulation. He was seen in considerable pain and immediately left the field for further scans.

According to a BCCI source privy to the development, Gill has indeed fractured his left thumb and with less than a week left for the Test to start, it will be near impossible for the stylish right-hander to get fit in time for the opening match.

A thumb fracture generally takes around 14 days to heal after which one is expected to start his regular net sessions. Since the second Test in Adelaide starts from December 6, there remains a possibility that he will get fit in time for that match.

Gill's absence could be massive for the national team as he is not only a stable number three batter but in case of Rohit's absence, he could be con-



sidered for opening the innings with Yashasvi Jaiswal.

In case Gill is absent, Abhimanyu Easwaran could be in line for his Test debut as India do not have too many options left.

Mohammed Shami, who has bowled more than 43.2 overs, took seven wickets and scored 37 runs in Ranji Trophy, is certainly going to join the team before the second Test.

Rohit blessed with baby boy; may join team

India captain Rohit Sharma has been blessed with a baby boy and there is a possibility that he makes it to the Perth Test against Australia starting November 22. His wife Ritika Sajdeh gave birth to a baby boy at a local hospital here Friday night. Rohit didn't travel to Australia with the rest of the Indian squad as Ritika was expecting their second child. The couple have a daughter Samaira, born in 2018. With less than a week left for the first Test, it is not clear if Rohit, after just a couple of practice sessions, will play the match even if he decides to travel to Australia at the earliest, but nothing can be ruled out as of now.

CHAMP CAN'T TURN BACK CLOCK

Paul beats GOAT Tyson in 2024's biggest boxing bout

REUTERS

Arlington, Nov 16: Jake Paul beat boxing legend Mike Tyson by unanimous decision to win an intergenerational heavyweight battle in Texas Friday that failed to live up to its enormous hype.

The bout between the 27-year-old social media influencer-turned-prizefighter Paul and the 58-year-old former heavyweight champion Tyson was streamed live on Netflix and played out in front of a sold-out crowd at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

Those fans were left largely disappointed as Tyson showed his age and was never able to generate any offense against his younger opponent, landing just



18 punches to Paul's 78.

"First and foremost, Mike Tyson - it's an honor to be able to fight him," said Paul. "It was as tough and hard as I thought it would be."

Tyson, who wore a knee brace, never mounted much of a challenge after being wobbled by some left hands in the

third round but did enough defensively to avoid taking any serious damage.

He admitted after the contest to fighting through a leg injury.

"Yeah, but I can't use that as an excuse. If I did, I wouldn't be in here," Tyson said. "I knew he was a good fighter. He was prepared, I came to fight. I didn't prove nothing to anybody, only to myself. I'm not one of those guys that live to please the world. I'm just happy with what I can do."

Tyson, one of the most fearsome heavyweight champions of all time during his heyday in the late 1980s and early 1990s, was in his first professional fight in nearly 20 years. He was non-committal when asked if he would return to the ring again.

IPL auctions: 574 players up for grabs

366 INDIANS, PANT, IYER IN TOP BRACKET, 13-YEAR-OLD VAIBHAV YOUNGEST

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Nov 16: Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul and Arshdeep Singh will headline a 574-strong list of players with top base price of Rs 2 crore at the upcoming Indian Premier League auction scheduled in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah November 24 and 25.

Thirteen-year-old India U-19 cricketer Vaibhav Suryavanshi from Bihar is the youngest among the lot at Rs 30 lakh base price. The BCCI Friday pruned the initial list of 1574 players down to 574 out of which 366 are Indians and 208 from overseas. All the current India players are in top base price bracket.

Apart from Pant, set to be the costliest buy at the auction with a team like Punjab Kings aiming to go the distance with Rs 110.50 crore in its kitty, the other big names include IPL



winning captain Shreyas Iyer, India's most prolific T20I bowler Arshdeep Singh, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Yuzvendra Chahal and Avesh Khan.

There are 81 players in the top bracket while 27 are in Rs 1.5 crore category. There are 18 in the Rs 1.25 crore category while 23 have priced themselves at Rs 1 crore.

Jos Buttler of England also enjoys the top base price bracket of Rs 2 crore along with countrymen Harry Brook and Jonny Bairstow while the retired James Anderson, at Rs 1.25 crore base price, has made it to the curtailed list despite T20 not being his strongest format.

The biggest names in the top bracket from overseas are Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje from South Africa, Glenn Maxwell, Marcus Stoinis, Mitchell Starc from Australia. Marco Jansen and Rachin Ravindra are priced at Rs 1.25 crore. There are 48 capped Indians while 193 are capped overseas players.

Former India U-19 World Cup winning skipper Ummukt Chand, who has migrated to the United States, has made the cut as Associate member nation player while seamer Saurabh Nethravalkar, who was a revelation during T20 World Cup, wasn't shortlisted.